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**KinderUSA
news**

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SEE PAGE

03



School Uniforms for
the children in Gaza

SEE PAGE

06



Lebanon:
Well Health for Mothers

SEE PAGE

08



Kids 4 Kids West Bank

**THE MONTH OF RAMADAN IN
GAZA AND THE WEST BANK**

**RAMADAN 2015 ACTIVITIES
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**



\$15,000:
1500 children and
youth aged 8-14 in
Rafah

During the month of Ramadan, children in 5 centers throughout Rafah participated in exercise, painting, and games culminating in the daily breaking of fast with a nutritional meal. The locations chosen are close to the border and hence some of the most miserable for children and their families, many of whom have lost their homes and are unemployed. This program, working with the centers, identified the children and youth in greatest need.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 4



KIDS IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND RELIEF

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This year was one of rebuilding, not just of hope, but of lives throughout the region of Palestine and beyond. It was also a year of stark statistics for many in the occupied Palestinian state who have benefitted from your contributions through nutrition, psychosocial support, and economic development as outlined in the following pages. Most of our work is focused in Gaza primarily due to the ongoing blockade, now in its eighth year, where the unemployment rate according to the World Bank is the highest in the world. The blockade of land, air, and sea has pushed

Gaza to a record high of 45% unemployment, while youth unemployment soars at 60%. Not only is joblessness a problem but so is poverty, with 80 percent of Gaza's residents receiving some sort of aid, according to the World Bank, while for the first time in more than half a century, the infant mortality rate is on the rise. These are the realities Gazans deal with daily. Now in the West Bank, Palestinian youth face the challenge that comes simply with being Palestinian. Current measures by the occupying government such as "shoot to kill" and "ask no questions" while withholding

the bodies of the dead are unjustifiable violations of basic human rights. The international community must do more than just address the symptoms, it must join Palestinian civil society in its effort to move to end the occupation once and for all. Our goal at KinderUSA is to nurture Palestinian survival, resilience and endurance (known as sumood) that has enabled the people of the region to withstand unbearable atrocities for decades.

NUTRITIONAL MEALS FOR CHILDREN IN GAZA \$75,000

Entering our third school year, 2015-2016, children today in Gaza are in greater need than in previous years. There are several contributing factors the most significant of which are the blockade imposed on the civilian population and the 2014 war in the Gaza Strip. This school year, KinderUSA is working with 2 implementing partners covering a wider area and serving more children. The Nutritional Meals project is providing 2300 children in 14 kindergartens nutritious meals delivered to schools three times a week for the duration of six months.



The program also includes the training of 23 female heads of household who are employed as members in the local women's cooperatives serving other KinderUSA projects. KinderUSA

has been partially funded for this project through a generous grant of \$17,000. Thank you to all who have contributed to this important project.

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SCHOOL UNIFORMS FOR THE CHILDREN IN GAZA \$25,000



Prior to the start of the 2015-2016 year, a number of parents approached our field staff requesting assistance with school uniforms. Many mothers indicated that their children were refusing to go to school without necessary uniforms and supplies which the families couldn't afford. Children in Gaza are already facing the daunting number of schools that are ill-equipped and partially damaged due to the 8 year blockade and devastating wars. Partner organizations

worked to distribute vouchers for 1000 uniforms consisting of pants, shoes, socks, shirts for boys, and smocks for girls along with school bags complete with supplies. The needed items for the new school year cost an estimated \$24 per student, a fee out of reach for most families in Gaza. Implemented in 10 locations throughout Gaza, the purchases were made locally which provided a boost to the economy while employing 30 workers temporarily.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY AT

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AND **DONATE GENEROUSLY!**

OR USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE SO WE CAN FULFILL OUR PROJECT GOALS FOR 2014!



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THE MONTH OF RAMADAN IN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

\$25,000:
3400 children and youth aged 12-16 in 14 areas of Gaza

Throughout the month of Ramadan, cultural and recreational activities were implemented in 14 locations including Beit Hanoun, Khan Younis, Shuja'iyya, and Zaytoun to name a few – some of the hardest hit areas after last year's war – with more than 3400 children and youth participating. The program originally identified 2400 children, but as word spread about the program, friends brought friends to participate. Each day closed with the break-



ing of the fast, reinforcing bonds of friendship and community. Many of these children still live in makeshift shelters without benefit of a nutritional meal to break the fast. The cultural recreational programs were implemented by

local college students who not only received a stipend to assist with their continuing education, but were overwhelmed by the need and expressed gratitude to all who made these activities possible!

PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAM IN GAZA \$50,000



After the last war in Gaza, children lost family, friends, homes and schools, and were left with the trauma that always accompanies such tragedies. Working with Tamer Institute for Community Education as an implementing partner, KinderUSA sought to promote the psychosocial well-being of children and youth through expressive arts, mainly animation and storytelling, culminating in a project to beautify Gaza. Beneficiaries included 1800 children, 100 youth acting in the capacity of mentors, and 400

mothers working directly with the children in arts and crafts and book reading in libraries. Participants were able to engage in activities, and were provided with 5 safe environments for learning, exploration and community engagement. The 5 month long project also rehabilitated libraries while promoting book reading and sharing. After school and on their days off many participated in group therapy, learning music, creating art, and sharing stories from the war.

GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

RAMADAN FARMERS AND WOMEN COOPERATIVE PROJECT 2015

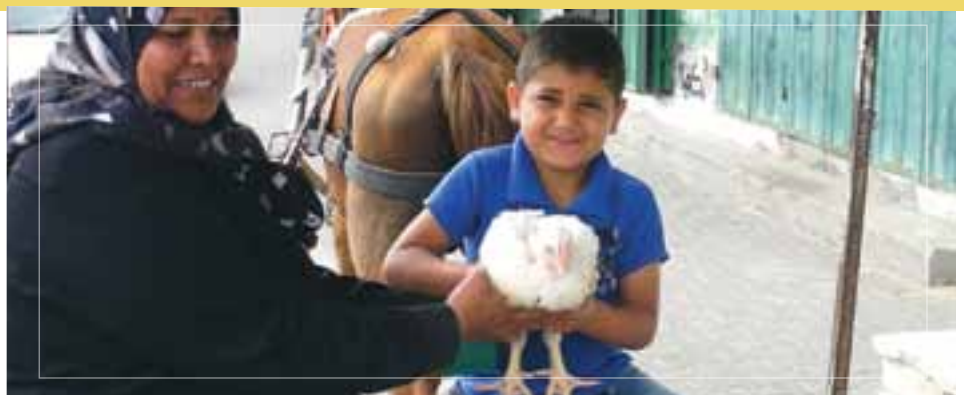
\$200,000: Gaza: Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, Khan Younis, Rafah, Shuja'iyya 1764 families, 73 Farmers, 35 Women working in cooperatives: Families with 6-10 members, mostly children, living in makeshift shelters benefitted from the Ramadan fresh food distribution throughout the month with a fresh basket of food provided weekly. Many of the families have no electricity and hence, no means of storage. Fresh produce, dairy, and live chickens were distributed aiding the beneficiary families, while providing a means of livelihood for the women's cooperatives and farmers which benefitted their families as well.



\$50,000: West Bank Hebron, 400 Families 25 small scale Rural Female and Male Farmers

Fresh food baskets were distributed twice a month to families in the Hebron Province where, , the rate of poverty affecting Palestinian families in refugee camps, the Old City of Hebron and East Yatta Bedouin areas is increasing, ac-

ording to the Atlas of Poverty in Palestine Families received fresh organically produced produce and dairy while the project supported fair trade and small-scale female and male farmers.



LEBANON: WELL HEALTH FOR MOTHERS \$32,000



Following three years of conflict in Syria, neighbouring Lebanon is under severe strain. This small country is hosting almost 1.2 million Syrian refugees in addition to a further 42,000 Palestinian refugees who have fled their former homes in camps in Syria. This influx of refugees is placing a heavy burden on Lebanon's infrastructure and competition for the limited resources and services has resulted in rising tensions between communities.

In the Palestinian refugee camps around Beirut, over 7,000 Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria (PRS) have joined an estimated 33,000 long-term Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) in the daily struggle for food, shelter, healthcare and jobs. This population is one of the poorest and most marginalised in the country.

KinderUSA, with our implementing partner organization Welfare Association distributed 'Pregnant Woman' and 'New Mother

& Baby' kits to 306 newly pregnant women and 330 new mothers in the Beirut camps and surrounding areas. In addition, we organised awareness sessions on nutrition for both mother and baby, distributed new mother kits which included prenatal multivitamins, calcium supplements, soap, breast pads and sanitary pads, and new baby kits for infants aged 0-24 months which included diapers, soap, talc, baby cream, baby pyjamas and diapers in line with UNICEF guidelines.

Home visits were made to the beneficiaries by a trained community health worker during which the trained health professional could assess the woman's health conditions and provide one-on-one assistance and guidance as needed, with referrals for more critical needs.

This was a six month project addressing women in Burj el-Brajneh and Shatila camps.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SDC) SCHOOL \$32,000

KinderUSA has supported SDC for 4 years in their work that continues to provide Palestinian children in Ein el-Hilweh a space in this distressed camp to help them overcome academic challenges while engaging them in a variety of activities and specialized training that will carry them through into adulthood. Many of the children who attend SDC School are Palestinians from Syria (PRS) who have found a place for tutoring in English to pass Lebanese national tests, while many more attend for the curriculum taught by Syrian instructors hired specifically for the PRS who are attending the school. This year, 81 students are attending with 5 instructors. Their ongoing success and existence is a direct result of your support.



MICRO –ENTERPRISE FOR WOMEN IN GAZA \$115,500

According to the World Bank, unemployment in Gaza is 45 percent (63 percent for youth), 80 percent of the population relies on international assistance, and more than 70 percent of the population is food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Forming focus groups in Gaza to identify not only needs, but input on how best to address the growing level of poverty and malnourishment in the region, female heads of household discussed farming to hairdressing. After much involvement and numerous meetings, the decision was made to proceed with a unique sustainable chicken farming project. Working with 104 female heads of household, KinderUSA, with its implementing partner Beit Lahia Development Association, trained and operationalized women in the development and marketing of husbandry chicken farming.

Veterinarians, poultry farmers, and business professionals all contributed to the program that has allowed women to sell their eggs on the market in addition to selling the manure to farmers or for use in their own gardens as fertilizers. The project which just completed at the end of October, has witnessed a production rate of 65% for each beneficiary

with anticipation expected to reach 97% by year's end. Many of the beneficiaries are selling their eggs in the open market while some are contracting with local markets to sell their eggs. We will continue to follow up with the beneficiaries and report back periodically. Thank you to all who made this pilot project possible!





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KIDS 4 KIDS WEST BANK \$15,000

KinderUSA continues to support the arts with your donations through Yes Theatre performs its "Kids4Kids" program which is modeled on instilling confidence, developing team building skills, and cultivating the talents of the areas youth. Promoting drama and theater in the Hebron Governorate working with 70 school students from Arroub and Fuwwar camps, aged 12-18, the program develops a theatrical production with 30 performances under guidance of local artists and teachers throughout the surrounding villages. The program teaches values of team building, life skills, and a means of expression.

