

Human Concern International
HCI

Post-conflict Recovery Plan for Gaza

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Agriculture Industry

HCI's post-conflict recovery and rehabilitation plan includes a livelihood support project for farmers, which will help hardest-hit farming families to recover their losses and resume their production activities. The first of these is an attempt to equip widows and at-risk youth with the tools they need to become self-sufficient, earning much needed additional income.

The 'Beekeeping for Child Education and Family Income' project seeks to train such individuals in the art of honey-making. By working with grassroots organizations and public schools in the area, teachers will impart technical bee-keeping skills to school students and local population in need of additional means of financial support. Honey produced during the training process will fund teacher incomes and will be invested in the school's facilities. HCI will furnish participants with the tools (beehives, bee strains...etc..) they need to start their very own beekeeping farms, small businesses producing quality local honey. The start-up costs for this project are small, and the potential for income is great. The prospective impact such a program will have on local farmers affected by the war is immense. The project main objectives include:

- To diversify income for the marginalized families in beekeeping, especially school-age children and female-headed families.
- To train needy at-risk school-age children and women to a standard where they are able to establish and maintain their own hives as a viable business activity.
- To bring in additional income to the school which will be used to buy additional educational resources (books & equipment etc..), and to fund scholarships for the most needy pupils.
- To be in a position to replicate the developed project at other schools and grassroots organizations in Palestine without the need for substantial fresh resources.
- To improve the socio-economic, physical health, and mental states of the subjects.

Local Economic Recovery Planning

With the aim to support post-conflict sustainable livelihoods initiatives in the Gaza Strip, HCI is preparing a comprehensive workshop for HCI partner NGOs working inside the Strip.

Twelve participants identified from among HCI local partner NGOs working inside the Strip will travel to Cairo to participate in the Local Economic Recovery (LER) training workshop organized by HCI. Participants will draft a comprehensive local economic recovery plan to be supported by HCI and other international aid agencies. Quick impact projects/programs aiming to revitalize the economy and eventually lead to sustainable development will be developed.

The training program also aims to strengthen the participating NGOs' operational tools and integrate them within a mainstreamed local economic recovery strategy in the Gaza Strip. Participants will review and analyze different activities and methodologies of supporting livelihoods within the context of local economic recovery approach.

Kindergartens Rehabilitation

In keeping with HCI's past work to increase the availability of quality education in Palestine, a rehabilitation program for community-run kindergartens in Gaza has been developed. These Kindergartens, many of them have been largely damaged during the military operation, are in dire need of rehabilitation/rebuilding, both in the physical (sanitation, heating/air conditioning and ventilation) and theoretical (training, psychological teaching approaches) sense.

The 'Brining Hope to Palestinian Pre-school Children' kindergarten rehabilitation program will not only provide financial gains for new female teachers and parents returning to the work force, it will also provide children with a much needed distraction from the deteriorating circumstances in the Strip. These children will be exposed to a rich educational environment that will serve as a haven from the chaos, destruction and poverty of settlement life.

The Kindergartens will be provided with much needed educational materials and toys, as well as playgrounds. Teachers will be given educational training grounded in solid psychological methodology. New job openings will be created for tens of female instructors. Enrolment in kindergarten programs is expected to increase as a result of the availability of well-equipped kindergartens with strong curriculums and skilled teachers. Parents who enroll their children will be able to return to part or full time jobs, thus increasing their household income. The project involves the following:

- Kindergartens introducing new innovative and tailored teaching methods using new psychological teaching methods.
- Teachers at kindergartens receive training and materials on new innovative and tailored teaching methods using new psychological teaching methods.

- Kindergartens with expanded enrollment capacity.
- Kindergartens' classrooms rehabilitated.
- Kindergartens' playgrounds installed and improved.
- Kindergartens' on-site sanitation rehabilitated.
- Kindergartens receive educational toys and teaching materials.
- Children at kindergartens receive nutrition and psycho-social support.

Since 2004, 3,854 children attending 34 kindergartens in the West Bank have benefited from similar program implemented by HCI through the rehabilitation of kindergartens as well as the provision of dairy supplements, nutrition items along with basic school supplies.

Household Economic Recovery

With the aim to support post-conflict sustainable livelihoods initiatives in the Gaza Strip on household level, HCI has designed a project that addresses household economic revival, by helping families to recover their losses and resume their economic activities and launch them on the path to self-support and maybe even beyond, towards a little prosperity.

The project involves the development of viable household micro businesses for beneficiaries, which would include business ideas generation, business viability assessments, and field coaching on the implementation and the management of income generating activities. Beneficiaries are individually selected by HCI in partnership with grassroots partners based on at-home needs assessment as well as pre-defined set of criteria.

In addition to extensive technical assistance during the design, the implementation and the management of the business, the project will contribute toward the working capital and fixed assets of the micro business but in the form of in-kind contributions.

Child Sponsorship

HCI's child sponsorship program, which sponsors children from single mother-headed households, will be expanded to include new orphans inside Gaza. HCI has started the screening and the selection of orphans inside Gaza to be included in the scheme. Orphans sponsored by the scheme are individually selected by HCI in partnership with grassroots partners. The sponsorship is given to the orphan and their family to help towards living costs.

HCI's regional child sponsorship program started in Palestine in 2006 by sponsoring 67 orphans. 83 Palestine children are now sponsored through this program.

Support for University Students

In addition to post-conflict relief and rehabilitation work which HCI is committed to and consistently pursuing in Gaza, Gazan students from the Bir Zeit University in the West Bank city of Ramallah are now receiving funds from HCI to contribute towards their living expenses. Despite decades of conflict and destruction, the Palestinian culture continues to hold education as one of the primary assets to an improved and progressive society. In fact, Palestine boasts one of the highest higher-education rates in the Arab region. Education is thus adamantly pursued, despite wars, despite poverty, and in face of all possible obstacles.

These young women and men have left their families behind in Gaza to pursue their education at the University of Bir Zeit in Ramallah but are now bearing the brunt of more devastation and destruction that has fallen upon their homes, their families, and their relatives in the Gaza strip. Not only have they been unable to reach or communicate with their families to ensure their safety but they themselves have lost all source of income and are now incapable of either financing their education or sustaining a living in Ramallah.

As a result, the University offered to waver some of the tuition payments for some of these Gazan students and HCI came in to provide the much needed sponsorship which would contribute towards the students living expenses. "Education goes beyond literacy; it is a capability which can ensure opportunity and HCI is continuing to support and motivate those who need it most", commented Sara Barakat, HCI's coordinator in the West Bank and the director of the local NGO, the Vocational & Rehabilitation Workshops for Girls in Gaza and the West Bank.

At the moment, 30 university undergraduate and graduate students from Gaza have benefitted from this project. Students enrolled in the program are individually selected based on comprehensive household economic assessment and one-to-one interviews.

Health

A \$1.8 million medical aid package has been put together by HCI with the help of Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC), to treat the sick, injured and malnourished. It will be coordinated through UNRWA and WHO inside Gaza. The shipment has arrived Jordan via the Aqaba port in Jordan, and which will be shipped by land to Gaza in the coming 10 days.

The shipment include medicines such as antibiotics, high-blood pressure and diabetes medicines, aspirin, blood clots, rheumatoid arthritis, , injectable anticoagulant, asthma and allergy, ulcers, and other medicines. The shipment also include large quantity of medical supplies such as needles and syringes, sharps containers, wound care, enteral feeding, blood collection, suction, electrodes, dialysis/vascular access, vascular therapy, sutures, and others.

In 2007, similar shipment of medications was sent to Gaza and the West Bank, where 60% of the designated items went to Gaza to the higher health committee of coordination, a body represented by both NGOs and community leaders to examine the health needs of people in Gaza.

Food /Non-food Distributions and Dispatched Trucks

Despite the shortage of many supplies inside Gaza, some basic food and non-food necessities are becoming available in the market inside the Strip, which are imported by Gaza-based commercial suppliers. Due to price increases and the lack of currency, however, most Gazans are not able to acquire these necessities. Furthermore, the destruction of agricultural fields means that most Gazans dependent on farming for their living can no longer secure these basic food items.

As a result, HCI implemented distributions of food and hygiene supplies for needy Gazans inside the Strip. Through an at-home-needs assessment and extensive outreach activities each family received a parcel consisting of 27 food and hygiene items which were put together in partnership with HCI's local partner in Gaza, The Aid and Hope Centre for the Care of Cancer Patients and their Families. Forty-eight local volunteers are helping make this project possible.)

"Families living in the El-Zaytoun, Shoujaiya and Tal El-Hawa neighborhoods in Gaza City, as well as at the Al-Shatia Camp on the periphery of the city benefited from those distributions. Over a span of two weeks we profiled thousands of families in those four areas who are in dire need of support." Eman Khader explained.

During the 18-month blockade on Gaza, HCI dispatched trucks loaded with basic commodities to Gaza by land. Last November, two trucks loaded with parcels of food supplies were dispatched to Gaza by land with the help of HCI's partner in Jordan, the Hashemite Charity Organization. The Hashemite Charity Organization assisted in the preparation of the trucks inside Jordan and transported them to Gaza by land after acquiring all necessary approvals from the relevant authorities. The trucks crossed the King Hussein Bridge and headed to the West Bank city of Jericho, before continuing their journey to the Kerem Shalom border crossing in Gaza.

During the Israeli military operation, HCI dispatched additional trucks in partnership with the Hashemite Charity Organization. The latest dispatched trucks were loaded with 13 tons of tuna, sardine and meat cans which were distributed to needy families through UNRWA's distribution centers. Food cans are high in nutrition, easy to store and require no refrigerator, since there is no electricity in many parts of Gaza.

The Hashemite Charity Organization was one of the few organizations allowed to dispatch trucks to Gaza via the Kerem Shalom border crossing south of the Strip. The Kerem Shalom border crossing was partially open during the military operation, allowing

an average of 50 trucks per day to enter Gaza. The supplies were then handed over to UNRWA to be distributed inside the Strip through UNRWA's ten distribution centers. The Hashemite Charity Organization dispatched an average of 7 trucks per day to Gaza during the military attack.

Since December HCI has used up an amount of \$500,000 in aid to Gazans. Our target is to provide the Gazans with another half a million dollar relief aid package containing food, water, shelter, and other basic need items.

Implementation Strategy

HCI Middle East Division is managing the entire operation through its Lebanon-based team and its coordinators based in Jordan and the West Bank, Palestine.

HCI's partner personnel inside Gaza, the Aid & Hope Center for the Care of Cancer Patients and Their Families, have mobilized 48 volunteers to assist in the design and the implementation of HCI interventions. The Vocational Rehabilitation Workshops for Girls NGO in Palestine and the Jerusalem-based The Union of Charitable Societies Organization are providing HCI with logistical support and coordination as well as supervision to HCI activities in Gaza through their Gaza-based personnel.

HCI only choose partners that have been thoroughly scrutinised, monitored, evaluated and verified in meeting our strict criteria and ensuring highest professional standards in program design and delivery, particularly in the areas of transparency, accountability and equal opportunities. HCI values the support of its donors and every effort is made to make sure that every penny donated goes to those who need it the most.

No money is transferred to Gaza for HCI's projects at the moment. Supplies, equipments and materials are being acquired through Gaza-based suppliers, and some is transported to Gaza via the border crossing of Karem Shalom.

Human Concern International (HCI)

Projects in Palestine 2003-2008

Project Title	Distribution of Medical Aid Packages, Gaza
Project Description	A massive medical aid package containing life saving medicines and direly needed supplies. 18 primary health care facilities operated by UNRWA located both inside and outside refugee camps and secondary health care centers supervised by WHO will benefit from the medical supplies.
Project Cost	CAD \$1,864,488
Year Completed	2008
Partner Organization	Health Partners International Canada (HPIC) Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, Jordan UNRWA, Gaza
Project Title	Emergency Relief Assistance for Gaza Victims of War
Project Description	HCI addresses the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the continued border closures in last weeks of December, 08, have prevented the delivery of vital food, medicine and fuel supplies. Channeled funds are utilized to provide Gazans with basic necessities: food, water, and fuel.
Project Cost	CAD \$100,000. Project Budget: CAD \$500,000
Year Completed	Current
Partner Organization	Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization UNRWA
Project Title	Relief for Disadvantaged Families in Gaza
Project Description	HCI dispatched two tracks loaded with basic food necessities to Gaza Strip to help besieged Gazans survive the deteriorating living conditions. This will help 2,000 vulnerable families to cope with the difficult situation

	they are going through.
Project Cost	US \$120,360
Year Completed	December 2008
Partner Organization	Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization UNRWA
Project Title	School Bag for Elementary Students
Project Description	Distribution of the 1000 of school bags, stationary and school supplies to poor students aged between 6 and 16 years which was a natural response to the needs of the families in the towns of Hebron and Bethlehem.
Project Cost	US\$57,100 – HCI Share: US\$48,837
Year Completed	2008
Partner Organization	Women League Vocational Rehabilitation Workshops Society for Girls (VRWSG)
Project Title	Support for the Neediest Palestinian Olive Farmers in the West Bank
Project Description	The project consisted on building the capacity of 140 low-income Palestinian olive oil growers and farmers and provided them with much needed harvesting and pruning tools and equipments that helped them increase and improve their olive oil production, thus boosting their income. The low-income villages of Al Khodr, Houssan, Nahalen, Fouken valley, Bater, Al Walja and Al Jabaa in the South of West Bank benefited

	from the project.
Project Cost	US\$53,380 – HCI Share: US\$30,200
Year Completed	2008
Partner Organization	Ministry of Agriculture Vocational Rehabilitation Workshops Society for Girls (VRWSG)

Project Title	Rehabilitation of Kindergartens in Palestine
Project Description	Rehabilitating three Palestinian kindergartens (Nablus Kindergarten, Azmoot Model Kindergarten, Noor Al Huda Kindergarten) in the West Bank by making the necessary repairs and installations to the classrooms, playgrounds and the restrooms and raising the capacity of the kindergarten teachers. 227 kids benefited from the project. They now enjoy better educational environment that promote their growth. Moreover, parents of children benefited indirectly from this project by attending multiple activities organized in the kindergartens, and participating in the educational process of their children
Project Cost	US\$15,725
Year Completed	2007
Partner Organization	Near East Foundation (NEF)

Project Title	Child Sponsorship Program
Project Description	Since 2003, HCI has been sponsoring orphans from single mother-headed households in the poorest communities in Palestine. All orphans sponsored by the scheme are individually selected by HCI in partnership with grassroots partners. A child's age, family size, family income and living conditions are looked at to assess need. The project in Palestine

	started in 2006 by sponsoring 67 orphans. 82 children are now sponsored through this program.
Project Cost	CAD\$65,000 (Approximate per year) \$325,000 in the past five years
Year Completed	Ongoing
Partner Organization	Union of Charitable Societies (UCS)

Project Title	Environmental Action Project (EAP)
Project Description	The Environmental Action Project (EAP), working through a broad coalition of municipal and civic organizations, worked on improving the environmental conditions that now contribute to illness and disease among local residents. EAP provided financial assistance accompanied by a comprehensive range of technical assistance, training, and institutional development services that promote, support and reinforce cost effective means for the on-going collection, safe disposal and/or recycling of household wastes. The project worked in the 5-village "Assira Cluster" (Assira Al-Shamaliya, Al-Bathan, Taluzza, Bayt Imrin, and Yazid) in the West Bank. These villages have an estimated population of 12,000.
Project Cost	US\$616,000 – HCI share: US\$101,000
Year Completed	2006
Partner Organization	Municipal Council in the Asira Cluster Area Near East Foundation (NEF)
Project Title	Distribution of Medical Aid Packages, West Bank and Gaza

Project Description	Shipment of medications that consisted of three medical items: 780 bottles of Azithromycine 200mg/5ml, 8000 packets of 6 tablets of Azithromycine 250mg tablets, both are azalides, a subclass of macrolide antibiotics, and 30000 bottles of Loratidine (Claritin) syrup which is a tricyclic antihistamine. HCI partner, the NEF in the West Bank carried out the distribution of the shipment to the needy and ill-conditioned Palestinians. 50% of the shipment was distributed among UNRWA's wide network of clinics in the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. The other 50% were distributed to local medical NGOs. 60% of the designated items went to Gaza to the higher health committee of coordination, a body represented by both NGOs and community leaders to examine the health needs of people in Gaza.
Project Cost	US\$567,358
Year Completed	2006
Partner Organization	Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), Union of Charitable Societies (UCS) Near East Foundation (NEF) and Health Partners International of Canada
Project Title	Olive Oil Development
Project Description	The project includes the purchasing of olive oil from 500 households (approximately 3000 individuals) and then redistributed it to additional households and made available through area schools and local community service agencies. This oil improved nutritional standards within the community and allowed scarce cash income to be used for the purchase of basic necessities. Several thousand additional individuals benefited from this process. An additional 50 persons benefited from the packaging, handling, and distribution of oil within and between communities in the area. Villages surrounding Asira Al-Shamaliya north of Nablus were targeted in this project.
Project Cost	US\$24,000
Year Completed	2005
Partner	Municipal Council in the Asira Cluster Area

Organization	Near East Foundation (NEF)
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Project Title	Cup of Milk – Round 2
Project Description	The project includes the distribution of packages (milk, white and yellow cheese, other local milk products) to the entire family, not just children. The program's benefits (vitamins from the dairy products) have been shared by all family members, particularly helpful to the poorest. 862 children and their families who attend 17 kindergartens benefited from the project. The project worked in the 5-village "Assira Cluster" (Assira Al-Shamaliya, Al-Bathan, Taluzza, Bayt Imrin, and Yazid) in the West Bank.
Project Cost	US\$69,583– HCI Share: US\$43,362
Year Completed	2005
Partner Organization	Near East Foundation (NEF) Asafa Dairy Plant (ADP) Tetra Pak Company Palestinian Ministry of Education Land O' Lakes Inc
Project Title	Cup of Milk – Round 1
Project Description	The project includes the provision of dairy supplements for along with some basic school supplies for elementary school children in five villages in the Asira Cluster Area in the West Bank utilizing locally produced dairy products. 1665 children were actually served by the project. In addition, the Al-Safa dairy factory in Nablus benefited from increased sales of milk products. This helped not only the factory itself but also assured continuing employment for 35 workers and the estimated 250 small farmers who supply the factory.
Project Cost	US\$22,500
Year Completed	2004
Partner	Near East Foundation (NEF)

Organization	Asafa Dairy Plant (ADP) Tetra Pak Company Palestinian Ministry of Education Land O' Lakes Inc Little Hands
Project Title	Let There Be Light (and Water Too)
Project Description	HCI innovative strategy worked in cooperation with the municipal council in five villages in the Asira Cluster Area in the West Bank to trade electricity and water for the tons of unsold olive oil accumulated in the villages of the cluster. Olive oil then redistributed to homes and schools where there is a need or to sale or export the oil and convert profits into development assistance for the cluster villages. 240 individuals have benefited from this project and are now able to receive electricity and water. Their limited incomes are now available for basic necessities and schooling for their children. With light and water once again available in the homes, life is much better. Families whose outstanding debts were canceled were approached by the municipality and have been allowed to use the electricity once again, being requested to limit their use to basic needs.
Project Cost	US\$56,000 -- HCI Share: US\$24,000
Year Completed	2003
Partner Organization	Municipal council in the Asira Cluster Area Near East Foundation (NEF)

Project Title	Helping Kids Cope
Project Description	The aim of this project was to assist both the children and their families to cope with and survive the continuing violence that surrounding them. The focus of the activities was on the psychological well-being of the children. Professional counseling and advice for parents and other care-takers is provided. Children receive free food, nutritional supplements, medical assistance, and a package for home use.

Project Cost	US\$52,000. HCI share: \$40,500
Year Completed	2003
Partner Organization	Near East Foundation (NEF) Center for Development
Project Title	Seasonal Programs Such As Eid Food Hampers And Gift Packages, Zabiha Meat
Project Description	The purpose of these programs is to provide financial, material and food assistance to the needy families and their children in Palestine during the blessed month of Ramadan, the Fitir Eid, and the Adha Eid. For example, HCI's Ramadan Programs in Palestine included Iftar, other daily meals, Family Assistance and Clothe-A-Child Projects. HCI also provides the service of performing the Zabiha in many countries. Fresh meat is distributed to poor and destitute families in Palestine during the Adha Eid.
Project Cost	US\$20,000 (approximate per year)
Year Completed	2003-ongoing
Partner Organization	Red Crescent Union of Charitable Societies Village Councils