



Women's Studies Centre
Freedom Dignity Equality

Annual Progress Report **January – December 2014**

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Context

We are happy to report that in 2014, there has been several human rights related improvements for our targeted groups. Nevertheless, there are still many legal and institutional barriers that hinder full recognition of human and women's right protections for the Palestinian people and in particular for Palestinian women. In fact, the overall context for women remains similar to previous years, and for some women, such as those in Gaza and those who suffered from additional security measures during the Gaza war, it has worsened. Women in Gaza and women who were targeted in the rest of Palestine have suffered disproportionately due to the deterioration of the state, yet there are some small steps of progress that are developing. The political atmosphere for Palestine seems to be improving, as the UN recognition of the state status and confirmation of future membership in the International Criminal Court gives some hope that the aggression and human rights violations due to the conflict will stop, however, the recent progress has also come with increased aggression, a new fiscal withholdings on financial aid from the US government and for tax-related income from Israel.

The conflict has left an additional 1000 Palestinians in illegal detention, leaving women and children with additional hardships and no legal possibilities for legal recourse. In other areas legal right have improved. Nationally, the establishment of inheritance protections within the judicial system is a promising change, even though the patriarchal characteristics of Palestinian society remain the same and women's role remain conservative and traditional with refrained freedoms, and continued cultural, political and economic marginalization.

Women are victimized through different forms of violence. They are victim to casual violence (common-day aggression from family, social network and the community, mundane violence (regularized violence from the Israeli occupation) and more directed violence (primarily due to male hegemony and increased conflict violence). In addition to physical violence, women are often disproportionately affected by occupation-related violence in the conflict-latent environment that perpetuates the downward spiral of dependency and sub-ordination. Domestic, sexual, physical and psychological violence, the lack of freedom and choice continues to be accepted and perpetuated by cultural practices. New generations of children grow believing that this situation is normal and that they must accept these practices. They grow up disempowered and are stripped of basic rights of education, health and recreational time. In addition, girls continue to be forced to practice early and forced marriage in society as religious courts and Sharia law continues to condone a minimum age of marriage of 15.

The laws in Palestine are not in accordance with CEDAW. Women suffer from discrimination and a low level of protections from the judicial system that hold high discretionary powers over what happens to women in court. National laws need to provide more protection for women and recourse procedures must be improved to ensure these rights are accessible. Earlier in 2014, some advances in the reduction of honor killings were recorded. By June 2014, there was an amendment on penal code 16, article 86 on the issue of honor killings that was signed by the president. On the other hand, on the national level, the National Development Plan for 2014-2016, does not that gender

equality into consideration as a priority and women who fight for national-level sovereignty continue to be punished and treated as second-class citizens without human rights protections. The increased level of violence due to the Gaza war and aggression in the West Bank, and the prevailing conservative norms has increased women's vulnerability in society.

Executive Summary

In 2014, the WSC started worked on implementing its 6 main programs that were identified as a priority within its strategic Plan 2012-2016. These programs fall under three key intervention areas and includes an additional "institutional development" area addressing our role as community experts. The main programs lie under one or more of the follow priority areas:

- *Women's Empowerment*
- *Combating Violence against Women*
- *Promoting a Feminist Discourse*

The WSC's role is not limited to implementing strategic interventions based on priority areas, but also encompasses being a provider of technical advisory and consultancy services that contribute to the *institutional development*. The WSC provides expert advice and capacity building needed to make large scale institutional changes involving women's advancement through our landmark tools— endorsed by our institutional partners— including our gender audit, gender mainstreaming and gender impact assessments, reports and analysis tools. It is worth noting that during the Second Half of the Year 2014, and due to the political uprising and the brutal war on Gaza, the WSC adopted an emergency plan and referred to working on emergency response rather than the set plan and during that period the WSC worked on documenting cases of victims and specifically female victims who were injured during the War on Gaza and were hospitalized in East Jerusalem Hospitals and West Bank hospitals, moreover the WSC worked on fundraising from local merchants and individuals to address the needs of these victims and supply them with the necessities that they lacked.

Within the intervention addressing **Women's Empowerment**, several areas of progress have been made. The WSC focused on building the capacities of 31 youth and women partner organizations in the West Bank through 64 young men and women activists. These activists will enable them to carryout awareness raising campaigns in the West Bank in the area of women's rights and in regards to the rights of divorced women in specific. Additionally, the WSC, based on previous phase evaluations, decided to work with victims of violence, in a manner that empowers them and enables the victims to speak about their cause and can support in future advocacy and awareness raising campaigns, which will fall in the coming reporting period. Within this key intervention area, the WSC continued working on a regional project in partnership with OXFAM NOVIB on the Women response to the Arab Spring, and the activation of Unions and political parties in increasing participation of women, through which a number of women from political parties and unions were trained on gender mainstreaming locally and regionally in a manner that enables them to pass on the knowledge to their unions and parties. The WSC also worked, in partnership with the British Council, in training its staff members on Action Research Development by developing capacities and skills in research through a program that will support them to produce an action research through the learning process.

In the area of **Combating Violence Against women**, two main programs have progressed. This year, the WSC worked on a new phase in the Bereaved-to-Bereaved program that focuses on targeting needs in new locations in Jerusalem, Hebron and areas C in the West Bank. The WSC

will use the support of the previously established Bereaved women Association for this program and continue to host the association in the WSC Nablus premises. The centre has also developed a best practices manual that can be used for adaptation of approach. In a different, but related program on combating violence against women, the WSC renewed its partnership with the Ministry of Education and UNRWA to continue the implementation of the "Aman" program for Combating Sexual Violence. The Centre continued its awareness raising activities in the program, introduced the program to different civil society organisations and supported the Ministry of Education and UNRWA in the program thus enabling them to carry out the activities of the "Aman" Program within their schools during the school year.

As for the interventions involved in **Promoting a Feminist discourse**, the main focus was shed on developing a qualitative study that assesses the gender based gaps within child rights and specifically female child rights in Palestine. While in the process of supporting feminist discourse in youth, we were able to cover the tuition of 56 underprivileged university female students through fundraising opportunities, enabling them to continue their university education.

Lastly, within the **Institutional Development** of the WSC, the centre had become a respectable reference in conducting gender audits in the OPT and the Arab Region, This year, the WSC was contracted by the GIZ to conduct a gender Audit for five municipalities starting in January 2014, finalized the audits in 5 municipalities across the West Bank, and was also contracted by the ILO to conduct a Gender Audit for the Jordanian Social Security Institute in Amman. The WSC was also contracted with to conduct a gender Audit in a Civil Society Organization (Adalah) in Haifa and provide different consultations on gender mainstreaming to the GIZ and Tawasol Centres of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. while members of the Staff of the WSC started working on an action research on the participation of women in Local Governance Units in Palestine through a project supported by the British council.

Throughout the reporting period, the centre's work was covered by the media through radio and TV interviews with staff, radio coverage of activities, promotional radio spots, newspaper articles, and through electronic media. Moreover, the centre is focusing on social media through the development of the centre's Facebook page. Over the past months the centre had witnessed an increase in the likes of the WSC page spiking from 1600 likes in June 2014 to become around 2700 by the end of the year 2014.

During the year 2015, the WSC will continue its work on its main six programs and on developing them according to the set five year plan (2012-2016). The centre will also continue its work with networks and political committees and is pleased to report its continuous involvement in a number of committees and networks including the Palestinian Forum to End Violence against Women, the National Committee to develop the Palestinian Penalty Law, the National Committee to develop the Personal Status Law, the Gender Forum to develop the work of local governments, and the National Committee to Employ Women (headed by the Ministry of Labour), elaborated on further within the report.

Program Impact

Through implementing the various programs, WSC:

- Developed the capacities of relevant institutions to address sexual violence and exploitation issues
- Institutionalized “protection from sexual exploitation program” within the educational and social organizations such as MOSA and UNRWA
- Increased access of underprivileged female university students to higher education
- Diversified financial resources to reach a larger number of female university students
- Contributed to the promotion of female child rights in the Palestinian society through working on developing resources on that account
- Contributed to developing an alternative discourse that respects human rights and promotes women’s rights
- Strengthened and widened the rights-based skills and knowledge of the network of women and youth organizations
- Institutionalized a gender sensitive approach to deal with trauma resulted by the Israeli occupation measures.
- Built the capacity of other organizations (governmental and non-governmental organizations) in concerns related to gender.
- Hosted for the Second year “Eternal Women” Association in Nablus. (This association will work on Bereaved women needs, and help them to overcome the economic, social difficulties, by empowering them to raise their voices and to be heard by the international community.)
- Presented a study on the Women’s Political Participation within the Palestinian Political Parties and Labour Unions

These areas in which the WSC has had direct impact respond directly to the mission and goals of the centre.

Implemented Programs, Objectives, Results & Challenges

1. Women Empowerment and Development Program:

“Sanad” Program – Mobilizing Cadre from the Civil Society in Making Change

Main Objective:

To develop community supporters from both genders to promote feminist discourse

Specific Objectives:

- To develop the capacities of young men and women in equality, and women’s rights as an integral part of human rights
- To raise awareness of woman rights in the different areas with a focus on the most marginalized through a “mobile awareness raising clinic”.
- To change policies and laws oppressing women through organized lobbying and advocacy campaigns.

- To document women rights violations especially the poor and marginalized through conducting research and studies.

Progress of program:

Planned activities and expected outcomes achieved during reference period with minor deviation from plan set for project funded by open society.

Similar project in Partnership with Gaza WAC, was delayed due to delay in contracting with donor (CFD) which was finalized in May 2014, moreover the program was halted in the Gaza Strip due to the War on Gaza but continued the West Bank,

Please note the following achieved results fall under project funded by Open Society, which focuses on the rights of women in general and divorced women in specific.

Achieved results:

- A project was granted funding by Open Society Foundation with specific focus on the rights of divorced women, the project will cover 2 years.
- 4 sub-networks containing 22 CBOs and NGOs in the West Bank activated and functioning, in Nablus, Hebron, Jerusalem and Tulkarem, all capable of monitoring, reviewing, following up on and developing the project.
- Advisory committee established and functioning containing feminist activist, humanitarian activist and legal and humanitarian organizations.
- 65 members of partnering organizations have developed their capacities; enabling them of leading awareness raising campaigns for social change towards a society where women rights and specifically the rights of divorced women are fully respected and protected.
- Capacity of 21 partner organizations in women rights and campaigning was built through a set of 10 training days per sub-network.
- 65 members of the partnering organizations have developed their skills in documentation of women's rights violations.
- 20 members were selected to further develop their skills in documentation and received further training.
- 20 partner organizations have engaged in documentation of violations against women in the West Bank and have incorporated it in their programs
- 100 cases of women victims of violations have been documented in the West Bank by trained activists.
- A comprehensive report containing 101 documented cases was developed, and was used as support data for the awareness raising campaign, and will be used to produce a documentary film.
- An awareness raising campaign was launched by the 65 trained activists, who in their turn each carried out awareness raising workshops in their communities on the rights of divorced women and the societal view of these violations through a set of 56 workshops in all locations, (to be continued during the year 2015)
- 10 women per location, (total of 42 victims of divorce) were selected to receive empowerment training, the selection was made based on the documentation report that was prepared by the activist.
- 42 women (victims of divorce) were empowered and have better assertiveness skills through a set of 28 training days, (7 days per location).
- Activities of the program were covered by the media.
- 2 women from the 42 decided to go pursue university education and enrolled in local universities, while 2 others decided to re-take the TAWJIHI exam, while another women enrolled in a course for vocational training, while a number of other women who have

work on productions of food products or artistic products were supported by members of the network whether in linking them merchants or with supporting them in funding their projects or marketing their products.

- The WSC was contacted by Nisaa FM radio station and had arranged that this program will have media coverage during the beginning of the year 2015 through being hosted in set of radio episodes.
- A number of network member organizations requested that the centre carry out the empowerment training for other women (external to this program) in their premises.
- The following are media coverage links for this program
<http://www.alfajertv.com/news/2531041.html>
<http://hr.ps/ar/news/65306.html>

Please note that the following achievements were carried out under the program funded by CFD and carried out in Both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but with emphasis on violence against women:

- Networking and coordination mechanism created between the WSC and WAC to Implement program in West Bank and the Gaza Strip in a Paralel manar.
- 2 sub-networks containing 10 CBOs and NGOs in the West Bank activated and functioning, in Nablus and Hebron all capable of monitoring, reviewing, following up on and developing the program.
- Advisory committee established and functioning containing feminist activist, humanitarian activist and legal and humanitarian organizations from the subnetwork members.
- 31 members of partnering organizations have developed their capacities; enabling them of leading awareness raising campaigns for social change towards a society where women rights are fully respected and protected.
- Capacity of 10 partner organizations in women rights and campaigning was built through a set of 5 training days per sub-network.
- The capacity of the 4 WSC staff members working on this program and 7 activists was build in Documentation of Human rights violations throughout a training workshop that was carried out over the course of 3 days.
- 22 women (victims of violence) developed their confidence and skills in voicing out their suffering, internal security and wellbeing throughout a 5 day training workshop carried out in both locations.
- An awareness raising campaign was launched by the 31 trained activists, who in their turn each carried out awareness raising workshops in their communities on the rights of women with a focus on violence against women through a set of 80 workshops in all locations, 30 of which targeting remote locations while 50 were carried out in the premises of the network members.
- 1250 member of the society targeted in this program have better awareness of the rights of women and violence against women
- The program activities were covered by the media .
- The community has better awareness of the rights of women through a media campaign that included broadcast of radio spots over the course of 45 days.
- The following are links to media coverage of program :
<http://hr.ps/ar/news/65306.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/wscpal/photos/pcb.788841381185816/788840644519223/?type=1&theater>

Challenges and /or changes:

- **The absence of an active PLC** role makes our advocacy work very challenging.
- During the beginning of the program –and during the months of April, May, and June— Palestinian administrative prisoners started a hunger strike demanding trial, this strike required that most civil society organizations take a stance and work on this issue especially in mobilizing the public and carry out advocacy campaigns. This caused a little delay in the implementation of workshops with the organizations for their preoccupation in this emerging issue, but due to the flexibility in the project design, we were able to reschedule activities and maintain that they fall within the same quarter set in plan.
- The war on Gaza had diverted the plan set specifically the one to be implemented in Gaza through the WSC’s Partner organizations, since it was seen not too appropriate to discuss issues of violence against women after a number of partner organizations had lost members of their staff, their premises or the general conditions in the strip, thus and due after receiving the donor’s approval, the partner organization in the Strip carried out the program in a different manner focusing only on documentation of violations against women in specific, while here in the West Bank and for the WSC the program was maintained but with delays, (it is worth noting that the program received a month extension and ends on January 31st2015 instead of December 31)

Component 1: Spring Board:

WSC was approached again the British Council –Jerusalem to work with them as a partner in the implementation of the Springboard Program, A women empowerment project, where 6 WSC staff members were trained in 2012 to provide training for women aiming at developing their capacities in a way that enables them to take more control over their lives by identifying the clear, practical and realistic steps that they want to take. This project was directly contributes to the objectives of Women Empowerment and Development program, thus included in the program as a component.

Achieved results:

- 8 training courses of springboard were carried out in Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron
- 223 women developed their capacities in taking more control over their lives and identifying clear and practical steps to realize it.
- 1 graduation ceremony carried out centrally in Nablus for 187 participants

Women’s Political Participation Program:

Main Objective:

Promotion of women’s political participation as a constitutive part of democracy building in the Arab world

Specific Objectives:

- Increased presence and influence of women and women’s rights in the political sphere in the Arab Region.
- Developing the capacity of the WSC to conduct rights based research and rights based programs

- Strengthening and widening the rights based skills and knowledge of the network of women and youth organizations
- Strengthening the capacities of the members of the network of women and youth organizations in rights based advocacy

Progress of program:

Planned activities and expected outcomes achieved during reference period with little deviation from plan set for project. The only delay recorded was in the printing of the study. This delay was due to request from the coordination partner to wait until all regional partners are ready to publish their studies.

Achieved results

Under Regional Program: “Women’s Response to Arab Spring (WRAP)

On regional level:

- a regional conference to evaluate, capture lessons learnt and define future intervention was carried out in Tunis, it was agreed regionally between all partners that this conference will re-plan the regional forum that was planned to be launched on women’s day
- 2 regional trainings carried out in Tunisia and Morocco on gender mainstreaming for members of Palestinian trade unions and political parties over the course of (5days each)
- Publishing, lobby and advocacy, information sharing and communication: website, newsletters, posters, leaflets, manual, memo, documentation, these materials published provide general knowledge on program and are common to all partners in the different countries of the project. These included flyers, newsletters, and website additions.
- Developed a regional study on the participation of women in political parties in trade unions that combines all local studies from all partnering countries (this included the outcomes of all the local studies that were developed in the project countries which are Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco)
- WSC actively participated in the Regional forum for human rights carried out in Morocco, where 4 staff members, 1 general assembly member and the program researcher all participated. The participation of the Palestinian delegation was focused on the political participation of women within political parties and trade unions in Palestine and were able to represent the work carried out in Palestine effectively.

On the Local level:

- Developed a study on the participation of women in political parties and labor unions in Palestine titled Political participation of women in Palestine during the Arab Spring (readings of the Palestinian situation within the context of gender relations)
- 2 National workshops carried out in the West Bank on the launching of the study, with the presence of 120 political party members and labor union members in Nablus which included the presence of participants from Tulkarem, Jenin, and Qalqilia, while the workshop held in Hebron included the presence of 500 members of political parties and union members and covered the districts of Hebron, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. (the media was invited to the 2 national workshops and covered both in local media, thus it was seen sufficient to carryout 2 national workshops for wider dissemination to which the media is invited to rather than conducting 1 National workshop and one press conference)
- A Meeting with the decision makers in labor unions and political parties was held to discuss the results of the study which was carried out and their recommendations and comments were taken into consideration in the preparation of the final draft. (this activity

- is part of the development of the action plan and capacity building trajectories for Palestine on how to tackle specific gender equality in political parties and trade unions)
- Selection of participants from both political parties and trade unions to participate in regional training
 - And as part of the dissemination of knowledge to political parties and trade unions by the regionally trained member, the following activities were carried out and will proceed in the next reporting period:
 - The awareness of 7 political parties was raised in the issue of women participation and its importance, through the regionally trained participant who each carried out a set of workshops.
 - The awareness of 5 labor unions was raised in the issue of women participation and its importance, through the regionally trained participant who each carried out a set of workshops.
 - 10 political party and labor union female members have gained skills in gender mainstreaming and the importance of political participation of women that enable them to pass on their experience gained to their political parties and unions
 - In the aim to raise the awareness of the public a large scale media campaign launched in April, May, June, and convened after Ramadan and after the end of the War on the Gaza Strip in October. The campaign included Billboards in 20 locations spread over the West bank calling for the participation of women in political parties and labor unions, a T.V spot that was broadcasted on Palestine National Television 343 times, and a Radio Spot was broadcasted 356 times over 4 National Radio stations that include Ajyal – 11 radio stations in one, Bethlehem 2000, Almahaba Nablus, moreover banners and rollups and other media material were developed such as bags and sweatshirts carrying the logo of the program and its slogans
 - A National Press Conference was held in November where the final study results were presented, and also included discussion session on what needs to be done by the political parties and the labor unions in order to enhance the political participation of women, all in all to sum up the outcomes of all workshops, thus local recommendations were recorded and a final action plan for implementation in Palestine was developed and will be further developed during the first quarter of the year 2015.
 - The following are the media coverage links for this program:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoOqd32fxt0>
<http://arabic.pnn.ps/index.php/home/pnn/services/website/2012-01-11-16-33-28/107160>
<http://woneews.net/ar/index.php?act=post&id=12360>

Challenges and /or changes:

- Working on a regional program can be somewhat challenging since the program has to work in a parallel manner. Delays in other countries can have an effect on the implementation of the program in other areas of Palestine, for example, there was some delay in the program in Egypt due to the political conditions that hindered the launch of the media campaign. During the month of Ramadan we had to stop broadcasting in Palestine especially in Radio and TV spots, since the cost during the holy month are really high, moreover and during the months of July and August and due to the War On Gaza the National Radio and Television stations were requested by the Palestinian Authority to Halt the broadcast of paid commercials and spots and only broadcast National related content, thus the media campaign was halted and continued in October.

- The political islamization wave that was spreading during the past few months had had a toll on this project, where it was clear that islamization had access to some legislative and leading councils and committee which hindered the progress in women's political participation in general in Palestine and thus was mildly reflected on the progress of this specific program
- The palestinian leadership's actual commitment of the ratification of the CEDAW convention without reservation, and the work that should be done to do so should also be reflected actually and not only verbally, this poses a challenge when there are expectations and porpmisses where the femnist movement can set future plans in relevance to this ratification.

Component 1: Active Citizenship Program:

The WSC received a grant from the British Council in order to carry out a Research program, through which the WSC staff will train on action researching and will carry out a research on the participation of women in Public Life. And since this project directly contributes to the program objectives of (political participation) it was included as a component in this program)

The following are the achievements of this component for the year 2014:

- 5 WSC staff members and 5 members of partnering organization have gained skills in conducting an action research through a five day training workshop carried out in Jordan by specilist in the field of action research
- A methodology for the research was developed, where the methods of research were set and the sample was specified.The main topic of the action research will be theparticipation of women in local governance elections
- A Final Questionnaire developed and is ready for data collection in the field , this was done after the finalization of a sample questionnaire which was prepared and tested in all locations of the proejct, (Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah and Jerusalem,)
- The team members gained analysis skills through a regional training workshop carried out in Beirut Lebanon over the course of 3 intensive days, which were followed by another 2 intesive day carried out in palestine (Jericho)

Based on the action research, the British Council granted the WSC another project "Active Citizenship" in partnership with Maan for Development.The project will focus on the results of the action research on which the project awareness campaign will be based, where 2 members of the WSC were trained in Jordan over the course of 5 days in facilitation for active citizenship.

Currently the project is in the beginning phase, where preparation activities are being carried out, moreover the project will only start after the outcomes of the questionnaires and focus groups, (initial outcomes of the action research are out by the end of 2014, and the beginning of the year 2015.

Challenges and /or changes:

the project of action research was delayed somewhat due to the War on Gaza, this delay came from the British council who were supposed to supply the regional and local training but were reluctant to do so in order not danger the lives of their regional trainers who were supposed to come to Palestine during the months of September/ October, thus the British Council delayed the trainings until the being of December.

2. Combating Violence against women :

AMAN Program - Combating Sexual Violence in the Palestinian Society

Main Objective:

To reduce sexual violence against women and children within the Palestinian society

Specific Objectives:

- Raise community awareness regarding the prevalence and consequences of sexual violence in the Palestinian society and build local capacity to prevent violence and support the victims.
- To strengthen the ability of female and male children, adolescents and women to protect themselves from sexual violence and enhance their life skills
- To develop the capacities of relevant institutions to address sexual violence and exploitation issues
- To institutionalize “protection from sexual exploitation program” within the educational and social organizations

Achieved results:

Aside from planned activities the WSC was able to carry out a number of other activities that bring in the same objectives, some of these activities were carried out in response to needs that arise through the networking work that the WSC carried out, while some were carried out as a response to a certain request from partners in the field.

- 70 female students and 10 teachers and counsellors have better awareness in protection against sexual assault through a workshop that was carried out in Nablus Girls School for the International Awards for No-Sexual Assault, this was carried out as a response to the request from the school in participating in the International Awards for No-Sexual Assaults
- Around 50 mothers from Nablus have gained knowledge regarding protection from Sexual exploitation of children through a workshop targeting the same school.
- Re-production of AMAN manual and Colouring book where a total of 500 copies of the manual and 1000 copies of the colouring book were re-produced and are being disseminated, most of the dissemination was carried out.
- The WSC supervised and participated in the Young Child Club (Nablus Police Department) where a total of 30 children have participated in the club and have enhanced their knowledge regarding sexual assault and protection through a set of activities that included a film screening, this was done after the Nablus Police department had contacted the WSC and requested intervention.
- 30 children (7 year olds) have gained skills that enable them to positively connect to their parents and specify dangerous situations that can lead to sexual exploitation through a set of 4 awareness workshops conducted by the WSC program specialist in the YWCA summer camp, this was carried out as a response to the need that was reflected in network meetings which included both the YWCA and the WSC. Following this, the YWCA approached the centre in the possibility to carry out this activity.
- The WSC launched the National Educational Conference on Sexual Harassment in partnership with the Ministry of Education in Bethlehem, where a total of 300 participants have gained better awareness and knowledge regarding child protection and best practices of the program,

- 18 Specialist from MOSA and the Palestinian Network for Human Rights have developed their skills in the AMAN program and are capable of educating children and parents and implementing the AMAN program according to the Manual, this was done through a set of 12 training days carried out during the months of October and November.
- The WSC Launched a second National Conference on Sexual Harassment in Al-Najah University in Nablus in October with the Participation of 200 university students and 150 civil society representative and UNRWA and governmental body representatives, it is worth noting that the Tareeq Al-Mahaba, Kufiyeh Radio Station, Alquds Radio Station and Nisaa FM.
- The WSC participated in the 3 open days for the Northern West Bank in schools regarding child protection, where 700 children had gained awareness through the activities provided, this was implemented due to the need that was reflected by the educational department of northern Palestine.
- The program topics were adopted in the media, while the general public have better awareness towards sexual exploitation and assault and that is due to the media coverage the program had gained, where the project coordinator had been hosted in local radio station in Nablus (Alam Radio) over the course of 4 episodes on the protection of children from sexual assault.
- 22 specialists (graduates) from Nablus –Alquds Open University have developed their skills for protection from sexual exploitation through a 3-day training course.
- 33 students from the department of social science Alquds Open University discuss the project throughout an introduction session
- 20 students from the social science department Alquds Open University gain skills in receiving cases that underwent sexual assault or exploitation through a training workshop that covered 30 hours per student.
- The WSC worked on developing creative tools and have developed an animation film which will be broadcasted on National Television during the year 2015. Within this activity the WSC program staff had met several times to discuss the message to be included in this film, type of animation to be used and target audience in order to proceed with the producing company.
- Lobby and advocacy campaigns on modification of laws concerning sexual assault are activities that the centre carries out through its networking work with the Ministry of Social affairs and the Network of child protection. The centre also does this through the participation of the WSC in law modification coalitions and other social networks which included:
 - Organizing a campaign to advocate and lobby for combating the phenomena of so called honor killings in Palestine through a set of activities that included rallies (with the **Coalition of NGO to combat violence against women, Muntada**).
 - Coordinating with network members for the Palestinian Child day festival, which was held in the old City of Hebron and included submitting a memorandum to the Governor of Hebron in regards to protection of children and the importance of activation of child rights in Palestine (with the **The Palestinian Network for Child Rights Protection**).

Challenges and/ or changes:

The WSC faced difficulty during this year in securing funds specifically for this program, but due to its importance and impact the WSC decided to maintain the program activities and cover them through core funds, while if provided special funding, the WSC would have been able to expand

on the activities of this program increasing the scope of the program and developing further tools and support material and targeting a wider audience and assuring larger impact.

Bereaved Women Program:

Main Objective:

To improve the psychosocial wellbeing, and empower women victims of Israeli occupation violence

Specific Objectives:

- Institutionalize a gender sensitive approach to trauma.
- Mainstream and advocate the understanding of the need for a gender sensitive approach to trauma.

Progress of Program:

The program witnessed a delay in implementation due to a delay by the donor in finalizing the grant agreement. The agreement was finalized in May 2014, thus the program activities were shifted and only began in May. Kvinna till Kvinna requested us to not to proceed until first payment is made, thus certain activities were shifted to start later on during the second half of the year 2014. These postponed activities included mapping of targeted location and violations per location; developing a study on conditions of women and effect of trauma caused by the Israel occupation measures; and implementing interventions to overcome trauma with women.

Achieved Results:

- The Ground was set for the program to start in new locations, this was done through a number of preparation activities which included grant receipt for new phase, and assignment of new phase program staff.
- Program staff have complete awareness of the work-plan of the program have the needed skills to start working on implementing the program in their locations
- A number of Civil society organizations were introduced to the program
- An advisory /steering committee was established in each location (Jerusalem, Salfeet, Hebron) that includes around 20 partner organization representatives and or specialists in the field of psycho-social support and international organizations.
- An advisory committee functioning as a backbone for the program in all locations were a set of 6 meetings were carried out (once monthly) in all locations in order to fully engage the committee in the program and enable them to follow-up, plan and monitor with the WSC the progress of the program.
- The referral system was activated through a number of meetings carried out with advisory committee members and specialists in the field in addition to representatives of the Ministry of Detainees and the Ministry of Social Affairs which all together function as a referral system. While the issue of cases from Jerusalem was also discussed and will be further elaborated on in the future since it will be somewhat difficult to refer certain cases of trauma from Jerusalem to West Bank due to geographic locations.
- A program specialist was assigned to follow-up with program staff to assure they are on the right track in implementation.

- The general public in Nablus, Ramallah and Jerusalem have become aware of program through coverage of the program in the media, where one radio episode was broadcasted on the program and its strategies during the month of January on Al-Najah Radio, another was broadcasted in June on Radio 24 on same issue, and two news articles were published on program one in Al-Ayam Newspaper on the 11th of June, and the other on Jama News Network on the 19th of March.
- The selection of bereaved women in all locations was started, where 75 questionnaires were filled in all three locations to assess the needs and conditions of bereaved women and to assess the extent of change that can happen with the bereaved women and their families as a result of the program in the future.
- Bereaved women in all three locations started to receive support through group support sessions carried out in all three locations, (three groups were formed, one in each locations containing 18 bereaved women from Yasooof, 15 from Jerusalem, and 18 from Hebron) a total of 51, where the women received support through a set of 23 sessions in all locations)
- The program is going due to plan and is being monitored and modified by the project consultant (Dr.SuhelHassanien) this was done through a set of regular monthly meetings between the program staff and the program consultant where he is updated on the progress. Aside from the field visits he conducts to all three program locations.

Challenges and /or changes:

- The minor delay in the program had caused the activities to be intensified during the remainder of the year 2014, which required more effort by the program staff, but it is worth noting that the team work spirit in the WSC will assure support to the staff workin on this program.
- The uprising in the West Bank due to the War on Gaza and the settler activity in the other locations had somewhat hindered the implementation of the activities and required some minor delays (week delays) but the increasing number of bereaved women and type of the program that addresses loss and trauma had made ita requirment to double the effort in such times, on the other hand, the amount of cases of bereaved women refered to the WSC is increasing and this makes it difficult to address all needs at once. (although the WSC is utilizing the partner organizations that the program was institutionalized in in the past 3 years and are refering cases of bereavement to them)

3. Promoting a Feminist Discourse

Female Child Rights Program:

Main Objective:

To strengthen the community awareness and capacity to support and protect the rights of girl children and expand their opportunities to practice their rights

Specific Objectives:

- To empower teachers in kindergartens and schools, and community activists who would promote female child rights.

- To develop, produce, and disseminate innovative tools which foster the culture of female child rights
- To develop community discourse which supports female child rights
- To monitor and document female child rights in the Palestinian society
- To develop media programs about gender equality with a focus on female child rights
- To develop partnerships with community based organizations to create social movement which promote female child rights.

Progress in Program:

The program was carried out as planned. Some activities were delayed for the year 2015, while some were carryout out prior to plan and that is due to the fact that the centre had received funding for a “Regional Campaign for Combating early Marriage in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon throughout SIGI and the Future Foundation in Jordan.

Achieved results:

- 96 Awareness raising workshops with female children between the ages of 14-18 were carried out through 7 schools across remote areas in the West Bank including Al-Jahaleen Beduin Communities, Zbeidat village, and other remote communties in Nablus.
- 14 Awareness raising workshops carried out for parents and teachers in targeted 7 schools on the issue of dangers of early marriage.
- Around 400 female children and parents from remote areas in the West Bank have better awareness on the dangers of early marriage and its negative impact.
- A Qualitative Study in Palestine on the extent of discrimination between male and female children (between the ages of 12-180) was developed, this study focuses on education, health, family relations and recreation, (development of the study included field research and data collection from field such as filling of questionnaires and focus group meetings in three locations of the West Bank, in addition to a litrature review and an analysis of the data collected- the study is not finalized since the WSC had issues with the researcher who had health problems which hindered the development of the study in its final shape) Moreover the WSC sees that the analysis of the data was not satisfactory and after reverting to the researcher the WSC decided to form a committee to review the study, the committee reviewed the study and prepared a set of comments and met with the researcher for modifications on the study, currentlhy the WSC is waiting to receive the final version of the study from the researcher in order for it to be published.

Challenges and/or changes:

- Within this program, the qualitative research launching was delayed for a number of months and that is due to un-anticipated health issues regarding the reasercher, moreover the final draft of the research was not satisfactory and thus is awiting modification by the researcher, (all the activities that were planned to be implemented based on the study results were delayed to be carried out during the beginning of the year 2015)

Component 1: Access of Underprivileged Women to Higher Education

Main Objectives:

To empower underprivileged female university students by providing them with financial support and training/ professional experience to enable them to continue with their university education

Specific objectives:

- Provide underprivileged female university students with financial support to continue their higher education
- Provide underprivileged female university graduates with training and voluntary work experience to develop their skills and to earn some income to cover their university expenses.
- Expand the financial resources of the project to reach a larger number of females

Achieved results:

- An active and functioning scholarship committee to monitor and work on fundraising for scholarship maintained established, and was able to meet regularly and develop a plan.
- The tuition of 56 needy female students was paid, covering either the first or second semester or both for most of the selected needy female students.
- \$ 27,528 US dollars were fundraised from local and international financial resources.
- A Fundraising event was organized in Nablus to cover tuition fees for underprivileged female students.

Challenges and/or changes:

- This component is currently not functioning as regular due to shortage of restricted funds for this component; WSC is depending on local individual funds for this component and holds fundraising events annually to try to raise funds for this program. Therefore, it is not a permanent program within the WSC.

Component 2: *Resource Centre:*

Main Objectives:

Promoting gender equality discourse in the Palestinian society in particular and in the Arab region in general

Specific objectives:

1. To fill the gap of available information on the situation of Palestinian women in Palestine and the Middle East through promoting the website about Palestinian women.
2. To disseminate information and data about Palestinian women so as to enrich the advocacy activities organized by women and human rights organizations and highlight priority issues and needs of Palestinian women in the OPT and in the Diaspora.
3. To expand the use of the WSC library through developing a network with universities, colleges and inter-lending system to facilitate the access of students to WSC's Library.

Achieved results:

- A number of international delegations and high-level representatives from foreign ministries or supporting donors had visited the library and listen to discussions on the situation and role of Palestinian women and girls.
- A network of WSC library friends was maintained and expanded.
- All media coverage of the WSC was documented and archived for easy access at the WSC library.
- Regular additions to the library are made, and regular resources, books are purchased, donated and or provided to the resource centre
- 2 poetry Recital Sessions, which was attended by tens of library members where the topic of the poetry and its social implications were discussed.
- Readings of 5 children stories with the participation of 35 children in total, where the stories were discussed.
- Installation of Library System and training of librarian on how to use the system and upload all books on it over the course of 5 days.

Challenges and /or changes:

- The librarian of the WSC resource centre had left the WSC to continue his education, and thus the Library remained without assistance, until the mid of the year, where one of the volunteers of the WSC who was qualified to manage the library was recruited.

Component 3: Supporting Young Palestinian Women to be Feminist Activists: The WSC and in Partnership with Kvinna till Kvinna was granted a fund by the EC and the EuroMed Youth Unit for the period of 6 months starting in August, 2014, this project aims to strengthen the contribution of young women in the Palestinian women's movement. Consolidate a young women's initiative, encourage young women to take action on gender equality and women's participation, this project is a continuation of a 1st phase also funded by the same donor (EC- EuroMed Youth Unit) and due to the success in the first phase the WSC and KTK were granted the fund again to implement the 2nd phase of the project.

Achieved results:

- 3 partnership building meetings were carried out to set the ground for the group to reconvene and meet and develop the project further to suit their needs.
- 30 activists have had their skills developed and became more assertive through a 3 day training workshop on self-assertiveness
- 30 activists have better understanding of feminist activism in palestine and are provided the chance of expressing that through local initiatives to be reported on in the next reporting period.

Challenges/ Obstacles:

The project included a group of feminist activists from all over Palestine including 1948 areas and the Gaza Strip, the war on Gaza had halted the trainings since it was important for the activists from the Gaza strip to attend, but with the support of the KtK the trainees were granted entree into the West Bank and attended the training.

4. Institutional Development Program

Main Objective:

To improve the overall performance of the WSC and upgrade its managerial and technical capacity, and expanding gender-based programming in governmental and civil society organizations.

Specific Objectives:

- To develop the technical and managerial capacities of WSC staff members.
- To upgrade the governance and organizational structure of the WSC
- To improve the relationship with the donors and the international community
- To expand the volunteers base of WSC
- To develop public relation, advocacy and lobbying capacity of the WSC.
- To develop financial sustainability mechanisms at the WSC
- To strengthen and agree on a common understanding of the feminist approach of the staff of the Centre
- To build the capacity of governmental and civil society organizations to integrate gender into their programming and management
- To expand the cadre of development workers/ human rights activists who are technically and practically capable of promoting gender equality
- Strengthen the "gender-based" programming of Palestinian and international organizations.
- To generate additional funds to the WSC to increase the potential sustainability of its programs and activities.

Component 1: Capacity Building for WSC Staff (achievements)

- Development of the performance objectives plans and evaluation system for WSC staff is continuously developed through staff meetings and workshops.
- Monitoring and evaluation capacities within the centre are continuously developed, while reporting system is enhanced throughout a two day reporting workshop carried out with all staff members.
- Partnership and networking strategy with community based organizations is continuously developed through the centre's program implementation in participation with community.
- 5 staff members were trained in action Researching over the course of a 5 day training workshop held in Jordan by the British Council.
- 5 staff members were further training in action research analysis over the course of a 3 day workshop in Beirut Lebanon by the British Council.
- 2 Staff members gained skills and knowledge by attending a workshop on integration of the handicapped in Civil Society and governmental work
- 4 staff members developed their skills in documentation for HR violations in a local training workshop carried out over the course of 3 days
- 1 staff member developed her skills in Human rights by attending the an intensive training course carried out by the Arab Centre for human Rights in Tunisia over the course of 14 days

- 1 staff member developed her skills through an international training course for documentation of human rights violations carried out in Tunisia over the course of 6 days.
- One staff member had developed her skills in Resault based Management of projects through a 3 day training carried out Kvinna till Kvinna.
- One staff member had developed her knowledge and skills in training and became a regional trainer in the SpringBaord program for women development.
- Public Relations and fund raising officer employed as a part time employee (who in her turn applied for various funding opportunities)
- Around 20 volunteers have contributed to the center during the year 2014.
- One staff member was training in Research by the UNESCO throughout a 96 training hour course.
- 2 staff members gained skills in facilitating workshops on Active Citizenship carried out over the course of
- The WSC has developed the following information and communication material during this reporting period that are also mentioned under relevant programs:
 - Aman Manual for program implementation through school counsellors
 - Aman Coloring book for children
 - Association of Bereaved Women Brochure (under Bereaved Women Program)
 - The Societal view of the palestinian Women's movement and the role of women organization
 - Political participation of women in Palestine during the Arab Spring (readings of the Palestinian situation within the context of gender relations)
- Information field visits carried out to the centre and its branches by different community organizations and foreign bodies and delegations who wanted to know more about the work of the WSC and its activities. On the other hand the WSC conducted a number of field visits to different locations in Palestine as a form of solidarity and in aim of introducing popular and feminist organizations with the WSC, which included
 - a visit to the villages of Qariyout and Qabalan in cooperation with local council members of the villages as a form of solidarity with the female headed houses that are under constant settler attacks.
 - A visit to the Nablus Catholic Church in response to the invitation to meet with a Norwiegen church delegation and introduce the WSC and its work to them.
 - The WSC received a group of Bosnian activists that are Kvinna till Kvinna partners and work on a similar program for the support of women and trauma, the visit consisted of experience exchange activities.

Emergency Response:

During the War on Gaza, the WSC halted its work on its program and adopted an emergency plan to address the needs of the Gazan patients who were injured during the war and were transferred to hospitals in Jerusalem and the West Bank, the centre started the plan by spreading its staff members and volunteers in hospitals and contacted family members of those patients and try to address their needs during their stay in Jerusalem and the West Bank Hospitals, a prompt fundraising campaign was carried out, where a huge number of individuals and locals donated whether financially or in-kind donations, these donations were used to purchase basic needs of their patients and their family members that accompanied them.

Moreover the staff then worked on documenting stories of patients and their experiences during the War on Gaza, and launched a Facebook initiative where most prominent cases were posted in a regular manar.

Component 2: The Consultancy Department (Achievements)

- The Centre was approached by the German GIZ and conducted 5 gender audits for 5 municipalities across the West Bank
- Gender Awareness within all staff members of five municipalities (Hebron, Jiftlek and Mutahida, Bir Zeit and Bethlehem) was raised through consultancy work and workshops carried out by the WSC through a contract signed with GIZ.
- Carried out gender trainings for Tawasol Centres of the Ministry of Women Affairs.
- Gender Awareness within all staff members of Adallah – Haifa was raised through a participatory Gender Audit process carried out.
- 29 female activists from East Jerusalem had developed their skills in Gender mainstreaming and advocacy and lobbying for women's rights. The WSC was contracted by the Murtaqa Organization to conduct an 8 day workshop on gender mainstreaming and advocacy and lobbying for women's rights for a total
- 30 women from local CBOs in Jerusalem (Sur Baher and Silwan) had developed their self esteem, and awareness on violence against women throughout a set of workshops carried out by the WSC through a consultancy contract signed with the PMRC
- Heads of directorates in the Ministry of National Economy have better awareness and knowledge regarding gender concepts and mainstreaming. This was achieved through a set of 3 day workshop carried out by the WSC after being contracted by the GIZ.
- The WSC was requested by the UN-Food Security Cluster to provide a gender training for their local partners, and thus the WSC conducted this training in integrating gender in programs and plans.
- The WSC was also approached by the ILO to conduct a gender Audit for the Social Security Institute in Jordan Amman, thus the WSC responded and worked on a complete Gender Audit for the Institute over the course of 3 months that included travels to Amman in order to do so.
- 30 women from the local Government units in Jenin had received training for Wellbeing and internal Security through a 4 day training course provided by the WSC trained Staff.

Organizational

International/National Co-operation, Networking & Public Relations:

During the first 6 months of year 2014, the WSC had participated in different international and local activities and for a. It was present in different events. The following is a brief description of the WSC participation:

- The WSC was represented in the Arab Educational Forum, which focused on Multicultural Citizenship, held in Tunisia between the 24th of February and the 2nd of March
- The WSC was represented in the Workshop carried out by the Birzeit University – Institute of Law on the effects of early marriage and polygamy
- The WSC was represented in the Women in Black annual Conference which was held in Brussels, Belgium on the 1st- 3rd of May 2014.

- The WSC was represented in the regional conference for the periodic assessment of the progress towards the MDGs which was coordinated by the Arab NGO network and by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut Lebanon.
- The WSC had presented a paper on women in the Private sector in Palestine in a conference carried out by the Ministry of National Economy and the German GIZ.
- The WSC launched a study on the Societal View Societal View of the Palestinians Women Movement and the Role of Women Organizations in a conference held in Al-Quds University Abu Dis where the results of the study were disseminated.
- The WSC participated and presented a paper on early marriage through a conference carried out in Al-Quds University around the issue of early marriage
- The WSC participated in the Palestine International Award for Excellence and Creativity ceremony.
- The WSC participated in the Conference carried out by Tawasol- Ministry of Women Affairs where the code of honor against violence against women was signed by all governors of West Bank Districts. The conference was held in Jericho.
- The WSC participated and presented a paper on Violence against women through a conference for youth carried out in the Notre Dame Hotel in Jerusalem and organized Al-Murtaqa Organization.
- The WSC participated and presented a paper on Combating Femicide in a conference held in Taybeh/ Northern 1948 areas. The conference was coordinated by the network of Palestinian Feminist organization in Israel.
- The WSC participated in a workshop for the Committee against Corruption, which was entitled “Activation of the Transparency within the Governmental bodies.” The workshop was carried out in Hebron.
- The WSC was present in the general meeting of the social support committee that was developed by the District office of Hebron. The centre was elected to serve within the core coordination committee that provides support to underprivileged families, provide support for underprivileged students to reduce school and university drop out rates.
- The WSC was present in the Israeli Boycott Conference held in Nablus on the methods of boycott and its effect on the Israeli occupation
- The WSC was present in submitting a letter to the Red Cross – Nablus regarding the Administrative detainees, and followed up on the matter.
- The WSC was invited to a consultation dinner by the German Representative office where the recommendations of the civil society were taken into account, the WSC took this opportunity to express their concern regarding the women’s situation in the West Bank and the Gaza strip and reflect it in a presentation.
- The WSC participated among a delegation visit to Brussels and had met with the EU minister of Women affairs, where the WSC had presented about the situation of women in Palestine.

Networks and Coalitions:

The centre is an active member of the following coalitions and network and had attended their regular meeting during the reporting period:

- **1325 Coalition** – developed the national plan for the activation of the 1325 UN resolution in Palestine.
- **NGO network of Hebron** – development of a committee that is capable of providing protection for women through contact of both legal, governmental and humanitarian organization, this was due to the alarming rise in so called honor killings in the West Bank within the reporting period.
- **The Palestinian Network for Child Rights Protection** –work on coordination with network members for the Palestinian Child day festival, held in the old City of Hebron. The festival included submitting a memorandum to the Governor of Hebron in regards to protection of children and the importance of activation of child rights in Palestine.
- **The Civil Coalition for Jerusalemite Institutes:** worked on mapping activities being carried out in Jerusalem and the what the contributions of each member is in relation to the coalition's overall plan.
- **The Feminist Jerusalem Forum.**
- **The Coalition of Safe Abortion**
- **Coalition of NGO to combat violence against women (Muntada):** worked on organizing a campaign to advocate and lobby for combating the phenomena of so called honor killings in Palestine through a set of activities that included rallies.
- **Educational Forum.**

Internal Matters of the WSC:

Internally and within the WSC, the Board had met during the past year in a quarterly manner. It has decided to have a general assembly meeting within the second half of the year and was carried out specifically on the 6th of September, where the annual report and financial audited report of 2013 were reviewed and authorized. Moreover, the General Assembly reviewed the tenders for appointing an external auditor and had decided by voting on appointing HLB auditing firm for one year, to be followed by another two years if the performance of this auditing firm is satisfactory. It is worth noting that the meeting was supposed to take place within the month of June, but due to the difficult political conditions that the West Bank was undergoing, the WSC decided to postpone it so that all members of the general assembly would be able to convene, moreover changes in the board of directors were suggested, and accordingly the treasurer of the WSC will no longer function in the board, thus was replaced from another member in the board, and an addition to the members was added from the General Assembly. This change will be made official once the Ministry of Interior will authorize this change, thus and during the beginning of the year 2015, the procedures for this change will convene with the bank and official signatories' appointment after the receipt of the MOI's approval.

The WSC will assure that the HRIHL Secretariat is updated on this issue.

Capacity Development by the HR/IHL Secretariat:

As for the capacity development plan, it was altered since it was communicated that the HRIHL secretariat will provide some of the trainings throughout a peer-to-peer approach

and some through the collective training workshops. According to the staff capacities in all partnering organizations, the Secretariat will coordinate workshops on staff development. Due to this, we have shifted the plan for 2014 to be carried out during the second half of the year 2014 and thus the following activities were carried out: (Please note that for further details on please refer to attached plan)

Staff Capacity Development:

During the year 2014, a large number of staff members were trained abroad on different issues concerning mainly the issues of Human Rights, where some of the costs were covered through this line, as subscription fees.

Under Media and External relations:

Advocacy Strategy Development: A consultant was hired to develop an Advocacy Strategy for the WSC, (Mr. FathiMarshood), this was done based on different recommendations from local partners who had recruited Mr. Fathi for such tasks. Thus the WSC worked on developing an advocacy strategy and carried out different activities that included special focus on the WSC's external audience and stakeholders, this was done through a workshop held with a number of stakeholders from different governorate bodies that have posed different suggestions on how the WSC can improve its Advocacy through targeting its stakeholders. These recommendations were taken into account while the WSC also worked on developing a strategy on the internal level (Program Based) where the Strategic Plan and interventions and programs were all reviewed by the consultant and a number of workshops with the program Staff at the WSC were held, the strategy is currently in its final phases.

WSC Website Development:

During the second half of the year 2014, the WSC witnessed a wave of hacks and cyber attacks on the WSC's Website, and Social Media tools by the Tahrir group, who saw that the WSC poses a threat specifically in empowerment of women. The Social Media tools utilized the reporting and blocking tools to avoid such attacks, but the Website of the WSC was damaged beyond repair. This urged us at the WSC to develop a new website as a means of communication and Media and had recruited a company to do so, the Website is currently in its final phases and will be launched very soon.

WSC feminist Library (System):

The Feminist Library of the WSC, used to be stationed in the Jerusalem office of the WSC, but after the closure of the Wall it became very difficult to access by the university students and beneficiaries from the West Bank, thus the WSC decided to re-locate the library and move it to the Nablus Branch Premises,(very close to Al-Najah University) since it is accessible to all the West Bank and Jerusalem beneficiaries as well, currently the Library holds around 4000 books that are both in Arabic and English most of which are related to feminist issues and Gender, moreover the library is registered with different international and local statistics generating organizations that regularly provide it with the newest statistics whether related to women's issues directly or indirectly, in addition to the documentary film section in the library.

The library serves university students, school students, researchers and Civil society members by providing them with needed information and resources on women, gender and feminism, and an estimate of 400 people annually, and among the regular library activity of lending books and resources, the library has other activities such as holding a monthly cultural event in the library,

(awareness session, discussion groups, book reviews, poetry evenings and film screenings, in addition to the discussion of children stories in relation to the Palestinian context.)

Thus the WSC decided to install a new software to the library, and with this new software that the WSC wishes to install, we expect to increase the number of beneficiaries of the library, enhance the system within the library to track books and memberships, and gain more exposure among those that are not aware of the library – specifically through the global search engine and enrich the networking and with Universities and Colleges to develop and inter-lending system to facilitate the access of students to WSC's Library.

Success stories:

Within the Bereaved to Bereaved program (past phase 2011-2013) an Association for bereaved women was initiated, and hosted for the initial 2 year in the WSC Nablus Premises over the course of 2013 and 2014. In order for the association to function properly the WSC had organized a number of public events in Nablus with solidarity activities with bereaved women in certain remote locations like Kabalan and Qaryout, and other locations around Nablus. Other activities included internal travel tours in Palestine to Hebron and to the Dead Sea, through which start-up funds were raised for the association. The WSC was able to raise around 5,000 US dollars as start-up funds.

The Aman Program as whole is seen as a success story since currently the project is not funded by any external donor, but the WSC continues the program with the minimal possible costs, while the project is still being implemented by school counselors and specialist from the directorate of counseling in the Ministry of Education during the year 2013-2014 with almost no funding, except for provision of project tools and materials. Moreover the Ministry of Education directorate in Bethlehem was very interested in the project to an extent that it launched its annual educational conference around the Aman program.

A social initiative was taken in Hebron by the WSC when the centre in Hebron received a call to support Mrs. Raeda Talahmeh, with her case in the Alimony fund in a manner that enables her to live in better conditions. The Hebron staff immediately responded and visited the Alimony fund office to receive details on the case and to try and support her. It was apparent from the details that the woman was divorced for two years already and has 4 children, the eldest is 8 while the youngest is 3 and does not receive any support nor any alimony since her ex-husband had remarried and lives in H2 where the Palestinian police cannot reach him.

The WSC staff then visited her and saw that her house was not fit for human living, she lived in a shed in her family's land. The house was beyond rehabilitation so the WSC decided to contact different organizations for support, such as the National Security Services, the Municipality, and other individuals that can support. Each organization took a role in the support and decided to build a little house for Raeda and her children, one that is fit for living during the harsh winter condition in the beginning of the year 2014.

The WSC also contacted her family and father who didn't want to take her in since she was divorced; by he was persuaded to do so for a month's time until the house was constructed. And to assure that the house will not be taken by her family later on, the

centre had contacted a legal advisor who developed a legal document that assures her stay in the house. All material was donated from the community in the construction of the house and in furnishing it. Moreover the WSC made sure that the house was provided with electricity, and water. The house was finalized and a small opening ceremony with all the supporters was carried out by the WSC and the Hebron Governor and the head of the National Security Unit in Hebron.