



WEEK OF COMPASSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

For Global Ministries

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Compassion.*

SECTION 1: Basic Information

Area Office	Middle East and Europe
Project Title	Improving the Psychological Well-Being of Children in the Jalazone Refugee Camp Through Awareness and Counseling Sessions.
Project Period	15 July 2023 to 15 February 2024.
Name of Local Partner	YWCA of Ramallah and the Jalazone Community Centre
Location- City/State/Country	Al-Jalazon refugee camp, Ramallah- Palestine.
Total Amount Received from WoC	\$12,500
Person Completing Report	Jake Brooks, Global Ministries' Resource Development Department in conjunction with the implementing partner
Contact Information	Jake Brooks, Program Associate for Resource Development (317) 713-2562 jbrooks@dom.disciples.org

SECTION 2: Project Summary

Project Goal

Referring back to your original proposal, what is the overall goal of the project? If your plans have changed from the original proposal, please describe.

The overall goal of the project is to “Strengthen the already established creative learning center in YWCA Kindergarten located at the Jalazone Refugee Camp by improving the psychological well-being of children in the refugee camp through awareness and counseling sessions.”

The project was conducted by the YWCA of Ramallah, which is an entity under the umbrella of the YWCA of Palestine and registered locally as a non-governmental association affiliated with the World YWCA movement. The YWCA of Ramallah runs a Community Centre and a Kindergarten at the Jalazone Refugee Camp located in the North of Ramallah. The center serves more than 9,000 people in the camp and provides direct services to more than 67 children and their families. It also provides empowerment interventions that target women and girls through awareness and counseling services to improve their psychological well-being and needed knowledge and skills to start their own business and empower them economically.

The project is funded by the World Council of Churches and aims to improve the psychological well-being of children in the Jalazone camp through awareness and psychological counseling sessions, as well as enhancing the services of the community center for creative education affiliated with the association's kindergarten. The activities implemented contributed to enhancing the children's capabilities and improving their mental health. Recognizing the child as the focal point of the educational process, efforts were made to achieve comprehensive growth in various aspects of their personality and mental health.

In addition to the restoration and renovations of facilities and playgrounds, efforts were directed toward upgrading facilities to increase capacities and provide a more creative, colorful, and safe environment for the children.

Primary Activities Implemented

Describe administrative and programmatic activities implemented in your request for funding.

The project contributed to enhancing the psychological well-being of children, addressing both their mental and emotional health, which is crucial for their development and provides them with the best opportunity to grow into well-rounded, healthy adults equipped with coping skills to navigate daily life. This was achieved through the provision of counseling services for children and their parents in the Jalazone refugee camp.

It's worth mentioning that the project's activities were implemented as planned, and all sub-objectives were achieved according to the plan, except for the theatrical performance for children due to the political situation and the war in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, the children's toys and artificial grass were not supplied because the budget allocated for them was used to complete the plastering and painting works for the kindergarten building.

YWCA Ramallah implemented all project activities as requested for funding, as follows:

1. Counselling sessions for children

The YWCA of Ramallah contracted with a professional psychologist in the field of "mental health" to conduct counseling sessions for children and their mothers. 45 Psychological support sessions targeted 67 children (F: 30, M: 37) divided into 3 groups. Each group received 15 sessions. The sessions focused on working towards an optimistic future, developing positive coping methods, and boosting self-esteem, self-confidence, and other positive states and traits in children. The psychologist used different methods that supported children to live well after trauma: Play therapy, behavioral therapy, or expressive therapy.

The therapeutic sessions conducted for the children at the Christian Youth Association Nursery in the Jalazone Camp have been innovative and beneficial in promoting mental well-being and alleviating the stress and anxiety resulting from the difficult circumstances they are experiencing due to the war. The activities organized included meaningful topics such as bullying, cooperation, harassment, accepting others, expressing emotions, cleanliness, and their needs, the risks of electronic games, communication skills, and etiquette.

The sessions employed a play-based approach using physical, interactive, dramatic, and musical activities and utilized cartoons and stories to mitigate bullying behavior among the children. Additionally, group drawing

was used to reinforce a culture of teamwork and enhance cooperative spirit.

Furthermore, dolls were used to educate children about safe and unsafe touches, alongside offering a variety of physical activities to promote their participation and positive interaction. These sessions have been beneficial for the children in achieving their specific goals and improving their psychological well-being amidst the challenging circumstances they face.

The project has a positive impact on the targeted children and developed their personalities and behavior, as follows:

- Children talk about themselves in front of others, build social networks, and develop friendships.
- Children identify their feelings of love, fear, security, and safety.
- Children harmonize and develop their physical movements and skills: Running, jumping, and other manual movements.
- Children develop their imagination through tangible materials: Acting, drawing, coloring.

Results of the children's sessions:

- Development of their ability to express themselves.
- Enhancement of their creative abilities.
- Improvement of their social skills, particularly for children who were withdrawn at the beginning of the sessions.
- Increased ability to participate, interact, and engage with the group effectively for introverted children.
- Development of their motor skills.
- Cultivation of a team spirit within them and reinforcement of cooperative culture, as evidenced by their participation in drawing activities together or giving their peers space to draw near them.
- Psychological relief for the children.

2. Counselling sessions for parents:

33 young women benefited from counseling sessions. These sessions empowered them to respond in a positive way to the stressors their children are experiencing. The first session was held in the presence of 21 mothers, and 12 mothers attended the second session.

Results of Mothers' Meetings:

- Mothers became acquainted with positive parenting styles.
- They exchanged their positive experiences and expertise.
- Recognized the importance of emotional fulfillment and its impact on child development and growth.
- Recognized the negative effects of physical punishment and yelling.
- Understood the importance of understanding their children's needs.
- Psychological relief for mothers.
- Breaking the usual routine by participating in meetings.
- Overcoming their negative feelings.
- Providing a safe space for dialogue and exchanging opinions.

3. Rehabilitated and improved the indoor area by plastering and painting the interior building of the kindergarten, covering all student classrooms and internal facilities, and the exterior wall of the kindergarten's backyard area:

This intervention enhanced the kindergartner's environment and created a clean and safe space for children to play and be more creative. This intervention directly benefited 67 children and improved the indoor and interior building of the kindergarten as follows:

1. Painting works for the ceiling including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 239 square meters.
2. Interior wall painting works including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 492 square meters.
3. Painting works for the interior and exterior wall borders in olive color including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 212 square meters.
4. Painting works for the exterior wall including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 243 square meters.

It's worth mentioning that the project's activities were implemented as planned, and all sub-objectives were achieved according to the agreement, except the children's toys and artificial grass were not supplied because the budget allocated for them were used to complete the plastering and painting works for the kindergarten building.

4. Activating and developing the activities of the community center:

A Christmas gathering was organized, and gifts were distributed to the children to alleviate the psychological pressures they experienced. However, a planned play titled "The Four Seasons" for the children was canceled due to the war and the political situation, specifically the situation in the Gaza Strip.

Project Time Frame									
Activities :	Item	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Counseling sessions for Children	Psychologist sessions for 67 children* 45 hours								
Counseling sessions for parents (Mothers)	Counseling for students' parents (6 Hours)								
Rehabilitated and improved the indoor area by plastering and painting the interior building of the kindergarten	Painting works for the ceiling including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 239 square meters.								

	Interior wall painting works including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 492 square meters.								
	Painting works for the interior and exterior wall borders in olive color including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 212 square meters.								
	Painting works for the exterior wall including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 243 square meters.								
Christmas Gathering for Children	Purchasing gifts								

Challenges and Action Steps Taken to Resolve

Summarize what organizational and environmental (political, social, infrastructural, etc.) challenges arose during this past year that hindered the project achievement of its goals. Also, include how the project/program addressed them.

a. Political Situation

Specifically, the comprehensive strike, which included kindergartens, resulted in the postponement of the implementation of some activities.

b. Winter Weather Conditions

Some activities were postponed due to the absence of children and the need to postpone some restoration work.

There was sufficient time in the activities plan, so all the delayed activities were carried out within the planned timeline.

SECTION 3: Project Results

Client/Participant Success Story or Details of a Program Achievement

Please share a client success story or a program achievement from this project. The success story or the program achievement should be related to program activities implemented and should convey the need or impact of the project. If using a client/participant success story, please keep client confidentiality in mind. If available, include pictures as attachments to your report.

One of the significant achievements of the project was the rehabilitation of the kindergarten environment, which provided a safe and clean space for both children and teachers. Additionally, the project played a crucial role in enhancing the psychological well-being of children by addressing their mental and emotional health needs. This aspect is vital for their overall development and equips them with the necessary coping skills to navigate daily life successfully. This was accomplished through the provision of counseling services for both children and their parents in the Al Jalazone refugee camp.

Success Story of Shatha

Shatha is a five-year-old girl in the kindergarten preparatory class, residing in Jalazone Camp with her separated mother. She is the fifth child among six siblings. The family faces economic and social challenges that particularly affect Shatha. She exhibits a complete lack of verbal communication with anyone in the kindergarten, especially her teacher, even with just a single word. There are no organic or speech-related issues causing this.

During the first session, Shatha appeared tense and anxious during the clay activity, constantly kneading what she had molded whenever the psychologist approached her, despite the encouragement. She kneaded the product she had shaped approximately three times, and each time the psychologist smiled at her to give her a sense of comfort. In the final attempt, she kept the product intact without destroying it. In the following sessions, she seemed withdrawn, with limited participation and no verbal communication.

In the last sessions, during some activities where they were dividing into teams for play, each child encouraged their team, Shatha also encouraged her team loudly and collectively with the other children. This was a positive indicator that she was capable of communicating and speaking in any group activity that required collective speech. It seems she needs more time to be comfortable speaking at an individual level. However, she was able to participate, interact, and engage effectively in kinetic activities during the last sessions.

Success Story of Ilia

Ilia is a four-year-old girl in the kindergarten nursery class. Since the first sessions, she has shown excessive attachment to her teacher, who accompanies her everywhere within the kindergarten premises. She would cry continuously whenever the teacher left the classroom and was unable to participate in activities due to her attachment to the teacher.

Initially, she resisted activities and refused to participate with the other children. At first, she would follow the teacher without participating in the sessions, and then gradually began to attend without participating, content with observing the activities and the participating children. Midway through the sessions, she started being present and actively engaging with the children in activities. She also started expressing her opinion about activities recently, saying, "The game is very nice."

Short and Long Term Results

Realistically link program activities to the difference they are making. Describe how the project's activities are making a difference in the short and long-term for both the client and the community.

Activities :	Result
Counseling Sessions for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide support and guidance for children who live under pressure from social and marital problems. - Counselling sessions to enhance and reduce the emotions they suffer from, to help children avoid suffering from a similar crisis. - Work on developing the child's intellectual ability through play. - Enhance and modify the behavior of children. - Express feelings and fears. - Promote tolerance and build friendships.
Counseling sessions for parents	Developing skills for parents about how to respond to the stressors their children are experiencing
Rehabilitated and improved the indoor area by plastering and painting the interior building of the YWCA Jalazone Kindergarten	Enhanced the kindergartners' environment and created a clean and safe space for children to play and be more creative. This intervention directly benefited 67 children and improved the indoor and interior building of the kindergarten.
Christmas Gathering for Children	Activating and developing the activities of the community center.

Best Practices:

Please Identify and Describe processes or practices that you implemented in this project that were successful, and that you recommend for use in similar situations.

- a. Working in parallel on the interventions for the children and parents led greatly to the work at all levels and thus better results.
- b. Targeting the children and mothers of the camp because of the need for these interventions
- c. Modifying the external environment by providing clean and safe spaces
- d. Hiring professional psychologists in this project.

Quantitative Results

Provide “numeric indicators” of your work in serving people and implementing project activities.

PEOPLE Served <i>Avoid Duplicate Counts between Categories</i>	# of People Served	Comments or Description
Women <i>age 18+</i>	33	33 of them mothers
Men <i>age 18+</i>	0	
Youth <i>age 13-18</i>	0	
Children <i>age 0-13</i>	67	Girls: 30, Boys: 37
Families/Households	67	The families of the children who received direct services benefitted as well from these services.
Disabled	0	
Other: <i>specify such as employed, unemployed, immigrants, etc.</i>	0	

Examples of Activity Descriptions: food distribution, legal assistance, trainings, workshops, clinical services, TB screening, intakes, pigs raised, wells dug, school supplies provided (units), etc.

ACTIVITIES Implemented <i>-Specify Activities-</i>	# of Activitie s or Service Units	# of Participa nts or Beneficia ries If applicable	Comments or Description
Counseling sessions for Children	45 sessions	67	Children were targeted through the sessions

Counseling sessions for parents	6 hours	33	parents were targeted through the sessions
Rehabilitated and improved the indoor area by plastering and painting for the interior building of the YWCA Jalazone Kindergarten			
1.Painting works for the ceiling including materials and all necessary items	239 meters	67	Painting ceiling were provided in the KG
Interior wall painting works including materials and all necessary items	492 meters	67	Interior wall painting were provided in the KG
Painting works for the interior and exterior wall borders in olive color including materials and all necessary items	212 meters	67	Painting works for the interior and exterior wall borders were provided in the KG
Painting works for the exterior wall including materials and all necessary items covering an area of 243 square meters.	243 meters	67	Painting works for the exterior wall were provided in the KG
Christmas Gathering for Children	1event	67	Children were targeted through Christmas Gathering

SECTION 4: Financial Management

Required Attachment: How was funding used?

Provide a financial report of how gifts were put to use in support of your project. A template for this financial report is attached for your reference. Any report that does not follow this template will not be considered a completed report and not eligible for applying for WOC Sustainable Development grant.

#	Item	Unit	Rate \$	# of Units	%	Total USD	Actual USD	Remaining Amount	Variance
1	Counseling Session for Children					1,390	1,472	-82	-6%
1.1	Psychologist	Session	22	45	100%	990	990	0	
1.2	Stationery for Sessions	Set	5	80	100%	400	482	-82	
2	Counseling Sessions for Parents					900	229	671	75%
2.1	Counseling for Students Parents	L.S				900	229	671	
3	Christmas Party for Children	Child	13	80	100%	1,040	597	443	43%
4	Administrative expenses					3,150	3,891	-741	-24%
4.1	Coordinator (20%)	Month	1500	7	20%	2,100	3,891	-1,791	
4.2	Accountant (15%)	Month	1000	7	15%	1,050	-	1,050	
5	Furniture and Equipment for KG	Equipment	5000	1	100%	5,000	5,291	-291	-6%

Subtotal						11,480	11,480	0	0%
Indirect Expenses 8.8850%						1,020	1,020	0	0%
Total						12,500	12,500	0	0%

If expenses differ from the original proposal, please explain variances here:

The variance in the stationary line item is due to covering the stationaries for the training sessions implemented for both parents and children. As for the furniture and equipment budget line item, the total amount covered the renovation inside and outside the center building. Thus, the variance for both line items exceeded the budgeted amount by 6%.

As for the variance of -24% for Administrative Expenses, YWCA Ramallah Accountant pay was covered by another project. Moreover, he left his position in early January 2024. The amounts that were not spent on the budget lines related to the accountant were used to cover the additional level of effort for Jalazone coordinator.