

**Women's Affairs Center
Gaza**

Annual Report

2003

**Khaleel El Wazeer St. - Rimal - P.O. Box 1281, Gaza
Tel.: 08 – 2877311; 08 - 2877312 ; Fax : 08 - 2877313; E-mail: wac@hally.net**

Contents

Introduction

The political & economic context 4

WAC Direction in 2003 5

The Women's Affairs Center 6

Goals and legal status

WAC Objectives

WAC Structure

Funding organizations

Networking

Staff capacity building

General Activities

The Programs: achievements and accomplishments

January-December 2002

The Training & Capacity Building Program 10

Main accomplishments: Training

Workshops

Training Material

The Video Program 13

Main accomplishments: Training

Production

Services

Cinema club Activities

The Media & Communication Program 16

Main accomplishments: Training

Workshops

The Magazine

The Small Business Program	18
Main accomplishments: Training	
Exhibition	
Success Stories	
The Research and Documentation Program	20
Main accomplishments: Research	
Emergency Project	22
Ongoing Project	23
Monitoring& Evaluation	25
Tables & Charts	27

Introduction:

The Political and Economic Context:

For fifty years, the Palestinian people have been suffering from all kinds of violations. Their right to live was always threatened and that made them create many strategies to survive.

Today, more than ever these intolerable living conditions are clear. The West Bank, now occupied, and the Gaza Strip are not only disconnected but divided into several parts. The Gaza strip is divided into 3 cantons, the south, middle, and the north, The strip is totally isolated from West bank and the mobility of people in and out is occasionally hindered. People have to wait at Abu Holy check point for hours and hours, unable to go to their work from the south to Gaza and definitely tired, and frustrated with a great feeling of humiliation. The Checkpoints daily stories are very much talked about among the strip residents who usually describe a great deal of brutal Israeli behavior that is usually unexplainable and illogical.

With the isolating wall being built in the west bank and the occasional Israeli attacks inside the strip, the psychosocial environment in the besieged territories is deteriorating. Israeli forces use air force attacks, tanks shelling and the massive destruction against people in the strip. Many houses are bombed during day-time regardless of people living in the nearby or walking in the street at that moment. Gaza most famous streets have experienced air force attacks at cars that carry some wanted people for Israel which created a great feeling of horror among the people. These sudden terrifying attacks usually cause many innocent people to die or injure while only passing the street!! Added to that the unexpected breaking in into big neighborhoods during the day, such as Shejaeea or Zaytoun that are highly populated which ended in most cases in lots of killings and injuries. Such circumstances had caused fear, anxiety and despair among Gazan People.

During 2003, women were also affected by the continuous Israeli aggression. Many lost their husbands, sons or a close relative and many others had them injured. They had to cope with the high rates of poverty and unemployment and the growing burdens of being a bread winner and a family care taker. Without mentioning the many psychological sufferings they had to go through due to experiencing sad losses, being subjected to violence or watching their houses demolished. The Palestinian economy is negatively

affected by the harsh conditions. Labor indicators showed the fragility of the Palestinian economy and the depth of its deepening on the Israeli economy. They also showed the impact of structural and cultural factors in restricting the absorption of women in the regular workforce. Standard surveys showed a low rate of women's participation in the Palestinian workforce. **5.5%** of women participated in the GS labor force and **14.8%** in the WB (the economic monitor , 2003), added to that, **% 30** of households headed by women live under the poverty line, with **%73** of them in abject poverty. All the above mentioned make women context during 2003 a complicated miserable one thus makes the women's organizations intervention more difficult on the one hand but more needed on the other .

WAC Direction in 2003:

In 2003, WAC activities were marked by working in the female university students campuses, exploring their problems and challenges with offering some guidance and support . WAC tried to empower this phenomena in order to create young female cadres, who will later on have more role in the decision-making processes and who will find themselves more opportunities in the work market, improving with that the existing women's context. Moreover, WAC increased its activities that are held in the south area e.g. Rafah and Khan Younis and that was in coordination with some local organizations in the south , such as the UNRWA centers or in coordination with other NGOs in Gaza that have branches in the south such as the Mental Health Program and The Palestinian Center for Human Rights .

Definitely WAC was affected by the general political and economic context during the past year . Every person working at WAC was affected one way or another by the Intifada, especially 3 employees who live in the south and middle area. Despite the many obstacles in the way of women's support and empowerment and despite the national affair that usually takes all the attention, WAC continued to work for the welfare and well being of women .

The Women's Affairs Center (WAC)

I. Goals and Legal Status

The Women's Affairs Center is a Palestinian non-governmental women organization, which, through research and training programs as well as lobbying activities, works to promote women's right and equality in Palestinian society. Aware of the dynamic and various obstacles to gender equality, the Center works to develop the necessary tools and strategies (both at the individual and collective level) to overcome them.

The Center has been operating in the Gaza Strip since 1991. On the legal side, WAC is registered with the Ministry of Interior whereas previously it was under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. This change is directly related to the passing of a new law regarding the legal status of Palestinian non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

WAC objectives

- Offer an alternative vision of women in Palestinian society as active, creative, and capable partners in the process of social changes and development.
- Provide the necessary data base and information regarding the Palestinian women status.
- Empower women to take over key positions at all levels of the society by enhancing and developing their professional and technical skills in the fields of; Economic, Management, and Community Intervention leadership.
- Enable women to enter the untraditional sectors such as; visual media and press.
- Promote women's involvement in the economy and strengthening the capacity of those who already engaged in micro enterprises and income generating projects.
- Build strong networking with other local, regional, and international women organizations to exchange visits and publications in order to exchange information and strengthening each others lobbying efforts.

II. WAC Structure:

Board of Directors :

As part of WAC continuous effort to examine and upgrade its mission, objectives, policies, development strategies, governance system , administrative system etc. and as part of better integration for the board of Directors in monitoring the activities and

working for the development of the center , **a new Board of Directors** was elected . This took place after a general assembly meeting, which was attended by **18** members out of **27**. The board of Directors conducted a meeting afterwards, in which duties were distributed (president, treasurer, vice president, etc) and some subcommittees from the General assembly were assigned to help in the consultation for WAC activities.

The board of Directors include 7 members (4 from the former one and 3 newly elected) :

Current (BOD) include :

- Zeinab Al Ghoneime (Lawyer and Head of the Legal Committee in The Palestinian Women's Union)
- Ahmad Abu Twaheen (Psychiatrist & Human Rights Activist)
- Khalid Abd elshafi (Director at UNDP)
- Sharhabeel El Zaeem (lawyer)
- Nibras Bseiso (Director of the Palestinian Banking Corporation)
- Hanan Rayyan (Paltrade Director)
- Sabah Abu Ermana (Women's Activist)

 **Staff :**

WAC staff includes **9** employees divided to the following:

The administrative team which includes:

- The Director
- The Public Relations Officer
- The accountant
- The messenger

The programs team which includes :

- The Capacity Building Program Officer
- The Media and Communication Program Officer
- The Small Business Program Coordinator
- The Video Program Coordinator
- The Research Program Coordinator

 **Temporary Vacancies:**

They include two university graduates (10 month contract)

 **3 Voulanteers**

III. Funding organizations for 2003

- NOVIB (The Netherlands)
- Christian Aid (UK)
- Danish Church Aid (Denmark)
- Grassroots International (US)
- Save the Children Federation (SCF)
- Kvinna till Kvinna (Sweden)
- World University Service (UK)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPAID)
- Ford Foundation

IV. Networking

The Center networks with various NGOs, International organizations and governmental organizations. Such networking supports the center in upgrading its policies and developing its work strategies. It also facilitates WAC work in out-reach areas in the south and north of the strip and establishes a better knowledge of WAC and its mission in empowering women and supporting them in the local communities.

WAC is also a member of:

- The Palestinian NGO Network (*PNGO*), a voluntary group composed of 38 non-governmental organizations working in different sectors (human, social and developmental). Its main purpose is the development and strengthening of Palestinian civil society. Since 1999.
- *AISHA*, an Arab Women's Forum established in 1993, linking 8 women's organizations throughout the Middle East. Its purpose is the formation of pressure groups to ensure the fulfillment of women's rights and their adoption at the international level.
- *FATEN*, a Palestinian NGO for Credit and Development working towards the strengthening of Palestinian micro-entrepreneurs' economic base, particularly women, through the provision of financial services.
- *CANAAN*, the Palestinian Forum of Education for Development, formed by several Palestinian NGOs in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Operating in the social, cultural and educational field, it aims to develop the NGOs sector within the institutional and legal framework established by the Palestinian Authority (PA) as well as to fortify the collaboration between the PA and the civil society.

V. Staff Capacity Building:

WAC staff participated in 2003 in several training courses, workshops, conferences (inside the Gaza Strip and outside) on various important topics. Examples of which are :

Training Course	Staff participated	The organizer
Conflict Management	The Media and Communication Officer	PNGO
Crisis Management	The Capacity Building Officer	Panorama
Advocacy & Lobbying	The Capacity Building +The media Officers	WUS (world University Service)
Human Rights for Journalists	The Research Program Coordinator	The High Commissioner Office
TOT in Human Rights	The Small Business Coordinator	Al Dameer Organization
Associations Management	The public Relations Officer	DAI (Development Alternative inc.)
Coalition Building & Public Affairs	The public Relations Officer	NDI (National Democratic Institute)

This has definitely contributed to building the staff capacity , to motivating them to excel in work performance and to giving them more knowledge of new topics and new disciplines.

VI: General Activities

International Women's Day:

WAC participated in (March 2003) with several women's organizations in the preparation for celebrating the international women's day . Due to the unstable sociopolitical situation, the event was mainly composed of :

- Publishing a statement in the local newspapers that describes the suffering of Palestinian women and the violations they were subjected to by the Israeli forces during the Intifada.
- Solidarity visits to damaged areas in the south and north of the Gaza Strip
- Screening different films that tackle the latest women's issues.

The Palestinian Book Affair :

WAC also participated in the events of the Palestinian Book affair , that was coordinated by the Ministry of Culture. Along with other publications of the members of PNGO , WAC exhibited its publications which were available for the public for free. Since the affair was crowded with visitors from all areas of the strip and from different age categories, it definitely helped WAC establish more readership for its publications and more contact with the grassroots

The programs: Achievements and Accomplishments

The Training and Capacity Building Program

The program aims at strengthening the capacity of women working in NGOs and Women's Units in the Palestinian Ministries, in a number of strategic areas including, communication, training of trainers and management. It also aims at raising their gender awareness in society and making them take key roles in their organizations.

Objectives :

- Providing a large number of working women in the public and private sectors with strategic skills that can help upgrade their vocational performance e.g. planning, communication , project management.
- Raising the awareness of working women in relation to women's issues e.g. gender, human rights , domestic violence.
- Building the capacity of women's departments or sub-departments at the governmental institutions or NGOs through networking and partnership projects.

Achievements:

Training Courses :

Num.	Topic	Target Group	Number of Participants	T. Hours	Place	In coordination with
1.	Communication & Networking	Working women at the UNRWA centers	20	16 H	UNRWA women's center	UNRWA women's center
2.	Gender & Self Assertiveness	Same target mentioned above	20	32 H	UNRWA women's centers	UNRWA women's center
3.	Gender , advocacy and	Working women at the	20	20 H Gender	UNRWA women's	UNRWA women's

	lobbying	UNRWA centers		Course 8 H Advocacy & lobbying	centers	center
4.	Gender & Communication	Trainees of the video program	12 f/m	12 H	WAC	
5.	Time Management	Working women in different women's organizations	13	5 H	Women's Affairs Technical Committee	Women's Affairs Technical Committee
6	Human Rights _ Conventions Related to Women	working women in several GOs and NGOs	17	36 H	WAC	Palestinian Center for Human rights
7.	The convention of Elimination of all types of Discrimination against women CEDAW	working women in NGOs in the northern area	23	20 H	The Palestinian Center for Human Rights- Jabalia	Palestinian Center for Human rights
8.	CEDAW	Human Rights Activists	22 f/m	3 H	Deira Hotel	Creative teacher Center

The total number of participants: **167**

Workshops:

The workshops conducted in 2003 were as follows:

Num.	Title	Target group	Number of participants	Place
1.	Gender	female university students	45	Al Quds Open University

2.	Early Marriage	female university students	35	Al Aqsa University
3.	Domestic Violence	female university students	35	Al Azhar University
4.	Palestinian women and labor	Workers at several NGOs	25 f/m	WAC
5.	The Deaf Girls' right to marriage	Workers/ Participants in Atfaluna for Deaf organization (mostly deaf workers)	100 f/m	Atfaluna for Deaf

The total number of Participants : **240**

Documentary & Training material:

- Preparing a training manual that includes several topics (Self Assertiveness, time management, Crisis management, Communication, Problem Solving ..etc.). Such topics were trained to a number of working women in local organizations.
- Gender Booklet : It's a booklet that describes all the activities (training courses, workshops, campaigns) that the center implemented in OM El Nasser village ,Al Mawasi and Abasan in order to raise gender awareness in these areas.



Video Training Program:

The main purpose of the Program is to give women the opportunity to learn non-traditional skills and to enter and compete in fields usually reserved for men. Specifically, the Center delivers technical skills in all areas of video production (from script writing, to filming, to editing). In fact, it has enabled many beneficiaries to start working in this field. Furthermore, by producing documentary-films on gender-related issues, the Program has systematically contributed to the understanding of the condition of Palestinian women in the Gaza Strip.

Achievements :

Training Courses :

Objectives:

- The training aims at giving the female trainees the required skills that enable them to work in fields they were deprived to work in before.
- Raising gender awareness for the trainees .

Training Courses Conducted in 2003 :

Num.	Topic	Target Group	Number of participants	T.Hours	Place	In coordination with
1.	Camera Skills	Students of the Young journalist Club	17 f/m	40 H	WAC	the Young journalist Club
2.	Shooting and Film Production	Employees at CHF program	8 f/m	80 H	WAC	CHF Program
3.	Film Direction	Postgraduates in Journalism	10 f	80 H	WAC	

Total Number of Participants: **35**

Production :

The program continued in participating with Palestinian filmmakers in the production of a number of documentaries and feature films in Gaza. It also offered the service of filming to other organizations as well as producing advertisements of their activities. Definitely, it would preserve its identity as a focus for gender-informed visual media.

- 2 short documentary films were produced during the year and they were graduation projects for two groups of trainees.
- A reportage was also made for the activities of (**Empowering & supporting working women in UNRWA women's centers**) project , which was implemented by WAC in The UNRWA women's Centers.

Services:

External Services:

The program offers external services through providing promotional videos for local organizations and other NGOs, which raises extra income for the program as well as provides a good training ground for trainees. For these offered services, WAC requires some fees to assist in covering some activities of the programs. At the same time, we give chances for the trainees to practice the skills they learn and use them to gain money. However, Wac is not satisfied with the income raised from such services and that's why we are working during the coming year (2004) on modernizing the equipments and buying new stuff that can help the program render a better service in quality and quantity

External Services rendered in 2003:

- Copying 12 films for Agricultural Development Organization
- Copying films for Women's Empowerment Program (Mental Health Program)
- Montage for films for Norwegian People's Aid organization .
- Visual Documentation for several activities of the Red Cross

- Copying 10 documentaries of (Spark of Hope) for the project of Gender Awareness Raising implemented by the center
- Montage for The Young Journalist Club .

Internal Services:

These services are offered for the programs of WAC, and they include copying and documenting the training courses, workshops in addition to any campaigns, or recreational activities e.g. acting.

Workshops & Cinema club Activities:

The cinema club activities include conducting workshops, which are usually composed of screening a documentary and having a discussion afterwards. they aim at giving the opportunity to women to discuss and have a debate on the films that are screened, which usually focus on women issues. There is a distinguished tendency to attend these activities especially that they are tools for discussion and consciousness raising. This would make it easy for women to discuss there situation and share problems. There were regular showings for the documentaries produced by the program

The program conducted 8 workshops; 2 specialized workshops and 6 general workshops. They were as follows:

Specialized workshops:

- 2 workshops on (Writing a documentary and melodramatic scenario) . They were attended by 30 female graduates.

General Workshops :

- ✚ 4 workshop were conducted on (Violence Against Women) for 4 groups of women from different areas (35 women from Nusseirat, 25 from Jabalia, 30 from Daraj , 25 from Shate)
- ✚ 2 workshops on (Early Marriage) were conducted . 150 female high school students attended the workshops .

The total number of participants: **295**



The Media and Communication Program

The aims of this program are to provide training to women in the wide range of communication skills necessary to affect public opinion. The program works on three levels; training in written and spoken communication skills; organizing awareness campaigns on gender, legal rights and civic education. Women's lack of access to journalism and written culture has left them outside one of the important realms of opinion formation and has left the discussion of women's issues and image to male writers. Thus the main objective of the program is to participate in the positive change of the stereotype image of the Palestinian women in media through implementing training and workshops. During 2003, the program implemented the following activities ;

Objectives

- ✚ Develop and improve the professional level of the target group in new area such as journalistic editing .
- ✚ Acquire the target group with knowledge of new fields and topic, such as Discourse Analysis, Creative Writing, and Electronic Media etc
- ✚ Raising the beneficiaries awareness in relation to women's issues and their image in media means .
- ✚ Integrating a concern for women's rights into the local media.

Achievements:

Training Courses conducted in 2003:

Num.	Topic	Num of Participants	Target group	T hours	In coordination with
1.	Media and Society	23	journalists & NGOS /GOs activist in creative writing .	30 H	Media Institute in Beir Zeit university
2.	Advocacy and Lobbying	20	Working women in Deir El Balah UNRWA center	24 H	The UNRWA Women's Centers
3.	Journalistic Writing	20	journalists	20 H	

The total number of participants: 74

Workshops conducted in 2003 :

- A Workshop was conducted on (**Palestinian Women's Movement**) in coordination with women's' study program at Beir Zeit university . 18 women attended the workshop from different women's GOs and NGos . The workshop discussed women's movement in Palestine, its development and the obstacles that confront it.
- A workshop on **Violence Against Women** was conducted in cooperation with The future Society for Violence Victims. It was attended by 17 participants .
- A workshop on (**women and Political Participation**) was conducted and was attended by 20 journalists.
- A workshop on (**A Feminist Reading for the Palestinian Constitution**) was also conducted by the program and attended by 25 female activists.
- The program conducted a workshop on (**Women's Image in local media**) for the trainees of the video program . It was attended by 25 participants.

The total number of participants: **105**

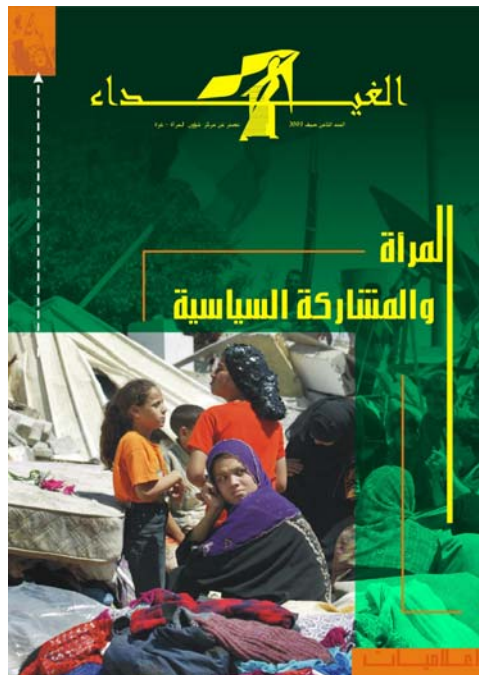
The Magazine :

WAC magazine is one of its kind in the Gaza Strip and it tackles women's latest issues and affairs reflecting on their environment and surrounding .It was created as an occasion for those women trained by the Program to apply and further improve their writing skills. It also portrays the opinions of different human rights and women activists and those of famous media writers. The magazine itself provides valuable information on health, education and particular social issues, and offers an outlet for female artists.

During 2003, **2** issues of El Ghayda'a magazine were produced (1000 copies each).

Titles of the issues :

- ✚ Women & Political Participation I
- ✚ Women & Political Participation II



The Small Business Program (Development Clinic)

The Development Clinic is a holistic approach to training for micro- enterprise that takes account of the social , political and economic handicaps confronting women engaged in small business in the context of Gaza. As such, issues such as assertiveness, life-goals, family pressures are addressed alongside basic business skills. The program aims to both promote women opening small business and to develop and strengthen the capacity of those already running their own business. The approach thus far is to first assess the problems of women within the working context and then through active engagement with existing projects to make the training as practical and student-oriented as possible

Program Objectives:

- Supporting pioneer women into certain projects.
- Providing some information about the working women micro and small enterprises, through its data bank for individuals and organizations.
- Providing consultations and promoting women's small enterprises.
- Training, development and strengthening the capacities of those already running their own business

Achievements :

Training Courses conducted in 2003 :

In 2003 , the training courses conducted focused on preparing a number of young cadre of trainers in small business . The training was implemented through 3 different stages :

- The first stage included conducting a course on **TOT** in Small Business for **23** women from different **NGOs** , especially the ones that has a program working for the development of the small business sector.
- The second stage included the Preparation of Training proposals by the trainees. **14** trainees submitted **10** proposals for training courses , which were based on needs assessment in each organization .Examples of such are :
 - How to start your Own Business (SYB)
 - Marketing & Fund Raising
 - How to Improve your Own Business(IYB)

- Gender & Small business
- The third stage included implementing the training by the trainees, each in her organization (in different areas of the Gaza Strip) . 10 training course were conducted and each trainee/trainer was accompanied by a supervisor to evaluate her performance and provide her with consultation. In total , **221** women attended these trainings .

Exhibition :

Due to the many problems of marketing , the Small enterprises sector suffer from , WAC thought of conducting an exhibition for small business organizations . The exhibition mainly aimed at

- Creating a networking with NGOs that work on the small business on the one hand and introducing the audience to such organizations and businesses on the other.
- Helping the small business owners to market their goods and gain a reputation.

A brochure was prepared to describe the main activities of each participating organization (9 organizations) and it was distributed among the visitor of the exhibition. About 300- 350 people visited the exhibition and the feed back WAC had from them was actually positive and encouraging.

Success Stories:

A number of the participants in the training course and the exhibition either started businesses of their own or developed their own businesses , which WAC considers to be a real success for the activities of the program . Examples of such are :

- Rawhia Al Basyouni - has a university degree- started after taking the training convincing number of women in Beit Hanoun to start a small business. So they gathered money and established a cow farm and a beethe project is profitable to the ladies and is progressing.
- The 40 year old Salwa Al Khaldi who has a high school diploma used to have a shop for selling Palestinian Handicrafts (Tatreez) . However during the Intifada this shop selling was seriously affected. That's why the program gave her a chance to participate in the exhibition and that revived her work and made her start marketing again.
- Fayza Abu Sweirih (45 years old with a high school certificate) has a goat farm and it produces milk and cheese and market it but still she has a problem in making enough profits due to the situation . She also participated in the exhibition and that helped her market her products.



The Research and Documentation Program

The program focuses on the analysis and empirical research of gender-related issues in the Gaza Strip. It adopts designing and implementing some projects that respond to women's situation and needs. Its main objective is to bring about an overall evident societal change over outlooks, attitudes and perspectives.

The research conducted by the center helps in shedding light on the covered, completely marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip, which actualizes through collecting data, analyzing it and making it available for others. Such researches facilitate adequate interventions.

WAC is still a partner in the project (**Palestinian Women's Research, Training and Advocacy Program**), which is coordinating a four-year regional Palestinian women's project with five women's organizations in order to develop the capacity of women's organizations in the areas of research, advocacy and training.

The objectives of this project are as follows:

- Increasing the research skills amongst Palestinian women and their organizations by training 10 women in gender and action-oriented research.
- Carrying out 10 pieces of research which will lead to the production of a series of policy proposals which will be used as advocacy and lobbying purposes to influence policy at local, national and regional levels. It is imperative that any

advocacy initiative is evidence-based and these research pieces will be used as the main resources for such initiatives.

In stage 1 of the project, 10 Palestinian women were trained in gender and action-oriented research on a three-month intensive course (17 August 2002 – 14 November 2002).

During 2003, the two researchers from the center who took the training course in Egypt (one of them is the coordinator of the program) were working on their research papers. Local women academic research supervisors were providing support and guidance to both researchers and supervisors alike. The researches are under preparation and they are expected to be published in April 2004.

The first research is on **Women and Political Participation:**

It's basically a quantitative and qualitative study. It examines and describes the levels of political participation for women. The research investigates women's perception of themselves, their abilities, needs and opportunities available for such participation.

It employed the following methodology:

- A questionnaire on the political participation of women and the obstacles they confront in that matter, and the levels of such participation was filled by a sample of 400 women.
- 4 focus groups were also conducted for research purposes. They included university students, home makers, working women and that to closely describe the factors that affect their participation whether they were the family, society, traditions or political parties.

The second research is on **Women's participation in Local Community councils**. The study is a qualitative descriptive one. It discusses the absence of women's representation in local community councils in the Gaza strip and West bank and it focuses on the Gaza strip particularly since the percentage of women's representation in local councils is almost non. The study aims at analyzing the factors that lead to such problem. It depends on women's opinions, circumstances and roles. Its methodology depended on the following:

- A number of 10 interviews took place with a number of responsible personnel in Local Councils, women's organizations, parties and unions.
- 10 case studies also took place for different women living in different areas of the Gaza Strip (north, middle and south). The case studies took into consideration the educational level, social status, work, refugee/non refugee, geographical boundaries.
- 1 focus group with organizations' director and decision makers took place also to reveal some facts about the real participation of women in councils.

The results of the two researches will be presented in workshops in 2004.

Emergency Projects :

- ✚ During 2003 , WAC implemented the project **Supporting poor families in the local community of the refugee camps (July – September , 2003)**

Project Goal :

To lessen the financial burdens for 1565 High populated needy families in the refugee camps all over the Gaza Strip through providing their children with basic school requirements.

Project Objectives:

- To offer job opportunities to 10 unemployed female graduates.
- To raise the awareness of the working staff (the 10 graduates) through engaging them in a training course.
- To provide the graduates with practical experience.
- To support networking between WAC and other organizations such as the UNRWA women's centers.

Target Group :

The project targets poor and needy families living in 10 refugee camps , which are Jabalia , El Shate, Beit Hanoun, El Daraj, El Nuseirat , El Maghazi, El Bureij , Deir El Balah , Rafah, and Khan Younis Refugee camps. Priority was given to families' sustainers who are unemployed and thus unable to afford school requirements or university fees for their children or daughters respectively .

Activities:

In cooperation with the UNRWA Women's Program , the center distributed 1565 school packages to needy families in the camps . For this purpose, WAC employed 10 female coordinators, each from one of the refugee camps , who conducted the field work and the distribution in the UNRWA centers.

A training course was conducted for the 10 centers coordinators along with other 10 participants from the centers as a way of raising their gender awareness and equipping them with some new skills in lobbying and advocacy . The training course was a 40 hour training course . It was held in WAC and continued for 10 days

Female Students Fees:

In continuation of WAC support to the female university students, WAC rendered a financial support (one semester fees) to a number of 23 students who were mainly threatened to be dismissed from universities due to inability to pay the fees .

Ongoing Project :

According to **Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics**, the annual increase over students number is **7000** students a year . Females constitute **45%** of this increase . During the Intifada, this large group (the female students) was suffering from all kinds of problems and was largely affected by the socioeconomic factors. On the one hand they have difficulties pay their university fees and on the other they have low access to civil society organizations. Thus, WAC identified with the problem of this group and of their need for awareness raising and empowerment .

Starting from September 2003 , WAC started implementing the Project (**Empowering Female University Students**) (**Sep 2003- Sep 2004**) .

Project Goal

To prepare university graduates to participate actively in the civil society organizations as potential young female cadres.

Till December 2003, the following activities took place:

Workshops :

The workshops aim at opening the chance to female students to gather and discuss common problems and interests . They also introduce the students to new trends and scopes and would widen their understanding of women's issues and working environment in civil society organizations. In this regard, **15** workshops were conducted for Gazan four major universities' students ,as follows:

The university	Workshop topic	Number of participants
The Islamic University	Women and law	32
	Women and international treaties	24
	Violence against women	17
	Women and labor	24
Al Azhar University	Women in Palestinian laws	17
	Violence against women	33

	Women in international treaties	32
Al Aqsa University	Violence against women	61
	Women in Palestinian laws	35
	Women in international treaties	60
	Early Marriage	29
	Women and Media	31
Al Quds Open University	Women in Palestinian laws	34
	Early Marriage	40
	Gender	37
Total number of participants		506

University Fees

The activities also included rendering a financial support (a one-time grant) for 7 female university students and that in order to help them continue their university education.



Monitoring & Evaluation :

Evaluation objective

The ultimate goal of the evaluation is to help WAC plan for the future activities through lessons learned in how to optimize the use of resources and maximize the intended impact on Palestinian communities. The objective of this evaluation is to assess the progress of the activities in achieving its overall and immediate objectives and identify gaps and problems associated with the implementation of them and ways to move forward.

Internal Evaluation

The Administrative staff regularly conduct internal evaluations to ensure that the most appropriate tools are selected for the activities and that the center activities are sensitive to local cultural and traditional values. WAC usually use the following tools for evaluation:

Evaluation Forms :

Evaluation Forms are usually distributed among the trainees after each activity e.g training course or workshop to assess the efficiency of it . Such forms are designed to evaluate the training material, the trainer performance and the course management .

Anecdotes or Testimonials:

The coordinators of the center activities often discuss with the participants' their pinion of the activities and their effectiveness and that give them the chance o gather anecdotes or testimonies of the target group.

Reporting

The programs coordinators prepare a monthly , quarterly and final narrative reports for the program activities which is used by the administrative staff to monitor the daily developments of the activities and extract relevant anecdotal material.

Individual consultations

Individual consultations with staff members are held on a quarterly basis to follow up with them and to address strengths and weaknesses in their work performance.

Weekly meetings

All the staff meet weekly to discuss and address issues of concern and the development of the center. The administrative team meets on a weekly basis to review ongoing activities and address institutional development issues.

Questionnaires

Questionnaires will be used once in a while in the areas in which projects are implemented after every activity to measure its progression and, if necessary, make some adjustments and changes in the methodologies used .

Tables & Charts

The Total number of participants in training courses and workshops for the programs:

Program	Number of training courses beneficiaries	Number of Workshops beneficiaries	Total
Video Training Program	35	295	330
Capacity Building	167	240	407
Media and Communications	74	105	179
Small Business	221	0	221
Research and Documentation	0	0	0
Total number of Participants	497	640	1137

The Total number of beneficiaries for Emergency and Ongoing projects

Project	Number of beneficiaries
Supporting poor families in the local community of the refugee camps	1565
University Students Fees	23
Empowering Female University Students	506

Training courses beneficiaries

Chart I: Numbers by Programs

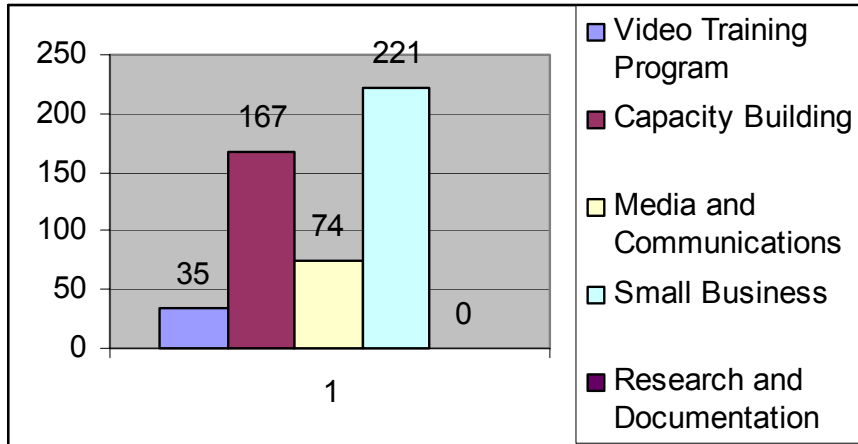
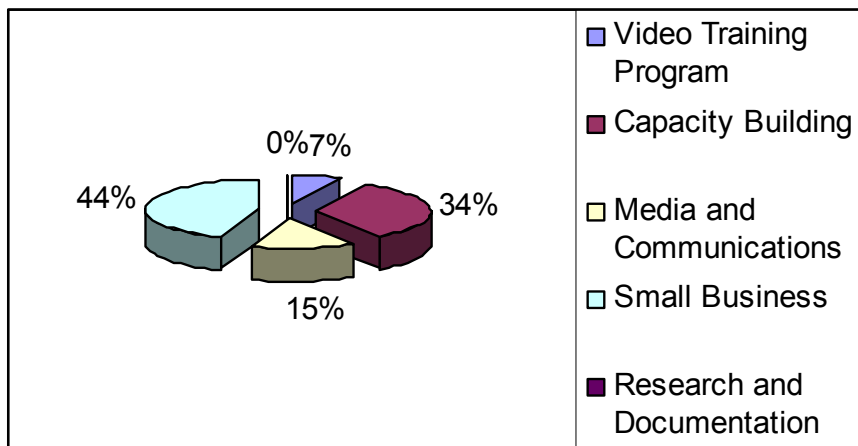


Chart II: Percentages by Programs



Workshops beneficiaries

Chart III: Numbers by Programs

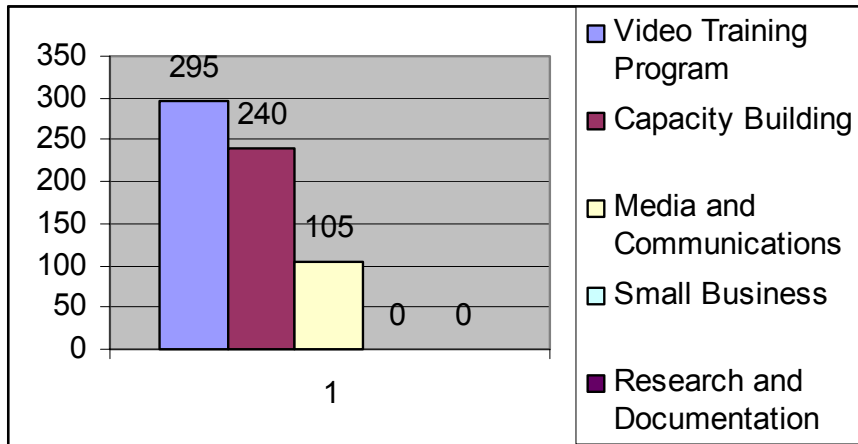


Chart IV: Percentages by Programs

