



MIDDLE EAST REGION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Egypt	Cairo Email: ywca@link.com.eg
Hope Center for Mentally Retarded Children	Since 1993 the Hope Centre provides care, schooling and recreational activities for mentally retarded children of underprivileged and poor families of the area. The Centre helps the children integrate well into society and develop their self sufficiency. Teachers working with the children in small groups teach them hygiene, and train them in income generating skills, for example, brush and candle making, and dyeing clothes. Support is provided to mothers who are trained to help their children, and in addition are taught to sew, read and write. The sewing has developed into an income-generating project. Some mothers have already succeeded in passing a literacy examination.

Egypt	Cairo Email: ywca@link.com.eg
Literacy Programme for Girls	This community training programme was developed in conjunction with the local women of Asuit and within the Literacy Programme for Girls project of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The girls and young women learn to read and write and in addition are provided with information on health care, family planning, and information on female circumcision. They are taught according to their ability and can sit an exam at the end of the period.

Egypt	Cairo Email: ywca@link.com.eg
Transforming skills training programme -- Minia branch	14 participants and trainers. Secretarial work course held end of March 2005 for one full week, five hours a day on communications skills, proposal writing, time management, documentation and filing on computer, accountability, negotiating skills. Accountability skills course for five days in April 2005, 12 participants, 6 hours per day on internal supervision, budgeting and accountability, loans, financial balance, taxes. Computer course for five weeks starting May 2005, 40 hours per week, 15 participants on windows, word, excel. Insufficient funds due to decreasing dollar rate, local YWCA of Minia paid from own funds. Two participants from the secretarial course have already obtained jobs.

Jordan	Amman Email: ywcanat@go.com.jo
Refugee services	<p>Since 1996 the YWCA of Jordan has been providing support for Palestinian refugees at the Baqu'a refugee Camp, Amman. There is a nursery school for 250 children and is mainly staffed by qualified teachers from the camp. The YWCA of Jordan provides skills training and employment for women through the sewing centre and bakery. The sewing centre makes good quality school uniforms, hospital, factory and hotel gowns for the local community. There are also social and cultural programmes for women and children in the camp.</p> <p>In 1996 the YWCA of Jordan established a Counselling Centre at the Camp. The centre was set up to ensure legal and psychological counselling and support to women facing marital problems and different forms of domestic abuse, and offers improved health and family planning services for girls and young women.</p>

Jordan	Amman Email: ywcanat@go.com.jo
Vocational Training Centre	The Vocational Training Centre in Amman trains young women, mainly from low income families, in secretarial skills and office management. The YWCA offers an 11 month programme in various secretarial skills are offered including English, shorthand, computing, Arabic and accounting, and ensures a month of practical training in respectable institutions such as banks and foreign embassies. Students acquire a certificate authenticated by the Ministry of Education and the YWCA aids the women in finding jobs after they graduate. Although tuition fees are charged, many women receive a subsidy and as a result the YWCA of Jordan regularly faces financial challenges in the running of the Centre, the need to upgrade equipment and introduce new programmes. The Centre was set up in 1964 and 70 students attend each year.

Jordan	Amman Email: ywcanat@go.com.jo
- Home made food store	Fifteen women prepare food items at home which are sold at the YWCA store in Fuheis commercial centre. The shop is generating good income for the 15 women and for the YWCA of Fuheis, it is providing funds for other projects and programmes such as the student loan programme and helping needy families. The project is completed and self-



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	supporting with more new items being considered.
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Lebanon	Beirut Email: info@lebanonywca.org
Income Generating Workshop	<p>Sewing Workshops at Beirut, Bauchrieh, Hadath, Ablah and Tripoli provide work for war widows and older women who have lost the main family supporter through death or incapacitation and who, with no previous skills training and due to the limitations of age, are not qualified for employment. The project offers on the job training in sewing, embroidery and knitwear. As such, they learn to earn and support their families while the marketing is ensured through the association.</p> <p>Home Industries have been revived in Tyre, Ablah and Tripoli to preserve traditional products and furnish village women with an opportunity to supplement family income. These range from the production of orange blossom water, sherbets, and home made jams, to making natural soap, preserving vine leaves and drying fruits in season. Here again, the volunteers at annual bazaars and at membership gatherings market these products.</p>

Lebanon	Beirut Email: info@lebanonywca.org
Vocational Skills Training	<p>The YWCA of Lebanon first introduced vocational training for young women in the 1920s. Over the years, the YWCA has succeeded in initiating new programmes providing quality training that is geared to the needs of the commercial sector and equips women with the skills that enable them to be employed and provide for their families. Training in hotel management, accounting and computer, graphic and advertising art, computer assisted patterns, electronic communications, stylisme and modelisme are offered at five YWCA centres. Close to 25,000 young people have graduated from the YWCA of Lebanon Vocational Training courses, their diplomas and private attestations recognised by the Directorate of Vocational Training. The YWCA Employment Bureau works closely with the business sector to assist students in seeking employment. Notwithstanding recurring political unrest and socioeconomic instability in the country, the YWCA vocational programs continue to offer quality training and employment services to its students, who in turn contribute to the welfare of their families and to the economy.</p>

Lebanon	Beirut Email: info@lebanonywca.org
Chiyah Nursing Project, 2nd Grant	<p>To empower women and youth through adult education classes in nursing, to address needs of working mothers, to build the capacity of the YWCA The YWCA of Ashrafieh/Chiyah established a new centre in the Chiyah area to reach out the under-privileged sectors of the population. Its first project, a nursery, provides a vital service for working women. The nursing school opened in 2001 to provide nursing training to women, youth and school dropouts. Given the need to pay qualified trainers, this programme was not self supporting and financial assistance was first provided in 2004. A second and final support was given in 2005 to the nursing programme, the childcare programme (to cater for more children) and to carry out rehabilitation work to make the building accessible to students with disabilities. 60 students are presently enrolled in the overall three-year nursing training programme with more signing up for short-term programmes that are available year round. Scholarships are provided for students in hardship by the Ministry of Social Affairs. YWCA members are involved in several fundraising efforts to financially support the students.</p>

Lebanon	Beirut Email: info@lebanonywca.org
Promoting development of youth and young adults - expansion of programme	<p>To improve employment opportunities for young adults Part of the YWCA of Jbeil community outreach programme's aim is to continue to provide computer skills, English language training, embroidery and beauty care to participants who have not received higher education or technical training, in order to ensure employment for self reliance. Run in collaboration with the Safadi Foundation, and with 12 updated computer units provided by the American Embassy, qualified teachers are running two month training sessions to 480 women and men in computer skills and English language. In the long term training fees will cover recurring project expenses and new areas of training, and advanced levels in current programmes will be offered to attract university students and those already employed in order to guarantee the continuing possibility to provide free training for low income groups.</p>



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Lebanon	Beirut Email: info@lebanonywca.org
- Bridging The Digital Divide for Rural Women and Youth	<p>This small-scale project was established in 2002 with support from the Women and Development Fund, to build the capacity of Ablah YWCA and to improve the situation of women and girls who are left behind by the information revolution. The Ablah YWCA purchased three computer units and provided four sessions to women and youth from Ablah and their neighbouring villages. A room that was in need of basic repairs was refurbished and converted into an ICT centre. 40 women and youth received training in ICT literacy including basic computer skills " Web Browsing Skills", Networking and Information Sharing. Not only this project helped them acquire computing and web browsing skills, it gave them full access to knowledge and information, which enhanced their self-esteem and encouraged them to improve their situation and well being.</p>

Lebanon	Beirut Email: info@lebanonywca.org
Chiyah Nursing Project	<p>A joint committee of volunteers and staff was appointed at Chiyah YWCA to insure monitoring and implementation of the project. The YWCA of Chiyah purchased needed equipment to bolster the program: A human mannequin for training, Two cooling / heating units for the classrooms and two water filters. 30 students were trained in nursing skills at 3 different levels and followed education in the biological, behavioral, social sciences and liberal arts which provides the foundation for a BT and TS (1) degrees in nursing. The main aim is to graduate qualified registered nurses for an average of 50 students. Clinical experience is given concurrently with theory during the early phase of the program. As such the students are currently undergoing short internship programs in neighboring hospitals and health care clinics. The volunteer membership organized fundraising activities to cover partial costs of teaching hours offered by specialized doctors. Other initiatives to improve the program and the level of education of the students include: Civic Education Class and a Guidance program.</p> <p>Jessy comes from a family of 5. Her mother and father are divorced and her father is an employee at a very limited salary which barely covers the family living expenses. Jessy and her three younger siblings live with their father since the mother abandoned them and left the family home. She enrolled in the nursing program as it qualifies her for a well-paying job towards the support of her family.</p> <p>Claudine is a very responsible and hardworking student. She comes from a very poor family of 5. Her mother works hard to care for the bedridden grandfather. The father is a janitor of a building, at a monthly salary of 300 000 L.L. which barely covers their daily living expenses. Claudine felt the responsibility of helping Her family and she left school in order to acquire a vocation that will entitle her to get a decent job</p>

Palestine	Jerusalem Email: ywca@ywca-palestine.org
Olive Tree Campaign	<p>Olive trees are a symbol of hope for the Palestinian people. The Olive Tree Campaign aims to replant 50,000 trees that have been uprooted or destroyed in Occupied Palestinian Territories. These trees give hope to those who depend on them for their livelihoods, and reaffirm the commitment to working towards a just peace for all who witness their renewal.</p> <p>The Good Earth Campaign supports Palestinian farmers who face grave difficulties earning a living under occupation. Through this campaign products such as olive oil, olive soap, and dried herbs are sold internationally, at a fair price.</p>

Palestine	Jerusalem Email: ywca@ywca-palestine.org
Refugee Programmes in Camps	<p>The YWCA in Palestine began working in refugee camps in 1948 to help improve the quality of life and providing assistance to the refugee women. Today the YWCA works in the refugee camps of Jalazon, Kalandia and Aqabet Jabr. Education for children has always been the major goal for YWCA, particularly for those children who are in deprived areas such as refugee camps and underprivileged villages. YWCA has pre-school programmes in the camps of Aqbet Jabr, Kalandia (recently closed) and Jalazon. The kindergartens are well equipped and as well as preparing the children for school life they also provide a peaceful and healthy escape from the violent conditions the children live in. Unfortunately they are unable to take all the children who apply.</p> <p>The YWCA runs an income and job creation projects for young women through the production of a variety of traditional crafts in Palestinian costumes (hand puppets and</p>



World YWCA

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	<p>dolls) in addition to traditional crafts. The actual activity is not a goal in itself but a way to empower young women with very little opportunities from deprived family backgrounds. Getting these young girls out of their houses, giving them the opportunity to make money and having the possibility to let them express their dreams is very important.</p>
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