

ACFA Long Term Goals:

ACFA endeavors to improve the quality of education for Palestinian children and youths in the Occupied Territories and Israel in the spirit of peace and community.

ACFA Short Term Goals:

To improve children's reading; To produce children's literature; To enrich children's libraries and kindergartens in affected areas by the Israeli occupation and poor areas such like the refugee camps; To increase the involvement of parents and educators in the children's educational process.

Project Progress Summary:

The following summarizes the activities of ACFA project:

60 years of the Palestinian NAKBA and Education for Human rights and Peace for the year 2008. NIWANO code no : 07-A-212

during 2008:

1) The production, publication and distribution of **6000** copies of **two** new issues of the child's magazines, Alhayat Lilatfal, for 9-12 years old, and **8000** copies of **two** new issues of Alhayat Lilasafeer, for 6-8 years old children.

The 4 issues were published on January-February 2008 and March-April 2008 , each month two different new issues.

ACFA team of editors and cartoonists and setting computer printers and a lot of writers who volunteered to help in producing acfa's magazines did create new corners in the magazines such as: Palestinian towns and places and Palestinian folk items. In addition new corners about international arts all over the world succeeded to bring the world to the Palestinian readers and let them

“Swim freely” in the international educational seas and oceans such as arts and artists from the world and such as visiting places and civilizations in our wide world.

The new issues of the year 2008 gave a lot of knowledge about the Holy Land and the Palestinian people and gave the children an open wide space to express themselves through their own magazine, and these issues emphasized the pleasure for the ACFA education for brotherhood among the Palestinian children and youth, Moslems and Christians. This was successfully done through the photos and paintings and songs.

2) **Holding workshops and Four festivals for children** in three areas of Israel and Palestine. The first one was held in Tamra in Gallilee on 17 April 2008 in the main educational center of the municipality with the cooperation of 14 teachers from the Elbukhari school leded by their leader for Arabic language teacher Mrs. Lobna Hadeed from Kufur Yasif village.



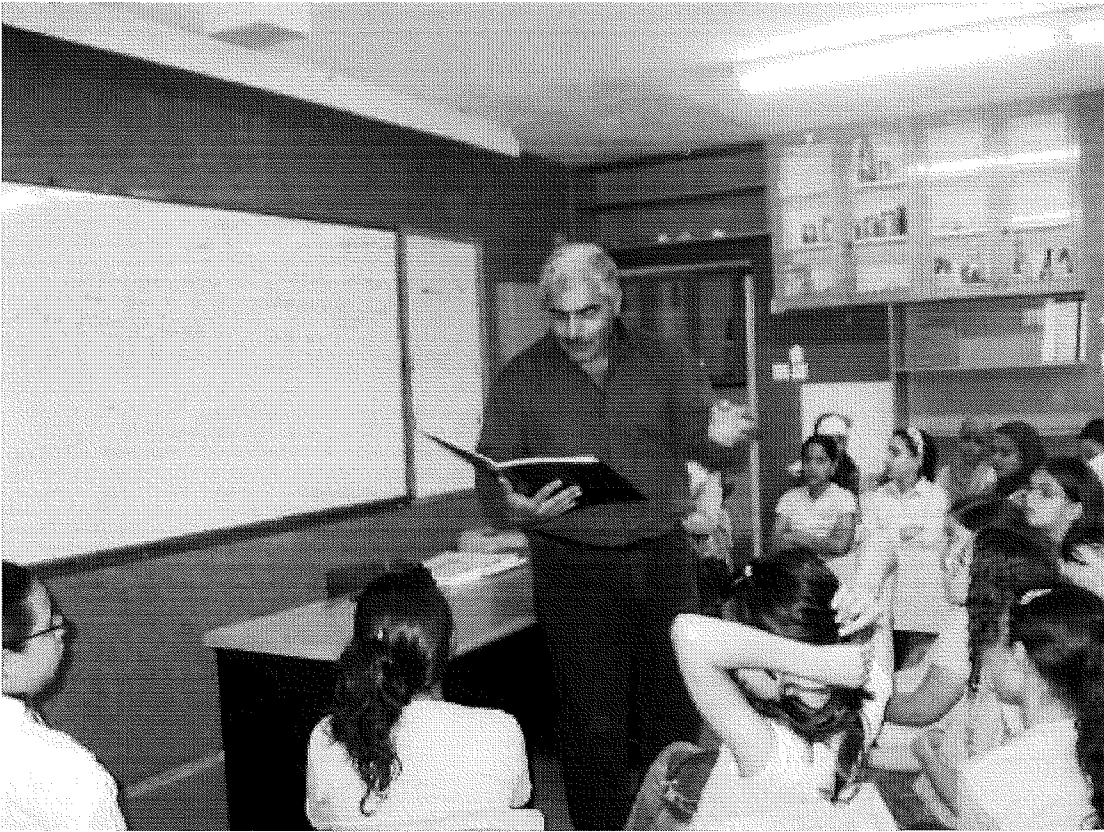
The 640 pupils of the school were involved during the week with different festivals and art exhibitions in the school.

The second workshop and festival took place in Jerusalem, in Esawia quarter in the main school for girls headed by Mrs. Aida Kadoumi.

The team responsible to hold this activity was lead by a new member of called Mrs. Rouida Mostasfa.

150 children enjoyed the telling a story and the folk songs and 40 women participated in the workshop titled: women as leadership for education.

The third festival took place in the Triangle area, in Baka village. 80 pupils of Alshafii school who are graduated from the elementary school on June 2008 participated in this festival lead by the teacher Mr. Ibraheem Kaadan who is considered one of the active volunteers of acfa.



The acfa day was a part of one week activities run by the teams of the school under the title : Celebrating a week of the Arabic language. The photos shows the hand made arts about the activities of stories and folk idioms and songs and folk games.

The **forth** main festival was held in Arraba village in the Gallilee in the North area of Israel on 07 June 2008 in Alzahraa school headed by Ali Arabi.

This festival was arranged by acfa representative in this school Mrs Kholood Nassar who is working in this school as the main teacher for Arabic Language.

The festival was running for one week of activities:



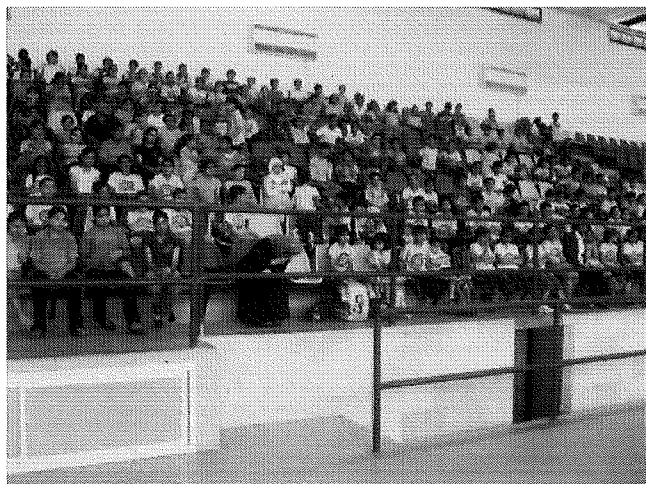
An exhibition for the pupils paintings,

A play on the school "theatre" about one of the stories written by the editor of Alhayat Lilatfal magazine-
The short tail of the fox.

A folk dabka – Dance,

A competition in writing stories by the pupils.

The main activity was giving the pupils one month to look for materials and resources for writing about one of the international or Palestinian writers.



Children's Festivals

Perhaps the most positive effect that our festivals had was in allowing some of the children of the West Bank and East Jerusalem a breathing space away from the everyday toil that is generally the lot of the children of this area. Through folk dance, songs, paintings, and poems, the children were also given a place to express themselves in participating in the festivals.

Activities of acfa workshops and new books:

1- ACFA printed 500 copies of the Palestinian Folk Encyclopedia for kids and youth.

This Encyclopedia is considered the first folkloric, heritages and arts encyclopedia of books for children and youth in the Arab world in common and for Palestinians in special, this Encyclopedia includes Palestinian proverbs and sayings; folklore, songs and stories; customs, fashions and games; and other fields of interest for children and youth. The series consists of 8 volumes with 100 pages each, including color pictures and photos.

160 new child centers (out of the planned 200) that serve youth and children received 400 copies of the Encyclopedia for free. Part of the new child centers participated in acfa women workshops in Tamra – Gallilee and Laquia and Saied Bedouin villages in Nakab area in the southern part of Israel and in TulKarm and Jerusalem in the West Bank.

ACFA produced a new book about Jaffa town and 10 more other towns in Israel\Palestine.

This book carried the name Zad Alnojoom and it includes other chapters about international artists and Palestinian artists.

This colored book was printed on September 2008 in 2000 copies and will be mainly distributed for free in Public libraries and child centers.

2- Holding 7 workshops for **women** in four areas in Israel and Palestine.

A- The **first** one was held in Tamra in Gallilee in Israel on June 2008 in the educational center of the municipality with the cooperation of Elbukhari school leaded by their leader for Arabic language teacher Mrs. Lobna Hadeed.

88 women and mothers did participate in this educational week of activities that included group discussions about Palestinian folk stories and songs and idioms and games as an important part of the education pool of contents addressed to their kids.

On the end of the workshop acfa team and the school team distributed for free for all the participants different copies of educational materials and publications includes the copies of the Palestinian Folk Encyclopedia.



B- The **second** workshop took place in Jerusalem on May 2008, in Esawia quarter in the main school for girls headed by Mrs. Aida Kadoumi. The team responsible to hold this activity was lead by a new member of acfa called Mrs. Rouida Mostasfa who is an inhabitant of East Jerusalem.



40 women participated in the workshop titled: women as leadership for education.

The mother's workshops gave the opportunity to mothers in difficult socio-economic situation to meet and think about finding solutions to the educational difficulties faced. It was also an opportunity for the mothers to become directly involved in the education of their children and to break the usual routine of staying at home.

The women learned through these workshops the main social and daily life problems of the Palestinian women and mothers in General under the occupation and under severe poverty suffer from loss of free movement from village to town or from area to area and try to find solutions for part of these problems.

The women discussed together information about the Palestinian educational process and the role of the library in the educational project and how to develop their abilities to design and conduct educational activities for children.

The women enjoyed being part of the voluntary work for their society and this was reflected through the food and soft drinks they prepared for the workshops and for the women centers they belong to and through their voluntary efforts to distribute acfa publications for free to the kindergartens and child centers and child libraries in their areas. This gave the activity a lot of solidarity spirits and their voluntary work saved a lot of money to acfa.

C- The **third** and **Forth** workshop were regional ones and took place in the Nakab area in the south area of our country on **03 06 2008** , where the Palestinian Bedoins are living under so difficult socio economic conditions.

These workshops served **60** women from different villages near Sayed and Laqiya villages.

The Bedoins are struggling nowadays to protect their own lands from the Israeli government that decided to confiscate the majority of the Bedoins lands.

It was not easy to convince 60 women leave their houses to participate in our workshop since they are so traditional in their habits.



These publications developed the educational centers and libraries with the necessary supply of folk materials and literature.

Mrs.Rasmya Sayed, a regional responsible person for kindergartens, opened the first workshop, educating the participants-audience about her personal experience.

Mrs Suad sayed the director of the kindergartens in school B opened the second workshop afternoon on 03 06 08.

The editor of Alhayat Lilatfal magazine discussed with the audience the two hours of lecture about the education for children and the folk items of this education and how to be open to the international literature.

ACFA team did distribute for free for all the participants a package of acfa child publications.

The participants -the women – did volunteer and shared the acfa team and the team of Sayed school where we hold these workshops, the women participation was seen through their contribution to the library of Sayed.

D- The **Fifth and sixth** workshop where the main ones in this project, took place on **30 June 2008**, in **TulKarm** town in the West Bank (north area of the Wwest bank) in the **Educational Center for child development** in **TulKarm**.

The chairwoman is Mrs. Maha Helmi, She and the director Mrs. Oudi arranged the contacts and follow up of meetings with the 60 participants who represent about 34 centers and NGOs for women and children and schools' libraries.

The program of the day of workshops:

1-registration and coffee with cookies.

The Educational Center for Child Development introduce his program and the participants introduces themselves.

2-A lecture by a social educational Palestinian women about her personal experience and the abilities to overcome the problems under the occupation by Mrs. Rajaa Alsarghali who is the director of the AlFajr TV.

3-A story teller by Dr. Lotfi Kittani

4- A lecture by Badarni Mohammed titled : The Child literature and the mothers' responsibilities.

A meal.

Second Workshop:

1-The Education Ministry in Palestine and its achievements in the field of child literature by the director for Arabic language Mrs. Khitaam Slemaan,

2-A lecture by Badarni Mohammed about the contribution of the Palestinian Folk on the educational process for children.

3- The input of the participants through their experiences and notes.

4- Evaluation of the day.

5- Distribution of the parcels of acfa books to all the participants and institutions includes the Palestinian Folk Encyclopedia.





E- The **seventh** workshop took place on **June 29, 2008** in **Mosmos** village near **Jenin** town in the hall of the elementary school ACFA organized this workshop with other four writers psychologists with the cooperation of the women committee in Mosmos village. **40 women and men** did participate in this day of workshops. Mrs Nabieha Jabarin and Mr Ali Said and Abdallah Eishan and Mrs. Rem Ziad Ighbariah are the team of writers and psychologists who joined Badarni Mohammed in the workshop for teachers and librarians and women. The program included two meetings with the participants about the problems of education in the schools in general in the Arab sector and the solutions for these problems. This workshop was supported by several festivals for one week, and the parents committee was responsible for all the efforts and costs of the festivals.

3-ACFA team visited 18 of the Palestinian and Israeli hospitals on 2008 and meet the sick children and youths and their parents in the child departments of these hospitals where Christian and Moslem Arabs and Jewish children are living in one common place.

ACFA team visited 22 elementary schools in Haifa where Jewish and Arab schools are learning and raised among them the folk subjects of the Palestinian people so that the Jewish children had the opportunity to the culture of the Palestinians with whom they live together

Number of beneficiaries during the period of the report:

Beneficiary institutions (child centers, libraries, etc):	84
Beneficiaries of women workshops (women)	288
Participants in festivals and educational exhibitions:	1500
Estimated number of visitors to these institutions:	3000
Schools all over the country	260
Hospitals and Haifa schools (pupils)	3000
<u>Readers of the publications,</u>	<u>22000</u>
Total beneficiaries	30132

Disribution of the 288 women who participated in the 7 workshop of acfa during the period of this report:

Social leaders	12
Writers	16
Kindergarten teachers	98
Mothers and women	100
Librarians	26
NGO animators	24
Journalists	12
Total	288

Thank you for your consideration.
Meanwhile I remain,
Sincerely yours,

Mohammed Badarni
ACFA Director

