**WOMEN’S AFFAIRS CENTER -ORGANIZATION AND EXPERIENCE**

1. **Institution Details:**

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| Legal Name of applying institution: | Women's Affairs Center (WAC) |
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| Website: | [www.wac.org.ps](http://www.wac.org.ps) |
| Registration & License date: | WAC was registered at the Ministry of Interior on 12/4/2001 with registration number 7078. |
| Name of Organization Director: | Mrs. Amal Syam |
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| Position of Contact Person: | Director |
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1. **General Introduction of** **Vision, Mission, and Objectives**

Women Affairs Center (WAC) was established on August 1991 by a group of activist professional women to promote women's rights and gender equality within the Palestinian society via empowering and enhancing women abilities in a range of non-traditional skills to address the problems and respond to the needs of women under the difficult political, socio-economic, cultural and legal context in the Gaza Strip.

**WAC’s vision** states that it is a women knowledge- based center playing an innovative and catalytic role in empowering women; and advocating women's rights and gender equality in the Palestinian sustainable development process.

**WAC's mission** reflects that it is an independent and non-profit Palestinian NGO with the purpose of empowering women and advocating women’s rights and gender equality through capacity development, information and innovative research and advocacy programs. While implementing its strategy to fulfill its vision, WAC is guided by international human rights principles including empowerment and participation; equality and non-discrimination; and accountability to ensure justice and dignity for women.

**WAC Strategic Objectives:**

**1)** To contribute in developing the capacity of WAC’s staff and, local women CBOs, young women leaders and vulnerable women towards women's leadership, empowerment and participation in political and public life; 2) To contribute in improved knowledge-led and informed decision making on women and gender issues; 3) To contribute in creating supporting environment; and promoting a change in policies, strategies and legislation for enhancing women’s human rights, gender equality and women's participation in political and public life.

# Strategic Plan Objectives

* To create a clear and guiding strategic plan for the coming four years reflecting vision, mission and strategic goals building on the internal strengths and external opportunities based on the past gained experience, learned lessons, successful stories, experienced risks and opportunities.
* To develop logical framework matrix for every program including goal, specific objectives, Outputs, indicators, sources of verification and risks/assumptions.
* To develop an action plan including activity- time schedule, activity- input resources schedule and required budget.

1. **WAC Target Groups and Geographic Coverage:**

Target groups include WAC staff, CBOs staff and Board of Directors, disadvantaged household women and men, disadvantaged un-employed university graduates, disadvantaged house hold entrepreneur women, young university graduate women, young women leaders, female and male university students, women entrepreneurs, female and male researchers, women of development organizations, female and male journalists, and community leaders in the Gaza Strip. The final beneficiaries include local communities and Civil Society Organizations in the Gaza Strip. The geographical areas of WAC's interventions are the whole Gaza Strip with emphasis on marginalized areas.

1. **Staffing and Administration of WAC:**

WAC has (10) competent core staff members and is supported with a pool of experts and (15) female volunteers that enable WAC to effectively manage developmental programs and projects.

WAC has established a good governance system including (23) general assembly members and effective Board of Directors consisting of (3) females and (4) males. The Board of Directors meet on a monthly basis and according to the needs. WAC has adopted participatory strategic planning; annual action planning; performance-based budgets; functional organizational structure and job descriptions; Theory of Change; Shifting Power framework; Human Rights Based Approaches; Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Framework; and advanced Management Information System. WAC has set up a sound financial control system. The expenditures are administered by one accountant and financial officer and controlled by internal auditor and external auditor with a membership of an international auditing firm.

WAC has advanced and updated administrative and financial policies and procedures manuals; anti-corruption policy; security and safety manual; human rights-based approach (HRBA) manual; Code of Conduct manual; complaint mechanism manual; Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Framework manual; volunteering policy; five-year strategy to reduce violence against women and girls in the Gaza Strip (2017-2021); GBV emergency response plan, and WAC strategic plan for the coming years (2018-2021).

1. **WAC Core Programs:**

The Core-Strategic Programs, based on WAC strategic plan (2018-2021), are:

1) **Empowering Women Program (EWP):** includes developing WAC capacities and practices in national and international advocacy; improving women CBOs professional development in advocacy and lobbying skills as well as political participation; developing capabilities of young women leaders; engaging men and boys in combating GBV against women and girls; building capacities of university students and graduates to engage in community development; enhancing livelihoods and income of marginalized women; improving access of vulnerable women to psychological and legal services.

**2) Information and Action Research Program:** includes monthly roundtable discussions to discuss specific researches on women and gender issues; upgrading Management Information system (MIS); undertaking researches and public opinion polls on women rights and gender equality issues; conducting self-evaluation; and disseminating research results to stakeholders.

**3) Advocacy and Outreach Program:** includes preparing position papers about emerging women's rights and gender issues; undertaking media coverage on WAC activities; documenting media coverage for WAC activities; conducting creative media campaign including radio spots, animation films, email, website, electronic petitions, social media, billboards, pamphlets, special website and electronic forum to share information; bi-monthly regular forum meetings for journalists; preparing and publishing Al-Ghaida magazine; online newsletter in English Language directed to international community; purchasing Twitter followers and Facebook friends to increase number of advocates of women's rights and outreach of WAC mission; organizing festivals on International Women’s Day; organizing cinema events at women CBOs; producing documentary films; networking with specialized media and film production organizations; organizing the (16 days) campaign; public hearing (accountability) sessions; citizens’ opinion report cards (accountability tools) to duty bearers and launching advocacy initiatives on women and gender issues.

1. **Brief on Partnership and Networking with Governmental and Non-governmental Institutions (ncluding private sector):**

WAC has been an active member of the following local, regional and international bodies:

* Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). WAC is a member in PNGO’s coordination committee, member of women and youth sectors.
* Aysha Arab Women’s Network as a platform to raise the voice of Palestinian women in the Arab region.
* WAC has hosted Amal Coalition for three years. Amal Coalition involves Women’s Affairs Technical Committee (WATC); Centre of Women Legal Research and Consulting (CWLRC); Palestinian Centre of Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR); Palestinian Centre of Human Rights (PCHR); and Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA). The coalition has organized the efforts of the community-based organizations in the Gaza Strip to combat gender-based violence through provoking the public opinion and pressuring upon decision makers. WAC participates in preparing the annual action plans, implementing joint activities, and issuing position papers.
* Al- Muntada Coalition for ending violence against women involving NGOs from West Bank and Gaza Strip.
* WAC Leads A’dalah Coalition "Women for Change including 27 women CBOs/NGOs.
* WAC is a member in GBV sub-working group under the protection cluster that involves NGOs, International agencies and UN agencies to share knowledge and experience and coordinate efforts via referral system to combat GBV against women.
* WAC is a member of Legal Task Force (LTF) working under protection cluster to share experience and undertake referral services on legal aid services provided to women and girls victims of GBV.
* WAC is an effective member in Gaza Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP) led by PNGO with support from OXFAM aiming to advance gender mainstreaming in agriculture sector and advocating the human rights of women farmers.
* WAC is a member of the Women’s Alliance Committee for the shadow reports.
* WAC is a member of Women’s Alliance Secretariat to apply CEDAW convention in Palestine.
* WAC is a member of Palestinian National Alliance Secretariat to apply UNSCR 1325 in Palestine.
* WAC coordinated with Open Quds University, Al Azhar University, Islamic University, University College for Applied Sciences, and Al Aqsa University to nominate needy female students to support their university education.
* WAC coordinated with Al muntada, Juzoor, and WACLAC to implement Women’s Bodily Integrity (WBI) programme in OPT.
* WAC Networked with WROs to implement “Let’s Not Only Count Women. Let’s Make Women Count” project
* WAC coordinated with women CBOs the employment of female university graduates. The women CBOs included Women's Affairs Center – Gaza, Alanqaa Association for Community Development, Center for Women's Legal Research & Consulting, Palestinian Women General Union; Saving and Credit Society- Al Zaitoon, Palestinian Development Women Studies Association, Palestinian Women's Committees, Women Programs Centers- Daraj. Ma'an Development Center, as well as Association for Culture, Arts, and Popular Heritage.
* Effective coordination with SIDA Arab Spring (AMAL Project) stakeholders including WAC, Oxfam Novib, OGB PMU, MIFTAH, PWWSD, and WCLAC during three years.
* Coordination of three-year project 2010-2012 (Inheritance Denied: Combating Gender Inequality in Property Rights in Palestine) with EU support including WAC, The East Jerusalem Young Men’s Christian Association (EJ YMCA), and DCA. As well as three-year project 2013-2015 (Inheritance Denied II: Promoting Palestinian Women’s Social and Economic Rights Through Encouraging Access to Inheritance) with EU support including WAC, The East Jerusalem Young Men’s Christian Association (EJ YMCA), Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling, and DCA.
* One-year project (Empower Youth Volunteer Networks to Publicize Women's Rights Issues Within their Communities) including WAC, Oxfam Novib and WCLAC.
* Three-year project (SANAD- Stopping discrimination and violence against women in West Bank and Gaza Strip) including WAC, WSC and CFD.

1. **List of Major Donors**

* Feminist Peace Organization - CFD Switzerland
* Christian Aid (CA)
* IHL & Human Rights Secretariat
* General Consulate of France (FSD)
* United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
* Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
* European Commission through Dan Church Aid (DCA)
* Islamic Relief Palestine (IRPAL)
* Trocaire Working for Just World
* Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
* Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
* Dan Church Aid
* Kvinna till Kvinna (KtK)
* NGO Development Center (NDC)
* NOVIB Oxfam Netherlands
* Progetto Solidarieta Mr Edgardo (Italian)
* Open Society Institute
* United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
* United Nation Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
* (UN WOMEN)
* Ford Foundation
* Save Children
* GRASSROOTS
* NOREGIAN People Aid

1. **WAC Experiences:**

* **“Promoting income and self-employment opportunities for Marginalized Women Headed Households and Female Graduates in the Gaza Strip” Project:** The proposed project addresses the inadequate knowledge on market needs related to small-income generating business; lack of personal and business management silks as well as employment and income opportunities for marginalized female graduates and women headed households; and inadequate sensitization of private sector and civil society organizations to advance economic opportunities for marginalized women. The project's main objective is to improve the economic welfare of marginalized women headed households and female graduates in the Gaza Strip. The main activities include conducting market needs analysis; training of marginalized women- headed households and female graduates on gender and how to start and upgrade small scale income- generating projects; training of staff in Crédit organizations on gender and development; providing financial assistance to (20) trained women to start or upgrade their own projects; providing technical consultations for targeted women; organizing awareness for (1000) marginalized women and men in gender and development; and organizing 2-day exhibition to enable women entrepreneurs market their products. The project funded by French support from FONDS SOCIAL DE DEVELOPPEMENT (FSD) and from CUF. The project’s duration is 12 months (September 2015 to August 2016).
* **Extension of “Promoting Income and Self-employment Opportunities for Marginalized Women Headed Households and Female Graduates in the Gaza Strip” Project:** The project extension included revolving financial assistance (1800 EUR/women) to additional (5) women (the first 5 women in the waiting list for micro-credits) who received small business training in the first phase of the project; conducting individual training needs assessment for the (25) targeted women entrepreneurs (20 women supported by the project during the first phase and 5 women during this extension phase) after the establishment of their small businesses; conducting common training (35 hours) for the (25) targeted women entrepreneurs based on findings and recommendations of training needs assessment; conducting specific coaching (one day) for each individual targeted women entrepreneurs with a total of 25 women on technical and management business needs; organizing visits' exchange and bi-monthly regular women entrepreneur forum meetings involving the (25) targeted women entrepreneurs to exchange viewpoints and experience and build partnerships; and organizing (10) awareness workshops involving (250) adult members of families of targeted women, staff of credit organizations, community leaders and other stakeholders. The project funded by French support from FONDS SOCIAL DE DEVELOPPEMENT (FSD).

The project duration: 4 months September to December 2016.

* **“Immediate support, training and cash assistance to livelihood recovery for women disabled in the recent conflict” Project:** The project targeted 90 women who have become physically disabled during the 2014 Israeli Offensive. The project objective is Enhanced livelihood opportunities and lives of women disabled in 2014 Israeli Offensive on Gaza Strip through providing the women a technical and vocational skills training. 45 of these 90 women with abilities received small business training and average $2000 each for livelihood improvement and received technical support and consultations. The project funded by cbm through DCA, 2015-2016.
* **“Improvement of economic welfare of disadvantaged women in Gaza Strip” project:** The project targeted poor undergraduate female university students, disadvantage un-employed university graduates, and disadvantage house hold entrepreneur women. Disadvantage female university students received financial assistance to support their university tuition fees, job opportunities created in local CBOs/NGOs for disadvantage un-employed university graduates, disadvantage household women and un-employed female university graduates (who attended earlier small income generating business) received micro-credits and technical support, and participated in the exhibition. The project funded by Italian Progetto Solidarieta and implemented in 2013, 2014 and 2015.
* **“Toward a Dignified Self- Reliant Future for Women”Project:** The project targeted (50) widows and girls from Gaza Strip. The project aimed at Empowering (50) widows and girls and developing their abilities to support themselves and their families through updating a database for widows and girls, conducting psycho-social support sessions for (50) widows and girls and providing individual consultations for (8) widows and girls. Also, they received advanced training on legal Rights, Family Law, Punishment Law, Labor Law and gender. While (20) of them received additional individual legal consultations, (5) widows and girls, (10) university widows received a training on C.V writing, interviews, problem solving and report writing. (10) university widows had temporary jobs for four months as (10) widows received a training on management small businesses. While (25) orphans' mothers prepared small businesses' work plans, then WAC selected the (5) potential women and providing them with financial assistance to support their small businesses. The project funded by Welfare Organization and implemented in year 2016.
* **“Empowerment of widows: Towards Promising Future for them and their Children”project:** The project targeted (100) orphans' mothers from Gaza and northern of Gaza Strip. The project aimed to Empowering orphans' mothers in Mustakbali Program to continue supporting their children through Conducting psycho-social support sessions for (100) women, Legal support sessions for (89) women. The sessions tackled Legal Rights, Family Law, Punishment Law, Labor Law, gender and women’s rights; assessing the capacities and needs for orphans' mothers through organizing an opinion poll on vocational training for women using SMS and interviews; and assessing the individual needs for 83 target women, selecting the potential women, and providing them with financial assistance to support their small businesses. Also, they received advanced training for 10 women. The training session included gender, women’s rights, CV writing, interviews, problem solving and report writing, and vocational training for 21 women from the orphans` mothers. While 12 women who received financial assistance to start their own projects were provided with a financial and technical support in their small businesses. The project funded by Welfare Organization and implemented in year 2013.
* **“Improvement of economic welfare of disadvantaged women in Gaza Strip” project**.: The project targeted disadvantaged household and un-employed university graduates’ women living in Gaza Strip. The project goal the project main achievements included: (20) disadvantaged household women trained in how to start income-generating businesses for (40) hours (gender and development, marketing, feasibility study, financial planning, leadership); (20) disadvantaged women trained in how to upgrade their existing businesses for (40) hours (Business management, marketing, market competitiveness); (10) trained women received financial assistance to start their own businesses in Gaza Strip; (20) women entrepreneurs attended (20) individual and (5) group consultation sessions on business technical needs; (4) entrepreneur meetings attended by (50) target beneficiary women; and (50) family members attended awareness training on gender and development (2 workshops). The project funded by UNDP, 2011.
* **“Improved Economic Opportunities for Women with Severe Disabilities in the Gaza Strip” project:** The project target group (30) women with severe disabilities from most offensive-affected areas in the Gaza Strip. the project activities included providing psychosocial support, technical and vocational training, and (3) months on-the-job training. The project funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH,2015-2016. WAC referred the beneficiaries. to micro credit organizations to obtain grants to develop their own projects.
* **Experience related economic empowerment assignment under Development Clinic Program of WAC during 2006-2008 funded by OXFAM NOVIB**: (45) disadvantaged women trained on how to start your business; (45) disadvantaged women trained to enhanced their skills on improving their business;(6) women received financial assistance to improve their businesses; (25) women entrepreneurs oriented on business technical needs and received consultancy services on book- keeping, costing, marketing and pricing at their businesses; (50) working women in credit organization trained on skills to help disadvantaged women entrepreneurs; (28) women participated in annual exhibition with their handcrafts and food process; (100) working and disadvantaged women attended workshops on Gender & Development, Development & small & Micro enterprises and Micro enterprises and family support.
* **Experience related economic empowerment assignment under Capacity Building Program of WAC during 2009-2011 funded by OXFAM NOVIB**. The main activities attained annually under capacity building core programme through training, 144 members of the CBOs have enhanced certain skills such as leadership, communication and management skills and obtained specific knowledge such as monitoring and evaluation, technical assistance, 6 CBOs are supplied with furniture and computers, and have received a possibility to apply for grants of around $4.500, WACs support, a forum is created where local marginalized women can exchange experience and knowledge, through business trainings (how to start, how to improve, and how to manage a small company), 180 women have improved their business skills and have increased their earnings. These women are empowered to have a voice in their family, and they are enabled to support their husbands and children financially. Also WACs support, 30 women have been provided loans for their business investments, WACs support, an entrepreneur forum of 20 women is established. Furthermore, through this forum female entrepreneurs share experiences and specific knowledge to enhance their business skills, and women supporting the universal human rights school increasingly influence the gender discourse and the image of women in Gaza/ OPT in the media.
* **Experience related economic empowerment assignments under WAC core programme durin2009-2011 funded by Christian Aid. The results attained during 2009-2011 included :**(40) Disadvantaged household women trained on how to start income-generating businesses for (40) hours (gender and development, marketing, feasibility study, financial planning, leadership) annually; (40) Disadvantaged women trained in how to upgrade their existing businesses.; At least (10) trained women received financial assistance to start their own businesses annually in Gaza Strip; 15 women entrepreneurs attended consultation sessions on business technical needs annually; 26 disadvantaged individual women entrepreneurs and representatives of development organizations participated in (1) exhibition annually; 4 entrepreneur meetings attended by 20 women annually.
* **Experience related economic empowerment assignments under WAC core programme durin2013-20017 funded by Christian Aid included:** Data base on women entrepreneurs developed and used, Development Network and Referral System extended, Individual and group consultations with a total of (26 hours) provided for targeted women entrepreneurs on business technical needs annually, (75) poor/disadvantaged women (3 groups) from various governorates and organizations trained on women's rights and gender equality, self-assertiveness and leadership, (25) poor/disadvantaged household women who attended previous training (1 group) trained on how to start income-generating businesses (development, marketing, feasibility study, financial planning, leadership), (25) poor/disadvantaged women (1 group) trained on how to upgrade their existing businesses (marketing, market competitiveness) annually, (45) poor/disadvantaged women who attended previous training (3 groups) attended Technical and Vocational Training (8 weeks) annually in three fields (IT, handcrafts and food processing) based on their preferences, capacities and market needs, (10) trained small scale women entrepreneurs received financial assistance to start and upgrade their own businesses annually, Legal support to (10) micro-credit agreements, Follow up and monitoring visits to women entrepreneurs, (26) small scale individual women entrepreneurs and representatives of development organizations participated in the annual exhibition, and (4) entrepreneur meetings attended by minimum of (40) women each (60) representatives of women CBOs/NGOS, International organizations, credit organizations, cooperatives, economists, community leaders attended the roundtable discussion annually.
* **Alleviating Unemployment and lack of Income in Gaza Strip for Young Graduate Female” Project, 2008-2009** The project targeted female students and university graduates. The main results included: (At least 6 women received financial assistance to develop their own businesses, 75 female students received tuition fees and 30 female graduates were provided with a job opportunity. The project funded by Christian Aid.
* **Human Rights and Good Governance program through NDC. The results attained during 2010--2013 included:**(60) Disadvantaged household women trained on how to start income-generating businesses for (45) hours (gender and development, marketing, feasibility study, financial planning, leadership) annually, (20) Disadvantaged women trained in how to upgrade their existing businesses, At least (12) trained women received financial assistance to start their own businesses annually in Gaza Strip, 15 Women entrepreneurs attended consultation sessions on business technical needs annually, 26 Disadvantaged individual women entrepreneurs and representatives of development organizations participated in (2) exhibitions annually, 20 New university graduates trained on career orientation (career planning, resume and interviews) annually, and 2 Entrepreneur meetings attended by 20 women annually.
* **“Promote Economic Empowerment of Disadvantaged Women with Disabilities in the Gaza Strip” Project:** The project targeted 330 females and males’ members of households. The project objective aims to promote income and employment opportunities for women with disabilities to build their resilience and ability to withstand future shocks and stresses to their livelihoods and flourish. The project results included: Bimonthly wellbeing sessions organized for the 45 WWDs entrepreneurs; (45) Women with disabilities (rights holders) trained on advanced business management and received business coaching and increased knowledge and skills; 10 WWDs university graduates trained in n self marketing, team work, communication skills, CV writing relevant to the real market needs, and interviews; (10) WWDs university graduates received paid internship opportunities; Upgraded data base including WWDs enterprneurs is functional and used by WAC and other stakeholders to track WWDs’ entrepreneurs cases.
* **Young Women Leaders Programme (YWLP)”:** The Overall Objective of YWLP was to empower female university students and recent graduates via developing their skills and abilities making them employable individuals for the labor market and supporting the private sector and economy of Gaza. The project funded by UNRWA, 2012.
* **Creating Hope Project.** The project targeted youth, university graduates and students, parents and representatives of NGOs/CBOs, private sector and universities. The project aimed to minimize the suffering of poor and needy youth students, equip the new graduated students with skills, which were highly demanded for the labor market, create job opportunities for the new graduated youth students, produce a scientific and published youth-students need assessment study. The project was funded by Dan Church Aid. The project was implemented in 2012 and renovated in 2013.
* **Advancing women's economic empowerment and resilience in the Gaza Strip:** The project assisted 15 tuition fee women defaulters to get their graduation certificates; provided 30 graduated women including 3 PWDs with necessary knowledge, skills and experience to empower them as agents of change in their communities and participate in the labour market; provide internship, and employment opportunities for 30 graduated women including 3 PWDs; prepared a guidance manual focusing on preparedness and protection behaviors of women in emergencies; and advocacy campaign to increase community awareness and sensitization on women's protection, social and economic rights and gender equality. The project received an emergency fund by C.A in 2016-2017
* **Advancing employment and income opportunities for unemployed female graduates in the Gaza Strip.** The project : conducted training for (50) unemployed female graduates from various disciplines in personal skills (confidence building, assertiveness and decision making, conflict resolution, gender, and women rights), technical skills (CV writing, interview, searching for jobs), and professional skills (project management, leadership, communication, time management, team work, archiving, and protocol and work environment) ; and created job opportunities for (50) unemployed female graduates (who attended the training) for a period of 3 months in civil society organizations (private sector and CBOs) to apply the gained skills at the rate of 300 USD/month/ graduate. The project funded by ILO and implemented in 2015.
* **Emergency Job Creation for Disadvantaged Women in Gaza Strip.** The project targeted disadvantaged female university students and unemployed disadvantaged women from all communities of Gaza Strip. The project aimed to increase access of disadvantaged women to university education, and create job opportunities for disadvantaged women. The project funded by Christian Aid (CA). 2010.
* **Emergency Job Creation for Disadvantaged Women in Gaza Strip.** The project targeted disadvantaged female university students and unemployed disadvantaged women from all communities of Gaza Strip. The project aimed to increase access of disadvantaged women to university education, and create job opportunities for disadvantaged women. The project funded by Christian Aid (CA). 2011.
* **Development of rural services**. The project aimed to raise the gender of female and male teachers in education and the ability to integrate gender in education programmers. The project funded by USAID -1999.
* **SANAD- Stopping discrimination and violence against women in West Bank and Gaza Strip project.** The project aimed to develop a community network for both youth and women organizations to address discrimination against women, Build the capacity of some youth and women organizations to work on human rights- based research, Build the capacity of the partner organizations on women rights as stipulated in the international covenants and conventions, especially CEDAW, and Involve the partner organizations in awareness programs on the international covenants on women rights, and their significance as regards the promotion of the situation of Palestinian women for further mobilization and effect to secure a community discourse and another legislative discourse and practice based on gender equality. The project funded by CFD. The project continued achieving its objective in 2011,2012,2013 and 2014.
* **Advancing Women's Participation, Role and Influence in Public life in the Gaza Strip funded by Kvinna till Kvinna – Sweden.** The project overall objective is that civil society organizations contribute towards an environment where women are agents of change in their communities. It is a three-year project from 2014-2016 undertaken under WAC core programs.
* **Inheritance Denied: Promoting Palestinian women’s social and economic rights through encouraging access to Inheritance project.** The project has aimed to educate / train local Palestinian communities, women’s community based organization/ community leaders to help women access to their socio-economic rights, lobby and advocate at the policy level for the adoption of a structural framework that guarantees women’s access to Inheritance. The Project funded by EU through DCA during 2013- 2015.
* **Inheritance Denied: Combating Gender Inequality in Property Rights in Palestine.** The project Seeked to promote women’s property ownership in Palestine by targeting the issue on four levels: (1) policy, (2) capacity building, (3) information dissemination, and (4) advocacy. The project activities included (8) awareness workshops was conducted to (194) females and males conducted by one of lawyers who participated in the training course at the beginning of the project. (36) educational sessions was conducted to (817) females and males from different areas of Gaza Strip. The project was funded by European Commission through Dan Church Aid during the period 2010 - 2012.
* **Emergency support for vulnerable Palestinian civilians forcibly displaced in eastern Gaza governorate**. The project contributed in improving the resilience of vulnerable and offensive-affected communities in Gaza through providing financial support to (80) Palestinian civilians forcibly displaced, in addition to (50) families who host Palestinian civilians forcibly displaced with (77 EUR each).The project was funded by Prottetto Solidarieta Mr Egardo in 2014.
* **Recovery for women affected by the Israeli offensive on Gaza – project funded by funded by Kvinna till Kvinna – Sweden.** The project aimed to improve and maintain well-being of WAC and women CBOs staff and board directors in 2014
* **Monitoring and documenting of IHL and human rights violations against women due to current offensive in the Gaza Strip project**. The project aimed to monitor and document IHL and human rights violations against women due to the last offensive in the Gaza Strip. The project funded by Human Rights and IHL Secretariat in 2014.
* **Promotion of women's empowerment and public participation in the Gaza Strip financed by Kvinna till Kvinna – Sweden**. Its annual project since 2006- 2012, and undertaken under WAC core programs.
* **Promoting Access to Justice for Vulnerable Women in Marginalized Communities of the Gaza Strip.** The project aimed to raise legal knowledge and awareness amongst local communities in the Gaza Strip, improve legal aid services and access to justice for vulnerable women and girls, enhance synergy, complimentarily and sharing of information among legal aid providers. The project was funded by UNDP in 2012 and renewed in 2013.
* **Domestic Violence Awareness Raising in the Community project.** The project activities included conducting (360) awareness-raising discussion sessions for 45 discussion groups (each discussion group involves 16 participants) for 720 women, men and families (8 sessions for each group), Organizing arrangements for training including recruiting necessary staff, set up discussion groups with CBOs, and providing monthly statistical reports for each discussion group outlining number of participants. The project was funded by UNRWA during 2011 and 2012 .
* **Advancing women’s economic opportunities through awareness raising workshops on equal participation and academic and job counseling / coaching sessions in the Gaza strip, funded by UNWOMEN- under the MDG-GEWE programme.** The project aimed to strengthen women’s awareness of their economic rights and empower women to enjoy secure livelihoods as entrepreneurs, producers and home-based workers through training on equal participation in employment and the labour market, as well as academic and job counseling sessions for rural women and young women graduates. The project was implemented in 2011.
* **Promoting women's rights and leadership in marginalized communities of the Gaza Strip – project” funded by Open Society Institute (OSI).** The project objective was increased community knowledge and sensitization on women's right and leadership issues, increased women's awareness and confidence to demand their political and socio-economic rights, increased capacities of women to play transformational leadership roles in the political and socio-economic life at household, community and national levels, and advanced economic opportunities for marginalized women in the Gaza Strip. The project activities included conducting training to disadvantage household women and organizing awareness meetings. The project was implemented in 2012.
* **Supporting Women’s Transformative Leadership financed by SIDA through OXFAM NOVIB.** The project main objectives included increased awareness of their political and socio economic rights for Palestinian women and youth from marginalized areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip , and to be more confident to voice their rights and play leadership roles at all levels (household, community, national and regional); increased skills, resources and capacity for a diversity of Palestinian women’s organizations and their allies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to advocate a women’s rights agenda with a collective voice and influence decision-making; aware decision-makers and opinion formers in the oPt including religious and community leaders, journalists, political parties, male politicians at all levels of their positions and more reflective of the needs and priorities of Palestinian women; and linking and sharing knowledge among Oxfam, its partners and their allies generate to strengthen women’s participation and leadership approaches in the oPt, region and globally.
* **WAC has focused during the strategic plan 2013-2017** on women participation in business management and Technical and Vocational training, and small-scale women entrepreneurs’ reception of financial assistance to upgrade innovative businesses and their participation in the entrepreneur annual exhibitions as follows:
* (75) poor/disadvantaged women (3 groups) from various governorates and organizations trained on women's rights and gender equality, self-assertiveness and leadership.
* (25) poor/disadvantaged household women who attended previous training (1 group) trained on how to start income-generating businesses (development, marketing, feasibility study, financial planning, and leadership).
* (25) poor/disadvantaged women (1 group) trained on how to upgrade their existing businesses (marketing, market competitiveness) annually.
* (45) poor/disadvantaged women who attended previous training (3 groups) attended Technical and Vocational Training (8 weeks) annually in three fields (IT, handcrafts and food processing) based on their preferences, capacities and market needs.
* (10) trained small scale women entrepreneurs received financial assistance to start and upgrade their own businesses annually.
* Legal support to (10) micro-credit agreements.
* Follow up and monitoring visits to women entrepreneurs
* (26) small scale individual women entrepreneurs and representatives of development organizations participated in the annual exhibition.
* **WAC has focused during the strategic plan 2005- Up to 2012 to** build up the professional capacity of women community-based organizations (CBOs) based in marginalized areas to improve and expand the services provided to vulnerable women. Capacity building included training in managerial, specialized and gender topics, technical consultations, in kind assistance and sponsorships to implement specific activities as follows:
* Conducting training needs assessment prepared for 14 partner women CBOs in the Gaza Strip. The partner women CBOs were Women's Activity Centre-Rafah; Women Programmes Centre-Beach; Women Programmes Centre- EL Darag, AL Najda Women Society; Society Of Palestinian Women's committees- Rafah; Al Zaitoon General Leadership and Training in Al Zaitoon; Saving and Credit Society- Al Zaitoon; Saving and Credit Society- Beit Lahia; Palestinian Development Women Studies Association; Society Of Palestinian Women's Committees; Hayat society for Prosperity- Khan Younis; Al Jenoub Society for Women Health; Women's Activity Centre- ALMaghazi; and Family Development Association.
* Providing general managerial training (Strategic Planning, Project Cycle Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Conducting Need Assessment, Budgeting), specialized training as requested (On Job training), technical consultations for 14 women CBOs based in the five governorates across the Gaza Strip.
* Strengthening strategic management of CBOs through preparing strategic and action plans and monitoring and evaluation systems.
* Providing sub-grants for 14 women CBOs across the Gaza Strip to improve their resources (equipment, furniture and tools) and to support small scale community-based initiatives towards improving the status of women in the Gaza Strip.
* Advancing electronic forum for women CBOs to ensure continuous interaction among the 14 CBOs who benefited from the capacity building. The electronic forum includes sub-forums: coverage of the events organized by CBOs; coverage of programs' activities of CBOs; publications and progress narrative reports; studies and researches; announcements of CBOs; general dialogue on issues related to women's rights and gender equality; CBOs administrative issues; educational and cultural; and social and family issues. It aims to increase the community
* outreach of the CBOs' activities, objectives, and achievements and increasing the number of beneficiaries.
* Conducting regular quarterly meetings of the 14 CBOs who benefited from the capacity building to enhance networking towards lobbying and advocacy for women's rights and gender equality; ensure synergy/coordination and complementarity of interventions among women CBOs; and disseminate and exchange knowledge and experience among women CBOs.
* Conducting annual main conference on strengthening the role of CBOs in empowering women's rights and gender equality.