

منتدى شارك الشبابي

YOUTH FORUM


SHAREK

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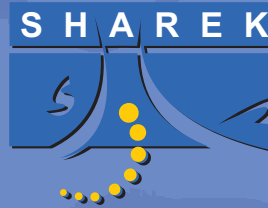
2003







Sharek Youth Forum



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# What is Sharek?



# What is Sharek?

## Sharek is Palestinian youth.

We are an organization of committed young people whose primary philosophy is participation. We aim to provide a space for youth to come together, develop their ideas, display their creativity and implement projects for their community. We are non-partisan and our future goal is a network of youth from all organizations and regions across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We also support other youth organizations in implementing their projects and building their capacity.

Sharek was launched as an initiative of the United Nations Development Program. Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) in 1996. It was supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) as well as the Japanese Government, and the UNDP.

Since its inception in 1996, Sharek's aim was to establish itself as an **independent Palestinian organization** outside the framework of the UNDP. In mid-2003, this process was completed although the UNDP still plays an advisory role for Sharek. We work closely with Palestinian municipal councils, Palestinian Ministries as well as local and international NGOs.

Sharek has established youth centers in Jenin, Hebron, Rafah, Khan Yunis and IL Ghazi which have played important roles in involving youth in activities and projects. In addition, other Sharek groups are in the process of being established in villages surrounding Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah. Sharek has also funded existing youth organizations, clubs and NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Sharek's Philosophy:

### ■ Creative

Sharek believes that the future is made by youth. Youth are naturally creative we just need the space and opportunity to develop our ideas - to experiment, make mistakes, learn and lead. In Sharek we try and give youth this space to be creative. To suggest ideas and run with them. **To challenge what is old and break the boundaries of what they have been told must be.**

### ■ Independent

Sharek believes that independence is key to being critical. We are political as we see politics all around us but we are not aligned to any movement or political party. Rather, we try and break the boundaries between ourselves and develop critical thinking skills and different approaches to the problems we face. **We try and tackle the problems facing youth by working together not apart.**

### ■ Community-Based

Palestinian society is young and the problems of the community are our problems. Our philosophy is to show that it is possible for the community to identify these problems and do something about them. We know that success depends on **our strength in the community and our ability to make a difference.** To this end, we aim to lead our community in tackling the real problems that we all face.

### ■ Active

Sharek is not just about talking but also about doing. Youth want to be involved in Sharek because they know we are active - we lead by example and we work hard at achieving our goals. **We aim to criticize and to advocate for the interests of youth** both



in our communities and in Palestinian society as a whole.

### ■ **Aware**

Sharek knows that **to affect change we must affect others**. We must challenge established opinions and help youth to become aware of the problems that surround them and what they can do about them. We try and build awareness amongst youth of the issues facing them both in their community, nationally and on an international level.

In the following sections we provide a description of some of the projects Sharek has been involved in over the four years. This is not a comprehensive list, but illustrates the scope of Sharek's work and the wide variety of youth organizations that work in partnership with Sharek in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### **The aim of Sharek's funding was conceptualized as follows:**

- 1) To strengthen the capacity of Palestinian youth organizations, in particular, to support organizations in carrying out a short-term project that would provide specific services to the community in which the organization is active.
- 2) To strengthen the institutional capacity of youth organizations by clearly linking service-delivery and institutional capacity building within the funding guidelines.
- 3) To improve the coordination and collaboration between youth organizations operating within particular areas. To this end, priority was given to those projects which involve joint-work between organizations.
- 4) To support projects which show potential for a campaigning and advocacy focus thereby strengthening the capacity of

youth to mobilize around issues of concern to them.

- 5) To increase the involvement of youth in Sharek through utilizing Sharek as a catalyst for joint work and running campaigns across regional and national levels. This could be done through Sharek running particular activities and campaigns (e.g. national radio and TV campaigns, training programs, awareness raising activities) that support the work of different local organizations.

**The following section gives an idea of the project themes supported:**

### **Campaigning Activities**

Given the strategic focus of Sharek in the next period towards strengthening local campaigns and the self-mobilization of youth, several projects were identified that fitted this goal. These projects include campaigns around preventing the large number of school drop-outs in marginalized communities, road safety and awareness, and disaster awareness and preparation. It was noted by the project team that many of the projects expressed similar goals from different regions, which provided further indication that Sharek's strategic objective of strengthening collaboration between youth organizations is the correct approach. As part of the disbursement of grants, Sharek meets with organizations and attempt to develop joint implementation and strategy for many of these campaigns.

### **Service Activities**

It is very clear that there are vital and unmet needs within many Palestinian communities. In many cases these result from the disastrous economic situation affecting a broad layer of the population or from the difficulties resulting from closure and curfew. The project team was very

impressed by the number of innovative and creative ideas emerging from youth organizations as a way of meeting those needs. Sharek has decided to support activities that aim to reduce the level of unemployment amongst youth, strengthen the educational opportunities for youth, and use existing skills of youth to help the community. In particular, some of the projects within this category include "mentoring" projects between youth and children, remedial and educational support activities given by unemployed graduates for other youth and children, career counseling activities, legal advice and counseling, and psychosocial counseling and training. Again, Sharek's approach in implementing these activities is to utilize the skills and experiences of different youth organizations on a local level to build a national-level approach towards meeting these community needs.

### Infrastructure and Material Needs

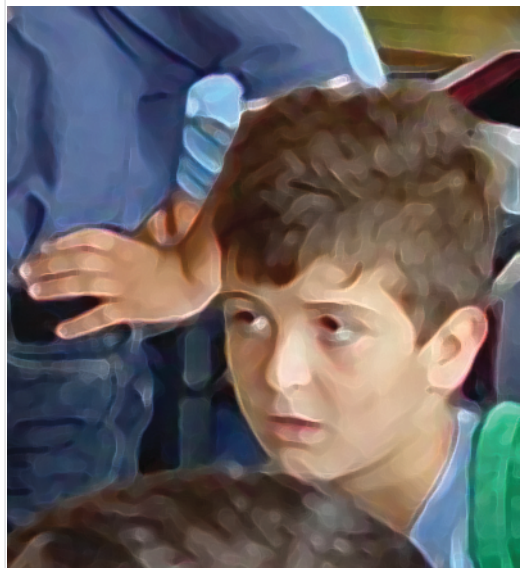
While funding infrastructure and material needs of youth organizations was not a major goal of Sharek's funding, it became clear that some of the youth organizations have faced destruction of their facilities and are in urgent need of support at this time. For this reason, the project team has decided to support a small number of projects with material needs as well as assist these projects in obtaining separate external funding through other funding agencies' projects. This is particularly important in cases where meeting these needs will provide a large service to the community and assist in alleviating unemployment within the community (e.g. constructing a football field in a village where none currently exists.)

### Sharek-led Activities

In addition to campaigning and service type

grants, the project team is currently exploring several ideas which will be led by Sharek on a national level, but draw upon the expertise of local youth organizations in their development and implementation. Specifically, Sharek is currently meeting with different organizations around ideas such as 1) a national awareness campaign around election procedures with the particular goal of developing a Youth Election Guide, 2) a national campaign around youth unemployment, 3) the possibility of developing a national youth magazine or newspaper that will consolidate the activities in this regard of different youth organizations.

The organizations were selected on the basis of the type of service they proposed to deliver, their ability to deliver the service, the target group the project was aimed at, the potential of the project to assist in capacity building of the organization and other criteria identified by Sharek. Consideration was also given to the geographical spread of the projects, the creativity of the project concept and its ability to draw in layers of youth during its implementation.



An abstract painting featuring a central figure, possibly a person, rendered in a style reminiscent of Expressionism or Cubism. The figure is composed of bold, dark outlines and is filled with a mix of warm and cool colors, including reds, oranges, yellows, blues, and purples. The background is a textured, mottled mix of these colors, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is dynamic and expressive, with a focus on color and form rather than realistic detail.

# Creativity and Culture Enhancement Programme



## Creativity and Culture Enhancement Programme :

### ■ Young Artist Forum

**Partners:** The Young Artist Forum  
**Location:** Ramallah district.

The ongoing political crisis and soaring poverty rate has forced many youth to leave school to work. Children becoming main breadwinners have become a normal phenomenon. In an attempt to alleviate the impact of this phenomenon on the youth, Sharek programme in cooperation with the Young Artist Forum launched an emergency program to support poor young laborers aged 15-20 years. The project aims to provide a recreational outlet for the youth who were forced into the labor force at an early age. Through empowering them to express themselves artistically, the project hopes to abate the mental and physical pressure they are subjected to at working in adult governed environments. The project will offer a 600- hour training course for young laborer in graphic design by the end of 2003. 72 young laborers from the rural areas of Ramallah who possess artistic talents will benefit from the course which will be conducted in the evening. Awards will be granted to successful trainees. Besides its artistic goals, the course is designed to equip the youth with further skills that increases their chances of accessing higher professions.

### ■ Gaza Youth Song Contest

**Partner:** Educational Enrichment and Creative Thinking Association  
**Location:** Gaza Strip

A Youth song contest was initiated and organized in the Gaza Strip. The competition targeted youth and youngsters aged between 13-18 years and ended in a formal public festival where the highest 10

candidates performed. The top three singers were awarded prizes and a cassette of the best 10 songs was produced and distributed to the NGOs and the local community.

### ■ The Jabalia Art Project

**Partners:** Dar Ashabab for Culture & Arts (DSCA), Jabalia  
**The Palestinian Cultural Center (PCC), Tal-Ezaatar**

**Location:** Jabalia refugee camp

The project sought to increase the capacity of local organizations interested in promoting the arts and enable them to take their expected role in stimulating the cultural lives of the youth in rural areas in the West Bank and Gaza. Responding to the needs of the cultural life in oPt, the project comprised two components. The first is aimed at upgrading and expanding the artistic infrastructure through assisting in the construction of theatres, and the procurement of musical instruments, national dancing costumes as well as other equipment. The Second component was designed to ensure that the infrastructure prepared in the first component is well-utilized through conducting training courses in various arts as well as triggering programs to be run in the target organizations.

### ■ Supporting Art Activities (Painting, Debka National Dancing & Drama)

**Partners:** Deir El-Balah Youth Activity Center (YAC)

**Deir El-Balah Women Activity Center (WAC)**

**Location:** Deir Al Balah refugee camps

The project sought to promote and support young artistic talents in drawing and drama. Within the framework of this project, six two-month training courses in painting were held. The courses trained sixty young talented youth on painting on glass, on cloth

and on pottery. The other component of the project focused on promoting drama sector in the city both through enhancing the infrastructure and the capacities of the human resources available there. Within the project, YAC theatre was renovated and musical instrument and Debka costumes were procured for the theatre. Moreover, 25 young youth were enrolled in drama courses and 15 were trained on Debka. In providing the training, the project drew on local expertise, namely four volunteers from the Art College who live in the middle camps.

### ■ Artistic Workshops for Youth

**Partner: Silwan Sports Club**

**Location: Jerusalem**

**7,000 USD**

Cultural activity in the villages surrounding Jerusalem is rare. In an effort to invigorate the cultural life, Sharek Program provided a grant to Silwan Sports Club in order to expand the range and size of activities. Part of this grant went for renovating the club and upgrading its facilities. Yet the largest bulk of the grant went to support launching a project aimed at promoting arts among the youth aged 10- 16 years. The project will organize three series of workshops each comprising 72 hours of training and focusing on one type of art. The first series will focus on music and singing and will target 15-20 young men and women. The second series of workshops will train 10-15 youth on theatre and drama. The third will train 18-25 youth on National Debka dancing. An Exhibition of artistic pieces will be organized at the end of the program.

### ■ Al Karama Art Project

**Partner: Al Karama Association for Art and Culture-Rafah**

**Location : Rafah district**

Judging by the large amount of proposals Sharek received from local NGOs in Rafah

requesting assistance in art projects, Sharek felt the need for a district-level intervention in this sector that attempts to unify the burgeoning and fragmented artistic endeavors. Four major art groups, each specializing in a different art field were teamed up. In selecting the groups, the complementarity of their activities was sought. Al Karama Association for Art and Culture has been teamed-up

with Al Janoub Band for Public Art, Women and Child development Association and Rafah Youth Service Center. Teaming up comes as an effort to place the activities of these groups within a comprehensive framework that will catalyze their dynamism and help them discern a future vision. Each group was supported in one artistic field that was clearly associated with the comparative advantage of the group itself and at the same time had a value added to the collective groups in whole. For example, the theater to be reconstructed at Al-Karama Association would also serve the needs of the other three groups and so would the sound system installed at the YSC. Moreover, the four groups benefited from the training courses organized by each group individually.

### ■ Ya'bad Choir

**Partner: Ya'bad Youth Club**

**Location: Jenin**

To develop their talents, young musical and artistic talents in the Northern area of the West Bank had to travel all the way down to art centers and institutes in Nablus. To encourage northern talents, Sharek program extended support and capacity building for Ya'bad choir. The choir consists of 20 young male and female singers who perform traditional songs and national dancing (Debka). Within this project, the choir received training by music experts after which a tape was produced out of the songs & techniques taught during the training.

■ **Hiba, Art work shops for children)**  
**Part of be the Change Fund**  
**Location: Jerusalem**

The aim of this initiative is to discover talents and creative children at schools from ages 6-12 years and to conduct art workshops and creative activities such as theatre training, embroidery, painting. Children will have the opportunity to express their talents in a useful way, and this also could relieve them from stress and the impact of violence. Two youth coordinators 16 and 17 years old are the implementers of this project.

■ **Khirbet Itrah Potters Exhibition**  
**Partner: Youth Club**  
**Location: Tulkarem**

In the village there are two traditional potteries that will be restored under the project. This specific intervention will aim to re-activate the production of pottery utilizing the old techniques used when the potteries were operational. A training program will be designed to provide youth male and female with the opportunity to train on pottery making, and the management and promotion of the locally produced pottery items. A youth group Dar Qandeel interested in reviving traditional and folkloric techniques in art and culture has emerged in the Tulkarem governate which will collaborate with other Sharek networks to engage young people in preserving and keeping their heritage alive.

■ **Ajyal Art & Cultural Center**  
**Partner:Beit Ummar Child Club**  
**Location: Hebron**

Artistic talents in the southern area, just as in the northern area, are in need of an institutional body to nurture and guide their development. Similarly too, Sharek, in conjunction with Beit Ummar Child Club

established an arts center to be homed in the Club premises. The center, fully equipped with music instruments, offers training in the various arts including music and singing. More importantly, it will provide the young talents with a supportive institutional framework that will work to unite and facilitate further development of the fragmented talents. A band will be formed and Debka-dancing group will be established. It also facilitates disseminating its vision and mission of nurturing young talents more efficiently across the territory. So far, A center located at Dehesha camp has expressed its willingness to cooperate regularly with the newly established music center in Beit Ummar. The Center is meant to serve the community in the southern West Bank including in rural villages as well as refugee camps. This is reflected in its board of trustees that include notable figures from the southern region. So far 350 young talent have joined the center

■ **Art Exhibit & Auction for Gaza Artists**  
**Sharek /direct implemented**  
**Jerusalem**

In a unique step to allow youth to take their own initiatives and participate in their own development, Sharek programme hosted a successful art Exhibit and Auction on October 10th 2002 at the Ambassador Hotel. The event exhibited the works of 18 young Gaza artists who have participated in an artistic workshop also organized through Sharek. The auction provided a great opportunity for Sharek not only to show case these beautiful works of art and help these struggling artists gain income from their work but also to establish a cultural bridge connecting Gaza to Jerusalem. UNDP special representative hosted a reception followed by an auction of the paintings. The event was attended by over a 100 art lovers from various members of the



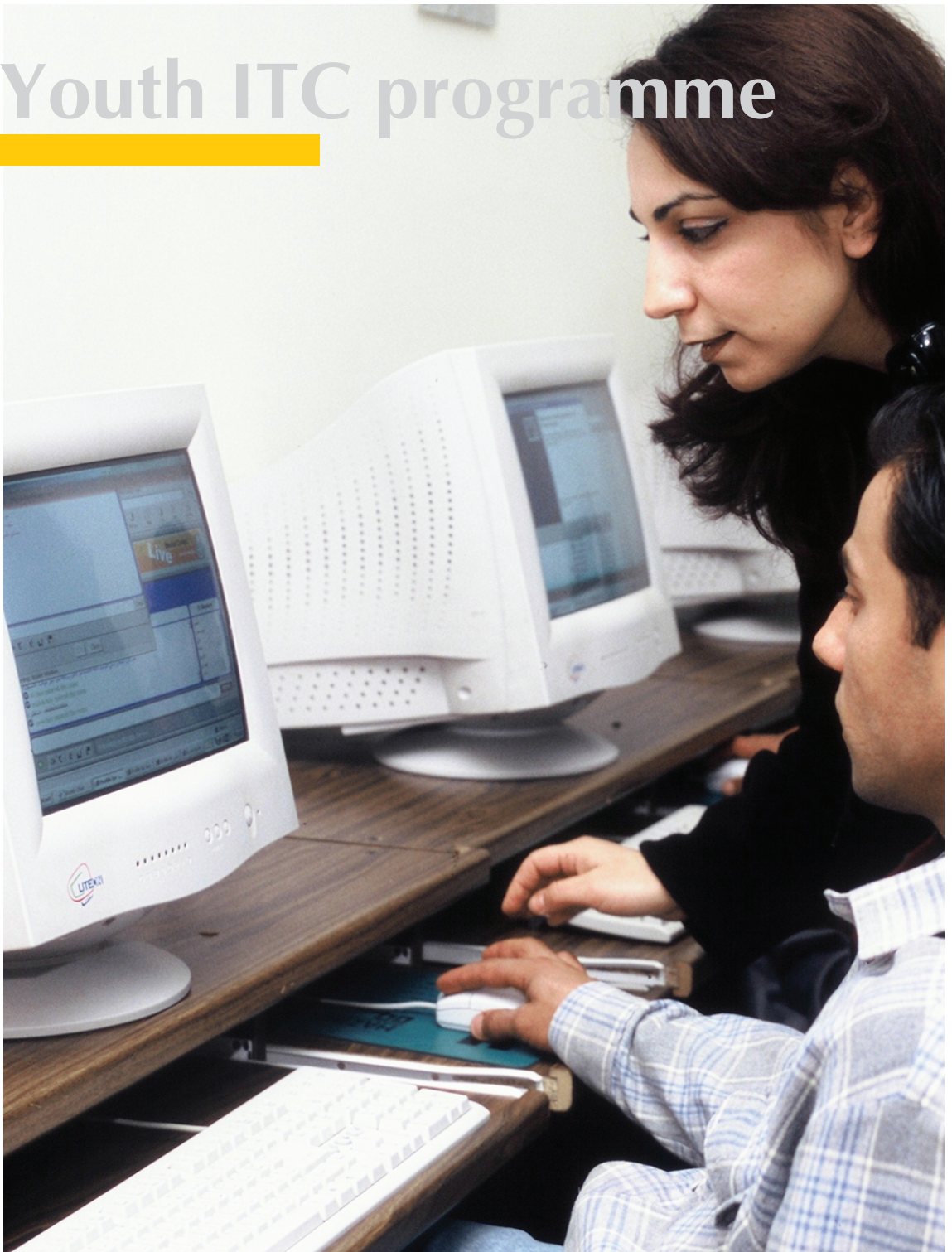
diplomatic community, UN agencies, and Palestinians. The event not only attracted attention in the local and international press, but also ensured that all the paintings were sold, raising approximately US\$10,000 for the artists. Some of the individual paintings sold for U.S. \$900, and some artists made as much as US\$1,200 to US\$2,700. It is planned to hold this exhibit on an annual basis.







# Youth ITC programme





## Youth ITC programme:

### ■ Jabalia Computer Training Unit

**Partner:** Women's Program Center

**Location:** Jabalia

This project was designed to respond to a needs assessment study in Jabalia that underscored the need for extracurricular activities for the youth. The assessment also pointed to the need to increase the accessibility of youth to Information & Communication Technology. To address these needs, the project established a training unit in Jabalia that conducted within the framework of the project twelve training courses. Around 100 participants from different backgrounds including school teachers, children, youth, and women benefited from these courses.

### ■ Computer training unit in AlAqad - Khanyounis

**Partner:** Al-Hannan Charity Society in Khanyounis,

**Location:** Khan younis

Following the recommendations of youth groups in the area, a computer unit with internet connectivity was established in Al-Hanan Charity Society. The process of setting up the unit was carried out by Sharek Khan Yunis group which was divided into three task groups. The first task group was responsible for decorating the computer room and procuring the computers. The unit is equipped with eight computers, a printer and a scanner. The Second task group conducted public awareness campaign on the unit. The third group took over the administrative responsibilities of running training courses in the unit. Training courses are run for symbolic fees since this training is provided by Sharek Volunteers. To ensure that women take part in the unit activities, half of the courses are allocated for young ladies.

### ■ Across Borders

**Partner:** Center For Continuing Education, Bir Zeit University

**Location:** Noor Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkerm

The Across Borders Project (ABP) is an exciting example of how modern technology can serve as tool of both hope and empowerment in settings where hopelessness prevails. It provides Palestinian refugees with an outlet through which they can establish links with other refugees as well as with the international community, while providing them with technological skills that are becoming an integral part of today's global environment. So far, there are eight ABP across the Middle east. Out of belief in the project's goals, Sharek supported the newly established Across border center in Noor Shams. The center is already operating with two-part time camp coordinators and computer lab- set up. Sharek's support was on two levels. The first level, which included procuring five computers, a scanner, a digital camera and other electrical accessories, related to strengthening the centers facilities. The second level was geared towards overseeing the creation of bilingual (Arabic/ English) camp websites. The project inducted 2 training sessions in Web Design and 2 training sessions in oral history in Noor Shams Refugee Camp for a total of 60 youth aged.

### ■ Youth ICT Forum

**Partner:** Palestinian Internet Society

**Location:** Gaza Strip

Creative thinkers require a support framework to nurture their ideas, a framework that is often hard to find. When it comes to ICT, the difficulty is even bigger as the Subject is new to Decision makers who are often by virtue of their position very senior in age. In an attempt to rescue these

youthful creative brains from getting trapped in common, and not say trivial jobs, Sharek Program established ICT Youth Forum in cooperation with the Palestinian Internet Society. Sharek funded the procurement of the necessary devices as well as covered the running cost of the forum for six months. The forum will serve as meeting place for young specialists in ICT who cherish innovative initiatives but lack the means to try to implement them. Through this forum, they will be given the opportunity to team up together to undertake some of their enterprises under professional supervision facilitated by the Association. A number of topics representing general themes or problems will be suggested and the youth would be challenged into coming up with solutions to these problems. These problems could involve designing software ranging from e-commerce, communication, e-learning and governmental service provision. The forum will also serve to link these young brains with decision-makers. Workshops will be held to present their innovative projects to relevant policy-makers with the hope that their achievements will be adopted and replicated elsewhere.

■ **Enlighten (Markaz at-Tanweer):**

**Partner: Al Bureij Youth Club**

**Location: Al Bureij Refugee camp**

This community based IT education center in Bureij refugee camp provides a safe learning environment for refugee children of all ages involving multi-level computer training and access to internet resources for training and skills development. It targets the youth sector in the most under-privileged camps in the Gaza area.

The Enlighten program is aimed at those children from extremely low income families. It is hoped that through providing information, skills and guidance to a large number of children, it will be possible to

have direct and positive effect on the well-being of the children themselves in the short term and long term, and on the community as a whole. Skilled local volunteers who are either students at Gaza higher education institutions or professionals from the community provide basic computer courses for girls and boys according to their needs.

■ **Web site development training:**

**Partners: various Youth Clubs**

**Location: West Bank**

This project's main aim is to enhance integration and empowerment of Palestinian youth through providing training courses for youth leaders who are active in youth organizations. This will help them to use Information and Communications Technology capacity and knowledge for the future of their organizations.

The training is being conducted by the National Institute for Information Technology. 17 youth leaders from about 15 youth organizations are participating in this training course (Web Developer 300 hour course). Youth completing this training course will have the ability to train other youth in their respective organizations and be able to design websites. This will also enhance their employment prospects.

■ **IT for Kids in Jenin**

**Partner: Jenin Municipality**

**Location: Jenin City**

The Sharek youth center is undertaking to train children in the Jenin area to develop skills in the following areas: word processing, graphics, multimedia programming etc. The target groups for this initiative are children and youth from the Jenin Governorate. This project is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. A selection process is conducted by a committee and about 150 children from different schools and locations

will benefit from these activities. It is hoped that the beneficiaries will take part in other Sharek projects in the future.

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# Testing Innovations Programme (TIP)





# Testing Innovations Programme (TIP)

## ■ Maintenance of communication equipment

**Partner: Palestinian Youth Center**

**Location: Gaza**

Unemployment in the Palestinian territory is high among both skilled/ education and unskilled/uneducated youth. The advent of information age has paved the way for the rise of information and communication technology as a distinct sector of the economy capable of generating sustainable jobs. This makes it imperative to renew attention in vocational education sector which has grown weak do to lack of mechanisms to encouraging students to enter it. In a pioneering initiative, Sharek programme in cooperation with the Palestinian Youth Center in Gaza will design and run a training course in maintaince of communication equipment of various types including in mobile phones which are heavily used nowadays. A comprehensive training laboratory will be established. Two 80-hour courses will be given for a total of 30 youth ( of 17-25 years of age) from the eastern neighborhood of Gaza City. The project will target young people who hold tawjihi certificates but were unable to pursue higher education due to its high costs. At the end of the course, the trainees will be awarded certificates and will be able to work in this field. The project is meant to activate vocational education is designed with a view to serve as nucleus of future center specialized in training youth in information and communication technology.

- **The Handcraft Loom Project Partner: The Cultural Palestinian Center**  
**Location: Tel Zaatar Village and in the Arts & Crafts Center in Gaza City**

Weaving is one of the Palestinian handcraft that is threatened to become extinct. The majority of Palestinian workers have for decades preferred to work in industrial zones inside Israel abandoning traditional professions. This project aimed at reviving the Palestinian traditional handcraft among the youth sector and preserving the Palestinian Loom from disappearing through introducing it to interested youth. The project established two well-equipped training unit one in the North and another in the Gaza strip. In each center, ten youths (both male& female) were taught the skill of weaving and of making traditional Palestinian dresses. The products were exhibited in the Art & Craft Village in Gaza city.

## ■ Children Public park (recycling of environmental waste)

**Part of be the change Fund.**

**Location: Gaza City**

Rubber and plastic waste in Gaza are considered a real problem. This led a group of energetic youth to think about a good way to use the waste cars tires. The idea is to design children public park all made from tires decorated in an alternative way with different kinds of tires and painting. All stages and decoration will be done by involving the children in workshops and then participating in creating their own nice park. Gaza Municipality offered one of its parks to be used for this project

## ■ Islamic University / Student Scientific projects

**Part of Be the Change Fund**

**Location: Gaza City**

Gaza Islamic University students were very enthusiastic to take part in creative initiatives. Four initiatives were approved by the committee:

- Decorative water fountains; this project aims to decorate the university park. Giving the opportunity for the students to implement in a practical way the theories they are learning in courses.
- Chicken hatcheries, this project aim to improve the quantity and quality of chicken production.
- IC tester: this card tests the ICs and all electronic cards and shows the problems and the damages.
- Designing and producing a Micro controller kit: this controller controls the heat of the equipment.

These projects are initiated by graduate students and will be implemented individually and by groups of students in coordination with the science department of the University.

#### ■ Children Astronomy Club

**Partner: Palestinian Cultural Child Center( PCCC)**

**Location: Jenin District**

In an innovative initiative, Sharek in cooperation with PCCC and the Ministry of Education established an Astronomy Club for Children aged 8-16 in Jenin. This project, which attempts to cater for the recreational needs of youth, is the first of its type in the West Bank. Through creative and informal activities, the club aims to familiarize children with their universe and acquaint them with interesting astronomical phenomena. The club issues a bulletin regularly with articles written by the children themselves.

#### ■ A forum for creative youth

**Partner: Khan Yunis Municipality**

**Location: Khan Yunis**

Amidst struggles to sustain basic needs and to deal with the crisis situation in the Gaza

Strip, cultural activities that increase thinking and creativity in its larger sense gets pushed to the side. Khan Yunis Municipality, supported by Sharek Program launched a project aiming at encouraging creativity among youth through establishing a forum for creative youth. The project is implemented in cooperation with 18 different youth clubs. However, the four main partners are Kanan Development Center, Panorama Center for the Dissemination of Democracy, Tamer Institute for Continuous Education, and the Contemporary Library. The forum will serve as a meeting place for people with innovative ideas and projects to meet and exchange views and ideas. The forum will also include a space for exhibiting creative work designed and made by youth. Each project will be assigned a corner where people can come to view the project and listen to a brief explanation of it. The activities to be presented is not restricted to any field and could include Debka, singing, drama and theatre, poetry & literature, , scientific experiments, abstract arts, sculpture, sports and any other activity produced by creative minds.

#### ■ Capacity building in Disaster Preparedness

**Partner: Palestinian Red Crescent**

**Society Location: West Bank And Gaza Strip**

In an effort to make coping with crisis more efficient and effective, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society runs a volunteering programme whereby around 4820 volunteers spread across 34 localities are committed to assist PRCS. While these volunteers constitute a wealth of human resources, their skills of crisis intervention need to be built and developed. Sharek programme in cooperation with PRCS, launched a training course in preparedness for and management of natural as well as

man-made crisis. The volunteers enrolled were trained to undertake rapid needs and damage assessment, and to assist emergency medical staff in field station. The course also involved training in water purification techniques as well as in management camps set up for displaced population. They were also trained in emergency quick response as step towards establishing field hospitals. A 30-hour training, extending over 6-day period, was carried out in four different localities: one in the Gaza Strip and three in the West Bank (covering North, South and Center). 42 volunteers aged 18- 30 benefited from these courses. Special attention was paid to recruit an equal number of men and women in these courses. These training courses are the first in a series that will try to cover to other localities in the west bank & Gaza strip

■ **Establishing Children recreational and educational room in Augusta Victoria Hospital**

**Partner: Palestinian Counseling Center**

**Location: Jerusalem**

Hospitals in the West Bank have presently no facilities where children can spend their spare time in. Hospitalized children are, therefore, confined to their beds and are left alone with their fears. In a pioneering project, a recreational and educational room was established in Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. The room will be utilized to run activities that entertain children, promote dialogue among them, increase their self-confidence and build their trust with doctors. Young volunteers from PCC will be running the room in close cooperation with the Nursing department. In this room volunteers, each volunteering four hours a week, can spend some time with hospitalized children offering them counseling and entertainment. The room, furnished by Sharek program, is fully

equipped with books, toys and educational material for all age range. Measures are taken to ensure that the recreational material will reach children who are unable to attend the recreational room.



A photograph of two young men in traditional purple and white robes. The man on the left is seated and playing a zither, a long stringed instrument with many strings. The man on the right is seated and playing a baglam, a pear-shaped stringed instrument. They are both looking down at their instruments. The background is dark with a red curtain. The text "Remedial Education and Homework centers programme" is overlaid in white at the bottom.

# Remedial Education and Homework centers programme



## Remedial Education and Homework centers programme

A survey conducted by BZU Development Studies Program in February 2002 revealed that 52% of school children are unable to attend school regularly due to the Second Intifada. In an attempt to alleviate the impact of this situation, Sharek, under the aegis of the Ministry of Education district offices, launched a supplementary education program whereby school children are provided with supplementary educational help outside school hours. The program views education in the wider sense as including informal education and emotional development. Therefore, these extra hours of education mix academic help with extracurricular or recreational activities. In order for the benefit of the project to trickle down to other segments in the educational sector, in half of these projects university students are employed to provide the support to school children. Thus, through securing financial assistance to these students, the project reduces the financial burden over university students and help keep them enrolled in their studies. In the other half of the projects of this program, unemployed recent graduates are employed to supervise children. From there point of view, the project also serves to create opportunities of employment and job experience for the unemployed skilled labor. The following projects were implemented under this program as follows:

### Homework Centers

#### ■ Hajja Student Homework Center Qalqilia district

The overall goal for the Homework Center is to provide students in the cluster, ages 9-18,

with a stimulating environment in which they can actively learn the material given to them at school, and thus complete their schoolwork with knowledge and confidence. Furthermore, the activities at the Homework Center aim to encourage its participants to question and explore subjects of interest under the guidance of youth mentors and teachers. The Homework Center will have two main components therein. The first one - the Reference Area - will contain desks, tables, computers (hooked up to the Internet) and reference materials for students who wish to work on homework or research projects. Youth Mentors will be assigned to Reference Areas accordingly to ensure that the student/YM ratio is no more than seven to one. The second component - the Discussion Group Area - will contain chairs or cushions for students to sit upon while teachers and YMs conduct workshops or open discussions on school-related subjects. Discussion Groups will be formed according to participants' age and subjects of discussions

#### ■ Allar Assistance to student with Special Needs Tulkarem district

The overall goal for the project is to provide students in the cluster, ages 9-18 with special learning needs, with environments in which they can actively learn the material given to them at school, and thus complete their schoolwork with knowledge and confidence. Furthermore, the activities at the Center aim to encourage its participants to question and explore subjects of interest under the guidance of youth mentors and teachers. Discussion Groups will be formed according to participants' age, their special needs and the subjects of discussions.

### ■ **Palestinian Progressive Youth Union** **Five governorates of Gaza Strip**

1500 school children of the elementary, preparatory, secondary stages coming will benefit from the educational activities organized in the project. 300 child will be selected from each of Gaza's five governorates. An animator will be assigned to every group of 100 child will responsible for planning and carrying out enriching recreational and educational activities for them. These activities include among other things help in homework, art workshops, singing, and dancing. To maximize the attention given to each child, the initial one hundred child will be divided to five equal groups.

### ■ **Palestinian Youth Federation** **Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, Gaza and Jabalia**

While the previous activity covers a wide range of ages, this project focuses on secondary school pupils aged 16-18. It is mainly designed to enhance their school achievement in subjects that are known to be difficult. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Education district office subject supervisor, specialized new graduates provide extra help for these students in Math, physics, Chemistry and English language. Together with this academic intensive component, a recreational project to provide emotional support is built based on consultation with the youth themselves.

### ■ **Watan Benevolent Society** **Gaza strip refugee Camps**

With a similar emphasis to the previous activity, this project targeted secondary school students from refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

### ■ **Technical Development Society**

### **Shate' Camp, Gaza**

In an innovative initiative, the scheme is utilized to enhance computer literacy among students. 12 unemployed new graduates of computer science or programming were employed to provide 120 secondary school students with extra-curricular training on computer proficiency for three months. Each graduate will be responsible for training 10 students who are selected from disadvantaged families that are unable to provide computer devices for their children at home. The training will take place in computer centers maintained by other NGOs in the Camp. The project will serve to generate another 8 jobs for personnel working to handle the logistical and the administrative issues related to the project.

### ■ **University Students Community, Youth Social Center** **Beit Ein Al Ma' Refugee Camp & the neighborhood** **Nablus**

This project targets children with learning difficulties living in the camp and nearby villages. Children with learning difficulties in oPt is a segment that often goes unattended. During the first phase of the project, university students are enrolled in 24-hour training course preparing them to deal with this category of children. The second phase of the project constitute the practical phases whereby the university students provide 60-hour of educational support to an assigned child suffering from learning difficulties at the average of five hours a week. In these hours, the students will work to assist the children to overcome their difficulties. At the same time, recreational activities will be planned from time to time to boost the emotional development of the children. A psychologist is recruited for the project to provide a total of 24 hours of counseling at

the average of two hours weekly throughout the project.

■ **National Assembly of the Villages and Towns of West Jenin**  
**Towns & Villages of West Jenin**

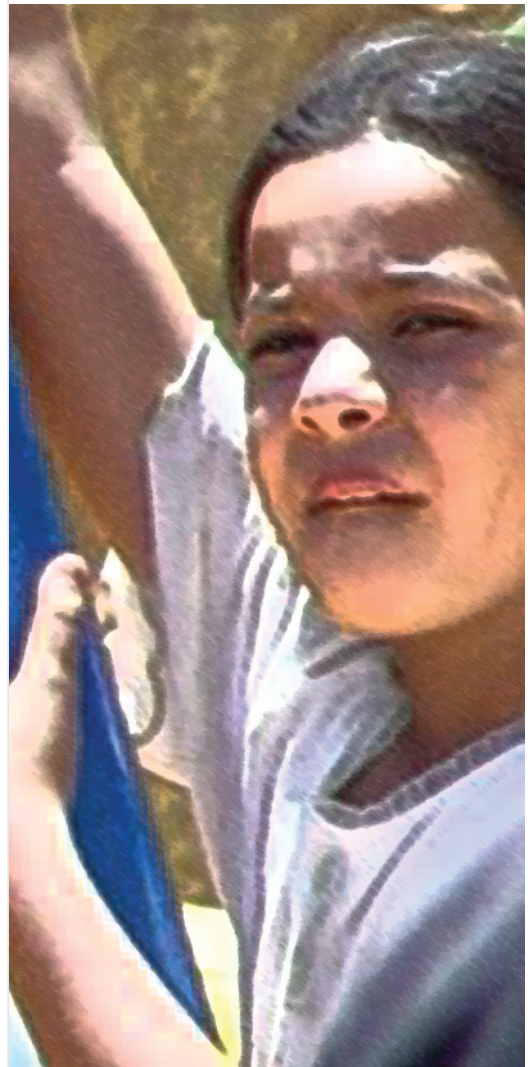
16 university students majoring in education-related activities will by the end of the end of 2004 have provided 192 hours of educational support to 80 school children from Jenin area, an area that suffered badly over the past two years. Each student is responsible for assisting five children with their homework as well as for planning recreational activities. A student is assigned to coordinate these activities.

■ **Rafah Resources and Home work Center**  
**Partner: Rafah Municipality**

Among the most pressing needs revealed in the needs assessment in the Gaza Strip were two main issues. These were the need for a place that accommodate school children and assist them in their homework. To respond to these two needs, the project established a homework center in cooperation with Rafah Municipality. A third floor was added to the Municipal public library to house the Center. The homework center comprises other corners for art, music, English language, information and exhibitions. Youth will lead the running the centers' activity in conjunction with the municipality.

■ **Learning challenges project**  
**Partner: The Palestinian international Friendship Club (PIFC)**  
**Gaza Strip**

Students with learning disabilities were selected from schools in four areas in the Gaza strip and enrolled in a special educational program after school-hours. In this program, college students of special education & psychology offered the selected school students assistance in their lessons based on advice from the school teachers. Besides the focus on academic learning, the program includes an important component of extra-curricular activities aimed at entertaining the children and providing a supporting environment that enhances their





# Youth and sport programme:





## Youth and sport programme :

### ■ Junior Sports Journalist

**Palsport, sport Association in Palestine Jerusalem**

Professional Sports journalism is almost non-existent in oPt. Professional sports journalists are scarce and reporting on the sports scene is rudimentary and unsystematic. The collective engagement in the political situation has always pushed sports journalism to the margin. The general attitude viewing sports as a luxury has not certainly help sports in general let alone sports journalism. In an attempt to boost sports journalism, Sharek Program supported Palsport to launch an innovative program to train young youth to become junior sports journalists. The underlying goal of the project is to raise the awareness among the youth regarding the importance of sports and its role in the social heritage of any given society. The program consisted of a theoretical component as well as a practical one. The first one involved a series of workshops where experts in the field of journalism lectured the participants on sports journalism, reporting skills, photography, sports broadcasting, planning, organizations and decision-making. The practical component included field visits to local media institutions in order to expose them to a hands-on experience of the journalistic environment. Additionally, in order to provide a venue for applying and sharpening the newly acquired skills, the participants were involved in developing Palsport website and in the preparation of the first issue of palsport magazine. The magazine will be issued regularly on a quarterly basis. The project strategically targeted both young men and women at the age of 15- 18 in order to encourage these youth to adopt sports journalism as a

profession or pursue higher academic studies in this field. Attempts will be made to contact local universities and explore the possibility of including this sports journalism in their curriculum.

### ■ Football Training

**El-Hilal Sports Club**

**Gaza (Yarmuk, Mashamreh, Sheikh Radawan, Ezarqa)**

Palestinian Youth, spend most of their free time playing Football. Despite that, local teams have a lot to go before they can achieve high international standards. The current project aims to expose young football players to quality type of training. The training program consists of three stages. The first stage, which will target 100 member, includes theoretical training on major concepts of football-playing and leadership building. It is also combined with practical training on newly introduced techniques. In the second phase, 25 players with high potential will be selected to participate in 10-15 -day training camp in Tunis. The purpose of the camp is to allow the team to benefit from facilities of there and to learn from Tunisian experience. The third phase will consist of a champion ship on the level of the Gaza Strip. The championship will serve to evaluate the impact of the training program on the team.

### ■ Neighborhood Playgrounds:

**Partner: Union sport club in Khanyounis (USC) Location: El-Mahatta - Khanyounis**

Youth resort to streets and open lands to practice their favorite game of football. Others have worked to establish their own playgrounds, but these remain unsafe and unprofessional to say the least. In an effort to cater for the needs of youth to sport facilities, the project rehabilitated two

playgrounds one in Al-Mahatta and the second in Bani Sohela. The project also provided the football teams in Khan Yunis with sports equipment, costumes as well as first aid kits.

- **Rehabilitating two public playgrounds and supporting 10 street Soccer teams**  
**Partner: National Committee for Public Playgrounds, Rafah, (NCPP).**

Following the recommendations of the needs-assessment conducted by Sharek group in Rafah, the project rehabilitated two public playgrounds, Canada Playground and Al-Shaboura Playground, in Rafah. Sports costumes, equipment and first aid kits were procured and provided for 10 football street teams. The rationale behind the rehabilitation was to encourage the youth to invest their time in sports and to provide a safe space for them to practice. The rehabilitation also aimed at re-organizing these playgrounds to ensure the most efficient utilization of space during matches and public ceremonies. The youth involvement in project implementation sought to enhance local community's responsibility towards public properties.

- **Constructing a Football playground in Shaqba**  
**Shaqba's Social, cultural and Sports Club Western Villages of Ramallah**

Football is one of the popular sports among Palestinian youth. The villages in West Ramallah, villages that are marked for their marginalization, lack a single football ground. To address this need, Sharek in cooperation with Shaqba's Social, Cultural and Sports Club constructed a 105\*65 meter football ground surrounded by 1.5-meter-high fence. The ground was constructed in Shaqba over a 9-dunum land outside donated to the Club by a resident from the village. The football ground,

situated outside the residential area, will serve the youth of the Shaqba as well as those from the nearby western villages providing them with safe recreational environment to practice their favorite sport.

- **Jenin Camp & City playgrounds**  
**Sharek Youth Center, Jenin**

The vicious cycle of violence over the past two years have had tremendous and perhaps irreversible impact on the psychosocial health of children. [Jenin is one of the most severely hit areas in the West Bank]. To address this phenomenon, Jenin Sharek Center will launch a program/ campaign to establish and activate 25 local football grounds in Jenin. These playgrounds will serve as safe and healthy environment for youth to practice their hobbies and an outlet to release political depression constructively. The localities of the 25 grounds will be chosen in coordination with Jenin Municipalities who will take up the responsibility of setting up the ground. After that, the Local Neighborhood will be involved in identifying the children who will be eligible to play on the football ground. These children will be trained and supervised with a view to forming representative local neighborhood teams as well as team for the city.





# Youth to community programme:



## Youth to community p r o g r a m m e :

### ■ Expanding and Developing the Public Libraries in AL- Bureij Refugee Camp

**Partner:** 1. Al Bureij women's Activity Center (WAC)

2. Al Bureij Cultural Center

**Location:** Gaza

Two libraries, based in different locations in Al Bureij Camp were expanded and provided with news books in order to cater for the pressing cultural needs in the Camp. Despite the large number of school- and university-students living there, the educational facilities and particularly public libraries are scarce. The number of libraries operating in the area does not cover the needs of the youth population there as the camp is known for its highest fertility rate and its soaring percentage of people aged 0-22. Modalities were established whereby the two libraries coordinate their activities on the one hand, and seek to develop strong relations with the schools in the Camp, on the other. Moreover, more than 30 volunteers were recruited to promote the activities of the libraries within the community.

### ■ Safety & Prevention Campaign

**Partner :** Beit Hanon Municipality

120 Sharek youth members aged 14-20 participated in a campaign management skills 7-day training course. These members, then, conducted a survey on domestic accidents, and examined the percentage of each type as well as the distribution of these accidents among several age groups. The members undertook a four-day public campaign including knock the door-activities, cleaning, and dissemination of information. More than 1,300 houses were

visited during the four campaign days and 4,000 leaflets on domestic violence were distributed.

### ■ Establishment of Library, Art Corners and supplementary classes

**Partner:** Al-Majed Women Association

**Location:** Nusseirat Camp

A library for the youth and children of Nusseirat Camp was established and designed to be run by two youth volunteers. During the project promotion phase, youth group visited more than 300 houses in the camp and several local NGOs in the Gaza Strip concerning the "knock the Door" campaign. This campaign resulted in collecting over 500 books and magazines. In order to render the library more engaged in the cultural life of the camp, the library involved another two main activities. It comprised an art corner that was run by a group of youth supervised by Al-Majed Women Association. During the summer of 2000, 120 children participated in activities initiated by the art corner. 70 school children benefited from supplementary classes also provided within the framework of the library.

### ■ Supplying Ghassan Kanafani School with electrical generator and educational library materials.

**Partner:** Ghassan Kanafani Girls School /Al Bayouk village-east of Rafah

Following close consultations between Rafah Sharek Group and Ghassan Kanafani School girls, two important areas of development were identified in the School. Despite its humble means, the school operates two shifts daily and caters for over 1200 students. Due to the fact that the village itself lacks a developed electrical network, the school has faced a series of continuous constraints that impedes the educational process in the school. The lack

of electricity hinders the administrative and technical activities of the school as well as some of the lab machines. The first component of the project responded to this situation through procuring a standby diesel generator with a generating capacity of 17.5 KVA, three phase, 400V and 5 Hz. The second component of the project consisted of setting up a multi-purposes library in the school. The students played a significant role in identifying the books and the educational material needed, in designing the interior of the library as well as in planning the library's programs and summer activities. The activities of the library target the parents of the students in an effort to strengthen parents- school relations.

#### ■ **Jenin Children Park** **Jaberiat Area** **Jenin Municipality**

Children's playing in the streets after school hours is a tragic phenomenon that can be seen in almost every residential area in the Palestinian territory. Underlying this sad phenomenon lays the poor social infrastructure that the territory enjoys. In an attempt to address the causes of this tragic phenomenon, Sharek in cooperation with the municipality of Jenin, constructed a public park for children of the district.

*Unfortunately the park was leveled down during one of the incursion by the IDF*

#### ■ **Zeina/ families of children inflicted by Cancer** **Jerusalem**

Zeina, a pioneering type of NGO, was established in 2001 by families of children inflicted by Cancer. Registered as a NGO at the end 2002, it moved to an independent premises in early 2003 after being hosted by PARC. Sharek programme will provide financial support to establish and beautify a

garden in front of Zeina's building for the use of the children and their families. The garden is being fenced off the street to create a safe environment for the members. Flowers and palm trees are being planted and play equipment installed. The organization forms a meeting place for families whose children are inflicted by Cancer to share their experiences and receive emotional support. It offers counseling for parents who lose their children to cancer. With help of over 20 volunteers, Zeina organizes recreational and awareness-raising activities both inside the organization and within schools. It has recently developed relations with Cancer department in Sharia Zdek hospital as well as Augusta Victoria hospital. Future plans include building on the successful experience in East Jerusalem and expanding its services to the West Bank.

#### ■ **Renovating School Laboratory** **Ubeidia Parent's Counsel** **Ubeidia, Bethlehem**

With more than half of the population under the 18 years of age, the educational system faces both quantitative and qualitative challenges. The challenges are even greater in rural areas. Al Ubeidia village school, as is typical of rural schools, lacks proper laboratory equipment. Scientific subjects are taught theoretically without any facility to get the taste of scientific experiments. In response to a pioneering appeal made by the Parents' Counsel to improve the educational facilities in the village, Sharek provided financial support to Ashbal Hamza Boys' School to procure laboratory equipment. The grant will also cover the purchase of other machines to upgrade various facilities provided in the school. These include two photocopying machines, Over Head projector, Digital camera, TV and video device.



### ■ Establishing Children Library Aqbat Jabre Camp Youth Center Aqbat Jabre, Jericho

In cooperation with Aqbat Jabre Camp Youth Center, Sharek will establish a library for the children of the camp, a camp which thus far lacked such facilities. The Library will be equipped with children books and toys which will be available for borrowing by the camp children. The first phase in establishing the library will be designed to cater for children of 3-8 years of age. Providing a rich environment for children in this early and crucial age will greatly impact their intellectual abilities. In its second phase, the library will cater for the needs of children aged 8- 15 .The library will be designed to constitute an outlet for this age group this embarking on teenage. Through its facilities they can express themselves and their energies in a constructive manner and in supervised safe environment. To ensure that the library will assume its social role, in addition to a librarian, the library will be staffed with a social worker and an assistant social worker.

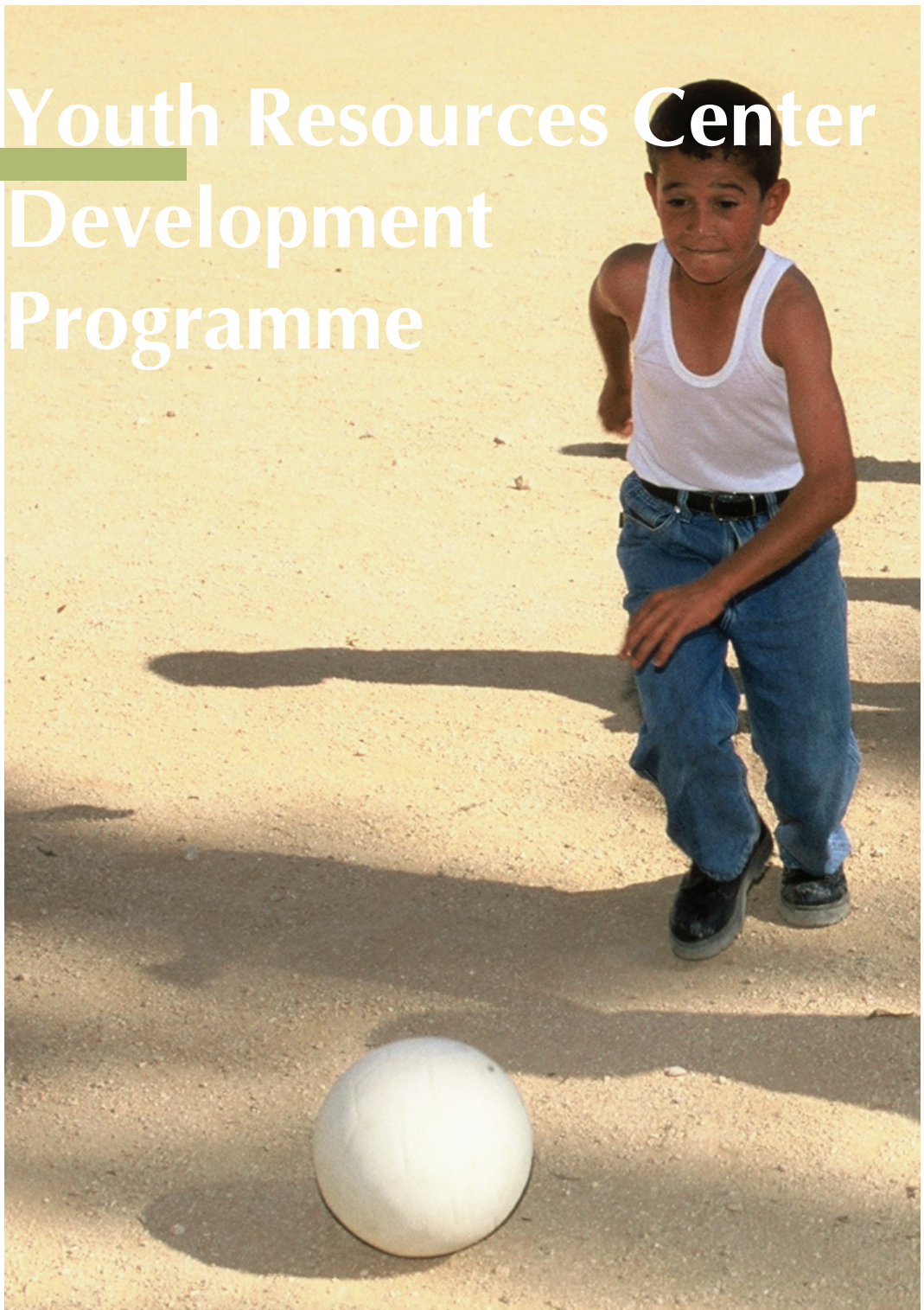
### ■ Right To Education Campaign Bir Zeit University West Bank & Gaza Strip

The Israeli military measures have severely affected the educational process that involves 1,000,000 school children as well as 70,000 university and college students. At their extreme, these measures have included the closure of educational institutions, their actual physical destruction and the injury or arrest of students and academics. More commonly Israel's policy of internal sieges, closures and curfews have made access to the classroom by teachers or students or both a daily challenge. In an effort to alleviate the situation, Sharek Program supported the Right To Education Campaign, launched by Bir Zeit University.

Sharek will provide financial assistance to the committee supervising the Campaign to undertaken *dissemination activities on local as well as international scope*. A regular monitoring scheme to document the general situation of education in the territory. A "Monitoring Education" information sheet will be prepared, posted on the web and updated on a monthly basis. These activities include the development of visual media, printed media and designing Right2Education website. Since experience ensures better communication, the delegations by international academic groups might be sponsored. It will include organizing a Mini-conference for international academics on the Right to Education.



# Youth Resources Center Development Programme



## Youth Resources Center Development Programme

### ■ The Cultural Café for Youth Al-Maghzi Camp

**Partner:** AL Maghazi youth activity center (YAC)

**Location:** Gaza

A Cultural Café was constructed and furnished at Al Maghazi Youth Activity center to cater for the needs of the youth in Al-Maghzi Camp as well as those from the middle camps. The Café will serve as a meeting place for youth to design and carry out several social and cultural activities such as workshops, training courses, seminars, as well as hold ceremonies to celebrate national occasions. A garden was established to accommodate some of these activities. Moreover, the Cafe will have a section for computer and Internet services.

### ■ Resource Center in Khanyounis

**Partner:** Khanyounis Municipality.

The project aims at improving the skills and the opportunities of Sharek group in the city in identifying, planning and following up development initiatives of their own. To this end, a youth resource center was established by the municipality to include an Information unit, a theater program, an arts program, an English Club and will issue a monthly magazine targeting the youth. The responsibility of running these activities is divided among Sharek group. The center serves both young women and men alike as one of its main goals is to increase women activities in the community and enhance their status. During the previous period, the Sharek resource center managed to organize different youth activities that meet the needs of young people, brief description

of the activities includes;

- Basic and advanced computer courses; 4 training courses were provided to children and youth in Khan Younis with some 85 beneficiaries.
- Fund raising and proposal writing: This training course was identified as an important skill to be provided for youth to be able to sustain the different projects and apply for new funding agencies. 8 different NGOs participated in this training this training was conducted in cooperation with the ministry of NGOs.
- Animation and production course; This training course was provided for Sharek youth groups in cooperation with Massafat theatre group.
- Health and mental health education; In cooperation with the Al Sharq Center for Community and Mental Health, 8 different NGOs participated in this workshop. The objective of this workshop is to provide youth workers with skills "how to deal with the impact of violence on children".
- Public relations and Leadership civil education training course; a group of Sharek youth took part in this training

### ● A Multi-purpose youth Center, Samou' Hebron

**Partner:** Al-Samou' Charitable Society

According to the Poverty Report 1998, the southern part of the Hebron governorate figures among the most marginalized areas in the West Bank. The social infrastructure is significantly weak with almost none catering for the needs of the youth. Therefore, Sharek sought to establish a youth center that addresses the needs of the youth in the south and empowers them to take part in their community. The center will be multi-purposes in nature giving the youth an



opportunity to work on identifying, planning and following up their own activities. The project was undertaken in cooperation with Al-Samou' Society which homes the center and offers it the access to its library and meetings room. UNDP provided furniture and equipment

### ● **Jenin Multipurpose Youth Center Jenin Municipality**

Jenin is one of the most marginalized areas in the north of the West Bank. With a low-developed social infrastructure, it lacks community institutions targeting the needs of the fast-growing youth population. In an effort to alleviate the situation, Sharek embarked on establishing a comprehensive multi-purpose youth Center. The Center, established in cooperation with the Municipality of Jenin, will comprise a computer lab with internet connectivity, information and extension unit, an education and career counseling unit, a fully equipped music room and an art workshop. The Center will offer its facilities and services for youth from the rural and urban areas in the district. The center is directed by a board of trustees that represents Sharek programme, , Jenin Municipality and major NGOs working in the area. The Center is managed by Sharek and the Youth Project coordinator[

### ■ **Al Nabi Elias villages Cluster Youth and Service Center**

In the cluster there are several youth clubs that are primarily engaged in support activities and are lacking in the capacity to carry out other social, cultural and educational activities needed by the community in general and the youth population in particular. The Project will empower the local Youth Groups on applying participatory methodologies, and strengthen the capacities of hundreds of

young people who will be involved in the planning and implementation of youth initiatives. In addition, community based youth organizations that have community legitimacy will benefit from the Project through receiving funds for community based youth projects as well as technical assistance to strengthen their managerial and technical capacities. The community at large will also benefit from the Project since young people will participate more actively and efficiently in community development processes.

### ■ **Kufr Dan villages Youth and Community Center**

In the cluster there are several youth clubs that are primarily engaged in sport related activities and are lacking in the capacity to carry out other social, cultural and educational activities needed by the community in general and the youth population specifically. The Project will empower the local Youth Groups on applying participatory methodologies, and strengthen the capacities of hundreds of young people who will be involved in the planning and implementation of youth initiatives. In addition, community based youth organizations that have community legitimacy will benefit from the Project through receiving funds for community based youth projects as well as technical assistance to strengthen their managerial and technical capacities. The community at large will also benefit from the Project since young people will participate more actively and efficiently in community development processes.

### ■ **Arraba Community Youth Center**

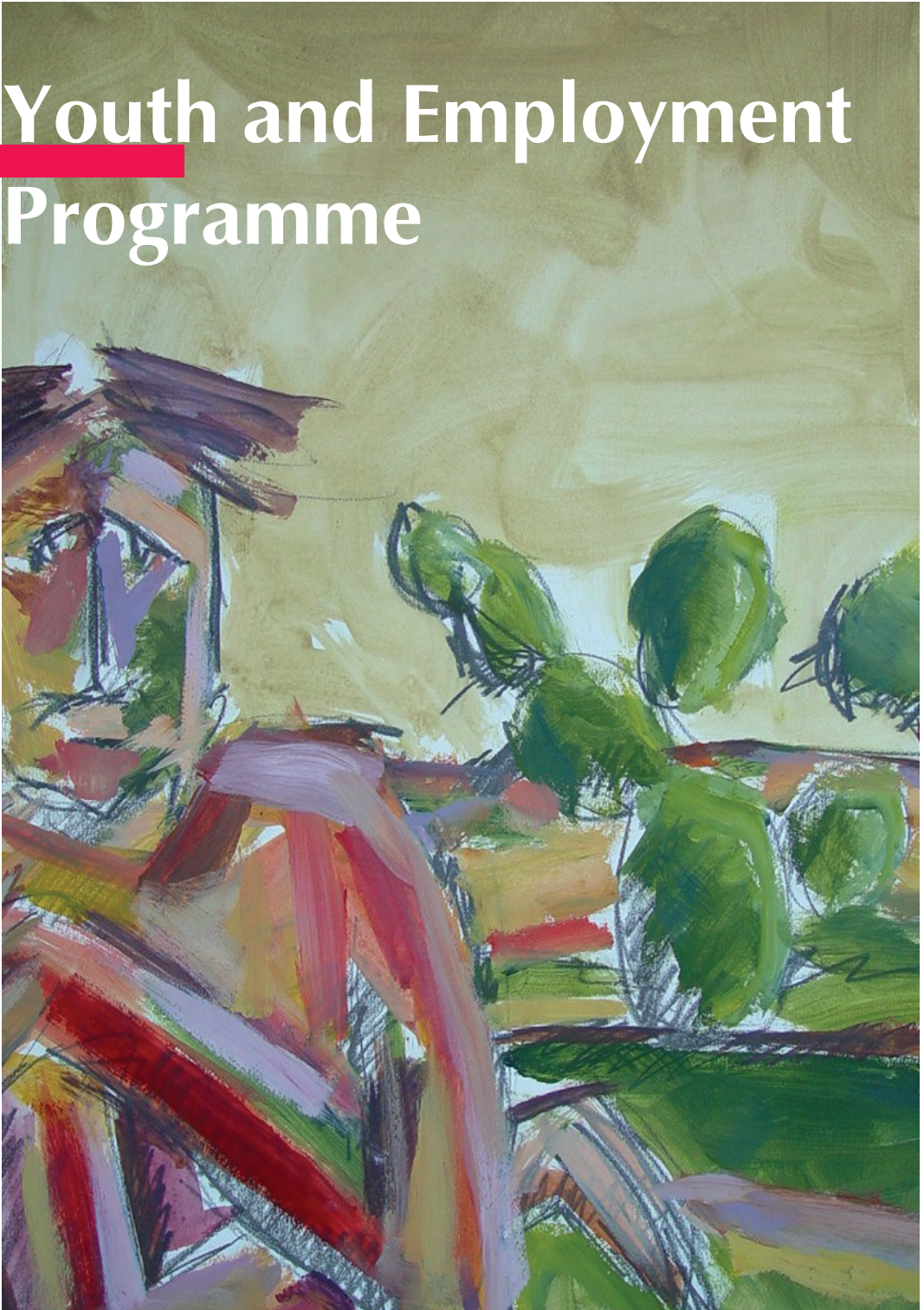
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# Youth and Employment Programme





unnatural language, the project will provide six month English language courses for 80 beneficiaries. All in all, twelve trainers will be recruited. Special care will be taken to ensure that equal number of female/women and male/men graduates will benefit from the project.

■ **Enjaz Making It Happen !**  
**[Educational & Career Counseling]**  
**Palestinian Vision**  
**Salfit and Nablus**

Sharek programme in cooperation with the Palestinian Vision launched project to promote active leadership within the youth through building their capacity in decision-making and career planning. The project will train youth in communications, and decision-making processes and will involve an introduction to Palestinian Universities as well as the job market in Palestinian Territory. To ensure the sustainability of the project, 20 local active youth will be trained in peer education as well as career counseling. They will be training in how to facilitate discussions, plan sessions, and deal with teenagers. These will then be responsible for providing counseling to at least another 100 Tawjihi students. A trainer's manual and A trainee manual will be developed within the project. Institutional relations with other youth centers will be enhanced and developed in order to expand the project in the future

■ **Employment Generation in Multimedia Design**  
**Al- Buraq Charity Society**  
**Gaza Strip**

One of the reasons why educated youth cannot find employment is that university education tends to be traditional in nature and does not keep abreast of cutting edge technologies. To alleviate unemployment among the educated labor force, Sharek in

coordination with Al-Buraq Charity Society launched a program to rehabilitate graduates of local universities and train them in Computer-aided Design and Multimedia. To this end, a computer unit was established in the Society. It will train youth in bilateral, tri-lateral, web-design, designing of visual and audio multi-media and the production of educational CDs. Within the framework of the current project, two 36-hour three-months projects will be conducted each targeting 15 beneficiaries. The project will target an equal number of young men and women aged 18-35 who are graduates of computer science from local universities. Any educational or relevant software produced within the course will be utilized to activate the work of the Society. The training is primarily meant to assist the trainees to increase their employability in the market. However, it is hoped that the beneficiaries will continue to maintain links and volunteer for various activities of the Society after their courses are over.

■ **University Graduate employment campaign**  
**Several youth NGOs**

Establishing the right type of institutions, that are anchored in democracy, equality and human rights, is by far one the biggest challenges that will face the process of state-building. A recent survey among university students, revealed that 89% of university students favor conservative trends and 32.6 prefer to vote to extremist parties. With youth making up more than half of the population, their role in state-building and the impact of their ideological thinking cannot be ignored. Therefore, Sharek programme in cooperation with Ta'awn have launched a programme that aims to empower student movements in civil and democratic education to form nuclei of social change that is capable of advocating to and lobbying with decision- makers

# Youth and Employment P r o g r a m m e

## ■ Youth Employment Generation [emergency in nature]

**Partner: Follow-up Committee of the  
Refugee Camps (Dehaisha, Al Azza,  
Aida Arroub, Al-Fawar)**

The project sought to address unemployment among the youth which has soared to the unprecedented rates after the eruption of the Second Intifada on September 2000. The tight closure imposed on the West Bank has prevented thousands of youth from reaching their workplaces inside Israel. A survey was conducted in five refugee camps to determine the number of young people who became unemployed as a result of the closure. 800 young unskilled labors were identified in the survey. A parallel survey was undertaken in the camps to identify areas in the community where the unemployed youth force could be invested. 800 jobs lasting for seven days were created inside the five camps. Thus the project has helped alleviating the plight of the unemployed for a week while also helping them contribute to their communities.

## ■ Employment Generation through the Applied Arts National Charity Society Al-Zahra City, Gaza Strip Employment generation

The project seeks to assist unemployed youth to create income sources through the applied arts and handicraft. The project will target unemployed youth who possesses high artistic abilities and display commitment to the sector. Youth enrolled will be trained in drawing on glass, on silk, and on pottery. The course will also include a component on designing methodology.

Following the completion of the project, the beneficiaries will be assisted by Al-Zahra Municipality to start small scale enterprises to produce artistic pieces for sale. Since proper marketing is a the necessary condition for the success of any these initiatives, the project will also introduce the beneficiaries to various marketing techniques focusing on exhibitions. They will be trained in organizing exhibitions, how to select items to be included in the exhibitions and how to negotiate costumers and identify their needs. The course will end in an exhibition where all the pieces produced throughout the training will be put to sale. To increase the impact of the project, the beneficiaries will be responsible for training another youth in their future enterprise.

## ■ Increasing the employability of New graduates

**The Arousal of the Youth's Future  
Association Jabalia Camp, Tuwam,  
Karama Neighborhood, Annaser, Sheikh  
Radwan, Ashate'- Gaza Strip**

In a globalized world driven by communication and information technologies, computer literacy has become an essential requirement in every job. So is English language proficiency which has become one of the most spoken languages of the world. Many of the new Palestinian graduates, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds lack either one or both of these languages and therefore face difficulties finding employment opportunities. To increase the employability of new graduates, Sharek program in cooperation with the Arousal of Youth's future Association, established a computer training unit that will target new graduates of all disciplines. Within the framework of this project, 6 months courses in computer literacy will be provided for 200 young graduates. In addition to learning this

regarding their issues. The programs and the structures of student movements have been the same since the sixties without any attempt to update them. The project comprises three components. The first component consists of a comprehensive training program on democratic education. It will take the form of short lectures, round-tables and small internal workshops and will focus on the various concepts of democracy and good governance, pluralism, electoral systems, gender, strategic planning transparency volunteerism and media. The second component involves two workshops organized by the students where decision-makers and legislators will be invited to participate. The third component will be an attempt to advance the themes of the workshops through innovative ways of advocacy and lobbying. A website will be set out for this purpose. The program will target 75 students from the above mentioned universities. In targeting beneficiaries, attention will be paid to recruit men and women as well as students from urban areas, rural areas and refugee camps. It is hoped that the project will help revamp student's movements. A core group of the beneficiary will be selected to follow up on the project and plan further activities.

■ **Information Bank on New Graduates**  
**Deir Al-Balah Association for**  
**Community and Childhood**  
**Gaza Strip**

In one of the workshops, entitled Youth and Poverty, organized within the Participatory Poverty Assessment Project, youth suggested setting up a bank of information on unemployed recent graduates detailing their academic qualification and their area of expertise. The bank will also include information on private and non-governmental institutions operating in the Middle Camps. District that might be capable of absorbing young graduates. The

information for the bank will be based on questionnaires to be distributed to unemployed youth. The preparation of this bank will serve to create employment opportunities to 31 field researchers, and five data analysts who will work to prepare the information bank. A programmer will be employed to design the appropriate software. The bank document will be launched in a public convention that will include representatives from governmental, and non-governmental organizations. CDs of the information bank will be distributed to the various institutions.





# Stimulating Knowledge Programme



# Stimulating Knowledge Programme

## ■ Emergency, crises intervention youth workshop

**Partner: Palestinian Youth Council**

The eruption of the Intifada and the ongoing conflict has left the Palestinian territory in a sheer situation of crisis. In an attempt to cope with the new reality, Sharek programme in cooperation with the Palestinian Youth Council organized a national-wide course to train interested youth activists in First Aid and crisis intervention management. Enrolled in the training were 35 young activists working in 12 different organization in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## ■ Youth Leadership Program in Taiba Taiba Sports Club

**Taiba, Jenin**

The village of Taiba lies to the North West of Jenin close to the green line and is home to around 2000 inhabitants. Although there is a couple of associations operating in the village none runs activities targeting the growing youth population. It is imperative to address the social and psychological needs of youth in the village and to empower them to initiate their own activities and to contribute to their community. This could be achieved sustainability through establishing a core group of enthusiastic youth responsible for planning, implementing and following up activities. To this end, a total of 50 youth (25 young men and 25 young women) were enrolled in a leadership program. The program is designed to build the capacity of the youth in networking, strategic planning and problem solving and creative thinking. Taiba

Sports Club was chosen as a strategic partner since youth were becoming a growing proportion of the club members yet the club was unable and unprepared to cater for their needs. To ensure gender sensitivity, the project is implemented in coordination with the Women's Village Committee.

## ■ The General Social and Popular Association

**A-Thahria (Hebron)**

**Capacity building for youth**

Thahria is one of Hebron towns that have grown and is on its way to become a separate governorate. However, the social infrastructure in the town is still not prepared to cater for a governorate. Youth facilities are no exception to this. To address the need, Sharek in cooperation with the General Social and Popular Association established a center within the Association that will directly target the youth population in A-Thahria attempting at building their capacity and promoting their role to contribute to their community. In designing its activities, the center will attempt to respond to needs assessed by the NGO and will target different age groups. Among the activities of the project is a training course in computer literacy and data base creation for new graduates in order to increase their access to the job market. The project will also conduct a training course in methodologies for new university graduates intending to take up teaching profession. The graduates will then be employed by the NGO to give supporting lessons to weak school children. An equal number of female and male youth will benefit from these courses.

## ■ Human Dialogue & Communication

**Leadership program**

**Qarara Youth Forum**

**Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip [Khan Yunis city, Ma'en, Eastern Villages and Qarara]**

This project seeks to bridge the gap resulting from the marginalization of youth through assisting them to make their voices heard and through strengthening the linkages between this population and the various institutions & sectors. The project will be conducted in three phases. Phase one will introduce youth into leadership skills, communication, decision-making, planning, session-planning, and conflict management. In the Second phase, workshops will be conducted on various topics of concern to youth such as gender relations, equality and democracy, educational counseling, sexual education, youth in international treaties, youth and unemployment. The third phase will consist of lectures by key figures discussing the relation between youth and other generations, as well as with other key members of society such as policy makers, women, and university lecturers. At least 100 young men and women will benefit from the project. A manual summarizing the major results of the workshops and lecture-discussions will be produced.

■ **Capacity Building for youth working in Civil society institutions.... Youth without Borders**

**Gaza ( Khazaah, Qizan Annajjar, Maan, Qarara, Al-Fukhari)**

The inclusion of youth into civil-society social institutions does not guarantee their constructive participation in the decision-making process. For that to happen, they need to be well familiarized with the major concepts of civil education as well as equipped with practical skills of working within the civil society the links the family with the state. A needs assessment workshop conducted by Khazaah Municipality to find out the needs of the youth, revealed that youth required the development of the managerial and the structural elements of the institutions, civil education as well as

proposal and report writing. Sharek in cooperation with Youth without Borders launched a capacity building project to cover these areas of weaknesses. Within this project, 10 managers working in five different civil society organizations will be trained in managerial skills. 150 young men and women aged 17-24 working in civil society organizations together with another 25 volunteers will be enrolled in course on human rights and democracy. In addition to this, Workshops on the importance and techniques of community participation will be organized to. To ensure the ability of the trainees to translate theoretical concepts into practical projects, the beneficiaries will be also trained in proposal writing. Training brochures will be produced for future use.

■ **Palestinian Association for Development and Reconstruction (PDR)**

**Ashate' Camp, Gaza**

Realizing the loss incurred from by the absence of youth from the development process, Sharek programme supported PDR to launch a capacity building program to develop community leaders among youth aged 14- 24 years. Through the program, 30 young people from different local NGOs including in youth committees of political factions in the Ashate' Camp will be given the opportunity to identify, plan, implement, evaluate and sustain their own development initiatives through bottom-top strategy. The program starts with two-week training course on leadership skills, communication skills, strategic planning, community development, democracy and human rights issues as well as techniques of advocacy and lobbying. The second component consists of practical implementation of the skills acquired in the first phase. The Camp will be divided into five geographical areas. Each of these areas will be assigned a group of six trained leaders. Each group will be responsible for undertaking a needs-



assessment through workshops or focus groups. After the needs have been identified and prioritized, a base line date will be defined to facilitate future comparisons. Then, the youth will design activities in an attempt to address these needs. The group will work to advocate and lobby for the camp youth concerns . To this end, meetings with legislative council members as well as policy makers will be organized by the youth groups. The five groups will each be supervised by a follow- up committee of several representatives from partner organizations led by the project coordinator.

■ **Training of Summer camps supervisors  
Society of Palestinian Women's  
Committee  
Ramallah, Jerusalem, Hebron**

The Union supervises twenty four kindergartens and nurseries in rural and marginalized areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. To ensure that children are in a safe and enriching environment during the Summer time, it is the habit of the union to organize at least seven Summer camps for children. To ensure that the camps are held in the most effective and professional manner, Sharek program supported the Union in conducting a training course for the youth who will be volunteering to supervise the children in the camp. 21 young leader benefited from an intensive training course in leadership and communication skills, and gender issues and informal education techniques.

■ **Children Summer Camps in the West  
Bank and Gaza:**

During the summer vacations of 2002 and 2003 and due to the current situation in terms of tight closure, the urgent need of thousands of children for organized recreational activities has arisen.

Sharek youth program identified this urgent need and approached the Japanese Government to support programs and summer activities for children, the program received project proposals from different parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

A total of \$110,000 in 2002 and \$107,000 in 2003 from Japan were granted.

A selection committee consisting of the Sharek youth group and the program team selected and approved around 65 summer camps.





PAINTING THE FUTURE