


Fund for Gender Equality

GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Project Information				Occupied Palestinian Territory
Project Name	Enhancing Palestinian Women's Opportunities			Programme Type: Catalytic
Lead Org	Bisan Center for Research and Development			Grant ID: 1692
Co-lead Org				
Thematic Area(s)	Economic Empowerment			
Thematic Sub Area(s)	Improve women's economic conditions; with a slight focus on political empowerment with respect to labor laws			
Grant Amount	\$450,000	Grant Start Date	December 18, 2009	
Additional Gov't Funding		Grant End Date	December 31, 2011	
Total Budget	\$450,000			

Partner Agencies	
Government	PLC; Ministry of Labor; Ministry of Women Affairs; Local Councils
Civil Society	Women's cooperatives; women's unions; UPWC; UAWC; Labor Unions; PNGO

Programme Summary
The programme seeks to consider the specific restrictions and conditions faced by Palestinian women living under Occupation. It also seeks to use community-based cooperatives as a sustainable and replicable alternative development model for Palestinian women's economic and social empowerment. These cooperatives would be used as centers for political empowerment because they would strengthen sustainable networks of Palestinian women, enabling them to advocate for gender-sensitive revisions in existing labor legislation and extending social protections for women informal workers.

DETAILED PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Contribution to Law(s)				
Name of Law	Law Type	Year Implemented	Type of Contribution	Expected Level of Contribution (High or Low)
Labor Law		2000	Gender Mainstreaming	Low

General Programme Goal
Empower women's political, social and economic role through their participation in an alternative model of cooperatives that can promote gender equality and social justice, in addition to advocating for social protection of informal workers.

Expected Programme Outcomes
<p>Outcome 1: Economic efficiency of women participants and their well-being are improved by the end of the 2-year project cycle through engaging in the cooperative model, which includes conceptual and technical training to develop their ability to enhance their economic and social status.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Development of a new curriculum that focuses on political, social and economic aspects of development in addition to addressing women's rights and gender issues, raising the awareness of coop members with respect to their rights and entitlements. This curriculum is the foundation for building future cooperatives.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Members of women's cooperatives have conceptual skills to work with other groups to support the establishment of alternative models of gender-sensitive cooperatives, in addition to lobbying for equal rights in labor laws.</p>

Main Achievements
<p>In its first year of implementation, the programme made progress with respect to its first and second outcomes – successfully laying the groundwork for new and alternative development models - community-based cooperatives - and developing a holistic curriculum to encourage women cooperative members' ability to claim their economic and political rights. In building on previous activities, Bisan has taken the results of its baseline study and used them to shape the strategic vision of the programme and to influence the work that it has done with the 6 women's cooperatives it has selected to become part of this programme. Key activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing a needs assessment aimed at analyzing participating cooperatives' physical and human capacities; discussing key findings

with co-op members as well as other NGOs and development practitioners during workshops; as well as identifying the existing linkages between cooperatives and Local Councils.

- Forming an expert team of trainers including academics, practitioners and gender experts to develop the curriculum to support the cooperative members' development.
- Finalizing a conceptual, technical, and administrative capacity development plan for the co-ops, as alternative development models; conducting 14 training sessions on: cooperatives and cooperation; volunteerism and collective work; history of cooperatives; history of Palestine; alternative cooperative development models; team building; internal and external communication skills; self-assertiveness; the law and legal concepts; critique of labor laws; social protections; gender equality and gender-based rights as well as general management, marketing, documentation and accounting practices
- Restructuring 6 cooperatives as production centres that use economic means to empower women socially and politically.

Key Highlights

The use of cooperatives as an alternative development model is an innovative practice that, it is hoped, Bisan will be able to duplicate throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories