

Annual
Report

1 Jan – 31 Dec

2012

Thank you

Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC) expresses its sincere thanks and gratitude to all partners, friends and supporters for their solidarity to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip who stand to our side in the dark times and especially in the last Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Special thanks to all our colleagues in all UHWC centers all over the Gaza Strip and Al Awda Hospital.. Without you we can't continue providing our services.

We also thank every single person/organization, who donated medication, medical disposables and in-kind donation to UHWC.

Also our thanks go to all visiting delegations... Medical and non medical ones... Who break the imposed siege on the Gaza strip by the Israeli Occupation and came to and come to give a hand either by working side by side to our local staff and undertake surgical operations, or by donating their effort and time to help the people in Gaza.

Our thanks to all friends, people, beloved ones in Palestine and abroad in the globe, who stood beside our people, supporting , advocating, and defending our legal rights .. Thank you for being ambassadors to us.

Thank you ...

Chairman's Message

The achievements and activities covered by this report is the result of a continuous effort for Union of Health Work Committees employees in all its centers during the year 2012; as an extension of what has been built over the past years since the founding of UHWC in 1985.

Although the current circumstances surrounding us from the siege, poverty and Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, we in UHWC are continue offering our health and social services of our people with high quality and low prices commensurate the difficult economic situation in the Gaza Strip, as well as applying UHWC slogan which was raised since the establishment “ Health Service Is a Right To Whoever Needs It” ; approximately 30% of our services are provided free of charge to needy patients, where we offer our services in the most deprived areas through our centers distributed all over the Gaza Strip from Rafah to Biet Hanoun.

The statistics in this report indicate that more than 315, 996 beneficiaries have benefited from the services provided at our centers, "19.1% of the population of the Gaza Strip," and this confirms that we are the 3rd institution after the Ministry of Health and UNRWA among health care providers in the Gaza Strip.

We at UHWC and through our understanding of the concept of comprehensive health that health is not measured from the physical side only, but also from the psychological and Social sides; we connected our health services to our community services provided through our cultural centers, where we offer community service and education for children and youth and women through health education, community and physically awareness via workshops and summer and winter camps for children.

We always make every effort to improve the quality of work in UHWC centers through the provision of health service at the best level, and this is confirmed by the results of the external evaluators, where Al Awda Hospital got the best score in obstetrics and gynecology services in the Gaza Strip as evaluated by the World Health Organization (WHO).

At the end, many thanks to all UHWC staff that are working day and night in order to raise the institution to the highest levels ... And also our thanks and gratitude goes to founders and members of UHWC previous Board of Directors and administrations since the establishment of UHWC.

D. Tayser Al Sultan

UHWC Chairman

Who we are

Union of Health Work Committees (UHCW) is a grassroots; voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental, Palestinian organization was founded in 1985.

The main goal is to improve the health situation in Palestine through providing primary and secondary health care services, alongside with cultural and community services.

Applying the slogan of UHCW " Health service is a right to whoever needs it", UHCW directs its services, programs, and different activities to those who are poor and marginalized in the Palestinian Society for example (Women and Children) regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, and political background.

Because UHCW has a developmental vision that says "Health and health services should not be separated from the community and developmental services, UHCW managed to implement lots of programs and events in the last ten years.

UHCW Vision

Believing in the value of life, and the right of every single person to have access to decent standard of health care, UHCW is working to have a comprehensive health system based on quality health development to enable and strengthen the health of Palestinian society, which is based on participation, equality and social justice, within the comprehensive and sustainable development of the Palestinian people. This is in order to achieve organization's slogan "health service is a right to whoever needs it."

UHCW Mission Statement

UHCW is a non-governmental, grassroots organization which provides comprehensive health services within the perspective of sustainable community development framework for all segments of Palestinian society, especially the poor and marginalized through health care centers and community programs.

UHCW also contributes in related public and sectarian policies to achieve a comprehensive health system based on the International conventions of human rights.

UHCW Slogan

"Health service is a right to whoever needs it"

Overall Goals of UHCW

1. Struggle to have a Palestinian health system that document to the principles of primary health care based on the participation and equality and social justice, and based on that to contribute to the development of national health plans and follow up their implementation.
2. Provide quality primary health services to the Palestinian community, especially for the neediest sectors such as children, women and the elderly.
3. To contribute to in the provision of health services at all levels in a complementary way with health services providers.

4. Promote the concept of health for all and by everyone, health care and community-wide, as part of the educational and developmental process depends on the basis of the participation of individuals and groups in the Palestinian society.
5. Raise the level of health, and the integration of preventive and curative services through the provision of quality service in the centers and health programs.
6. Work to influence public policy in the health system, in line with the principles of UHWC, and coordination and cooperation with the public health sector and non-governmental sectors for the development of the quality of health of the Palestinian people, and the rationalization of expenditure.
7. Coordination and cooperation with other sectors to give the health a role in a comprehensive development.
8. Work on developing and expanding the capabilities and possibilities and skills of UHWC members at administrative and institutional level and the professional health program.
9. Promote community participation and voluntary work in UHWC, leading to self-sufficiency and good reference, within the framework of accountability and transparency.
10. Work on developing and strengthening relations with Arab and international organizations.
11. Promote development on the basis of democracy, and work to strengthen the institutions of civil society, as one of the main pillars of democracy promotion in the community.
12. Develop a relationship with non-governmental institutions Arab and international organizations in terms of UHWC philosophy, which helps the Palestinian people on the development and progress towards achieving its objectives and national development

Hieratical Management for Union of Health Work Committees

- General Assembly
- Board of Directors
- UHWC Chairman
- Secretary
- Executive Director
- Inspection and Control Unit
- Public Relations Committee
- Office Manager
- IT Technician
- Medical Commission Committee
- Development Committee
- Al Awda Hospital Directorate
- Medical and Cultural Centers Directorate
- Projects Directorate
- Administrative and Finical Directorate
- Supplies and Warehouse Directorate

Board of Directors

In the year 2012; there was two Board of Directors; first electoral cycle from 2010 to 2012; and the second was elected from UHWC General Assembly meeting in 6/7/2012. Thus the achievements of the Boards of Directors in the year 2012 can be summarized as follows:

1. 26 meetings and an emergency meeting had been legally held to discuss the permanent work developments.
2. Choose an auditor for the electoral period (2012-2014).
3. Held two workshops involving many experts and stakeholders to emerge from the financial crisis.
4. Participate in the UNRWA tender to Awda hospital services, which were awarded to UHWC.
5. Participation in the Conference to support the health sector in Gaza, which was held in Cairo on 04/29/2012 invitation by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
6. Follow up UHWC lands one in the Maqqousi and completion of the necessary plans, and the second one in the middle of Gaza Strip (Netzarim area) and sign the contract required.
7. Follow up on UHWC financial dues on the Ministry of Health in both Ramallah and Gaza.
8. Follow-up mechanism to reduce expenses and increase revenues provided by the Departments of Al Awda hospital and health centers.
9. The ratification of the implementation of projects financed by international institutions and monitors its implementation.
10. Continue to participate actively in the Palestinian NGO Network (as member Coordinating Committee for the position of treasurer).
11. Continued reception of delegations and participation in national and social occasions.
12. Twinning project with a health center in Belgium.
13. Continue to form tender committees in medications and medical disposables and laboratory supplies and other needs of different UHWC directorates.
14. Organize and follow up Al Assria Cultural Folklore Dancing group in solidarity with the Palestinian people festivals which is organized by the Palestinian community in Austria and Germany for two weeks during the period between 11/15/2012 until 12/10/2012.
15. Declaration of a state of emergency in UHWC centers and Al Awda hospital during the war on the Gaza Strip.
16. Modify some of the items in UHWC Statute.

17. Follow-up personnel issue i.e. acceptance of resignations and the granting of leave without pay, employees rotation and employment on installation projects.
18. Assigning some colleagues to acting as directors to the administrative and financial directorate and projects directorate.
19. Held a regular meeting of the executive system consist of the heads of directorates.
20. Supervising of a study on the satisfaction of the beneficiaries of the services provided in Al Awda hospital.
21. Held several meetings with staff at all centers to discuss ways to develop the work and to emphasise on the principle of partnership with the employees in the organization.

1. The Administration and Financial Unit:

1.1 Administrative Unit:

The Administrative unit consists of the following units:

1.1.1 Procurement Department:

Procurement department is the responsible department for the implementation of any purchases to the needs of all UHWC departments within UHWC documentary clear cycle and sanctioned by the management of UHWC, where entrusts the implementation of all provisions of section purchases in all the projects approved, whether it was financed externally or from UHWC budget. The tasks of the Procurement Section begin from the moment of the adoption of the budget and approve the purchase order.

Thus, the work of the procurement department can be summarized in 2012 as a tool to translate the budgets of projects or units needs into tenders or quotations; summarized below what has been achieved during the year 2012:

Project Name	Funder
1.The implementation of the procurement process on the project "Combating Gender Based Violence of Sexual Reproductive and Political Rights of Palestinian Women oPt" ; as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of medical devices a tender within the budget of the project, namely: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portable Ultrasound 2. Microscope 3. Centrifuge • Implementing 2 tenders for medication for the project • Implement the quotations for training the project in terms of the hall, trainers and logistics 	Basque Government & AECID
"Building the capacity of 10 volunteers in the cultural centers" project , offer prices had been done to buy stationary and hospitality needed to implement the project on more than one batch	Creart
"ensuring the provision of health services in the Gaza strip," project to implement tender medication , medical supplies and medical gases and provide fuel for UHWC cars	OCHA-HRF
Improve the health status of orphans in the Gaza Strip, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a tender to provide children milk for orphans • Implementation of special offers training and its own logistical needs • Implementation of a cultural magazine for the project 	Funded by Bank of Palestine through Welfare Association
"People's achievement (9)" Project, offer prices for stationery and hospitality training where implemented.	Quakers
Implementation of tenders supplies 2/2012, 4/2102, 9/2012, 10/2012, 11/2012	UHWC Budget
Implementation of special surgical tools in Al Awda Hospital Operation Room tender , where it was announced twice during the year 2012	UHWC Budget

UHWC Publication tender	UHWC Budget
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1.1.2 Maintenance Department:

Maintenance department does the following tasks:

- Implementation of necessary maintenance work for UHWC departments and sections.
- Participate in the development of the necessary specifications for purchase.
- Communicate with suppliers of UHWC equipments for the follow-up and maintenance of devices during and after the warranty period.

1.1.3 Personnel Section:

The number of UHWC employees reached 424 employees in the rear 2012, in which 222 of them are men and 202 of them are women.

Gender Distribution among UHWC employees:

Women employees represent nearly 48% of the total workforce.

1.2: Finance Department

The Finance Department does the following tasks:

- Participate in all committees' purchases.
- Audit all financial transactions issued by UHWC departments.
- Issuing checks for companies and employees.
- Preparation of payroll.

Regarding UHWC Financial Report, there is an independent professional organization specializing in audit preparing it, and will be published as soon as it has been completed.

2. Public Relations:

This year as the passing 7 years; still the siege imposed by the Israeli Occupation on our people affecting in the first place areas of education, health and restrict freedoms; in addition to the deterioration of the health and social situation and the spread of poverty and high rates of unemployment among Gazans, and its implications and negative effects on the Palestinian Gazan society as a whole. Also it's worth mentioning the negative effects of the Palestinian division and its consequences on individuals and society from poverty, unemployment and the deterioration in the economic situation, social and psychological.

On the basis of being a health, community and cultural organization that is interested most in individuals, and the provision of distinctive health services, we played a major role in alleviating suffering of our people and try to provide better health services and bringing medical experts and qualified to provide specialized and expensive-to-operate surgeries.

2.1 Local and International Delegations, who visited UHWC during the year 2012:

No.	Date	Name of Delegation	Place of visit
1.	16 Jan. 2012	Solidarity International (SI)	UHWC Main office and Al Awda hospital
2.	9 Feb. 2012	Marco Sinato from COOPI	Al Awda Hospital – lecture in how to discard the medical waste
3.	Feb. 2012	Delegation from MoH	Evolutional Visit
4.	22 March 2012	MAP Delegation	Al Awda hospital- NICU
5.	8 April 2012	Medical Delegation headed by Dr. Mustafa Yaseen from 48 Palestinian Territories	Al Awda Hospital
6.	14 April 2012	Bahraini Delegation headed by Dr. Tariq Shurbaji	Al Awda Hospital –ICU
7.	16 April 2012	Basque and SI Delegation	Al Luhiedan Medical Center and Al Assria Cultural Center
8.	17-21 April 2012	American Medical Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
9.	24-26 April 2012	Union of Doctors and Pharmacists from Austria and Germany	Al Awda Hospital
10.	April 2012	MAP – Financial Officer	Al Awda hospital- NICU
11.	May 2012	UNRWA Delegation	Evaluation visit to Al Awda Hospital
12.	13 May 2012	Delegation from writers and intellectuals	Rachel Corrie Cultural Center
13.	20 May 2012	Inji from Belgium	Al Quds Medical Center
14.	June 2012	MAP Delegation	Al Awda hospital- NICU
15.	13 June 2012	World Bank Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
16.	16 June 2012	Canadian Medical Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
17.	20 June 2012	American Academic Delegation through GCNHP	Al Awda Hospital
18.	22 June 2012	Music for Peace Delegation	UHWC Main Office Al Awda hospital
19.	2 July 2012	Jerusalem scout group	Al Awda Hospital
20.	3 June 2012	Stephen MacCloskey –UNISION- Ireland	Al Awda Hospital
21.	Sep. 2012	Dr. Mariam Wadi – UNRWA	Al Awda Hospital
22.	Sep. 2012	World Bank Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
23.	6 Sep. 2012	Medical Delegation headed by Dr. Mustafa Yaseen from 48 Palestinian Territories	Al Awda Hospital
24.	10 October 2012	Dr. Amna Shurbasi and Mariam Wadi – UNRWA	Al Awda Hospital
25.	17 Oct. 2012	OCHA Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
26.	Nov. 2012	ICRC	Al Awda Hospital 3 visits during the last Israeli aggression to Gaza
27.	Nov. 2012	Oxfam	Al Awda Hospital
28.	Nov. 2012	Delegate from Human Rights Organization	Al Awda Hospital

29.	24 Nov. 2012	Bahrain Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
30.	30 Nov. 2012	Bank of Palestine Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
31.	Nov. 2012	Professional and trade union organizations delegation	Al Awda Hospital
32.	Nov. 2012	Political Parties delegation	Al Awda Hospital
33.	9 Dec. 2012	Comrade / Laila Khaled	Al Awda Hospital
34.	13 Dec. 2012	German delegation headed by : Issam Adssi and Liones Fatiss	Al Awda Hospital
35.	13 Dec. 2012	Comrade Laila Khaled and Dr. Mariam Abu Daqqa	Al Awda Hospital
36.	14 Dec. 2012`	University College for Applied Science	Al Awda Hospital`
37.	20 Dec. 2012	Spanish and American Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
38.	20 Dec. 2012	Jihad Islami Delegation	Al Awda Hospital
39.	18-23 Dec	Basque Delegation	UHC Main Office
40.	29 Dec. 2012	Italian Activist Delegation	UHC Main Office
41.	31 Dec. 2012	General Union of Workers in health services	Honoring the medical staff at Al Awda Hospital

2.2 Local Community Activities:

Date	Implementing Party	Activity
17 October 2012	PNGO-Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network	Participating in the solidarity with the ship Steel
23 October 2012	PNGO-Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network	Participating in the solidarity organized by the NGO Network condemnation the Israel occupation break into PNGO HQ and a number of NGOs in the West Bank
27 Dec. 2012	Al Assria Cultural Center with Palestinian Solidarity Campaign – Sheffield	Showing “ And Still We Can Dance” documentary Political Movie

2.3 Emergency Appeals:

12 September 2012; a statement was issued on the decision of the Israeli Military Court against the corporate Rachel Corrie.

UNRWA Agreement

17 July 2012; An agreement was signed with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Al Awda Hospital – one of UHC facility; to provide Gynecology services to referred cases from UNRWA centers in the Northern Part of the Gaza Strip, and to provide different surgical services to referred

cases from UNRWA centers in the Southern part of the Gaza Strip (Rafah and Khan Younis) and the Northern part, in addition to some surgical operations mentioned in the agreement to all areas of the Gaza strip.

The last Israeli aggression on Gaza

Gaza Strip was subjected to the Zionism attack on Wednesday, November 14, 2012; and as previous Israeli attacks on the Gaza strip, UHWC announced a state of emergency in all Primary Health Centers and Al Awda Hospital; addition to the readiness of the Al Awda Hospital to receive the wounded from the northern areas of the Gaza Strip, in addition to the cases transferred from the government hospitals in the north for surgical operations.

Al Awda hospital received since the beginning of the attack (47) injured; 15 cases to them were sent to the operating room for surgery; and was conducted being major operations. Above all, 3 martyrs were received.

UHWC HQ office and all Primary Health Care Centers began its work with a number of staff who were able to reach their places of work to meet the needs of our people and provide health services to the needy ones; in addition, Al Awda Hospital worked round the clock.

Appeals and news that have been sent during the period of aggression:

1. Urgent appeal was sent to all partners and friends pointing out a picture of the new Zionist attack, and urging to support UHWC with medications, disposables and medical equipments.
2. Been declared readiness of the Al Awda Hospital to receive the injured and martyrs, and had been inserted on UHWC website.
3. Send a report on the damage of UHWC HQ office and Al Khayria Medical Center in Al Nusierat.

3. Projects Department:

Projects Department began year 2012 with a variety of projects that work on developing the work of UHWC Medical and Cultural centers and al Awda in the aspects of health, societal and cultural, as carried out projects in partnership with many international institutions and local communities, the goal of these projects is primarily to improve the health status in its comprehensive concept for the Palestinian individual in the Gaza Strip. By mid-year, UHWC Board of Directors formed a committee to support the projects department, and it has an active role in the development of writing projects and also played an important role in facilitating the implementation of project activities, on the other hand, on 1/10/2012, UHWC Cultural Centers has been separated from Projects department to be directed in the directorate of Primary Health centers to give full space to Projects department to concentrate on the work of the projects.

This year witnessed many donations flowing into the development of the services provided by UHWC Centers and Al Awda Hospital. We have been working on the application of a number of projects in

addition to writing project proposals, but we still suffer from a lack of funding and we are doing our best to open up new horizons with new funders.

3.1 Proposed Projects:

Project department proposed 40 different projects to donor institutions, verbal approval was obtained to some of them, and for the others, waiting reply, including:

1. A project to provide a permanent source of medical oxygen in Al Awda Hospital, through establishment of the Oxygen extractor unit at Al Awda hospital.
2. A project to contribute in improving the orthopedic department at Al Awda hospital.
3. A project of needs of UHWC centers and of instruments and medical equipments.
4. Supporting poor patient's fund at Al Awda hospital
5. Combating violence against women and promoting their rights in Jabalia area.

3.2 Skype meetings via the Internet:

- 18 March 2012, with the participation of the Health Centers Directorate, a meeting was held with a group of Belgians from the Medical Center Foundation via Skype at UHWC office in order to introduce Al Quds Center and its activities and its needs as well as to learn about the situation in the Gaza Strip.
- 2 June 2012, with the participation of the Health Centers Directorate, a meeting was held with a group of Belgians from the Medical Center Foundation via Skype, where nearly 300 people was compiled to talk about the situation in the Gaza Strip and the needs of Al Quds Center.

3.3 Projects for 2012:

No.	Project title	Duration	Location	Donor	Total Budget	Donor Contribution	UHWC Contribution
1	Reproductive Health Project	2 years (2012 - 2013)	Al Luhiedan Center - Jabalia and Al Awda Center Rafah	VASCO - AECID - SI	200,148.50 €	150,228.50 €	49,920 €

2	"Supporting and strengthening the emergency health care services to women (focusing on obstetrics and gynecological services) in Northern Gaza, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)"	12 months	Al Awda Hospital, Al Luhiedan Center - Al Quds Center	AACID - PAZ	227,837 €	179,597 €	48,240 €
3	Building the capacity of 10 volunteers of our cultural centers	12 months	UHCW 4 cultural centers	Creart	66,764 €	37,364 €	29,400 €
4	Building Diagnostic Health center	8 months	Al Maqousi area	UNDP	374,532.28 €	262,172.28 €	112,360 €
5	Improving Health Status of Orphans in Gaza Strip	4 months	Al Awda Hospital and the 4 PHCCs	Welfare	48800 \$	40000\$	8800\$
6	Public Achievement – (9)	7 months	Al Assria, Al Quds and Rachel Corrie Centers	Al Quakers	12500.50 \$	11298.75\$	1201.75\$
7	Library Network in Gaza Strip	18/4/2012 - 13/12/2012	Al Assria Cultural Center - Jabalia	Tamer Institute	In kind stationary in addition to 20\$ to the Librarian for every workshop with children		
8	Twinning project with Al Quds medical Center	1/18/2012	Al Quds Medical Center - Biet Hanoun	Medical Center (Le Renfort) (Belgium)	3,913.94 €		

9	Responding to Emergencies (Medications and Disposables)	20/11/2012 – 31/12/2012	Al Awda Hospital	DCA	332,27.69\$	332,27.69\$	0
9	Ensuring the provision of health services in Gaza Strip	1/10/2012 - 28/2/2013	Al Awda Hospital	OCHA - HRF	270,000\$	250,000\$	20,000\$

3.4 Donations:

Date	Amount	Donor	Recipient
15 Jan. 2012	2,975\$	Iceland Palestine Association	Support Rachel Corrie Center, rehabilitation the roof.
31 Jan. 2012	1,538.5\$	Palestinian Solidarity Camping – Sheffield	UHWC
25 Jan. 2012	2,000\$	MECA	Al Assria and Rachel Corrie Cultural Center
28 April 2012	400€	Dr. Omar Abu Basha – Germany	Al Assria cultural Center
19 June 2012	400\$	Canadian Delegation	UHWC
3 July 2012	30,140€ 600 NIS 719 \$	UNISON – Ireland through Mr. Stephen MacCloskey	Al Awda Hospital
13 Feb. 2012	1,187€	Liverpool friends of Palestine	UHWC
18 Dec. 2012	6,515\$	Spanish Friends Association	Al Awda hospital
12 June 2012	1,500\$	Mrs. Lani Frerichs from Care International	Rachel Corrie Center Rehabilitation
Nov. 2012	11,000 JD	Jordanian Friends , during the last Israeli Aggression	UHWC
Nov. 2012	2,000\$	Lebanon Family Committee	UHWC

- Medications and Medical Disposables donation from MoH in Gaza after the Last Israeli Aggression Nov. 2012.
- Medications and Medical Disposables donation from ICRC after the Last Israeli Aggression Nov. 2012.
- Medications and Medical Disposables donation from Palestinian Red Crescent – Qatar after the Last Israeli Aggression Nov. 2012.

- Medications donation through Red Crescent (SIDCO Company) after the Last Israeli Aggression Nov. 2012.
- Medications and Disposables donation from Music for Peace – Italy.
- 10,000\$ in-kind donation from Union of Palestinian doctors and Pharmacists in Germany and Austria, to UHWC Cultural Centers.

3.5 Training courses and external meetings:

- 1 Feb. 2012 to 5 May 2012, a special training course held on gender and women's rights and gender mainstreaming in the policies of UHWC, within the reproductive health project that was funded by AECID through Solidarity International (SI) and implemented by Women Affairs Technical Center (WATC), knowing that training has targeted 75 employees in the health and cultural centers, in addition to UHWC employees and a group of members of the Board of Directors.
- 19 Jan. 2012 to 21 Jan. 2012, participation in a training course about Spher criteria for projects, initiative by DCA.
- 20 Feb. 2012; participation in special training course in advocacy and media work, initiative by OXFAM.
- Attendance and participation meetings of the Amal Coalition to combat violence against women.
- Attendance and participation of PNGO women sector.
- 24 March 2012; participation in a special workshop to prepare the strategic framework for the Palestinian civil society sector for the next five years, invitation by PNGO.
- Held a training course on reproductive health during the period between 23 Sep. 23 to 27 Sep. within the reproductive health project activities and political rights of Palestinian women funded by the Basque Government and AECID through SI , knowing that it has been targeted the Reproductive Health Project team.
- 15 Oct. 2012; Meeting in the presence of members of the Board of Directors and Director of Projects with Ms. / Rose MacFarlane the Health Affairs delegate from ICRC to explain UHWC situation for cooperation to build closer ties and to seek joint cooperation and assistance.
- 13 Nov. 2012; participate in the development of the Strategic Plan for Amal Coalition to combat violence against women, which was held in Sharm El-Sheikh.
- During the first week of Sep. 2012, participation in a special session of awareness mechanisms within the reproductive health project funded by AECID - BASCO through SI, which was held in Lebanon.
- 19 Nov.2012, a meeting with the World Health Organization (WHO) to discuss the situation in the Gaza Strip and the readiness of institutions and shortcomings plaguing through video conference with the West Bank, and it has been reviewed during the meeting what was done by Al Awda hospital during that period, the number of cases and the lack of in medications and supplies.

· 27 Nov. 2012, a meeting with WHO, where it was agreed to identify the needs of civil institutions through a report issued by WHO in addition to the review carried out by international aid institutions to ensure the provision of health services.

Al Awda Hospital

Al Awda hospital is the largest and the most important facility for Union of Health Work Committees. It was established in the most deprived area and was inaugurated in 1997 as the first line hospital in the Northern governorate in the Gaza Strip with a capacity of 53 beds to reach now 75 beds in total and can be extended to 100 beds in case of emergency.

The hospital provides health services to all inhabitants in the Northern part of the Gaza Strip (62 km²), with population around 323,000 inhabitant*.

The total beneficiaries of Al Awda Hospital in 2012 were 108,321 beneficiaries which represent 33.5% of the total population of the Northern part of the Gaza Strip.

Thus, Al Awda hospital is the main and leading provider for maternity services in the Northern Part of the Gaza Strip, the total deliveries for the year 2012 were 3,236 case.

Al Awda Hospital is the only provider for Fluoroscopy services in the Northern part of the Gaza Strip. There are only 2 Fluoroscopy Machines in the Gaza Strip one of them is in Al Awda Hospital – North of Gaza Strip.

Moreover, Al Awda hospital is authorized to be considered as an educational hospital from some universities in the Gaza Strip to train Nursing students.

Training courses that Al Awda staff were involved in:

Training Course Name	Date	Duration / Days	Place	Participants	Implemented Party
Safe Delivery	22 Jan. 2012	3	Al Salam Restaurant	3 Nurses	Woman Health
Graduation ceremony for activators to midwives	2 Feb. 2012	1	Al Salam Restaurant	4 Nurses	General Administrative to empower personnel
Postnatal care for child and mother,	10 March 2012	4	Women Health Center – Jabalia	1Nurse	Red Crescent Association
NLS	18 March 2012	2	Commodore Hotel	2 Midwife/Nurse	MAP
Scientific gathering for X-ray	22 March 2012	1	Islamic University	1 X-Ray Technician	Union of Arab Doctors

department					
Closing day for Safe delivery	15 May 2012	1	Al Salam Restaurant	3 Nurses	MoH
Basic Life Support in Obstetric	23-24 May 2012 27-28 May 2012	4	Al Salam Restaurant	2 Nurses	MAP
Pain Management	26 May 2012	1	Ahli Hospital	1 Doctor 2 Nurses	Ahli Hospital
Special day to study morbidity cases	27 May 2012	1	Al Salam Restaurant	2 Doctor 2 Nurses	MoH
Improving Quality in the delivery Department	29 – 31 May 2012	3	Al Salam Restaurant	1 Nurse 1 Lab Tech. officer	Woman Health, MoH
Reproductive Health Training	23 May 2012	5	Marna House	3 Nurses 1 Doctor	PAZ
Basic Life Support in Obstetric	7-8-11-12 Oct. 2012	4	Al Salam Restaurant	2 Doctors 1 Nurse	MoH
Advanced Training in Cardiac Life Support	8-9 Nov. 2012	2	Al Salam Restaurant	2 Doctors 1 Nurse	MoH
Basic Life Support in Obstetric	7-8-11-12 Dec. 2012	4	Al Salam Restaurant	2 Nurses	MAP

Al Awda Specialist Health Day Care Center – Gaza City

This center was established in 2010 in Gaza city to serve the people of Sha’ati refugee camp, and its catchment area which is around 80.000 inhabitants.

The idea of establishing this center was to break the siege that is imposed on our people in the Gaza strip, in which it reflects the negative effects on health in general.

The total beneficiaries from this center for the year 2012 were: 18,147 beneficiates.

6 Health and Cultural centers Directorate:

6.1 Health centers:

Health Center’s directorate is one of UHWC main facilities that provide primary health care, community awareness and community development. It’s also considered to be the front line contact between clients and medical staff and the first point of consultation for all patients. This is an important way for people to access health services.

Sustainability and affordability of care services is also a key characteristic for our centers providing health care services.

UHCW Primary Health Centers are four centers as follows:

1. Al Quds Medical and Community Center - Biet Hanoun

Al Quds Medical and Community Center was established in 1989 to serve the inhabitants of Biet Hanoun, North area of Gaza Strip 45,351 inhabitants*.

It was built (finance by AFD through Welfare Association Consortium) to meet the increasing needs of beneficiaries. Moreover, the Women Health Project is implemented among its activities.

2. Al Luhiedan Health Center - Jabalia Refugee Camp

Al Luhiedan Medical and Community Center was established in 1989 in Jabalia camp with generous donation from Mr. Mohammad Al Abd Al Kareem Al Luhiedan – Saudi Arabia. It is located in the most crowded area, Jabalia Refugee Camp and serves 197,000 inhabitants living in Jabalia*.

3. Al Khairia Medical and Community Center - Nusierat Refugee Camp

The Center was established in 1989 to serve more than 238,807 Palestinians living in the middle of Gaza Strip*.

Due to the increased number of beneficiaries, UHCW recently built a new Khairia Medical and Community Center financed by KFW through UNDP. Moreover, The Women Health Project is implemented among its activities.

4. Al Awda Health Center – Rafah

Al Awda Health center was established in 1989. It is located in Rafah (Refugee Camp) and serves 202,776 inhabitants*. Moreover, The Women Health Project is implemented among its activities.

Services that are provided through our health centers:

All centers provide their services in two shifts basis, from 8:00 am until 8:30 pm and in emergency, our centers worked around the clock, the services are:

- Outpatient clinics in different specialties
- Mother and Child care
- Psychological support and legal counseling
- Speech Therapy for Children
- Emergency services, Pharmacy, X-Ray, Ultrasound, different Medical lab
- Cultural and community services.

Thus, the total beneficiaries of UHCW health centers were 155,699 beneficiaries for the year 2012

There is cooperation with personnel department in MoH to authorize UHCW dental clinics for training the resident dentists.

6.2 Cultural Centers:

Based on the philosophy of the Union of Health Work Committees that "Health of individuals is not measured in physical terms, but also include psychological, intellectual, and cultural" and according to WHO definition, "**Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity**", UHWC has initiated the establishment of community and cultural centers meant to serve primarily children and youth.

The centers provide distinctive services efficiently and effectively especially high activation of a special "Rehabilitation of Volunteerism" in the community and enhancing the role of youth as leaders of the future.

The total beneficiaries from the cultural centers are 33829 beneficiaries.

Cultural Centers are:

1. Al Assria Cultural Center for Children and Youth - Jabalia refugee camp

The center was established in 1992 in Jabalia to provide cultural services for children and youth young aged between 6-25 years, and to contribute to the development of the talents and capabilities of the target group in terms of cultural, social and personal promotion of the Palestinian national democratic progressive.

The center played a role in the institutionalization of work with beneficiaries in two ways: first one aims to discover talents and advocate the rights of the child, and build the capacity of young people; the second way aims to nurture and develop talents.

2. Rachel Corrie Cultural Center for Children and Youth - Rafah

The center was established in 2003 in Rafah, in the memory of the American activist "Rachel Corrie", within the generalization of Al Assria Cultural center experience to work with children and youth aged between 6-25 years and to contribute in achieving the goal of establishment of UHWC cultural centers' network covering the Gaza Strip.

The center played a major role in preparing qualified staff of animators in the field of education, psychosocial and in an advanced stage in improving the environment for the center to become a child-friendly environment.

The center implemented many projects and activities that aim to discover the talents of children and advocate their rights and their needs through learning activities and activation techniques.

3. Al Quds Cultural Center for children and Youth – Biet Hanoun

The center was established in 2011 in Bait Hanoun, within the generalization of Al Assria Cultural center experience to work with children and youth aged between 6-25 years and to contribute in achieving the goal of establishment of UHWC cultural centers' network covering the Gaza Strip.

The center played a major role in preparing qualified staff of animators in the field of education, psychosocial and in an advanced stage in improving the environment for the center to become a child-friendly environment.

The center implemented many projects and activities that aim to discover the talents of children and advocate their rights and their needs through learning activities and activation techniques.

4. Al Khairia Cultural Center for children and youth – Nusierat refugee camp

The center was established in 2012 in Nusierat refugee camp, within the generalization of Al Assria Cultural center experience to work with children and youth aged between 6-25 years and to contribute in achieving the goal of establishment of UHWC cultural centers' network covering the Gaza Strip.

The center played a major role in preparing qualified staff of animators in the field of education, psychosocial and in an advanced stage in improving the environment for the center to become a child-friendly environment.

The center implemented many projects and activities that aim to discover the talents of children and advocate their rights and their needs through learning activities and activation techniques.

Cultural Centers Activities, through:

Constant Cultural Centers Units:

- Popular Folklore.
- Theater show.
- Singing choir
- literature.
- Poetry and Presenting

Al Assria Cultural Center Nurture of Talents Unit:

- Popular Folklore.
- Theater.
- Singing choir.
- Library.
- Poetry and Presenting.
- The Audio-Visual Unit

Cultural Centers Achievements through year 2012:

First: Projects funded through partnerships:

1. Creart Project.
2. Popular Achievement Project – Quakers.
3. Improving health situation for orphans in the Gaza Strip (My future is for Gazan Children).
4. Palm teams Project.

5. Children Literature Project.

Second: Self Funded Projects:

Self funded Projects at Al Assria Cultural Center:

1. Winter Camp (Beautiful ... My homeland)
2. Ahibaa'e project that calls for the right of protecting children from economic abuse to stop "employment among children".
3. Operetta "The Voice of Irion chains "which reflects the suffering of the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails.
4. "We shall return "project that calls for Identity and nationality.
5. "Raise your voice "project that calls for freedom of speech.

Self funded Projects at Al Rachel Corrie Cultural Center:

1. Child's right to play project "Let's laugh ... Let's Play"
2. "Our Country is better that way" Project
3. "Let's speak out without fear" Project

Self funded Projects at Al Quds Cultural Center:

1. "Your summer is different with us" Project
2. "The smell of sand of my country "Project

Self funded Projects at Al Khairia Cultural Center:

1. Children's right to health care "altogether ... tomorrow is better"
2. Children's right to play "Enjoy your summer"
3. Children's right to gender equity and quality "We are all the same"

National and International Activities

Al Assria Cultural Center team visited Germany and Austria in November 2012, during the last Israeli aggression by an invitation from the Palestinian Austrian Association and Union of Palestinian Doctors in Germany and Austria to deliver a message to the whole world that we are a peace messengers and we love to live in a world with justice, where dignity and human rights are most respected.

In the context of continuous partnership with the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign in Sheffield – UK, a documentary film was produced "And Still They Dance" talking about personal experiences of a Dabkah team when they visited several British cities in 2005 and following up the members of the team and their experiences in Gaza since that time including the Israeli Aggression in Dec. 2008 to Jan. 2009.

6.3 Health Education and Community Awareness Department (HECAD)

Health Education Department is one of the most important pillars of health work as it is considered being one of the most important components of primary health care, which aims to provide health education and community awareness.

Each \$ 1 spent on education and health awareness, provides \$ 4 in treatment.

HECAD Services are as follows:

- Enlightenment society in different ways, including home visits for pregnant women in addition to educate women in the UHWC centers
- Courses and seminars covering various topics (such as the early detection of breast cancer - acute respiratory infections - intestinal parasites - care for pregnant women - fever in children - the importance of breastfeeding - high blood pressure - domestic accidents - personal hygiene).
 - Individual health education and focus groups, lectures and information sessions.
 - Preparation and distribution of health education booklets and brochures.
 - Health education from child to another and from one woman to another.
 - Contribute in the national health activities.
- Participate in the revival of public health events such as the World Health Day in coordination with the Ministry of Health and other organizations.
- Community and Cultural centers.

7. The Supplies and Warehouses Directorate:

The directorate implemented several activities in 2012 as follows:

1. Within the project “Ensuring Access to emergency obstetric care in Gaza Strip” that was funded by UNFPA, equipments had been distributed among UHWC health centers.
2. Supervising the work of tenders for medicines and medical disposables, whether funded by donors or from the EU budget.
3. Supervision of the receipt of contributions received from supportive partners.
4. Provide Al Awda hospital units and health centers contingency stock of medicines and medical supplies.
5. Follow-up the processing of health centers and Al Awda hospitals with licensing requirements.
6. Supervision and follow-up on the dispensing of medications in UHWC pharmacies and nursing sections.

Challenges and recommendations

- The obstacles that are facing us in the near future are the sustainability of the organization, continuity of institutionalization besides keeping the spirit of initiative high.
- The Siege that is imposed by the Israeli Occupation on the Gaza Strip since 2006 affected us badly. We continue to face problems in implementing the approved projects because:
 - Access problems.
 - Lack of spare parts.
 - Palestinian division.
- Covering the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) running cost, knowing that, 323,000 inhabitants are living in the Northern Part of the Gaza Strip according to Palestinian Statistic Bureau Center mid 2012. In emergency situations and Israeli incursions, where the Gaza Strip separated in to three parts (South, Middle and North), the North of Gaza has no NICU neither in NGO hospitals nor

governmental hospitals, and premature babies are in bad need of NICU and facing the threat of dying without it.

- Stop the Intensive Care Unit for adults (ICU) equipped with 4 beds fully equipped for work, to the inability of the Union to cover the costs of operating this unit, with a cost of bed one in this unit for one night only \$ 200 per night, and the patient cannot pay this amount Big money.
- Find resources and new funds to cover the needs of medications, medical disposables and fuel to be able to continue providing our services, especially during times of emergency.
- The need to respond to the permanent state of emergency and the need to implement our core programs are one of the major challenges facing UHWC management.
- Promote and support voluntary work and integrate it into society, especially among youth.
- Continue the capacity building of UHWC employees in the technical and administrative fields.
- Continue equipping UHWC center with unavailable medical equipments and solving the problem of maintenance and lack of spare parts for equipments.
- Continue computerized UHWC centers using Information System.
- Involve UHWC permanent staff in the Palestinian Authority Retirement Fund (Insurance and Pensions).

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