

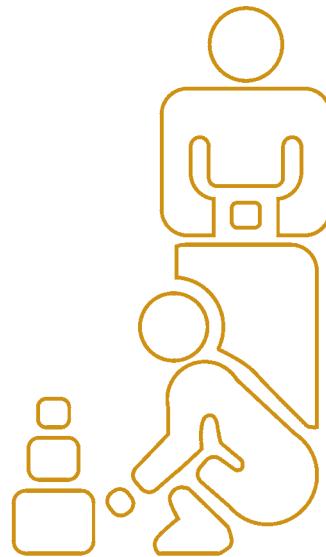
The Trust of Programs for Early Childhood
Family and Community Education

ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015

Prepared and Edited by
Flavia Kamar

Jerusalem





The Trust of Programs
for Early Childhood, Family and Community Education

P.O.Box 51303, Main Street, Shu'fat – Jerusalem

tel: 972 2 6260836 fax: 972 2 6260837

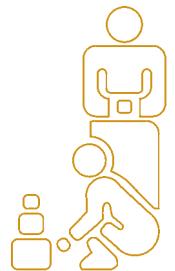
e.mail: trust@trust-programs.org

web: trust-programs.org

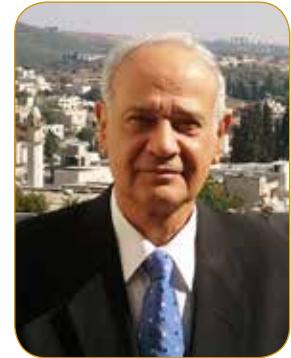


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Foreword



Greetings,

Another year has passed and it is the time to evaluate and review the achievements of the Trust for the year 2014-2015.

There is no doubt that the achievements of the Trust during this period were very significant. The programs of the Trust are still needed in our local community for many years to come due to the deteriorating situation almost in all sphere of life. This situation, in itself, is a great continuous challenge that encourages the Trust not only to sustain its existing programs but also to improve their quality.

Besides the achievements of Trust on the local level and its experience in the city of Essen in Germany, there was a notable development outside the country mainly in Malta islands. We have been asked by the Ministry of Education and Employment to explore the possibilities of implementing some of the programs so as to help Arab refugee families to incorporate in the local society of Malta.



I consider this event as a very important achievement, since it shows the good reputation the trust has had in planning and in implementing programs for mothers and children.

Needless to say that all these achievements would never have happened without the generous financial support from several international institutions who have dedicated themselves in helping needed communities around the world.

In conclusion, since we are welcoming the New Year I would like to extend my greetings to all the supporters of Trust and to all the loyal staff wishing them a happy new year full of prosperity and peace.

Dr. Awni Habash
Chairperson



Dear Friends and Supporters,

The recent turbulent days and the continuous worries concerning the recent traumatic events in the Middle East in general, here in Jerusalem, and there in Beirut and now in Paris have left us educators, social workers and community activists in a shock which almost paralyzed creative thinking. However, we should wipe the tears and work for a better tomorrow. We strongly believe that community education, inner peace, integrity, optimism, mercy and respect at family and community level can guarantee a safe community and peaceful conflict resolution at all levels.

I'm not being naïve, I know that a very few politicians and radical fanatic people are sufficient to destroy at once what takes the educators years to build, but we have no other choice but to continue our mission even if we would look like Don Quixote. For this edition of our annual report I decided to share with you, on top of the



Peace starts within oneself, within the family and only then it can spread to the whole community.

challenges and achievement of our programs, a story of one human soul whom we saved. This case has influenced me personally and appeared to be one of the weirdest cases I have faced during my 42 years of work in the social field. She was brought to our attention by our social worker who worked with her abused mother through the combating family violence program. The mother was helpless and terrified when she told our social worker about her bleeding daughter; it took many sessions to convince her to file a



complaint at the police authority which finally broke the wall of silence.

It was Wednesday the 26th of August 2015, when our social worker asked me to sign a pledge of responsibility for Fathia's welfare in the 'Safe House' where she was admitted after years of being subjected to sexual slavery and violence by her family members at home. It was the first time for me to meet the victim - I used to work with her in an indirect way- while our social worker communicated directly with her. Fathia is a 12 years old girl who has been sexually abused at the age of 9 years, an innocent and calm little girl who should be no less than a princess is facing the fear of the unknown future.

I was told: "Please sign here that you and the social worker are responsible for her welfare and safety in this 'safe house'". This was the first time I sign a paper that I did not really know the content of. All my thoughts were focused on this girl who suffered from the abuse of her own family members who should have provided her with protection in all possible ways. The entire scenario was running through my mind and eyes like a film trailer, starting from the doctor who the family tried to bribe to testify that the girl was bleeding from menstruation and not because of sexual assault; the police officer who tried to let her out from her family house; the social worker who has been threatened to get out of the case otherwise, etc. And finally the head of the local authority who said an Arabic proverb that means "let her carry the price in order not to shake the community/village's peace"

One starts to wonder: what has happened to our society? Where are the compassion and mercy values, the religious morals? How come that everything that the victim went through is not considered a sin among families and communities while it is considered as a "Shame" by their culture. It seems that the community cares more about covering up this disgrace than protecting the victim; they would rather kill



her than make a social scandal, especially when the victim is powerless. Suddenly all the slogans about human and children rights seemed meaningless, where are the official protection frameworks and infrastructure (remedial or punitive)? Why should someone with professional and human conscience risk his life to protect an innocent girl? Or why does a police officer have to work alone according to his morals instead of having official cover and assistance? And when does the situation require actual action? Usually, these questions are justified by many excuses like there aren't any protection frameworks, my working hours have finished, it is not my job or responsibility etc... and the weirdest solution I received was when one of the officials suggested returning the girl back to her family where she will eventually be killed or forced to change her testimony so the criminals will be discharged.

This was an example of one girl who has survived a rape assault and a disastrous horrifying life but the remaining question is how can we protect more underage girls who have been subjected to incest? I'm sure that there are numerous underage girls who have been sexually attacked and have not been reported and rescued, and there are many sleepless social workers who are trying to find solutions and risking their health and time with their family.

Let us all start building a bridge between the traditions and the civil laws, taking in mind that implementing the civil laws is almost impossible without the community education process and the pioneering work of the social agents who carry the heavy weight of the social change process on their shoulders.

Farid Abu Gosh
President



About the Trust

The Trust is an indigenous developmental agency established in 1984 in Jerusalem and registered as a non-profit NGO to empower members of the Arab Palestinian community through education and leadership developmental programs targeting Palestinians everywhere.

We are a nonprofit, nonreligious and nonpolitical organization that believes in social Justice, human rights conventions, equal access to resources, gender equality, human dignity, accepting others as they are, and not as they should be, regardless of their cultural, racial, or religious backgrounds. We believe in people's capacities which they can use to improve their lives towards social change.

The Trust has built up a range of effective programs that develop the capacities and improve the lives of children, young women, educators and mothers living in marginalized situations and aiming at transforming their sense of hopelessness and dependency into individual and collective feeling of hope and capabilities.



Our Mission:

- Contribute to the maintenance and development of Palestinian cultural identity.
- Improve the quality of life of the marginalized groups mainly women and children.
- Strengthen social responsibility through community empowerment

Our goals are to:

- Support the development of community coherence and integrity;
- Enhance and facilitate empowerment of women, children and families;
- Provide a development basis for children and women towards a functional family;
- Create networks among organizations that share our values
- Promote and provide training for women leadership.

All our programs contribute to social change through targeting the family in a holistic, integrative and inclusive approach, constantly developing to meet the local needs of our target groups; ranging from service delivery to raising awareness and community empowerment. Being community based we focus on building the capacities of the local professional staff and the paraprofessionals, and involving the local target groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of our programs, towards achieving long lasting effects.

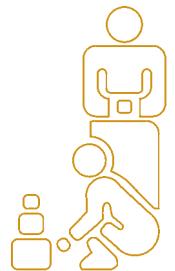


Current Programs

The Mother-to-Mother Program supports and strengthens the parenting skills of young mothers (and fathers) and empowers them individually and as a group. It empowers mothers and offers them the supervision and guidance to become more effective members of the society on the family and the community levels.

The Young women empowerment program aims at improving the quality of life of young women and teen-age girls towards inclusion and community involvement. In addition to involving their parents towards building better relations within the family and preventing early marriages.

Community based preschool education program which addresses the preschools as the unit of intervention towards developing both a physical and educational friendly environment for the children. The program develops the teachers inborn potential to interact with the children following the life-oriented approach in a safe and supportive environment.





Combating Family

Violence Program aims at engaging in the fight against violence in families, developing new capacities and equips them with the necessary skills and technical know-how to face the challenges of family violence. The need for skills is ever increasing.

The Learn-by-Play program which aims at limiting illiteracy and decreasing the dropout rate from schools by operating on three levels: parents, teachers, pupils. College students and young adults are engaged as volunteers.

The Trust's CTRD "Center for Training, Research and Development"

which seeks to contribute to early childhood, family and community education by conducting action research, feasibility and planning studies, program evaluation and training.

Programs' Highlights

The Mother-to-Mother program

The Mother-to-Mother program is one of the Trust main programs; it runs in all target areas as a lifelong learning program that builds on the capacities of mothers from the target sites. The Mother-to-Mother program develops the mothers' potentials to become social change agents who can contribute in improving the lives of other mothers from their neighbourhood on the personal, family and community levels; over the years the program has contributed in raising healthier and happier children and will continue with new mothers towards a better future.

The paraprofessional mothers and the program coordinators have succeeded not only to enter the homes of the mothers for counselling on early childhood development and nutrition but it has encouraged the mothers to take a closer look to their children's emotional and

educational needs. The coordinators' observations bear witness to the positive impact the program has had on both the mothers and the children, and bridging the

Quote: "I never thought that I will be able to help anyone, and today I have the skills to talk to another mother and guide her through her child's early years, and I can't express my happiness when in the next meeting she tells me that she benefited from my advice".



cultural gap between home and school.

The mothers showed a lot of interest in the subjects given; their in-born potentials were put to practice during the group discussions and how they shared their opinions and their experiences with the group. In June 2015, 36 mothers from Jerusalem and Ramla graduated the training courses and presented their graduation projects in front of their husbands and other family members, they were confident enough to perform a short play and a poem and share their experience in the program.

Most of the mothers involved in the program have developed on the personal and family levels, they have been active in their family and community, many of them have proved their ability to develop themselves, to learn new skills and even to pass it on to other mothers from their

Quote by mother: "I used to think that my child only needed from me to change his diaper and feed him, but now I learned about the other senses that they are just as important for his development and today I feel closer to my child".

neighbourhood. The paraprofessionals reported that many of the mothers are volunteering at schools, preschools, community centres... and that some of them will continue their education and that they are encouraging their children to study and their older children to finish school and go to college.

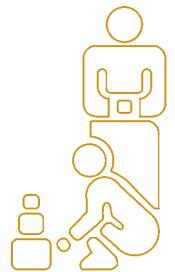
Quote by mother: "the program taught me that I have rights and that I have dreams and skills that I can develop, I want to continue in acting and soon you will see me acting".



Programs Highlights

A breakthrough in 2014-2015 was establishing and consolidating the mother and child centers that have become firmly rooted and active in Shufat Refugee Camp, in two of the villages Northwest Jerusalem and in Ramla acting as a supportive and safe environment for children, mothers and teachers from our different programs. The centers are run by para-professional mothers themselves; they provide an open space where other mothers can come with their children, share experiences, benefit from the educational games and books and also attend educational and arts workshops.

The centers have reached more than the planned numbers, the mothers and the children are now encouraging their neighbours and relatives to join them. The centers are a gathering point for all the marginalized women and children in these areas.



Community based preschool education program for children

This year the program targeted the preschool as the unit of intervention, both the physical environment in the preschools and the educational environment, it involved all the components that support the child's optimal development and addressed the different key situations in each area,

The program built on the potentials of the teachers who finished the basic and advanced course, by training them and the directors on adopting the life oriented approach. Also the parents of the children became involved in many activities and the teachers and directors encouraged them to take an effective role in their child's education at school.

In 2014-2015, all the program objectives were addressed as planned, where 50 teachers from both level A and B preschools received on-the-job training using the life oriented approach which

was implemented at all the preschools according to the children's developmental stages and needs. In addition, the program will contribute to the early childhood curriculum in the PNA area, till now three key situations were implemented and documented: Healthy nutrition, Hygiene and coping with stress.

Both the teachers and the local stakeholders have contributed to the success of the program and in raising the parents' awareness to the available services that offer physical and emotional support. The cooperation of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education has encouraged



Programs Highlights





the parents and the teachers to commit to the program and have confidence in the material given. In addition the Trust and the Ministry of Education reached an agreement where they certified the teachers training graduation certificates.

It is worth mentioning that as a result of the program, the preschools where the

program is implemented have developed to become mini community centers. This is because of the lack of services in the areas of implementation which has brought the families closer to the preschools where they became involved in the different activities through the parent teacher councils, the committees and the workshops.

On 7th June, 2015, four educators from the Trust's preschools team in cooperation with Caritas Germany went on an exposure visit to the preschools in Freiburg for twelve days.

“the visit to foreign preschools has added a lot to our experience as a team. The activities we observed were suitable for the children's ages and culture oriented. They followed different educational approaches like the Life Oriented Approach, the Infans concept and the Maria Montessori approach, which were very useful to help teach the children reading and math with discipline that doesn't limit the children's creativity and independence. We have learned a lot during our visit, they believe



in child rights, they respect the differences in cultures; they involve the parents and are environment friendly. They encourage using scrap materials and we were surprised that during the activities the children use real tools instead of plastic disposable tools. We will continue to learn and implement what we learned in our preschools, we will never forget this visit, thank you Roswitha and Irene”.





The Learn-by-Play Program

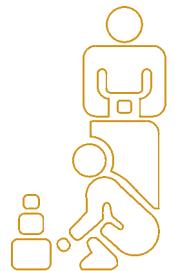
The program continued this year to provide the necessary support to 470 pupils (boys and girls) from Jerusalem and the villages Northwest of Jerusalem, on both academic and behavioral levels, using the active learning approach and encouraging the pupils to express themselves and to experience success while they improve their school achievement and their self-esteem.

Quote by one of the mothers:

"I am very happy with the program, I used to argue with my son every day to do his homework or to wake up for school, but now he is happier and willing to study before going out to play with his friends. The tutors are very cooperative, they gave me some advice during the parents meetings and I am satisfied with my child's progress who is now able to multiply and divide numbers."



The pupils' groups continued through regular afterschool meetings and activities that were conducted by 42 of our tutors who finished special training in training groups following the Learn-by-Play approach. What distinguishes the program is that it





takes the curriculum and simplifies it into work-papers developed by the Trust, that helps the pupils understand the material and learn in a pleasant way. It also involves the mothers of the pupils through regular group meetings and home visits.

In addition to the monthly fun-days, the Trust organized and conducted a closing festival for the members of the Learn-by-Play program in December 2014 for the end of the semester and in June 2015 for



Programs Highlights

the end of the school year. Pupils from the target areas participated and some mothers volunteered and some representatives of local institutions participated.

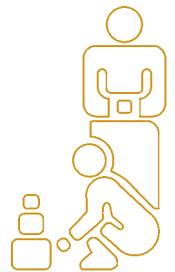
Several activities took place such as: singing and dancing, face painting, free play... At the end of the festival, certificates of appreciation were distributed to the tutors.

The Jewel on the crown was establishing and consolidating the three Community Schools in the villages of Qubeibeh, Al-Jeeb and Al-Jdeereh which opened their doors to the local community and served students of different ages through extracurricular activities in addition to welcoming their mothers in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the local councils and the schools' principals and teachers.

In June 2015, a summative evaluation of the program was conducted by an outside evaluator and in cooperation with the Trust's team. Following are some of the recommendations that resulted from the

evaluation and which we will follow in the program plan and implementation:

- 1. Developing and documenting the program's materials, issue educational materials for both third and fourth grades as was done for the second grade. And developing teaching aids educational games for the English subject and for the mathematics subject for the third and fourth grades.*
- 2. To continue working on combating violence program and spread it to all schools where the Learn-by-play program is implemented.*
- 3. Follow-up and develop a complimentary program for the fifth and sixth grade pupils mainly in the schools where the young women program for teen age girls is implemented by the Trust which will act as a bridge between the two programs.*
- 4. Continue to involve the families even after their children finish the program and involving the fathers in the parents' meetings and activities that address the family as a unit.*





5. *Enhancing the networking with the Ministry of education and to work on getting the Ministry of education to acknowledge the tutors years of experience in the program which will help them pursue further studies.*

The pupils showed improvement and progress, in Arabic language, Arithmetic, and English language, their school grades are improving and their school teachers'

gave us positive feedback about both the pupils' behavior and their studies:



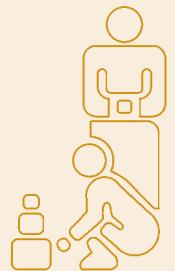
Programs Highlights



“Amani, 8 year old girl, she used to sit alone all the time, didn’t interact with the other kids or participate in the classroom, she had low school achievement and she was indifferent about her grades. After she joined the program her teachers started to see some improvement on her, she says good morning and thank you,

she has friends who play with her in the playground and prepares her homework and participates in class. Her mother was also happy with this improvement, she said that Amani gradually improved her grades and she can see that her behavior has improved as well: “my daughter shares with me the work-papers she takes in the program and sometimes she teaches her brother the playing activities that she did with the group. I am so happy and I will certainly continue to encourage her”.

During the activities the tutor found out that Amani has a beautiful voice and with some moral support, Amani shared her voice by singing a song in the final recreational day and everyone applauded. We are all proud of Amani and we are sure that she is proud of herself.





The Young Women Empowerment Program

This program addresses young women from different ages within three groups of ages from 13-25 years old.

The young women are more aware of the disadvantages of early marriage and of the importance of obtaining their high-school degree, and taking part in their community. One of the remarkable achievements this

year was involving young males from the mixed schools of Ramla together with the young women's group ages 13-16 years. It has been a successful experience so far that aimed at preventing school drop-out and discussing subjects like their dreams, future plans, identity, life skills, early marriages, etc...

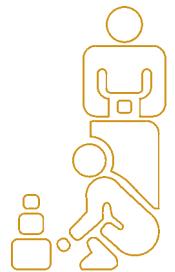


Programs Highlights



Quote by one teenage woman from Jerusalem area: "The program brought me closer to my mother, I feel that she understands me more and that I can count on her in any problem I might face, we spend more time together and she stands up for me".

The groups showed commitment to attend and participate actively in the meetings, there was improvement in their grades at school and their decision to continue school. The coordinators reported that all of the young women involved continued to eighth and ninth grade, and there was no school drop-out among any of them. Most of the young women involved in the program reported and showed increase in their self-confidence and in their relation with their parents, they improved their physical appearance, they talked more about their feelings and emotions in the groups and participate more in the discussions. Furthermore, being tutors in the learn-by-play program allowed them to become active members in the society, and improved their communication skills. Quote by tutor: "the program has improved my self-confidence, I never imagined that I would be a tutor for a group of children who look up to me and learn from me."





The program's successful results were clearly seen in the summative evaluation that was conducted in July 2015 that highlighted the significant development of the young women on the personal and social levels, following are some of the recommendations:

- To conduct joint meetings for both the mothers and their daughters in order to improve communication that can help improve their relations and increase dialogue.
- To continue with the self-empowerment component that contributes in improving the young women's confidence and integrity on the personal, physical,

cognitive and social levels.

- Integrating the young women in community based activities, such as leading groups in the Summer Camp, volunteering at the hospital
- To continue capacity building of the Trust's staff members through consultancy workshops given either by our program coordinator or by outside specialists.

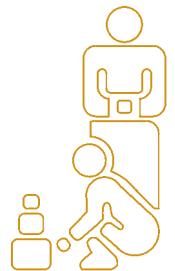
Quote: "the program has put me on the first step of the ladder; and I will climb it to the top".



The Combating Family Violence Program

This is the last phase of the program, which ends after ten years intervention in the villages North West Jerusalem, but will continue through our running programs in the different areas. This is part of the Trust's holistic and integrative

approach, where we brought the positive impact of the program and our accumulated experience beyond this specific program, by integrating its components into the Mother-to-Mother program and the Learn-by-Play program.



The program continued this year to deepen and consolidate our work with open and closed groups. The home counselling continued in synergy with the Mother-to-Mother program and as for severe cases of sexual violence they were referred to the local police department.

The impact of the closed groups was seen on the personal level of the women who opened up and expressed their feelings in front of the group. The group showed moral support to one another and in many cases it was the first time that these women speak out about their suffering. On the family level as well the women reported that they have started discussing the meetings contents at home with members of their families and expressed how they benefited from the meetings in improving their relation with their small and young children. Many mothers reported that



Quote by mother: "I learned from the other women's experience that change starts with me, if I change my perspective and accept my teen age son the way he is, and try to understand him and his behavior then my husband will also understand him and we would have less conflict at home. Today I can understand what my son means when he tells me that he is a grown man and I now support him instead of making fun of him".



Programs Highlights

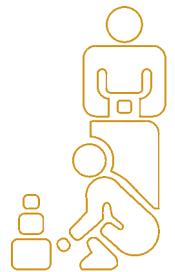
their husbands don't hit their children as much as they used to.

In 2014 two training courses were conducted one for social workers and another for journalists and members of the media. In 2015 following the trainings there were several meetings between the representatives of the Ministries, the police department and the Trust to discuss the possibility of establishing a safe home for the cases of abused young women and children. This issue is still under discussion.

The networking and the training courses that were conducted have contributed a lot in changing the approach of the stakeholders who used to think that support should be financial, they now believe the importance of counselling and professional support to the individuals.



As part of the program sustainability we deepening our network with the local stakeholders mainly with the schools, the local councils of the villages, the local police department and the Ministry of social welfare who have cooperated with us and helped us in implementing the program and some of our workshops like the study day that was conducted in June 2015 in cooperation with the Police department for 88 participants from all the villages on drug abuse, signs of addiction and prevention that had a positive feedback from all the participants.



The Center for Training, Research and Development “CTRD”

- In May 2015 we started cooperation with the Maltese Ministry of Education and Employment to conduct training to Arab immigrants mainly mothers. This idea was a result of our successful experience in Essen-Germany, where we also conducted training for mothers and who are now successfully running the mother-to-mother program. The Trust is willing to contribute with its experience by helping in the inclusion of mothers and children in the Maltese educational system and in their everyday life.



..Special Thanks..

Special Thanks and appreciation to all our supporters who were kind and generous enough to allow our programs to continue to serve the local community:

- Deutscher Caritasverband - Germany
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany BMZ (through Deutscher Caritasverband)
- The Swiss Friends of Kirjat Jearim in Israel - Switzerland
- Katholische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V. – Misereor - Germany
- Kindermissionswerk - Germany
- Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation Inc. - USA
- The Harris Foundation - USA
- The Leo Model Foundation - USA
- Stichting Kinderpostzegels – Netherlands
- The Linden Stiftung - Germany
- Evangelischer Arbeitskreis kirche und Israel in hessen und Nassau
- Caritas Italiana – Italy
- The International Child Development Initiatives (ICDI) – Netherlands
- UN Fund on Modern Slavery
- Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (ACPP) - Spain
- The Trust Germany

