

Appeal

Palestine

Emergency Assistance to the Palestinian population – MEPL61 (Revision 2)

Appeal Target: US\$ 2,987,170

Balance Requested from ACT Alliance: US\$ 858,338

Geneva, 1 September 2006

Dear Colleagues,

The outcome of January 25th 2006 parliamentary elections in Palestine has deteriorated the ongoing political and economic impasse faced by the Palestinian population. The blockage of funds by international donors and the withholding of money from taxes and custom duties collected for the Palestinian National Authority by the Israeli government have increased the plight of the Palestinian population, whose access to food and basic services - such as health and education - was already very precarious. In June, the situation worsened after Hamas militants kidnapped an Israeli soldier. Israeli responded with daily bombardments by military planes and targeted killings that destroyed homes, businesses, properties and agricultural land in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, the Rafah crossing to Egypt was closed, denying thousands of travellers the freedom of movement for medical, educational, family or business reasons. The security situation rendered free movement difficult not only in Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank.

On March 17, 2006 an ACT appeal was issued to respond to this situation including a proposal from the **Lutheran World Federation (LWF)** to support the continuity of critical health services in **the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH)**. The appeal was revised on May 12, 2006 to include a proposal from **Middle East Council of Churches/Department of Service to Palestine Refugees (MECC/DSPR)** to provide food, health and education support to the affected populations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The current revision includes a revision of the MECC/DSPR proposal to increase the number of beneficiaries following the bombardments which started in June. It also includes a proposal from the **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)** to support rehabilitation of agricultural land and feeding of children in schools. The proposal is extended until March 2007 as there are no clear prospects of a solution for this political stalemate in the immediate future.

Please note that this revision replaces the original appeal submitted on May 12, 2006.

Project Completion Date:

LWF-AVH: 1 April 2006 – 30 September 2006

MECC-DSPR: 1 May 2006 – 31 March 2007

IOCC: 1 Sept 2006 – 31 May 2007

Reporting Schedule

Reports due ACT CO	LWF-AVH	MECC-DSPR	IOCC
Interim narrative & financial	-	30 Nov 2006	31 Jan 2007
Final narrative & financial	30 Nov 2006	31 May 2007	30 July 2007
Audit	31 Dec 2006	30 June 2007	31 Aug 2007

Summary of Appeal Targets, Pledges/Contributions Received and Balance Requested

	LWF-AVH	MECC-DSPR	IOCC	Unallocated	Total US\$
Appeal Targets	1,396,013	1,195,172	395,985		2,987,170
Less: Pledges/Contr Recd	1,500,487	608,345	0	20,000	2,128,832
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	-104,474	586,827	395,985	-20,000	858,338

John Nduna

Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

General background

The political realities after the January 25th 2006 parliamentary elections in Palestine have produced an induced emergency within the ongoing political and economic emergency faced by a sizeable portion of the Palestinian population. This is primarily due to the blockage of funds by international donors and the withholding of taxes and custom duties collected for the Palestinian National Authority by the Israeli government. The situation has not improved and at the end of August 2006 a top UN official, Mr. Gambari in a briefing to the Security Council warns that “impoverishment in Gaza and in the Palestinian Territories is as severe as it has ever been.” The brunt of impoverishment is borne by the more than 1,000,000 Palestinian school children who are experiencing uncertainties since, on the one hand, their families cannot afford the school supplies, uniforms, or fees and their teachers cannot afford the transportation and other costs to get to their schools because they have not been paid their full salaries since April 2006. John Ging, Director of UNRWA operations in Gaza warned once again in late August 2006 on the situation in Gaza as follows: “it’s about having 1.4 million people who have no job, no money, no prospects and an acute sense of imprisonment. You have children growing up in a violent and uncivilized society, without the things most countries would take for granted as a normal existence.”

Judging from the percentages of OCHA and World Bank for 2005 on unemployment and poverty, there are approximately 200,000 Palestinians out of work and 1.5 million Palestinians who live under the poverty line. In 2006, the West Bank and Gaza Strip remain strangled by an inability to freely cross borders to potential markets and move within the West Bank. The Israeli government has stated that these measures are necessary to prevent militant attacks on Israeli citizens. Unless these restrictions are eased the prospect of indigenous economic growth is dim. As the World Bank has noted on many occasions, increased donor spending within a policy environment of restricted access will have limited impact on alleviating Palestinian poverty. Until improvements occur, according to OCHA, the need for humanitarian assistance remains crucial. Coping mechanisms – such as using remaining savings, going into debt with neighbours and relying increasingly on credit – are unsustainable. The fact that people are increasingly relying on them reinforces the importance of humanitarian assistance as a form of income support to allow people to concentrate resources on other essential needs. Cutting back on assistance will put extreme stress on these already-stretched strategies and increase poverty.

The World Food Programme concurs with these conclusions as it points out to “a drastic reduction in people’s purchasing power, prompting increased dependency on food aid.” UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, on August 3, 2006 speaks of Palestinian women as being most vulnerable as they have lost their lives, their husbands, brothers, fathers and children’s lives and have been badly injured and traumatized; in addition to the destruction of people’s homes, sources of income and infrastructure. Especially worrying in this context is that the ongoing violence has impaired the access of women to life-saving services such as emergency obstetric care.

The Security situation in the summer of 2006 became worst in the Palestinian Territories, particularly in Gaza, after the incident in which Hamas militants took hostage, imprisoned, kidnapped an Israeli soldier. With daily bombardments, sonic boom attacks by military planes, targeted killings and the destruction of homes, businesses, properties and agricultural land, there are areas in the Gaza Strip, particularly those in the Northern Gaza Strip adjacent to Israel, that are dangerous. The Rafah crossing to Egypt is closed at present denying thousands of travellers the freedom of movement for medical, educational, family and other reasons. The security situation also renders free movement difficult not only throughout Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank.

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

▲ The Lutheran World Federation

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER AND PARTNER INFORMATION

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has been providing health care services to refugees and other Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) for over fifty years through the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). LWF serves patients regardless of race, gender, religious belief, nationality, ethnic origin or political persuasion. During the past 3 years, the Hospital has responded to the critical emergency situations that have resulted from the Israeli/Palestinian conflict as well as providing care for large numbers of patients from the West Bank who cannot access their usual health providers. The hospital has an emergency response capability through its medical, para-medical, and nursing staff that is present at the LWF inpatient and outpatient healthcare facilities. AVH provides emergency services and emergency standby services. At the same time, AVH provides unique medical services such as kidney dialysis, cancer treatment, and head-neck surgery, which are critical to the life of many children and adults.

Some of the previous emergency responses undertaken by the hospital were: the evacuation and treatment of over 50 dialysis patients from all over the OPT, dispatching of medical and surgical teams to areas of conflict during the Second Palestinian Uprising, and the implementation of a “go and serve” program. Since many of the Refugees and other Palestinians cannot easily access Jerusalem, AVH coordinated with the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to send doctors and nurses to the Refugee Camp clinics and supplied needed specialists to the UNRWA hospital in the north. AVH was able to match the needs of the Refugee Camps, by using its staff (especially those living near the West Bank) and medical resources.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION

Since the onset of the second uprising, the Israeli Military Authorities have been dividing up the OPT and building a "Wall" that has annexed much land and will soon totally separate AVH from the rest of the community that it has been serving for over five decades. AVH started a project of transportation by busses to affirm the rights of all patients to access their places of health care and ensures that the LWF shall continue with its much needed humanitarian services in the region.

The situation in the OPT is one of chronic emergency, devastating to the population that cannot access much needed services and is restricted to seek better employment, schooling and health. This situation is rampant all over the OPT and especially acute in Jerusalem which is being isolated from the rest of the OPT. And, since AVH is in East Jerusalem, it has been suffering the negative effects of this isolation.

Since its beginning, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has been much more than a governmental body. It is the main provider of civil services in the OPT, running a large number of schools, hospitals, clinics and many other social and civil services. It also contracted with non-governmental organisations to provide some of the services.

Therefore, the PA contracted LWF/AVH to provide cancer care, pediatric kidney dialysis, and many other medical and health services to the population.

The Palestinian people and the Palestinian civil society is under a financial and physical blockade that has created an emergency situation, constituting a legitimate need for an emergency response by humanitarian agencies.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF PROPOSED RESPONSE

Through the contract with the PA, the AVH provides, on a monthly basis, about 1700 medical procedures for the Palestinians that constitutes the only way for the patients to access a hospital and get a treatment. The hospital also provides transportation for over 60 staff and patients on a daily basis to ensure that their medical and humanitarian needs are met.

AVH is at the moment the only specialized center for pediatric dialysis. It is attending 26 children who receive also all the support healthcare and social care. The hospital is also now the only radiation oncology treatment center for Palestinians in the OPT. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health Cancer Registry, over 1300 new cancer cases are detected every year (not including ongoing cases). AVH, as the main referral center, has a lot to do with this detection rate.

AVH provides monthly in average the following services through the PA contract:

- 300 dialysis sessions
- 1010 radiation sessions
- 70 chemotherapy sessions
- 30 endoscopy procedures
- 80 head-neck operations

After the new Palestinian elections, Israel has deemed the election results as unacceptable and have taken serious steps to stop funding of the Palestinian Authority.

Due to this financial blockade, all these services will have to be stopped putting in danger the life of the patients who are currently under treatment .

The impact on human life would not only be through the lost of medical services provided to patients and families but also through the loss of employment that many AVH staff would have to experience. AVH employs 227 Palestinians. Over 80% of them are from the West Bank. The employment opportunity provides for their families and children and helps directly the economy of these families. If these employees are unable to access AVH or if AVH is financially unable to support their employment, the result will be detrimental for these families.

To offset some of the effects of these closures, the hospital has started a program of busses that is designed to assist patients in reaching their place of treatment. It transports on a daily basis staff and patients to and from the hospital. The system currently covers three routes: two from the south and one from the middle south east of the West Bank.

With the current blockage a new route to bring patients from the North will have to be open. So far the transport of the patients from the North West Bank was provided by the PA.

The transportation of patients continues to be a hassle and there are some days when the busses are not given easy entry into Jerusalem. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there were 471 checkpoints in the OPT as of January 2006. The World Bank also identified the closure system imposed by Israel as a leading cause for the

Palestinians' "economic woes." Both patients and staff must go through very difficult physical barriers and checkpoints on a daily basis to arrive at their place of work thus putting everyone in harms way.

Location of the proposed response

The West Bank is the historical and main target area of AVH. The target population spreads through the northern districts, middle districts, and southern districts. In total, the population served is 2,411,357 (Palestine Central Bureau of Statistic, PCBS). In addition to the system of busses, the Hospital coordinates with the PA and runs transportation services from the northern districts all the way to AVH. The Hospital arranges for all the permits for drivers and patients to enter Jerusalem.

The AVH also started to establish urban centers to bring services closer to the target population. Patients who cannot access Jerusalem directly or through the program of busses can come to the AVH Urban Center in Ramallah where they will be examined and if hospital care is needed, the hospital will arrange for permits and transportation.

V. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Typically, the largest targeted beneficiaries of the AVH have been the Palestinian refugees. But now that the AVH has developed unique health services for the Palestinians at large, the target population extends to include all the population residing in the north, middle and south districts of the West Bank.

AVH serves a typical Palestinian population that is skewed to the younger generations. The population is young with children between the ages of 0-17 constituting 52.5% of the population. It is estimated that the target population will yield an expected 150 new cases of pediatric cancer cases per year. The adult cases are expected at about 1300 new cases of cancer as estimated by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Kidney failure cases in children are less frequent but are prevalent in the southern districts of the West Bank from where the majority of hospital referrals originate.

The targeted population remains to be the rural and urban communities of the West Bank mainly. Gaza is serviced by AVH but through much more difficult arrangements. Nevertheless, especially in the Cancer Care Center at AVH, patients from Gaza do finally arrive once in a while and the Hospital provides all the necessary medical treatment and even boarding until such services are completed.

The targeted population includes children and adults with needs for specialty medical services: these include children with kidney failure, children with cancer, and children in need of specialized surgery of the head and neck. In the adult population, AVH focuses on women with breast cancer, adults with colon and lung cancer as well as other adult types that are common within the population.

The selection of beneficiaries occurs in the referring agencies but in close coordination with AVH. Each of the referring agencies, namely UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority have a committee that reviews the condition and recommends referral to AVH. These committees are formed from community professionals working in the field. AVH senior medical staff is then consulted with the cases. Those relevant to the services of AVH are then referred to the AVH with a full general history of their health status. UNRWA refers for basic general medical services (UNRWA does not utilize the specialty services of AVH that are included in this appeal). Refugees and Non-refugees in the Palestinian community are all covered by the PA for the specialty services offered by AVH and subject of this appeal. The basic general medical UNRWA referrals amount to less than 20% of AVH referrals.

AVH teams assisting in the selection focus of the marginalized segments of the population. Thus, admission of women, children, and young adults that come from the professional committees are always supported by AVH management.

The pressure to enlist more patients comes mainly from the growing demand and the needs in the community. AVH offers many unique services that are highly needed for the population. Thus, there is a natural growth in demand which is paralleled with pressure to respond to this ever growing need.

VI. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

To assure and safeguard lives through the continuation of urgently need health and human services to the community serviced by LWF / AVH without any interruptions due to new political realities.

Objectives

- To continue treating cancer patients with 6060 sessions of radiation treatments, and 420 chemotherapy treatments within a 6 month period.
- To continue providing psychosocial support to the cancer patients and their families
- To continue treating children suffering from kidney failure with 1794 sessions of kidney dialysis and social services within a 6 month period.
- To continue treating special needs patients with head-neck surgery for a total of 480 surgeries within a 6 month period.
- To continue treating patients with therapeutic endoscopy procedures at a rate of 180 for a 6 month period.
- To provide transportation to the hospital to the patients and staff from the South, Middle and North part of the West Bank

Project implementation methodology

The work will be carried out by the clinical staff of the AVH. Teams consist of highly trained physician and nurses and technicians. Social work staff is also part of the clinical teams at the Hospital.

The transportation services are carried out by the Hospital's Support Services Department which consists of highly trained drivers and security personnel who escort the busses in and out of conflict areas assuring the safety of the patients, staff and institution.

The Hospital coordinates with local organisations such as UNRWA and the PA to set up the transportation of patients. The Hospital also has an access to the Israeli Military Authorities through special District Coordinating Officers that are very helpful in arranging communications with the Israeli Military.

All transportation staff works to secure the safety of patients and staff to go back and forth with a sense of dignity and security. The LWF / AVH as an employer adhere to strict codes of conduct as dictated by the LWF Headquarters in Geneva. The AVH management actively recruits women in clinical and managerial leading positions to assure equal representation of both genders. Senior posts that are occupied by women are the Chief of medical physics and Chief pharmacist in the Cancer Care Center as well the Deputy Director of Nursing. Outreach physicians are both women.

Inputs for project implementation

The Hospital has all the necessary clinical and technical staff. The teams include the physicians and nurses that are involved in the direct care of patients. Medical support staff, including radiation technicians, medical physicists, pharmacists and social workers, are also part of the larger clinical teams.

The numbers for the required team responsible for the activities listed in the objectives are:

- Three cancer physicians
- Two nurses trained in cancer care
- Three radiation therapists
- Two medical physicists
- One pharmacist
- Two social workers
- One nephrologist
- Four dialysis nurses
- Five drivers

The transportation of patients and staff will require four rental busses that will be staffed by AVH drivers and security staff that are trained to escort staff and patients in and out of conflict areas.

Planning assumptions

The plan assumes the needs of patients accessing the hospital to continue through a very uncertain political transition that the OPT is going through. It also assumes that the busses will continue to commute through a coordinated protocol with the Israeli Military Authorities. Thus, the main external inhibitor is the inability of staff and patients to access the hospital. Internally, the financial blockade could consume the resources of the hospital and therefore the need for an emergency response program is critical until things are clearer in the near future when the hospital can return to normal operations through contractual sustainability.

Hence, if funding is not received to cover the shortfall due to the physical and financial blockades, the hospital will have to deny treatment to patients and cause a lot of harm. The hospital will also be forced to scale down operations to a minimum and release a large amount of its staff.

Implementation timetable

Project initiation will be on April 1st 2006 when is estimated the Palestinian authority will stop the payments to the AVH. The proposal last for six months will conclude September 30th 2006. During this six months the AVH will look for a sustainable solution to this situation.

Transition

The timetable for the appeal was planned to allow the hospital six months to assess the political situation and the results of the physical and financial blockade on the Palestinian people. By then the hospital hopes to have more information on how the country will be run the new political reality. Assuming that there exists a way for the hospital to recover its costs, AVH will reestablish the necessary mechanisms to sustain operations through the usual contractual agreements. If the blockade continues beyond the six months, LWF and AVH will have to implement plans to contain its costs by reducing the level of care and staff at which time the welfare of these patients is a responsibility beyond the scope and capability of the LWF.

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The appeal funds will be transferred to the LWF Headquarters in Geneva where it will be managed by the Department of World Service Finance Office and in cooperation with the finance office in the Jerusalem Field. A separate account will be set up if it is so required by the funding agency.

The Jerusalem office will file a request to fund activities that are in the budget as they are presented to ACT. Geneva will then dispense in accordance to a request that is put in by the field.

The officers in the field who authorize the request are in sequential order as follows: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the hospital puts in the request to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the LWF Jerusalem to fund a certain activity, the CFO prepares the necessary documentation as per the formats of ACT and LWF and presents it to the LWF Regional Representative for final approval. The request goes to Geneva where it is reviewed and approved by the DWS finance unit. Funds are then transferred to the field. Purchasing occurs as per the LWF protocols which are based solely on competitive bidding and quality assurance standards.

VIII. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The main monitoring function to report on the deliverables to patients will be for the administrative and clinical staff of the hospital. The Chief Executive Officer of the hospital will prepare a report based on the clinical and administrative activities that were funded by the appeals. The Chief Financial Officer reports on the budget activity within each of the budget line items supported by bank statements on what has been dispensed. **A narrative and financial report is then generated by the CEO and the CFO and submitted to the LWF field office and HQ who will be responsible for the final reporting to the ACT Alliance according to the ACT reporting guidelines.**

The coordination of all local monitoring and evaluation function in the field office is carried out by the Regional Representative of the LWF in Jerusalem.

The hospital highly welcomes external evaluators in many of its programs, if the funding agency deems this to be necessary.

Reporting Schedule:

- Final narrative and financial reports to be received by ACT CO by November 30, 2006, within two months of end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than December 31, 2006, i.e. within three months of end of project.

IX. COORDINATION

Field coordination for delivering the services in the appeal will be coordinated by the CEO who has the overall responsibility to make sure that the project activities are coordinated with all local and community stockholders so as to achieve the goal of the appeal. The CEO is also responsible to coordinate the different clinical and non-clinical functions within the project and the hospital to assure the delivery of services within the appeal.

The CEO will coordinate the program with the PA and the UNRWA through the regular mechanism that the CEO has set to coordinate the other hospital operations with these organisation and other Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and governmental organisations (GOs), and International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) working in the same service delivery area.

The coordination with the LWF headquarters for the overall performance of the project is carried out by the Regional Representative in cooperation with the CFO and the CEO.

X. BUDGET

The monthly contribution from the Palestinian Authority to the AVH to cover the treatments that are part of this appeal was U\$200,000. In addition, the AVH will have to cover the cost of the transportation of the patients and staff that so far was provided by the Palestinian Authority.

EXPECTED EXPENDITURE

<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost USD</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE				
Non Food Relief Assistance				
Cancer Radiation Treatment	Session	6,060	75	454,500
Cancer Chemo Treatment	Session	420	800	336,000
Kidney Dialysis Treatment	Session	1,794	160	287,040
Head-Neck Treatment	Session	480	255	122,400
Therapeutic Endoscope	Session	180	53	9,574
Psycho-social support for patients	FTE	2	10,000	20,000
TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE				1,229,514
TRANSPORT				
Transport				
Hire/ Rental of Vehicles	Bus rentals	4	35,685	142,740
Logistics				
Arrangements for permits	Month	6	343	2,059
Guards (2 FTE)	Month	6	1,600	9,600
TOTAL TRANSPORT				154,399
INDIRECT COSTS: PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS & SUPPORT				
Staff salaries				
Program director	Day	2	810	1,620
Finance director	Day	6	430	2,580
Assistant	Day	1	200	200
Accountant	Day	12	95	1,140
Office Operations				
Office Utilities	Month	6	400	2,400
Office stationery	Month	6	60	360
Communications				
Telephone and fax	Month	6	100	600
Other				
Insurance	Month	6	200	1,200
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS				10,100
AUDIT & MONITORING				
Audit of ACT Funds	Estimate	1	2,000	2,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	Estimate			0
TOTAL AUDIT & MONITORING				2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				<u>1,396,013</u>

PLEASE NOTE:

Sessions include the cost of medications, supplies and clinical staff

MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES/DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

▲ Middle East Council of Churches / Department of Service to Palestine Refugees

MECC/DSPR is the Department of Service to Palestine Refugees, founded in 1950, affiliated with the Middle East Council of Churches since 1974. The primary objective of MECC/DSPR is to provide services in the areas of health, education and vocational training, community development and village infrastructure to Palestinian refugees and poor in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

MECC/DSPR is the primary implementing NGO through the **Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work in Gaza**; the **Near East Council of Churches - International Christian Committee in the West Bank and the International Christian Committee in Israel**.

The Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work in Gaza has been operating a service program to Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip since 1951. This program covers the fields of health primarily through Mother and Child Primary Health Clinics, vocational training, relief and rehabilitation with 60 staff members of various professions including medical and paramedical staff, instructors, social workers and administrative staff. The Gaza Area Committee has handled four previous similar emergency appeals that were supported by the World Council of Churches through the General Secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches.

The Near East Council of Churches - International Christian Committee in the West Bank is a service institution that has been operating since 1949. It undertakes programs in the fields of community service and infrastructure, land reclamation and rehabilitation with refugees. There is 14 core staff, including service and project professionals. In addition, there are 6 volunteers operating in the field.

The International Christian Committee in Israel is an ecumenical organization serving primarily the Arab citizens of Israel but with access to Israeli organizations and Israelis, in general. It has been active in inter-faith relations and is based on service to the communities in the Arab localities of the country. Beside its work, it offers loans to university students, small businesses and home renovations and rehabilitation. There are four staff members in the office that are well placed to reach out to the entire Galilee region.

The implementation is carried out by MECC/DSPR Staff in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and in Israel. The networking, however, allows us not to duplicate and to coordinate with other civil society organizations so as to achieve optimal impact. In the case of ICCI Israel, networking would allow it to focus on the neediest and urgent cases in need of emergency intervention and of support during the first two months of school opening.

Community Based Organizations and Local Committees and municipal councils in the various localities served are our primary partners in reaching a decision about families and individuals in need of emergency relief.

As members of ACT International we uphold the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief. We also uphold the Humanitarian

Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Relief (SPHERE) and we will follow these standards in implementing all the activities and programs of this emergency appeal. We also subscribe to ACT Vision, Mission and Values and to the Code of Conduct on Sexual Violence, Abuse of Power, and Corruptive Behavior. We are also committed to share information and to work collaboratively with other ACT implementers in the Palestinian emergency and to participate in the ACT fora.

All of our local partners are committed to the same principles as those we are committed through the ACT Emergency appeals. We strive through ACT emergency applications to cooperate and coordinate with our local partners in order to reach together those most affected by the emergency. We expect to do this in this appeal as well.

III. DESCRIPTION of the SITUATION in the AREA of PROPOSED RESPONSE

Impact on human lives in the area of proposed response

Three quarters of a million refugees in the Gaza Strip are characterised by UNRWA as in need of basic food necessities. The actual figure is probably higher as, within a population of 1.4 million in the Gaza Strip, there are also non-refugee population who fall under the poverty line as well. In the West Bank, those affected would reach no less than 600,000 in the various areas and regions.

According to the World Bank, unemployment affects directly at least 200,000. With the blockage of donor funds, this figure is expected to rise. As each worker supports at least 4 members of his/her family, we can estimate that about 1.0 million Palestinians are affected by unemployment. It is estimated that the 160,000 Palestinian Authority employees who have not received their regular salaries since March support close to a million Palestinian. This exacerbates the unemployment situation and its adverse effects on the population.

The people have become affected by lack of cash, inability to secure essential services such as medications, food and even educational services which cover such items as caring for children in kindergarten or school and their transport and upkeep.

Description of the damages in the area of proposed response

Israel has enforced a blockade on Gaza, allowing almost no goods to leave and only limited food supplies to enter. Most industry has shut down. Electricity and water services have been intermittent since Israel bombed the main power station in late June thus leaving the entire Gaza Strip in darkness. Bridges and other important transportation junctions were hit and destroyed by Israeli warplanes thus dissecting the Gaza Strip and impeding the movement of the population across the various localities. All this has contributed to a worsening of the poverty situation and to mounting stress on families and communities.

The construction of the Separation Barrier in the West Bank and the finalization of Checkpoints that have become virtual international crossing points between the West Bank and East Jerusalem has exacerbated the unemployment situation in many West Bank localities and rendered the Palestinian economy less sustainable. Thousands of Palestinian workers from the West Bank who were allowed to travel to Israel to seek employment are no longer able to do so. This means that the Barrier and the Checkpoints are damaging the prospects for sustainable economic activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, not to speak of minimizing the prospects for even short term development.

Security situation in the area of proposed response

The Security situation in the summer of 2006 became worst in the Palestinian Territories, particularly in Gaza, after the incident in which Hamas militants took hostage, imprisoned, kidnapped an Israeli soldier. With daily bombardments, sonic boom attacks by military planes, targeted killings and the destruction of homes, businesses, properties and agricultural land, there are areas in the Gaza Strip, particularly those in the Northern Gaza Strip adjacent to Israel, that are dangerous. The Rafah crossing to Egypt is closed at present denying thousands of travellers the freedom of movement for medical, educational, family and other reasons. The security situation also renders free movement difficult not only throughout Gaza Strip but also in the West Bank.

In the West Bank, including the greater Arab Jerusalem area, the building of the “security wall” is making mobility and access a problem for an increasing number of individuals. With hundreds of Israeli checkpoints and military outposts, the freedom of access becomes an exacerbated problem given the present harsh economic realities that result from blockage of funds.

The **West Bank** and **Gaza Strip** are the locations of the DSPR proposed response. Families in the three localities will be reached. The localities and the needs of the families will be determined in consultation with our local partners, local committees and CBOs. In the Gaza Strip, we look for families in the most impoverished localities particularly in the Southern Gaza Strip. In the West Bank, the focus of previous appeals was the outlying areas in the North and South, but this appeal will also include groups of the Central West Bank (including Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Ramallah) as they are increasingly affected by the emergency situation. Through coordination with our partners and sharing information with public bodies, we aim to reach out for groups that other organizations are less likely to serve. Both the West Bank and Gaza DSPR have the experience in serving across these territories and in coordinating their presence with local groups. DSPR is also in touch with international organizations to exchange notes and information and make its intervention more effective.

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

- Relief food support or equivalent will be offered to 12,158 families (7000 from Gaza Strip; 5158 from the West Bank)
- Emergency health intervention will reach out 76,000 individuals in the Gaza Strip while in the West Bank 350 families are expected to benefit for a total population of 2,100 members.
- Emergency education intervention would see DSPR in Gaza serving 187 trainees through the Vocational Training Centers and DSPR West Bank supporting 1430 school children.

The women are about 51% of the target population and children under 14 years of age are 48%.

Criteria used for Beneficiary Selection in Emergency Food Relief

The Criteria of Families and Individuals eligible are based on the premise that these families have become further impoverished due to the increased emergency situation.

- Families with no source of income and with children in need of elementary provisions, including education and medical attention.
- Families with children whose incomes were severely restricted by the situation of war and or continued conflict and are judged by community workers incapable of meeting the expenses of the new school year and basic needs.
- Families experiencing unemployment and with no alternative source of steady income.
- Families incapable of meeting the costs of medical attention and the medications required.
- Families with one member or members having special needs whether medical, short rehabilitation, access and mobility with no or limited means of public or private help.

- Families on lists of the very needy maintained by municipalities, village and town councils, governorates, charitable organizations and community groups.
- Families whose homes and businesses were severely destroyed by acts of war and are judged to be in need of funds to rehabilitate their homes without full coverage from the civil authorities for the costs of such rehabilitation.

The process of selection of beneficiaries is a community partnership based process in which lists of most needy families are compiled, information exchange undertaken with CBOs such as Women's and Popular Committees in the various areas, municipal councils, relevant public institutions to arrive at those most needy. The beneficiaries are also an important source of information on the neediest families. Usually and from past experience with the emergency appeals in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, beneficiaries themselves point out to others who are desperately in need of assistance. Almost always the information received from these beneficiaries is corroborated by private and public agencies and organizations.

Upon establishment of the needs that meet up with the specified criteria in this appeal, lists will be drawn up of the families and individuals most at risk. These lists will be discussed further with organizations working in the field in order to ascertain that there is no duplication and that our emergency intervention has an optimal effect.

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

To provide emergency assistance that will enable families and their members to withstand the negative effects of the increased emergency situation and the negative effects of war and ongoing conflict through provision of essential services such as food, health, education, home and business rehabilitation and special needs.

Objectives

Food

- *Gaza*: To provide 7000 families with 50.0US\$ to cover the purchase of basic food necessities.
- *West Bank*: To provide food packages to 5,158 families

Health

- *Gaza*: To provide 12,000 patients with free health care and 64,000 patients with free medicine. The appeal will cover both the medical fees and the medicine costs
- *West Bank*: To provide 150 persons with special needs with equipment such as wheel chairs and other tools to help them in their mobility
- *West Bank*: To provide 200 persons with medical needs with access to medical facilities and/or medicaments

Education

- *Gaza*: To train 187 students in the Vocational Training Center.
- *West Bank*: To provide 1430 children in the West Bank with school kits and uniforms.

Project implementation methodology

Food

In the West Bank, the help will be provided through the preparation of food packages to be delivered by DSPR. The quantity of the various food items to be included in each food package is specified in the budget. Food packages will be distributed through co-ordination with CBOs, local municipal councils and social welfare offices in the West Bank.

In the Gaza Strip, the equivalent sum of a food package will be given to women heads of household whose names will be on lists prepared in the various governorates and deposited at specified banks across the Gaza Strip. This procedure will ensure that the support goes to the neediest families, in a transparent, accountable and efficient manner. DSPR field staff reported that this system was preferred by the families as they are deprived from cash inflow and receiving money gives them some flexibility in purchasing the food commodities that are most needed.

Health

Due to the lack of funding the public health system is suffering from and the lack of income patients are facing, health care will be provided by the Mother and Child Primary Care Unit of the DSPR in Gaza. 12,000 Health Patients will receive health care in the Unit with their medical fees covered by the appeal. The medicine cost for 64,000 Patients will also be covered by the appeal. The cost estimation is 2\$ per patient for health care and 1\$ for medicine cost.

In the West Bank, 150 persons with Special Needs will be provided with equipment such as chairs and other tools that will help them in their mobility. 200 persons with Medical Needs will be provided with access to medical facilities and/or medicaments which otherwise are not available to them because of the emergency situation. The access will be given through networking with local community organizations, social welfare agencies and partner organizations.

Education

The trainees for the VTC in Gaza will go through a number of selection requirements. The Programs involve a three year high quality training in carpentry, metal works, electricity and one year training in secretarial studies. The appeal will cover one year of the training.

1,430 children in the West Bank will be provided with school kits, food items to be consumed at kindergartens, and clothes for the winter months as well as subsidy for transportation between home and school.

The school kit will contain 6 Arabic copy books, 6 English copy books, 6 mathematics copybooks, 1 ruler, 1 eraser, 1 sharpener, 6 pencils, 1 ball point pen, 1 box of coloring pens, 1 back-pack, for a price of U\$10. Women's organizations will be contacted to produce the different uniforms, which prices are estimated around U\$25. The distribution of the package and the school uniforms will be ensured through networking with different school boards and principals in the West Bank as well as with social welfare agencies that are informed about the status of school children within the families.

Project implementation methodology

In the West Bank, Gaza, DSPR/MECC Area Committees will do the work. As the experience from previous ACT emergency appeals has accumulated, the Committees in both the West Bank and Gaza have the know-how to reach out to most needy families, to contact Community Based Organizations, Public and Private Organizations of the civil society. The staff has had both the training and the expertise in carrying out emergency appeals. The vocational training centers and the primary family health clinics in the Gaza Strip, run by DSPR, are ongoing and the staff in DSPR and in these centers and clinics will coordinate together in order to ensure the effectiveness of the appeal.

In all Localities of the appeal mapping will be done of the most needy areas and target populations most at risk within these areas. This will be done through consultation of Community Based Organizations. Contact and coordination will also be undertaken with the appropriate UN related

bodies particularly for access purposes if and when needed, ministries of government such as welfare departments, local and municipal councils and sister organizations undertaken similar work.

The beneficiaries will have to contribute towards food, medical, special need and their children's requirements. The contribution of the ACT appeal would be to encourage the beneficiaries to maintain a living, health and education standard that would help them overcome the emergency situation with relatively healthy minds and bodies.

The beneficiaries also would be an important source for information on the neediest families. Usually and from past experience with the emergency appeals in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, beneficiaries themselves point out to others who are desperately in need of assistance. Almost always the information received from these beneficiaries is corroborated by private and public agencies and organizations.

Beneficiaries are also consulted on what is most needed in terms of Special and Medical Needs as well as with prioritizing their Children's needs in Kindergarten and elementary school.

Local Community Organizations are involved in the process of designating needy families and children from the beginning of the process. Consultations are ongoing with them and cooperation on finalizing the lists of the needy families and persons is continuous. In cases where implementation warrants active involvement of a number of local community organizations, DSPR/MECC is always part of this effort in order to optimize the impact of the relief activity.

Inputs for project implementation

- Coordinators will consult with the board; make decision, assign task and responsibilities, conduct field visit, and network with other organizations.
- Social workers will have the responsibilities of visiting local community organizations, welfare offices and families at home, check lists of families and ensure the delivery or receipt of food or equivalent. Together with the Executive Secretary, they will decide on localities where eligible families need to receive assistance either in cash or in kind.
- The Finance Officer will keep separate ACT appeal balance and issue in cooperation with coordinators the proper bids/tenders for food supplies and other materials. He has also the responsibility of following up all financial transactions and issuing periodic reports.

Transportation

Transportation will be needed a) for the distribution of food packages; b) for school children package and uniform, c) for social workers and staff as they visit the various areas, d) for coordinators field visits, e) for other travel purposes related to the ACT appeal.

Planning assumptions, constrains and prioritisation

In the case of full closure in the Gaza Strip, cash could still flow in as our experience in the past has shown. In the West Bank, if there are severe restrictions of access, then we will have to network with various organisations in the different localities to be able to provide the help.

If the requested funding is not fully received, then the priorities will be the distribution of the food packages and equivalent. On this subject, it will be important for the ACT CO to alert the DSPR on the rate of funding available.

Implementation Timetable

Starting May 1, 2006 – ending date March 31st, 2007

Transition or Exit strategy

The Strategy of DSPR is in line with our new Strategic Planning which calls on us to encourage the development of small businesses, especially to those in our educational and vocational centers. We are also intent on networking with CBOs, similar organisations and public bodies in order to develop and work on programs of development, empowerment and capacity building particularly for youth and women.

VI. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The Boards of DSPR Gaza, DSPR West Bank and DSPR Israel, composed each of 12 members, will supervise the process of implementation of this Emergency Appeal.

The Executive Secretary of Gaza, West Bank and Israel will have overall responsibility to oversee the process of screening according to criteria eligibility. He will also authorise dispensing of cash and funds for purchase of food and other commodity supplies and to keep updated financial and narrative records, together with lists of names of families who benefited from this appeal.

VII. MONITORING, REPORTING & EVALUATIONS

The Executive Committee of the Board together with the Executive Secretary will have the responsibility to monitor ACT assistance.

A special separate external audit will be made for the ACT assistance within the prescribed period of time required by ACT. The DSPR Central Office finance officer together with the Executive Secretaries of Gaza, the West Bank and Israel and their respective accountants will ensure the timely production of this audit report.

Finance

GIT Top man Software is used to record daily transactions. It is amenable to producing monthly statements and periodic reports detailing all transactions. The Executive Secretary, as principal co-signatory, needs another signature from the treasurer of the Board or an authorised member of the Board, to effect payments and financial transactions. The Executive Committee of the Board of DSPR Gaza, of DSPR WEST BANK and of DSPR ISRAEL controls all financial transactions.

Chief Accountants at Gaza, West Bank and Israel Offices will have a separate ACT account that will detail each and every transaction and that will be followed up and monitored by DSPR Central Office finance officer. The Executive Committee together with the Executive Secretary will decide on terms of reference for bids and will select the best offers.

Reporting Schedule:

- Interim narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 30 November 2006 - within one month following mid-term of project.
- Final narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 31 May 2007 - within two months of end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than 30 June 2007 within three months of end of project.

VIII. CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination within the project

MECC/DSPR in Gaza, West Bank and Israel will ensure that the coverage of the families and the unemployed, through this ACT assistance, will not be a duplicate of any effort or appeal. In order to ensure this, continuous contact with local and International NGOs will be undertaken to assess their fields and localities of intervention and to ascertain that all affected areas and families are covered. Contact and coordination will also be undertaken with the appropriate UN related bodies particularly for access purposes if and when needed.

Co-ordination with other ACT members

As in previous appeals, DSPR is cooperative with other ACT members and is ready to consult and work together to maximise the impact of the appeals.

Co-ordination with other organisations in the area of intervention

As specified above, DSPR undertakes to implement the emergency appeal through full cooperation and coordination with our local partners, international organisations and community based organisations.

IX. BUDGET

EXPECTED EXPENDITURE

<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost NIS</u>	<u>Budget NIS</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
Direct Assistance -Food packages Gaza & West Bank					
Rice	kg	10	4.30	221,806	49,290
Cooking Oil	ltr	3	6.67	103,217	22,937
Sugar	kg	2	4.00	41,266	9,170
Salt	kg	1	1.50	7,737	1,719
Tomato Paste	box	2	4.00	41,266	9,170
Green peas	kg	2	4.00	41,266	9,170
White peas	kg	1	7.00	36,108	8,024
Nido Milk	box	2	32.00	330,129	73,362
Spaghetti	pack	4	4.50	92,849	20,633
Noodles	pack	2	4.50	46,424	10,317
Luncheon Meat	box	2	7.00	72,216	16,048
Corn Beef	box	2	8.00	82,532	18,341
Halaweh	kg	1	14.00	72,216	16,048
Fat	box	1	20.00	103,165	22,926
Carton	box	1	4.50	23,212	5,158
Total Direct Assistance in Food Packages West Bank				1,315,411	292,314
Relief Assistance					
Gaza Strip families	Family	7000	255	1,785,000	396,667
Total Direct Assistance				3,100,411	688,980
HEALTH					
Gaza Medical Fees and Medicines					
Health Patients Gaza	8 Months	12000	9.0	108,000	24,000
Health Medicines Gaza	8 Months	64000	4.5	288,000	64,000
Medicines supplies In Gaza	8 Months			315,000	70,000
SubTotal Health Gaza				711,000	158,000

Emergency Assistance to Civilians

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Appeal MEPL61 Rev.2

<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost NIS</u>	<u>Budget NIS</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
West Bank					
Special Needs	Person	150	450	67,500	15,000
Medical Needs	Person	200	225	45,000	10,000
SubTotal Health West Bank				112,500	25,000
TOTAL Health				823,500	183,000
EDUCATION					
Gaza : Vocational Trining Center					
Trainees fees Voc. Train. Carpentry& Furniture Making	Person	73	3600	262,800	58,400
Trainees fees Vocational Tr. Metal Works and welding	Person	44	3600	158,400	35,200
Trainees fees Voc. Train.Gen. Electr. & Motor rewinding	Person	45	3600	162,000	36,000
Trainees fees Vocational Training Secretarial Studies	Person	25	3600	90,000	20,000
Supplies For training VTC	Equipment			91,350	20,300
SubTotal Education Gaza				764,550	169,900
West Bank					
School children	Child	1430	157.5	225,225	50,050
TOTAL Education				989,775	219,950
TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE , HEALTH& EDUCATION				4,913,686	1,091,930
Personnel , Admin , Ops & Support					
Chief Coordinator - Central Office	LS		5500	49,500	11,000
Finance Officer- Central Office	LS		4550	40,950	9,100
Secretarial & other Support- Central Office	LS		3935	35,415	7,870
Satff Nurses Gaza	LS		2250	15,750	3,500
A Dentist Gaza	LS		2700	18,900	4,200
A Doctor GP Gaza	LS		2700	18,900	4,200
Social Workers Gaza	LS		1800	12,600	2,800
A secretary Gaza	LS		1800	12,600	2,800
An Attendant Gaza	LS		1350	9,450	2,100
Chief Coordinator - West Bank	LS		5430.5	48,875	10,861
Finance Officer- West Bank	LS		4350	39,150	8,700
Sub total staff & Medical salaries				302,090	67,131
Communication and Transport					
Telephone , Fax & Postage	LS			60,000	13,333
Transport , Insurance & Maint.	LS			80,000	17,778
Sub total				140,000	31,111
Total Personnel , Admin, Ops & Support				442,090	98,242
Audit Fees "KPMG"	LS			22,500	5,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				5,378,275	<u>1,195,172</u>

Exchange Rate : 1 USD = NIS 4.5

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC)

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

- ▲ International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC).

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER AND PARTNER INFORMATION

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is a non-profit, non-governmental, faith-based organization established in 1992 by the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). It is the official relief and development agency of Orthodox Christians providing assistance to poor and vulnerable people worldwide, strictly on the basis of need.

IOCC - Jerusalem, part of the IOCC network of field offices, was established in 1997 to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. To date, IOCC - Jerusalem has implemented humanitarian aid and development programs including education and civil society, small income-generation and emergency employment generation programs in rural West Bank, in sectors such as agriculture, rehabilitation of educational and community infrastructure, vocational training, nutrition, public health and environment.

IOCC - Jerusalem is registered as a humanitarian NGO both in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. It has a professional and experienced team and coordinates its work with ACT Members, United Nations institutions, governmental and international non-governmental organizations operating in the Palestinian areas and local Palestinian organizations and grassroots.

IOCC - Jerusalem has successfully implemented several ACT-funded projects most recently MEPL 51: Emergency Assistance to Civilians: Improving Nutrition for Palestinian Children.

The proposed project will be directly implemented by IOCC Jerusalem Field Office in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION

Background

IOCC-Jerusalem continues to target vulnerable Palestinians who suffer from the ongoing violence of the Intifada both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The closure of the main Crossings in Gaza, access and movement restrictions and increased unemployment and poverty levels have led to an unprecedented socio-economic decline and humanitarian crisis affecting all the population in the Palestinian Territories.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF PROPOSED RESPONSE

Current Situation in the Area of Proposed Response

“Miserable, frustrating and still deteriorating with children paying the price”, this is how the Director of UNRWA operations in Gaza describes the overall situation. The humanitarian crisis continues in the Gaza Strip with 75% of households suffering from high poverty and living under poverty line (US\$2.1 per day). Unemployment has sharply limited the citizens’ ability to buy supplies, fuel and water (UNOCHA, June 2006). Electricity and water shortages are extensive, with an average of 6-8 hours of electricity and 2 hours of water per day. Fuel is hard to get and cooking gas is difficult to come by. A great part of Gaza City is in rubble. Gaza City’s 1,800 municipal

employees have not been paid since the beginning of April 2006. No salaries for the Palestinian Authority servants mean no garbage collection and no street cleaners. Families increasingly rely on loans and have begun to sell personal effects. The waste dumped from Gaza into the Mediterranean is polluting the water affecting the environment in the whole region, a great concern to Israeli officials who started seeking international aid for waste water treatment in Gaza and the West Bank. Water quality is deteriorating; excessive levels of chloride and nitrate are now found in the Northern areas of Gaza and the West Bank. Recent disruptions in water and sanitation services have increased the risks of communicable diseases, raising urgent public health concerns. The closure of the main border crossings between Gaza, Egypt and Israel still holds with sporadic short opening hours to allow restricted flow of goods and movement of people. The only functioning crossing, Erez, is still closed to Palestinians. Land has already been bulldozed to form a 300-meter open area along the border especially in the North and North East of the Strip close to the Israeli settlements. Farmers have lost their homes and means of livelihood in the latest army incursions. They are desperate and have nowhere to flee from their humanitarian crisis.

Almost half of the 1.3 million people in Gaza (PCBS, 2006) are children living in an environment of violence, fear and insecurity (UNICEF, 2006). For most of them, their basic human needs including food, shelter, education and health care are unmet due to poverty and lack of safety. The current situation has curtailed their opportunities for safe play and recreation (UNICEF, 2006).

Impact on Human Lives in the Area of Proposed Response

Gaza Strip's 3,560 inhabitants per km² make it one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Information provided by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS, 2006) indicates the grave situation, where:

- 150,000 households live on less than US\$2/day
- 112,000 people suffer from chronic diseases
- 80,000 children suffer from psychological problems
- 200,000 households lost their main source of electricity
- Hundreds of dunums of agricultural lands, especially in the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip were destroyed to create a military buffer zone

Description of the Damages in the Area of Proposed Response

The United Nations has called on world leaders not to forget the humanitarian crisis in Gaza saying it is as serious as that in Southern Lebanon.

Private homes, public buildings, public water networks, health clinics, schools, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged during the conflict. With destroyed roads and bridges, some communities have become isolated. Farmers living in these areas reported that hundreds of acres of their agricultural farm lands and crops have been bulldozed and thus they lost their sole means of livelihood.

Security Situation in the Area of Proposed Response

Although the residents of the Gaza Strip continue to live under an embargo which has impeded the flow of goods and freedom of movement, people are not starving or emaciated as the delivery of humanitarian assistance has not been completely suspended; the expatriate staff of international aid agencies is able to enter Gaza with the coordination of the Israeli Civil Administration. Through the United Nations and international aid agencies, food, medicine, water and fuel are getting into the Strip. IOCC has been able to implement an emergency assistance program consisting of medical aid, medical supplies and baby milk with no delay during the most recent conflict.

UNRWA, the largest UN agency active in the context, moved its headquarters from Gaza to Jerusalem in October 2005 and most of its 78 international staff left with it. Other agencies have done the same. A spate of kidnappings has reduced the numbers of aid workers and foreign reporters. More internal conflicts are occurring between families and more basic crimes are taking place. The Palestinian Authority is trying to maintain law and order, but people are depressed and have lost hope.

With the support of the local community, staff and Palestinian NGO networks operating in the Strip, there will be no security threat or concern while implementing the project in the proposed targeted areas.

Location of the Proposed Response

IOCC-Jerusalem will be targeting the most depressed and worst hit areas in the northern, central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip and the northern part of the West Bank. There will be four locations in the northern districts of the Gaza Strip, ten in the center and five in the southern districts of the Strip with two locations only in the north of the West Bank.

Most residents of the targeted areas in the Gaza have lost their homes, lands, jobs and their means of livelihood. Most people there survive on modest aid and/or charity from international aid organizations. The two selected West Bank districts are mostly affected by the Security Wall which negatively impacted life and the economy of the population, fragmented their social fabric and impoverished them.

Following are the names and populations of IOCC's target areas:

Northern Gaza Strip	Population
Beit Lahiya	38,000
Beit Hanun	35,000
Jabalya Camp	120,000
Eastern Jabalya, Abu Safieh	3,000
TOTAL	196,000

Central Gaza Strip	Population
Gaza, Zaitoun	80,000
Gaza, Shajai'a	100,000
Eastern Al Maghazi	3,500
Al Maghazi	25,000
Deir Al Balah	50,000
Wadi As Salqa	5,000
Al Qarara	17,000
Al Birka	5,000
Al Fukhkhari	15,000
Ma`an	3,500
TOTAL	304,000

Southern Gaza Strip	Population
Bani Suheila	15,000
`Abasan Al Jadida	5,700
`Abasan Al Kabira	19,000
Khuza`a	10,000
Al Shoka, Sufa	7,500
TOTAL	57,200

Northern West Bank	Population
Qalqiliya	45,000
Tulkarm	50,000
TOTAL	95,000

V. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Number and Type

The direct and indirect beneficiaries of the proposed project with the theme *Emergency Response to Palestinians in Crisis* include men, women and children from urban and rural Gaza Strip and only children in the West Bank as specified below:

Direct Beneficiaries

- 250 Gaza farmers with destroyed agricultural lands
- 3,000 kindergarten children from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
- 3 Agricultural Coordinators
- 15 kindergarten teacher assistants

In-Direct Beneficiaries

2,000 family members of the 250 farmers (250 x 8 average family size in Gaza)

Location

IOCC will provide 250 Gaza farmers with means to rehabilitate their lands in the 10 selected areas in the northern, central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. It will also provide 3,000 pre-school children with hot meals at 15 kindergartens in 9 areas in the northern, central and southern districts of the Gaza Strip and in 2 districts in the northern West Bank.

Criteria for the Selection

- The 10 Gaza areas proposed for agricultural interventions were selected upon Needs Assessment conducted by IOCC Gaza Coordinators in cooperation with IOCC local Technical Partner, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC). The locations are predominantly agricultural supplying the local markets with vegetables and fruit but suffered severe destruction by the latest Israeli army incursions and artillery fire.
- The selection of the 11 locations identified for pre-school hot meals in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank took into consideration Al-Quds University and Johns Hopkins University 2003 Nutritional Assessment of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in addition to IOCC Gaza staff field visits and reports and the most updated local community's Participatory Rapid Appraisals (PRA). The assessments showed that children in the proposed areas were food insecure with a large number suffering from malnourishment.

- IOCC up-to-date field reports from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank where there are on-going humanitarian aid programs affirm the vulnerability of the proposed targeted areas.
- The project beneficiaries will mostly be the farmers who lost their main source of income with the destruction of their land and are unable to get any jobs inside Israel due to the on-going violence and complete closure of the Strip. As for the pre-school children, the criteria are large families whose breadwinners are unemployed being labourers in construction, agriculture and factories and children whose family providers lost their jobs in Israel due to the prevailing socio-political situation.

VI. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

To alleviate the humanitarian crisis of Palestinian farmers and children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

Objectives

- Improved food security for 250 farmers and their families in 10 areas of the Gaza Strip through the rehabilitation of destroyed farms
- Provide hot meals for 3,000 pre-school children in 15 Gaza Strip and West Bank kindergartens three times per week for a period of 30 weeks.

Activities

Post-Crisis land Rehabilitation for Food Security

Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands

- ▲ Seedlings, organic fertilizers and treatment, plastic (mulch), irrigation pipes and pipe lines and other fitting accessories will be procured for the targeted simple farmers from the Gaza Strip. Each farmer will receive US \$500 worth of items.
- ▲ The procurement of seedlings and all other accessories for 250 farmers from 10 areas of the Gaza Strip upon a fair bidding process.
- ▲ IOCC Technical Agricultural Partner, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) in Gaza will hire three Agricultural Coordinators to monitor, supervise and follow-up the beneficiary farmers for a period of 9 months.
- ▲ IOCC Technical Agricultural Partner (UAWC) will strengthen the capacity of the 250 farmers selected from the north, center and southern areas of the Gaza Strip through on the job-training.
- ▲ IOCC Technical Agricultural Partner (UAWC) will network the farmers and help in marketing their extra produce.

Food Relief - Kindergarten Hot Meals

- ▲ IOCC will provide each of the 15 targeted kindergartens with simple equipment and kitchen utensils for the production of hot meals.
- ▲ Fifteen Kindergarten Teacher Assistants will be recruited on part-time basis for Gaza and the West Bank to prepare the children's meals.

- ▲ To build the capacity of the Kindergartens, nutritionists will train 15 KG teacher assistants on healthy food, nutrients and vitamins.
- ▲ Hot meals will be cooked for 3,000 pre-school children from 15 kindergartens in 11 areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The meals will be provided 3 times per week for a period of 30 weeks.

Project Implementation Methodology

Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands

- ▲ IOCC-Jerusalem will implement the project with the cooperation of its Technical Agricultural Partner (UAWC) in Gaza.
- ▲ IOCC will recruit three part-time Agricultural Coordinators to supervise, monitor and follow-up all agricultural activities in the north, center and southern parts of Gaza Strip.
- ▲ The three Agricultural Coordinators will cooperate to coordinate their work with IOCC Program Officer in Gaza.
- ▲ The Program Officer will report to the project management team in Jerusalem.
- ▲ The 250 beneficiaries will receive seedlings, organic fertilizers, plastic (mulsh), irrigation pipes and pipelines and other fitting accessories worth US\$ 500. These will be purchased locally to help the local economy. Procurement will be done upon a fair bidding process.
- ▲ Prior to the agricultural activity procurement, IOCC Agricultural Partner (UAWC), the Agricultural Coordinators and the Program Officer will assess the individual needs of each farmer.
- ▲ The Agricultural Coordinators will provide the technical support to the farmers and will assist them in the process of their farm land rehabilitation.
- ▲ For capacity building of the farmers, IOCC's Technical Agricultural Partner (UAWC) will provide on-the-job training workshops for the beneficiary farmers in the three districts.
- ▲ The Agricultural Coordinators will submit daily, weekly and monthly reports to the Program Officer on the progress of each farmer.
- ▲ IOCC Gaza Program Officer will submit monthly reports to IOCC management team in Jerusalem on the progress of the proposed intervention.

Food Relief – Kindergarten Hot Meals

- ▲ IOCC-Jerusalem will recruit 15 part-time kindergarten teacher assistants to prepare the hot meals for the kindergarten children. 10 will be recruited in the Gaza Strip and 5 in the northern West Bank.
- ▲ Prior to the initiation of the activities, the new recruits will attend workshops on the nutritional value of food, nutrients, proteins etc.
- ▲ The kindergarten assistants will work closely with the kindergarten teachers and will coordinate their work with IOCC Program Officers in Gaza and the West Bank.

- ▲ The Program Officers will report to the management team based in Jerusalem.
- ▲ Each kindergarten will receive US \$250 worth of simple kitchen equipment and utensils such as cups, dishes, gas cookers, etc., for the preparation of the hot meals.
- ▲ Tenders for the kitchen equipment will be advertised in the local newspapers.
- ▲ Food items for the hot meals will be purchased locally. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed with each kindergarten on the quickest and most convenient way to procure the food.
- ▲ Hot meals will be provided three times per week for a period of 30 weeks for 2,000 pre-school children in the Gaza Strip and 1,000 in the West Bank.
- ▲ The kindergarten assistants will submit daily, weekly and monthly reports on the progress of the Program at each kindergarten.
- ▲ IOCC Program Officers in Gaza and the West Bank will submit monthly reports to IOCC management team in Jerusalem on the progress of the intervention and its impact on children's health.
- ▲ For all components of the project, IOCC Financial Manager will be in charge of the project's financial reporting and IOCC Country Representative will have the overall responsibility of the Response

Inputs for Project Implementation

Staff

- Personnel, administration, operations and support for the Program are available at the IOCC office in Jerusalem. The Country Representative will give 20% of her time for the project. The Program Manager, the Financial Manager, The Program Co-ordinator, Financial/Administrative Assistant and the Driver will dedicate a 25% of their time.
- The project concentrates on Gaza and to a lesser degree on the West Bank. For successful implementation, the project requires recruiting 3 full-time Program Officers (2 for the Gaza Strip and 1 for the West Bank), three part-time Agricultural Coordinators and 15 Kindergarten teacher assistants who will receive meager pay. Job creation is another important product of the proposed interventions.

Materials and Vehicles

- Vehicles are IOCC-owned; no new vehicles will be needed

Planning Assumptions, Constraints and Prioritisation

- ▲ Security and Access: The Project's implementation is based on the assumption that access to the Gaza Strip and the northern areas of the West Bank is possible and not life-threatening and that the program components will be implemented on time and schedule.
- ▲ IOCC possesses the necessary permits for staff and vehicles to travel to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

- ▲ Acceptance of the Community: The local community is willing to cooperate for the implementation of the project and will work towards its sustainability beyond the period of implementation.
- ▲ Local Approval: The project does not need any prior approval from the Palestinian Authority (PA) since most of the farmers are selected on individual basis and the kindergartens are owned by Palestinian Non-profit organizations and apolitical grassroots organizations with which IOCC enjoys a good work relationship and a long track record.

Implementation Timetable

The table below provides a summary of the implementation schedule of the project

Description	MONTH									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Project Management										
Hire Staff: Project Officers Part-time Agricultural Coordinators Kindergarten teacher assistants										
MOU with project Beneficiaries Farmers Kindergartens										
Project Implementation										
Initial meetings with the beneficiaries both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank										
Bidding for project materials Purchase of project requirements for farmers and kindergartens										
Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands										
Food relief – Kindergarten Hot Meals										
Capacity building On the Job- training for farmers Nutritional training workshops										
Impact, Monitoring										
Follow-up and Monitoring										
Reporting										
Initial and Final										
Evaluation, Impact and Assessment										
Project Evaluation										

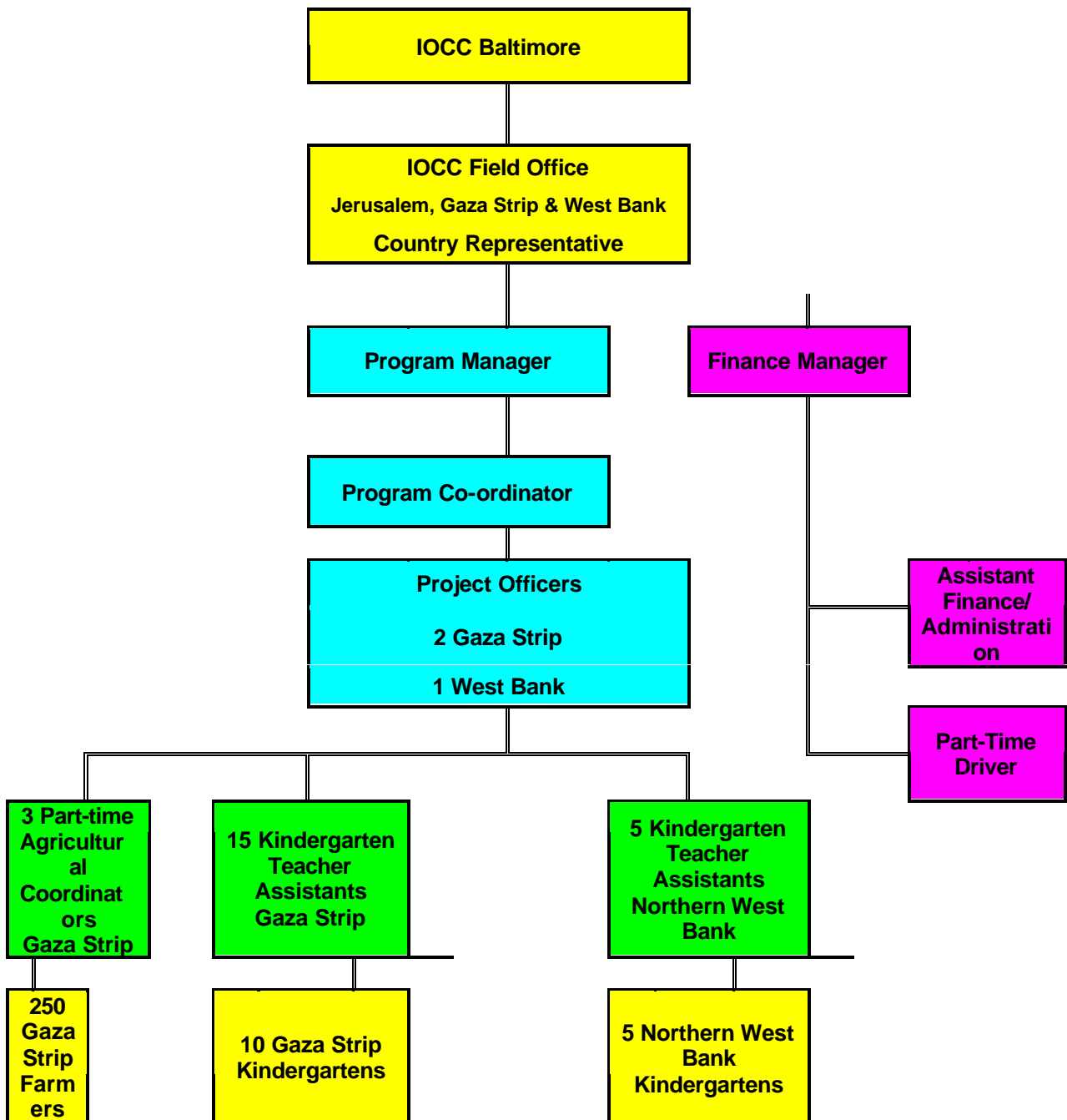
Transition or Exit Strategy

Community participation in all IOCC activities is a rule and begins with the inception and design of the projects. IOCC is encouraged by the fact that once the lands were rehabilitated, farmers will

stand on their feet again and will sustain if not improve their families' poor living conditions. IOCC is also optimistic about the provision of hot meals for pre-school children in the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank areas. The targeted disadvantaged children will get cooked meals with essential nutrients, proteins and vitamins for a reasonable period of time which will improve their health situation. The trained new kindergarten teacher assistants will be integrated within the existent kindergartens structures and will ensure continuity of the hot meals for the benefit of the children who are unable to get them at home due to poverty and deprivation. It is worth noting that food security is a priority for Palestinians in all the PA areas at present.

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Project Structure



Procedure

- ACT-Geneva will notify IOCC about available funds and will make the necessary transfers .
- IOCC–Jerusalem will open a project specific and separate bank account for ACT funds.
- Upon the selection of the beneficiary farmers and 15 kindergartens in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed with each of them .This will delineate the project objectives and obligations of both IOCC , the beneficiary organizations and individuals and will draw the schedule of activities.
- IOCC-Jerusalem will document and report all financial expenditures on a monthly basis.
- IOCC-Baltimore is ultimately responsible for the financial management and control of the project. Country supervision of the project will be carried out by IOCC-Jerusalem Representative.
- According to the host country laws, IOCC-Jerusalem is annually audited.
- IOCC-Baltimore has external auditors, the names of whom were mentioned above.
- IOCC uses the BlackBaud financial computer system to document revenues and expenditures and keep track of the financial status of every project activity.

VIII. MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The purpose of monitoring the project will be to ensure that interventions are meeting benchmarks effectively, fulfilling the stated objectives and achieving the desired results and outputs within the set time schedule. IOCC conducts monitoring for a four-fold purpose:

- ▲ To ensure that the project is implemented according to plan;
- ▲ To confirm that the assistance is reaching the targeted locations and beneficiaries and achieving the desired project objectives;
- ▲ To record results impact;
- ▲ To determine future needs.

Three part-time Agricultural Coordinators will monitor the implementation of the agricultural components of the project in the Gaza Strip.

Fifteen part-time Kindergarten teacher assistants will produce the hot meals for the 15 targeted kindergarten children in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

IOCC two full-time and one part-time Project Officers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and IOCC Program Coordinator will monitor the performance of the part-time Agricultural Coordinators and the Kindergarten teacher assistants and will report to the Program Manager who will submit monthly reports to the Country Representative.

IOCC - Jerusalem will submit an initial report (narrative and financial) immediately after the inception of the project and a final narrative and financial report to ACT-Geneva upon the completion of the activities.

IOCC Country Representative and Program Manager with representatives from the beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and IOCC Technical Agricultural Partner (UAWC) will conduct the evaluation of the project.

IOCC Country Representative will submit the completed narrative and financial reports to the Interim Director of Operations and the Director of Finance in Baltimore who will communicate with ACT-Geneva.

IOCC welcomes any ACT donor or other external evaluator to assess impact.

Reporting Schedule:

- Interim narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 31 January 2007 - within one month following mid-term of project.
- Final narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 31 July 2007 - within two months of end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than 31 August 2007 within three months of end of project.

IX. CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination within the Project

Through the Program Coordinator and the Project Officers in the targeted areas there is an effective network mechanism between IOCC-Jerusalem and the local communities. Regular community meetings are held and participatory rapid appraisals, decisions and recommendations made. This is one of the strengths of the IOCC-Jerusalem. All IOCC networks and beneficiary organizations have good security records and work history. None has been arrested for politics, fraud or corruption. IOCC's relationship with them goes back to over ten years during which they proved to be honest, reliable, transparent, accountable and service oriented.

Co-ordination with other ACT Members

IOCC-Jerusalem maintains a good work relationship with all ACT members. With the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Middle East Council of Churches, Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) there is good communication and cooperation. Regular meetings are held for improved coordination such as the one that took place prior to the Geneva workshop on August 10, 2006.

Co-ordination with other Organisations in the Area of Intervention

IOCC-Jerusalem is a member of the Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) which coordinates globally with all the international donor agencies, Private Voluntary Agency, UNRWA, World Bank, the European Commission (EU) and the United States Agencies for International Development (USAID). IOCC is well-informed on all relief and development aid programs implemented in the Palestinian territories.

Being officially registered in Israel and the Palestinian Authority areas, IOCC works and maintains excellent contact with both sides and thus country priorities, donor involvement and access are facilitated.

In addition, IOCC coordinates with the Palestinian Network of Non-Government Agencies (PNGO) and the Palestinian Union of Charitable Societies (PUCS) having staff being members of national umbrella organizations.

In all its interventions and for the purpose of the capacity building of its Partners, IOCC depends on the local community and their own individual coordination. These are the best informants on the role and activities of other key players in their areas.

X. BUDGET

Expected Expenditure

<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost NIS</u>	<u>Budget NIS</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE					
Food Security					
Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands - Gaza Strip					
Agricultural materials & Equipment	Farmer	250	2,200	550,000	125,000
Fees for 3 Agricultural Coordinators @ 2200 NIS each	Month	9	6,600	59,400	13,500
Capacity building - Agricultural workshops	Lump				1,000
Food Relief					
Provision of hot meals - Gaza Strip					
Basic kitchen equipment and utensils	Kindergarten	10	1,100.0	11,000	2,500
Salary for 10 KG teacher assistants @ 1,320 NIS each	Month	9	13,200.0	118,800	27,000
Hot meals for 2000 Children @ 2.5 NIS each	Week	30	15,000.0	450,000	102,273
Capacity building/ Nutritional train. for KG teacher assist.	Lump				1,000
Provision of hot meals - Northern West Bank					
Basic kitchen equipment and utensils	Kindergarten	5	1,100.0	5,500	1,250
Salary for 5 KG teacher assistants @ 1,320 NIS each	Month	9	6,600.0	59,400	13,500
Hot meals for 1000 Children @ 2.5 NIS each	Week	30	7,500.0	225,000	51,136
Capacity building/ Nutritional train. for KG teacher assist.	Lump				500
Direct Programme Related Costs					
Salary for 2 Full time Prog off. - Gaza @ \$600 each	Month	9	5,280	47,520	10,800
Salary for 1 Part time Progr off. - West Bank @ \$400each	Month	9	1,760	15,840	3,600
TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE				1,542,460	353,059
TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING					
Transport					
Fuel	Month	9	2,200.0	5,940	1,350
Management Travel for 2 @ 440 NIS per person	Trip	9	880.0	7,920	1,800
TOTAL TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING				5,940	3,150
INDIRECT COSTS: PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS & SUPPORT					
Staff salaries					
Salary (Country Representative)	Month	9	18,674	33,614	7,639
Salary (Program Manager)	Month	9	15,831	35,620	8,096
Salary (Program Co-ordinator)	Month	9	4,840	10,890	2,475
Salary (Finance Manager)	Month	9	14,722	33,125	7,528
Salary (Assistant Finance/ Admin)	Month	9	5,280	11,880	2,700
Salary (Driver)	Month	9	4,840.0	10,890	2,475
Office Operations					

<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost NIS</u>	<u>Budget NIS</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
Office rent	Month	9	5,500	12,375	2,813
Office Utilities	Month	9	2,640	5,940	1,350
Office expendable supplies (Stationary)	Month	9	1,760	3,960	900
Communications Telephone and fax	Month	9	4,400	7,920	1,800
TOTAL PERSONNEL, ADMIN & SUPPORT				166,213	37,776
AUDIT & MONITORING					
Audit of ACT Funds	Estimate	1	8,800	8,800	2,000
TOTAL AUDIT & MONITORING				8,800	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				1,723,413	<u>395,985</u>

EXCHANGE RATE: local currency to 1 USD = 4.40 NIS