

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



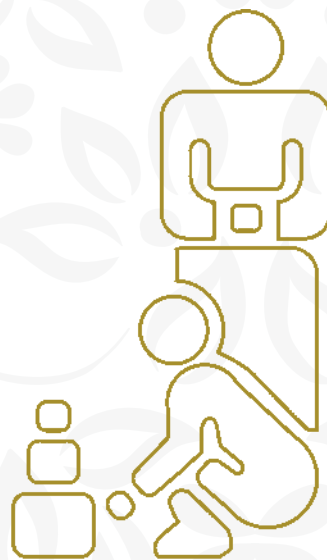
ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The Trust of Programs for Early Childhood  
Family and Community Education

# ANNUAL REPORT **2021**

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Jerusalem



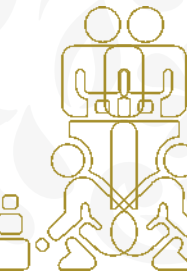


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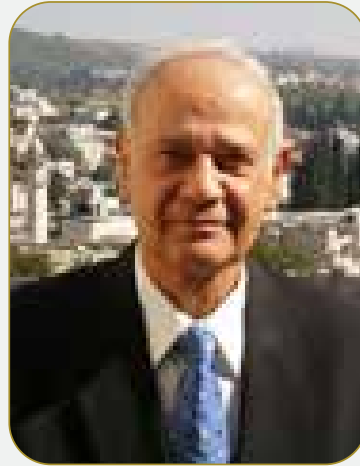
# Contents

4	Foreword
6	Introduction
8	About Us
10	Current Programs
12	Mother-to-Mother Program
16	The Young Women Empowerment Program
19	Community Based Preschool Education Program for Children
22	Community Educational Centers
23	The Learn-by-Play Program
26	Combating Family Violence
29	Special Thanks



# Foreword

It has been a challenging year but we have been able to achieve great strides, thanks to the generosity and kindness of our donors and the efforts of our wonderful team of coordinators and paraprofessionals. The intensity of the experience with the Covid 19 pandemic was overwhelming even after lifting the lockdown and returning to our semi-normal lives. All the programs' activities have returned gradually to face-to face, the home visits, individual counseling, training workshops, and study-days reaching the young women, educators, mothers and children while maintaining the safety regulations.



No doubt we are going through a difficult situation in different aspects of life. Not only do we feel the dire health situation with the outbreak of the coronavirus all over the world, but also equally worrying is the war that recently broke out between Russia and Ukraine, and all the negative impact it brought. In addition, we are witnessing the growing phenomenon of the severe acts of violence that our society is going through and the tragic consequences it leaves behind. We hope this dark cloud passes over so that we will finally have a calmer and more peaceful life.

I will ask you all not to surrender to the harsh phenomena, and instead to stand firm without losing hope. Of course, I do not wish to ignore the situation in which we live, but I propose to make sure to find ways to maintain a calm state of mind and to continue the activity in all the family and educational areas that our organization has been carrying and which sees this activity as the ultimate goal for its existence. I ask all of us to be strong and to act decisively to achieve our aims for the benefit of society in general and for the sake of the next age of our generation.

**Dr. Awni Habash**  
Chairperson

# Introduction

*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

In last year's annual report we shared with you the difficulties and challenges we faced due to Covid 19, we all hoped that it will have less effect on our families all over the globe, but we were disappointed.

New variants of Covid 19 started to attack us and many countries decided toward the end of 2021 to lead semi-normal life along with the virus. This decision not to give up to the virus gave hope to the families that “we are back to normal” however, the fear intensified when almost every family here, from staff and from target groups, has been infected. True that the symptoms were not as acute due to the vaccination, nevertheless it left the families traumatized just by hearing the name Covid 19.

Despite this fear our programs continued as planned building on the lessons learned from last year which helped us to meet most of our objectives, as you will read in this report.

One of the major lessons learned was the need to strengthen our network with our local partners, from stakeholders, community leaders and NGOs. Pooling resources and building local capacities of our target groups is a corner stone in our approach which was a big challenge within the emerging needs during the Covid19 pandemic and have become a question of survival.



Another lesson learned is the importance of flexibility in applying the services and using technologies and social media in our favor, such as the Zoom platform and WhatsApp. We were also flexible in responding to the emerging needs in the community such as the increase in family violence, early marriages, stress levels among the families and the fear of the parents of the negative effect of social media on their children. This was possible with the commitment of our staff of professionals and paraprofessionals and their ability to identify the needs and to think outside the box.

On the administrative level, there were some changes like strengthening the role of the middle management team and giving them the authority to respond to the emerging needs effectively, following the approach “there are no failure clients only failure intervention”. With the correct intervention our team was able to address these difficult circumstances which intensified the already existing socio-political reality. I do believe that in every crisis there is a challenge, and that in every challenge there is an opportunity.

On behalf of the many families, our board and staff thank you for giving a hand and drawing a smile on their faces in these gloomy days.

**Farid Abu Gosh**  
Director General





# About Us

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 community through education and leadership developmental programs that are currently running in Jerusalem in the Shufat Refugee Camp, Ramla, Lod, the villages North West Jerusalem and in Rahat.

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 and innovative programs that develop the skills 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.

All our programs are holistic, integrative and inclusive, constantly developing to meet the emerging needs of the target groups; ranging from service delivery to raising awareness, psychosocial support and community empowerment.



## Vision

A society where social justice and human dignity is achieved.

## Mission:

To contribute in improving the quality of life of the individuals and families within the marginalized communities through the Trust's different and diversified programs that enhance social awareness and community involvement.

## Monitoring

All the projects are regularly monitored and evaluated by the programs coordinators through:

- Using pre-post evaluation forms that is mostly done using Google Docs, Kobo, and manually. These forms help to follow up the progress and addressing the needs, it has also helped in improving the program in a flexible manner that constantly seeks to support the growth of its target population.
- Regular staff meetings once a month on program level and twice a year on organization staff level. These regular meetings involves the staff in the planning and evaluation of the progress and data collection from a variety of sources including weekly visits and observations of the progress, focus group discussions, periodical reports, attendance records, recommendations resulting of study-days and minutes of the meetings.
- Summative evaluation of each project every three to five years.



# The Trust's Current Programs

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 the target groups; ranging from service delivery to raising awareness and community empowerment.

**The Mother-to-Mother Program** supports and strengthens the parenting skills of young mothers (and fathers) through building the capacities of mothers to become paraprofessionals and in turn support other mothers from their neighborhood.

**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 educators' inborn potential to interact with the children following the Life-Oriented Approach with certification of the Palestinian Ministry of Education and with the support of Caritas Germany.

**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.

**Volunteering:** young women and mothers from the above mentioned programs volunteer in the local community through the Trust's activities or other initiatives to help mothers and children by spreading joy and moral support.

**Combating Family Violence Program** aims at limiting and preventing violence in families, it is integrated into the running programs of the Trust as part of the holistic and integrative approach.



# Programs' Highlights

## The Mother-to-Mother program

The **Mother-to-Mother Program** is a lifelong learning program that corresponds to the Trust's overall mission of improving the quality of life of the marginalized groups mainly women and children, and giving the mothers the necessary skills to become involved in their community.

The Mother-to-Mother program is based on building capacities and empowering women from the local community. A selected group of 28 mothers completed the intensive **training** that includes theoretical material, pre-work training and on the job training. This training strategy allows the mothers to gain skills and comprehend them in order to become paraprofessionals and perform **group and individual counselling** which reached 200 families this year. The paraprofessionals also showed



**volunteering** spirit and got back to volunteering as soon as the situation allowed re-entering the hospitals, senior homes, and by helping at the centers on monthly basis.



After a long time using Zoom and WhatsApp, all of the program's activities resumed face-to-face in the second half of 2021 with the **couples groups** and **grandmothers groups** who enjoyed the workshops activities and expressed that the subjects given respond to their needs mainly on improving their communication skills and coping with stress during these difficult times. However, the paraprofessionals and the coordinators still have to face the challenge of Covid 19 and its variations which





in some cases has prevented them from conducting the home visits and giving the counselling by phone or WhatsApp as an alternative to the visit.



In November 2021 a **study day** took place face-to-face for the launching of the new edition of “popular cultural rhymes” with 29 paraprofessionals and the Trust team. A special thanks goes to Dr. Roseland Da’em for her professional contribution in editing the new edition of the book. The paraprofessionals gained skills on how to guide the mothers to use this book during home counseling.

The mothers join activities at the **community educational centres** where they improve their bonding with their children and at the same time meet other mothers, exchange experiences, make educational tools, and borrow story books. It is important that within the ongoing conflict that women and children find a safe space to enjoy quality services and activities that can also mitigate the psychosocial impact of the situation, give them hope, and act as a getaway from the daily stress.



The **Community Based Committees** are active with the professional follow-up of the Trust’s coordinator who gives monthly counseling to the women on the difficulties they face in the field and enrichment as needed. There are five CBCs: three in the villages northwest Jerusalem, one in Shufat and one in Ramla consisting of active women and senior paraprofessionals who meet twice a month for planning activities and for enrichment. The CBCs members

showed commitment and motivation to approach the local women organizations and policy makers to mobilize the efforts towards advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and conduct activities in cooperation with the local organizations and community stakeholders to serve the local community such as health campaigns, summer camps for children, and child safety in the streets.



### The Young women empowerment program

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

The young women empowerment program has resumed successfully in all sites with 410 girls ages 13-17, 165 young women ages 18-25, and 119 mothers. The program has had a positive impact on them, it has given them skills to improve their status and learn about their rights, most of them have shown better self-confidence and awareness to their health, hygiene, and role in their community.

The program continued to respond to the emerging needs, for example the



issue of cyber bullying that exposed the young women to the danger of abuse due to the extra use of the social media for learning and entertainment and also the recent worries reported by the mothers about the use of electronic cigarette among their teen age boys and girls. Therefore, the coordinators focused on awareness raising on the risks of the internet and cyber bullying, and recently they learned about the disadvantages of the electronic cigarette. They focused on issues such as self-care, spending time effectively, activities to do with their families, communication with their mothers, coping with stress and also the subjects agreed in the original plan such as confidence, physical health, life skills, expectations... The groups adapted well to the Zoom meetings and participated actively, the coordinators used PowerPoint, discussion and open questions that allow the girls to share their opinion. The schools' counsellors also participated in the meetings and showed cooperation.

Due to lockdown and safety regulations volunteering was put on hold, but after it was lifted the young women returned to the volunteering activities either at the hospitals or the senior home, some of them dressed as a clown, where they brought joy through music, dances, face painting and balloons.

In June 2021, a face-to-face workshop was conducted for 24 young women in which they enjoyed educational and stress release activities with a specialist, at the end of the day they were given a small token of appreciation for their efforts in the program and serving their community.





The mothers groups are conducted at the schools that we work with, they are open groups conducted once a month part on whatsapp and Zoom, and part face-to-face meetings. The groups helped in bridging the gap between the mothers and their daughters. Most of the mothers showed better understanding of their daughters' needs and their surroundings. They also learned about risks of internet and how to create an open relation with their daughter to prevent them from falling victims to cyber abuse.



### Community based preschool education program

The **Community based preschool education program** addresses the preschool as the unit of intervention towards developing both a physical and educational friendly environment for the children. The program develops the educators' inborn potential to interact with the children following the Life-Oriented Approach (LOA).

Based on the success of the trial group of Training of Trainers (ToT) another two ToT groups took their trainings in the district of Ramallah and Al-Bireh in this report period. The participants received theoretical and practical training on the participatory approach and gained knowledge on LOA. They utilized the training methods of adult education by using communication skills and open questions, small groups, summing the discussions results, using audio-visual tools, and setting a plan for the training and running the group.





The Trust's coordinator and three of MoE supervisors followed up the work of most of the participants using the evaluation and observation forms which showed commitment and capacity to carry out the LOA and implementing the key situations in new preschools in the area of Ramallah and its surrounding.

They also participated in the open Zoom workshops that the Trust has conducted since the beginning of the year and shared these workshops' YouTube links with the mothers of children in their preschools. They also participated in the arts workshops and produced educational games that enrich the preschools' environment.



In Dec. 2021 a big two day graduation took place where 170 participants (MoE supervisors and preschools' directors from ToT, and preschool teachers in LoA training) received certificates signed by the Trust, Caritas Germany, MoE, and Al-Tireh College. In the graduation we were honored and happy that Ms. Roswitha Brender participated via Zoom and gave an encouraging word to the graduates. There was also full media coverage of the event (in the newspapers, social media, radio and TV) and later interviews on TV with the preschools directors.

Two new editions of the magazine "Family Minaret" was printed and published focusing on Early Childhood development stage, the life oriented approach, Involving parents in the preschool, storytelling, coping mechanisms in the difficult situation during corona, and news about the Trust's activities.

The Curriculum for preschools was developed during the first and second phase of the program. Currently, we are developing a Training Guide for trainers that is in the final stages in consultation with Caritas Germany's consultant Ms. Irene Berger.



In Ramla, the Kindergarten activities have been conducted through storytelling as a tool to help children to express their feelings. The teachers have given a positive feedback that the stories help them understand the child's feeling of anger, envy, sadness, anxious, happiness...





### Community Educational Centers:

The Trust, through the preschool education program, was able to enrich and run six community educational centers (CECs) that serve the local community in Shufat Refugee Camp, Ramla, Al-Tireh, Biddo, Bir Nabala, and Al-Bireh where the CECs deepened the skills and knowledge of educators in early childhood and arranging the preschool environment, and adding educational games that correspond to the different key situations. Quote by educator: “today I plan the activity according to the key situation, just as I learned.” In addition to raising the mothers’ awareness on how to identify mild disabilities of children, the CECs worked on Healthy nutrition during Corona, first weeks in the preschool and child emotional connection during Corona. The CECs mainly in Shufat, Ramla, and Biddo are open to the mothers, children and educators since the lockdown was lifted. They conducted mother-child activities, workshops to relief stress for the mothers. Fun activities for school children and for the local community who also enjoyed the available games and books at the centers, and the educational activities and arts workshops.



### The Learn-by-Play Program

The Learn-by-Play program is based on the vision that every child has the right to education, it aims at reducing and limiting the factual and latent drop-out among the children, aims at limiting illiteracy and decreasing the dropout rate from schools. The program operates on three levels: parents, teachers, pupils, while engaging youths in the program as tutors after they receive the necessary training and enrichment. This year 35 young women worked as tutors to 320 pupils/children, from 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade. The support given to the pupils is on the academic and behavioural levels, using the active learning approach and encouraging the pupils to express themselves and improve their school achievement and their self-esteem.

Not only the children’s academic skills were affected by the lockdown, the reports by our coordinators show that the percentage of family violence has



increased which is why many mothers approached us for support and advice on child behavior and learning, this





required addressing this issue through the parents meetings, and increasing the activities that help the children to release stress and manage time constructively. Most of the children lost the basic skills during the confinement and lack of practice, which required a serious intervention by our tutors to help them revise the basic methods and get back on track. the tutors focused on revising the basic skills, such as reading, spelling, math, using simple educational tools and work-papers. All school children continued to follow the safety measures such as wearing masks, sanitation and keeping distance even after the lockdown was lifted and learning back in school face-to-face. The tutors planned the activities according to the

groups' needs and prepared the work-papers according to the subjects given at school. They continued to meet with the school teachers and counselors for feedback on the pupils' progress and to plan the fun-days together. Many school teachers have reported that they are using the program's work-papers with the rest of the class, and that active learning methods have helped them in addressing the pupils' individual needs. An unplanned activity took place in July 2021, it was conducting four Summer Camps full of activities for 279 children.

One in Shufat Refugee Camp at the Trust's child center for 38 children, one in Ramla for 95 children, another in Beit Anan village at the Health Club for 110 children, and one in Biddo village at Trust's child center for 36 children. The children enjoyed two weeks of educational and fun activities, competitions, arts workshops, clowns, face painting, etc... and a daily healthy breakfast.

The parents were very cooperative and just as happy as their children to return to learning and benefiting from the program's activities. The parents were involved through the parent teacher meetings that follow-up the academic progress of their children, and also through workshops that aimed at improving their communication skills with their children and raising their awareness to: family violence, cyber bullying and internet abuse. The tutors shared with the parents the new platform and explained to them how to download it and gave them a username.

- Learning Platform: A learning platform was developed to be accessible on children's/parents phones and tablets, the first pilot phase is ready , the students have started using it with the follow-up of their tutors. You can find it in the app store under <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ps.provision.playandlearn>. It enhances the child's basic skills in Arabic language, the team and the IT specialist will continue next year with developing the app with exercises on advance skills. As soon as the application was ready ten young women received special training on how to use the app, enrol children, and follow-up their progress.





### Combating Family Violence

Combating Family Violence Program aims at limiting and preventing violence in families, it is integrated into the running programs of the Trust as part of the holistic and integrative approach. Based on the coordinators' observation, reports and the evaluation forms, in addition to the feedback from the mothers, school teachers and the coordinators, the forced confinement during Covid 19 pandemic has contributed in the spread of family violence and cyber bullying. This required the Trust to address family violence through all its running programs and focus the subjects given on the emerging needs of the families.

In Ramla, the local committee on violence resumed successfully, it involves representatives of local decision makers: The department of

social affairs, education and sports, the community leadership, the police, and the civil department, municipality and government. They meet once a month to discuss the future plan to prevent family and community violence. What concerns the committee was that there is fear by the victims of violence to report the abuser, there are no frameworks for youths, and that there is neglect by the Police of the community crimes.

Online Workshops to open groups: This group succeeded to reach a larger audience of women, mothers, parents, young women and educators. The invitation was open to the community and reached between 100-120 participants each time. The workshops were given by specialists in education, psychology, health, drama, etc. 21 workshops took

place in this report period of which the group discussed the effect of internet on children, Learning on-line, Dangerous websites and how to restrict them and protect children using "family link app", the workshops also discussed violence, its symptoms, shapes, intervention and preventions. A social comedy show and a workshop on activities for dealing with children under stress, and the rest of the workshops discussed issues on adolescents and understanding the physical, cognitive and emotional changes during adolescence.

The Zoom workshops have proved to be effective, after the end of the workshop a link is sent directly to the participants so that they can evaluate the workshop on Docs and give their feedback. Most of the participants gave positive feedback stating that the subjects given respond to

their needs mainly on coping with stress, cyberbullying and interaction with their families. 76% of the mothers in the program have reported that during the on line workshops their family gathered around the computer and listened with interest to the on-line workshop.

In October 2021 a big study day took place in Ramallah for 40 participants to present the achievements in combating family violence where representatives from the local councils, police, the Good Friend Association participated with their experience in helping cases of gender based violence. One of the young women and one of the paraprofessionals shared their success story with the participants explaining how proud they were of taking a part in limiting family violence and making a positive impact on the women in their community.





**Digitalizing is a key tool for enabling;** it is important that the program reaches a broader public, therefore, all the program's major activities will be published on the social media, and short videos will be shared and published on the Trust's channel on YouTube "Trust of Programs". The Zoom open group will continue once a month, they will be given by specialists in education or social work who will focus on adolescence and limiting family violence. The Trust's team will be available to take calls from mothers and young women for support and advice. The team will also continue to develop the Learn-by-Play platform to include an advance level of learning and to reach more school children.

The paraprofessionals and mothers will learn how to use "family link" a parental control application that can be downloaded from the app store on your phone, it helps to determine which sites the child can visit and to monitor

his activity. This app can protect adults and children from dangerous websites and cyber bullying. The need for such site has increased after the excessive use of the internet during lockdown especially when learning and working from a distant, most of the families that we work with have reported that they are using it with their children, and that they feel better knowing that their children are safe.

**Networking** will continue with influential educational organizations and ministries that contribute in setting the priorities of the educational system. Working with community based organizations that seek social change enhances the participatory approach in the project implementation and contributes in achieving non-violent positive education, and awareness raising of the target groups so that the children can grow in a safe and conducive environment.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks and appreciation to each of the Trust's supporters for their generosity and kindness that made it possible to carry out our community based programs as planned:

- Deutscher Caritasverband - Germany
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development Germany BMZ (through Deutscher Caritasverband)
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