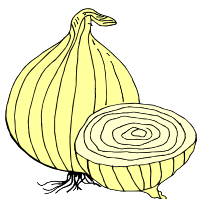


Evaluation :

Impact of the WCC Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)



**Palestinian Counseling Centre
Beit Hanina
Jerusalem, 29-5-2008**

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Executive Summary

This evaluation aims to assess and examine the impact of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) on the lives of the targeted Palestinians. The EAPPI started operating in the occupied Palestinian territories with a mission to support local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a just peace, based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. In order to achieve the mission, the EAPPI adopted three different strategies to conduct their work; prevention and remedial protection, advocacy and awareness raising and self reflection and learning. The scope of this evaluation is to measure the impact and the relevance of the EAPPI (qualitatively and quantitatively) to the people in the communities the EAPPI works in and to recommend changes in the current objectives and monitoring system.

The Palestinian Counseling Centre conducted the evaluation by dividing the EAPPI programs and activities into three. The first being the general public crossing checkpoints and agricultural gates where the Ecumenical Accompaniers are present, the second were the communities targeted by settlers and the third were the organizations and individuals who work closely with the EAPPI.

The data was gathered through questionnaires, focus groups and in depth interviews. The data gathered was then analyzed, discussed and the main evaluation findings were produced.

As far as the EAPPI strategy of prevention and remedial protection is concerned, the data gathered by PCC clearly shows that all aspects of the EAPPI's programs have an impact on their target groups. Over 50% of the people surveyed at checkpoints confirmed that they benefited to varying extents from the EAs presence at the checkpoints and gates. When it comes to communities subjected to settlers and soldiers attacks and abuse, the impact of the EAPPI is much more felt and appreciated by the villagers. In the case of Yanoun the villagers could go back to their homes only when they were accompanied by internationals. In Soysa, the villagers clearly stated that International presence is contributing to a large extent to the families being able to maintain a living. Both communities clearly stated that without international presence in their villages they would not have been able to stay.

The impact of the EAPPI's advocacy work was measured mainly through questions made to the organizations and individuals who closely cooperate with the EAPPI. The general public was also asked to value the EAPPI's advocacy work. The data gathered clearly shows that a large percentage of the people asked view advocacy work as very important. They view the EAPPI's advocacy work as more important because the EAPPI is affiliated to the World Council of Churches. More advocacy and media work should be done both nationally and internationally to bring about the desired change.

The objectives and monitoring system are intact but need further development and improvement. Specific intermediate objectives need to be formulated as well as clear and measurable indicators. Work plans also need to be prepared against which reports should be produced. These measures if taken will undoubtedly improve the monitoring and evaluation system which in turn will improve the quality of the work as well as the quality of the reports produced.

Situational Analysis



The need for a protection program in Palestine stems from the fact that the Palestinian people are exposed to an escalating Israeli violence and harassment on a daily basis. The graduate institute of developmental studies (IUED) households' perceptions survey in Palestine in 2006 has shown a third (33%) of the respondents indicated that they are incapable of protecting and responding fully to their needs and the needs of their children, thereby clearly stating that they are in need of help and community support on that level. The Palestinian people over the years have requested International support and protection. Several calls were made by Palestinian political parties and civil society organizations to the general secretary of the United Nations or the high commissioner for human rights to call for Israeli full compliance with International resolutions and the enforcement of International conventions like Article #1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which calls for the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination, and which continues to be grievously and systematically violated by Israel's occupation. The right to self-determination and continued occupation stand in fundamental conflict. Palestinians have warned that Israeli non-compliance and disrespect of International conventions is leaving them under the mercy of tyrannical rule with no protection.

Israel throughout the years of occupation has adopted systematic policies which aim at weakening the Palestinian physical and political presence in order to impose its hegemony on the oPt's. Thus the result of sixty years of dispossession and 41 years of occupation of Palestinians, is the killing and maiming of thousands of Palestinians, more than 11,000 Palestinians are incarcerated, the confiscation of over 50% of the oPt areas and expulsion and transfer of large populations. The building of the annexation wall and destruction of the Palestinian economy through control of the land and natural resources (large areas of agricultural land are not cultivated by their owners because of lack of accessibility to the land, and the same is true of the aquifers in the Qalqilya area) and increased tightening of the passage of goods and people. Two million Palestinians in Gaza are, according to the UN Special Rapporteur, John Dugard, confined to a large prison¹ and not able to move or sustain their livelihood; more than 84% of the people are living in poverty, thousands of Palestinians are unemployed. The construction of the annexation Wall, the construction and enlargement of Jewish Colonies or settlements, the bypass roads for settlers, the system of checkpoints (five hundred and fifty eight,558)² have resulted in the division of the oPt's into separated and isolated areas of land that are easy to control.

Communities at risk:

1. Villages isolated by the wall: There are ten village clusters in the West Bank that are presently isolated by the wall. These cluster areas are in and around the Jerusalem directorate (5 clusters with a total population of 169,262 people)³, 1 village cluster in the Bethlehem area with a total population of 20,753 people, one cluster to the west of Ramallah with a population of 13,826, one cluster in the areas of Qalqilya and Salfet 27,684 people. There are also 63,863 people who are isolated in their villages like some villages of Qalqilya and the town of Qalqilya itself and Arab il Ramadeen in the Hebron area. Others are isolated between the Wall and the green line like Umm il Rihan in the Jenin area. All the above mentioned villages are isolated from each other and from their farm land which constitute their livelihood.

¹ Statement to HRC, 09.26.06 – see also B'Tselem report: Gaza-One Big Prison

² UN OCHA oPt report on checkpoints and roadblocks,
www.ochaopt.org/?module=displaysection§ion_id=143&format=html

³ "Stop the wall campaign" website, www.stopthewall.org, reviewed on April, 22nd, 2008 at 5:00pm.

2. Villages threatened with dispossession and displacement: there are fourteen communities living in small villages (khirbet) or neighborhood around the West Bank who are threatened of being evacuated of their homes in order to expand the settlement around them examples are the Nuuman village in the Bethlehem area, Sousya in the Hebron area or al Nabi Samuel in the Jerusalem area. 6,314 people⁴ are affected by these measures.
3. Villages in remote areas who are continuously threatened by settler's attacks, these villages like al Yanoun and population clusters in the Yatta area.

Restriction of movement and lack of access:

- The annexation wall affected the life of six hundred fifty four thousand people (654,000)⁵ and caused many communities to be ghettoized and forced to endure a complicated process of checkpoints and gates to have access to Health (65%⁶ of the population affected reported problems of access to health care), education, work or even social relations.
- There are 558⁷ road blocks which thousands of Palestinians are forced to cross in order to get out of their villages or towns. It can take between half an hour to five hours to cross these checkpoints depending on the time of day and the number of people passing.

The Israeli occupation is taking advantage of the atmosphere that has prevailed since September 11, 2001. All UN resolutions concerning Palestine have gone unheeded. Thus, Israel seems to enjoy an exceptional treatment and a total state of impunity. More than ever the Palestinian people, whose hope is that their national rights will be granted - a hope, which seems to be distant - are actually threatened in their own existence.

The prospects for a just and lasting solution to the Arab- Israeli conflict are not foreseeable in the near future. The deteriorating political and economic situation and the lack of hope for a solution will lead to a further deterioration of psycho-social as well as the socio-economic situations and the fabric of Palestinian society. The effect will be maximized on the marginalized and vulnerable populations in isolated areas and those under continuous attacks. All these factors makes it imperative to have a protection program which can witness, document and provide support to the Palestinian people and cause.

Introduction to the EAPPI

The EAPPI is an initiative of the World Council of Churches under the *Ecumenical Campaign to End the Illegal Occupation of Palestine: Support a Just Peace in the Middle East*. Its overall goal is to support local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a just peace, based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. Its mission is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation. The EA's are monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, supporting acts of non-violent resistance alongside local Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Israeli peace activists, offering protection through non-violent presence, engaging in public policy advocacy and, in

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Special report on the 59th anniversary of the Nakba 19-5-2007, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).

⁶ Ibid

⁷ UN OCHA oPt report on checkpoints and roadblocks
www.ochaopt.org/?module=displaysection§ion_id=143&format=html

general, standing in solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation.

The EAPPI is an international program operating locally in Israel-Palestine and coordinated at the international level by the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Since August 2002, it has received over 500 Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) from more than 16 countries, who have served in small teams for periods of 3 months each (some have done extra terms), in various locations of the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The EAs are recruited, employed and prepared for field work by sending organizations in most of these countries. Whilst in the field, the EAs are managed by WCC/EAPPI staff based in Jerusalem. Upon their return home, the EAs are debriefed by their sending organizations and are encouraged to carry out public speaking engagements.

The EAPPI is functioning based on agreed aims and objectives and has developed tools for monitoring its activities. Recently, EAPPI staff began to frame the EAs' activities in each location (placement) within these objectives and report against these objectives qualitatively. An external evaluation of the program was undertaken in June 2004 and another consultancy to help build the monitoring systems was conducted in 2006.

The need for this evaluation

The last external evaluation of the EAPPI was conducted in July 2006 and aimed to assess and improve the recording system used to document the achievements of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). The findings and recommendations of the previous evaluation were incorporated in the EAPPI's consecutive plans. The management and staff of the EAPPI feel the need to know the extent to which the programs and activities are relevant and have an impact on people's lives. The findings and recommendations will be used to take the necessary steps to improve performance in order to increase the positive impact on people's lives.

Evaluation Objectives

1. Measure the impact and the relevance of the EAPPI (qualitatively and quantitatively) to the people. In particular,
 - a. To find out the level of knowledge about EAPPI in the communities where the program is present;
 - b. To seek recommendations/advice from local people on how to improve and develop the work;
 - c. To find out if people know about the EAPPI's advocacy work, if it matters to them and if they see a connection between the advocacy work and the situation on the ground.
2. Recommend any necessary changes in the current objectives and monitoring system.

Evaluation methodology

The methodology was developed based on a number of qualitative indicators that were identified by the EAPPI in their strategic planning document "Guiding Principles, Activities and Ways of Establishing Success". In the document the EAPPI identified three main intervention strategies:

- a. Preventive and remedial protection.
- b. Advocacy, awareness raising and interaction with other agencies
- c. Reflection and learning.

The objective of this evaluation as stipulated in Annex I - Terms of Reference; monitoring the impact of EAPPI, is to measure the impact and the relevance of the EAPPI qualitatively and quantitatively to the people and to recommend any necessary changes in the current

objectives and monitoring system. The evaluation will therefore assess the impact of pursuing:

Strategy a. – Preventive and remedial protection;

Strategy b. - the advocacy and awareness raising activities as viewed and felt by the local Palestinian community; and

Strategy c. – Reflection and learning.

Advocacy activities impacting the international community will not be assessed as they are not within the scope of this evaluation.

Through reviewing the reports produced by the preventive and remedial protection programs and activities, three main groups / survey populations were identified:

1. The general public who cross checkpoints and agricultural gates where EAPPI operate.
2. The populations at risk of settlers' assaults and where the accompaniers have significant presence.
3. The organizations that benefit from the EAPPI's support in the implementation of their programs in addition to individuals members of the Local Reference Group.

Objectives and monitoring systems

The assessment of the objectives and monitoring systems was based on the Project Cycle Management model. The model identifies five main interrelated stages in managing projects and programs: programming, identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation and audit. Diagram 1 illustrates the five stages that make up the project cycle. The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) is a core tool used within Project Cycle Management. The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) is an analytical process and a set of tools used to support project planning and management. Although the previous external evaluation argued against the use of the (LFA) in the operation of the EAPPI's programs, it is still felt that this methodology is valid and useful in assessing:

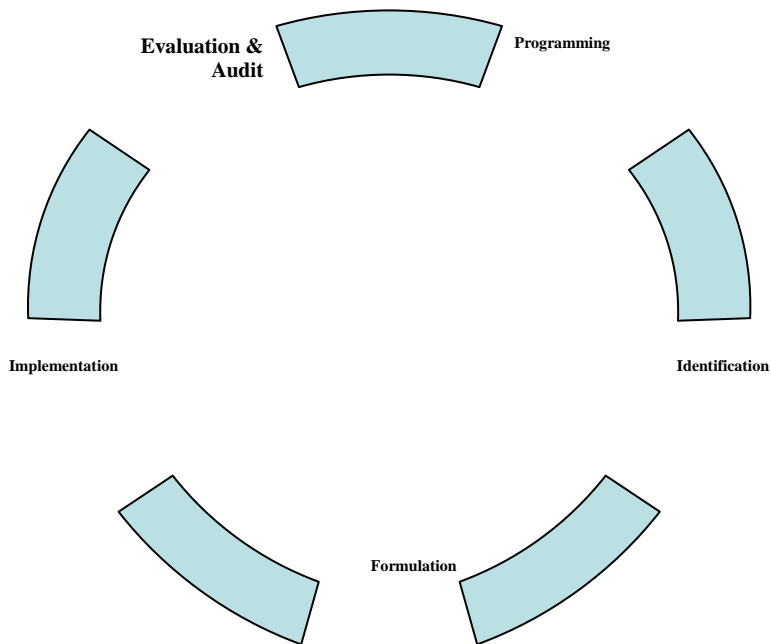
1. the logical sequence of formulating the goals, objectives, work plans and monitoring systems.
2. The respect of the main basic guiding principles followed in the planning, monitoring and evaluation process such as:
 - a. Participation. Ensuring participation of stakeholders in the planning and implementation process of programs and projects.
 - b. Ownership and partnership. Strengthening the feeling of ownership and partnership with the target population.

Following were the steps taken to assess the objectives and monitoring systems.

1. Review of the Guiding Principles document.
2. Review of the different reports, daily and weekly logs, end of Group reports, annual reports etc.
3. Interview the Local Program Coordinator, Ms. Valentina Maggiulli.
4. Analyze the data collected.
5. Suggest recommendations.

Diagram 1 – Project Cycle.





Sample selection

The sample surveyed was selected as follows:

1. **The general public** crossing checkpoints and gates. A random sample of 401 individuals with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of around 5% was selected. The selection was based on the number of locations where the EAPPI operate namely:
 - a. Checkpoints.
 - b. Agricultural gates.

The sample size was calculated based on the estimated number of people who cross each checkpoint / gate per day.

Data collection - Questionnaires design

The questionnaire was divided into five main parts. The first part was designed to answer general information questions about the person surveyed; gender, age, socio-economic background, religion, reasons for crossing the checkpoint / gate and frequency of crossing checkpoint / gate. The second part aimed at identifying the problems faced by the person passing the checkpoint / gate. The third part was about the program; knowledge of the program, encounter of EAs. The fourth part was about the people's understanding of the program objectives. The fifth part asked questions about the people's personal benefit from the program and whether the program enhanced their feeling of safety and empowerment as well as their recommendations (questionnaire- individuals).

2. **Populations at risk of settlers' assaults.** The villages of Yanoun in Nablus and Sousya in Hebron were identified mainly because the program had a significant presence in terms of EA's numbers and duration of time spent in the villages. Two focus group discussions were conducted with a representative sample of the two villages.

Focus groups Meetings

The meetings were divided into three parts. The first part included an introduction of the evaluation team, the PCC and the aims and objectives of the meeting.

The second part introduced the members of the focus group and the main problems faced by the village in general.

In the third part specific questions were asked to assess the impact of the EAPPI in the life of the village and villagers. Questions included the listing of daily problems faced by the villagers due to the Jewish settlers' and soldiers' harassment. Questions about the villagers' knowledge of the EAPPI and their role were also asked and finally members of the focus groups were asked to evaluate the work and impact of the EAs on their lives and the life of the village.

3. **Benefiting Organizations and members of the LRG.** In depth structured interviews were conducted with two members of the LRG out of a total of twelve. Additionally twenty one partner organizations or individuals out of a list of forty were also interviewed. The interviews were conducted either over the telephone or in person (questionnaire-groups).

Interview design

Questions to organizations and members of the Local Reference Group were designed to assess the extent to which EAPPI support organizations in implementing their programs and in specific popular peaceful activities against the occupation and secondly to assess to what extent the organizations benefit from the program. Open ended questions on recommendations to improve the program were also asked.

Main Findings

The primary objective of the evaluation is to assess to what extent do the EAPPI's various programs and activities benefit the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

To this end a random sample of 401 individuals crossing various checkpoints and agricultural gates were surveyed, a total of twenty one organizations and individuals working closely with the EAPPI were interviewed and two focus groups in two villages subjected to Jewish settlers' attacks were conducted.

Sample profile

1. General public

A random sample of 401 individuals, were surveyed on checkpoints (310 individuals, 77.3%) and agricultural gates (91 individuals, 22.7%). 62.8% of those surveyed were male and 37.2% were female. 54.6% of those crossing checkpoints/gates are from the age group 21-40 years, 20.7% are under 20, while 24.7% are above 40 years of age. Table 1 illustrates the socio-demographic distribution of the sample surveyed.

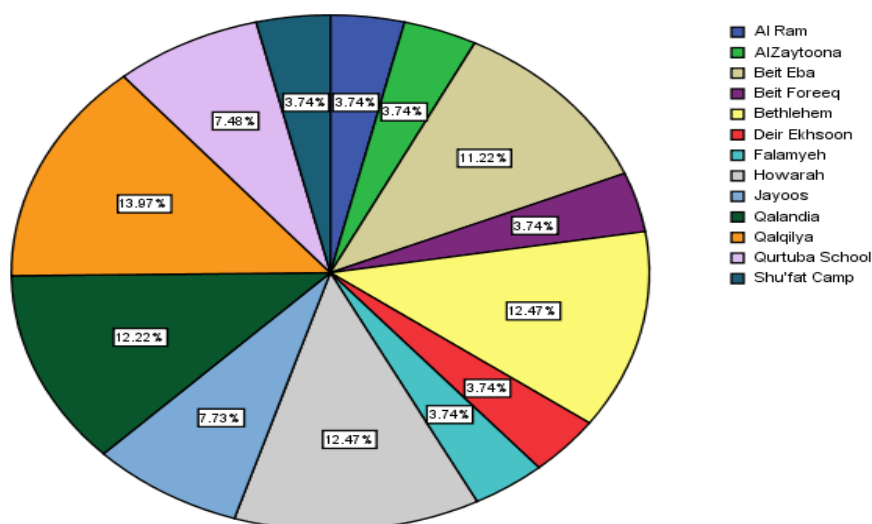
Table 1: Sample demographics (Social status/ sex X age)



so_status	age					Total	
	15 yrs	16-20 yrs	21-30 yrs	31-40 yrs	above 40		
single	sex						
	male	11	22	48	1	0	82
	female	19	30	40	6	1	96
	Total	30	52	88	7	1	178
married	sex						
	male		0	23	75	69	167
	female		1	11	14	19	45
	Total		1	34	89	88	212
divorced	sex						
	male				0	1	1
	female				1	1	2
	Total				1	2	3
widow	sex						
	male					2	2
	female					6	6
	Total					8	8

Chart 1 illustrates the number of people surveyed per location both at checkpoints and agricultural gates.

Chart 1: Geographic distribution of sample surveyed.



2. Organizations

A total of 21 organizations and individuals were interviewed. Five Palestinian non governmental organizations (NGO's), four international NGOs, three Israeli peace / human rights organizations, three local / public authority organizations, four Palestinian citizens / activists, one hospital, and one church - a member of the Local Reference Group in the locations were interviewed in depth. For further information on the organizations interviewed, please refer to Annex II.

3. Focus groups.

A focus group was conducted in Yanoun on 22. March 2008 and another in Sousya on 10. April 2008. Both groups comprised of around ten individuals representing different age groups, gender and professions.

Findings related to the EAPPI objectives:

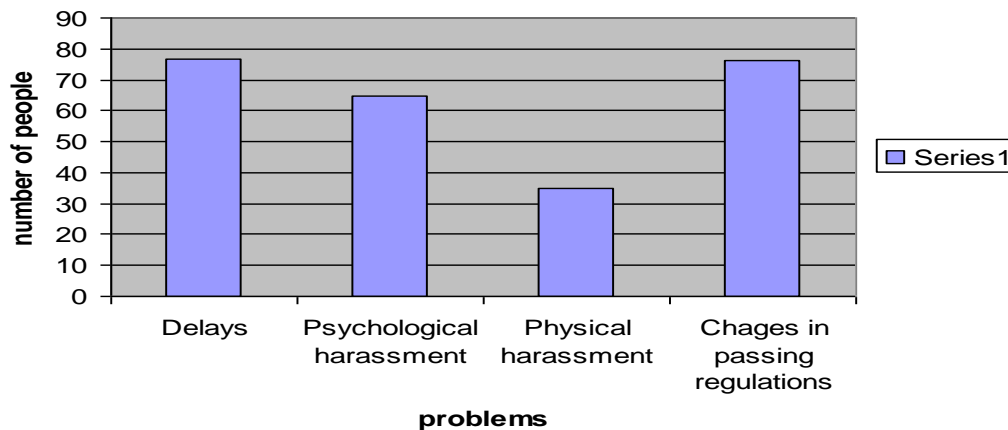
Following are the main findings as related to the objectives identified by the EAPPI as well as the set of indicators formulated to measure the success reached in achieving the objectives. The findings are derived from the general public surveyed while crossing checkpoints and gates, from the organizations and individuals interviewed who closely

cooperate with the EAPPI and from two focus group discussions in the villages of Yanoun and Sousya.

Objective 1: De-escalate, reduce and prevent threats, incidents of violence and human rights violations in areas of tension.

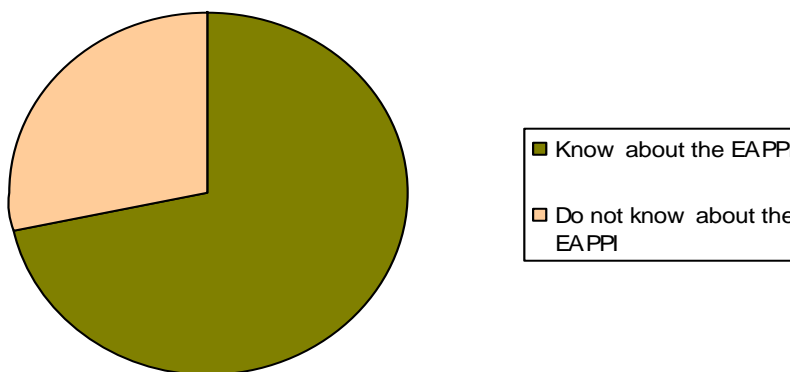
401 individuals passing checkpoints and agricultural gates were asked to list the main difficulties they encounter while passing checkpoints and gates. 76.8% reported that they were delayed, 64.8% faced psychological harassment, 34.7% faced physical harassment, 76.1% suffered from continuous change of regulations at checkpoints and gates. Chart 2 indicates the main problems people face while passing checkpoints and agricultural gates.

Chart 2 - Main problem faced at checkpoints and gates



Out of the 401 individuals surveyed while crossing checkpoints and gates, 286 or 71.3% indicated that they know about the EAPPI. Chart 3 illustrates people’s knowledge of the EAPPI’s existence.

Chart 3 people who know of the EAPPI's existence



Of those 70.5% indicated that they cross more quickly while 73.2% stated that the EA’s presence decreased the incidents of Israeli soldiers’ harassment of Palestinians. 81.6% view the EAs presence at checkpoints and in popular protest as the important. 68.8% feel that the EAs presence supports their right to cross and their right to freedom of movement

Out of twenty-one organizations and individuals interviewed, 95.5% said that the EAs are present at the organizations' public activities and confirmed that their presence is important. Ms. Ze'ev from Ta'yoush believes that the EAs witnessing and documentation of the soldiers' and settlers' abuses help deter further violations. On the other hand other organizations interviewed stated that in certain cases the EAPPI failed to mobilize promptly to emergency situations due to bureaucratic constraints.

Members of the Sousya community stated that the soldiers and the settlers are more reluctant to physically and verbally abuse the villagers when the EA's are present. They have also confirmed that the soldiers allow them to move more freely and in the case of Sousya to pass the checkpoint more quickly when the EAs are present.

The villagers of Yanoun stated also that there has been a decrease in the number of attacks by neighboring Jewish settlers ever since there has been an international presence in the village. According to the villagers the case of Yanoun became known to the outside world after the incident that took place on 5.10.2002, when a gang of neighboring Jewish settlers attacked the village and tried to evict the villagers from their homes. The neighboring villages of Beita and Aqraba came to the rescue and the resulting clashes lead to the killing of a Palestinian youth from Aqraba. Fearing for their lives the families of Yanoun fled their homes for a few days. They returned to their homes accompanied by members of Ta'ayush⁸ and other internationals whose presence prevented further attacks. Building on this success other groups sent accompaniers and in 2004 EAPPI started operating in the village. Since then there had been a constant international presence in Yanoun and systematic attacks by Jewish settlers have decreased significantly. However, occasional attacks on the village still occur.

Objective 2: Reduce fear amongst Palestinian communities where the program is present and a greater ability to find ways of contributing to their own protection.

In order to delineate fear, the sample surveyed confirmed that while crossing the checkpoints and gates, 73.8% fear being delayed, 68.3% feel reluctant to go to their destination, 71% feel afraid and unsafe to cross and 72.8% fear not being able to return home.

77.4% of the general public who encountered EAs at Checkpoints and gates expressed that they feel safer when EAs are present. On the other hand, 22.6% did not agree that the EAs presence enhances their feeling of safety and security, See chart 4.

77.7 % of those crossing checkpoints feel empowered and more confident in facing the soldiers, see chart 5

⁸ Ta'ayush, the Arabic word for Coexistence or life in common, is an Arab / Jewish movement that calls for Arab Jewish partnership, an end to occupation and racism and equality for all of Israel's citizens.

Chart 4 - EAs presence enhances safety and security

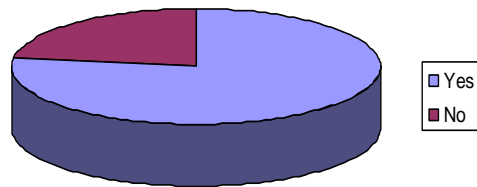


Chart 5 - EAs presence enhances self confidence in facing soldiers

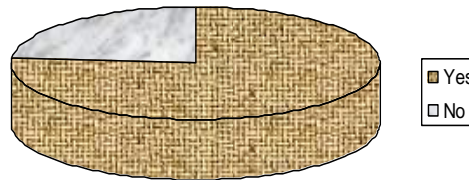
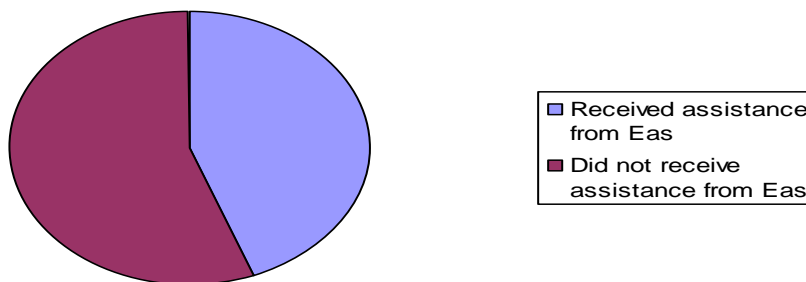


Chart 6 illustrates the percentage of people personally assisted or know about others who received assistance by the EA's

Chart 6 - Individuals who recieved assistance from EAs at checkpoints and agricultural gates



The organizations interviewed all recommended that the EAPPI focus its attention on remote villages and communities who are at risk of being evicted. All interviewed confirmed that the importance of the EAs presence is in helping enable the communities to pursue a normal life and in empowering people to maintain their livelihood. The organizations however pointed out to the fact that the EAPPI in its current capacity is unable to respond effectively to the increasing need of such communities. It was recommended therefore that the EAPPI increase the number of EAs operating in the country as well as coordinate more closely with other protection programs such as ISM, Machsom Watch, and Grassroots International for the Protection of the Palestinian People (GIPP), Christian Peacemakers Team (CPT) and CCPPP (Grassroots International for the protection of the Palestinian People).

In both villages of Yanoun and Sousya, the villagers emphasized the fact that the EAs presence enhances their will and means to resist and struggle for their rights and property.

In Sousya one of the villagers gave an example where the EAs together with other Internationals helped the villagers open a road that leads to the village of Yatta. The road was closed by the Israeli army. This road enabled the villagers to reach Yatta in five minutes which would otherwise take them ten times as long to reach had the road remained closed.

In both villages the villagers confirmed that when the EAs and other internationals are present, they feel safer, move more easily and are less subjected to physical abuse by the

soldiers and settlers. This is particularly true and important during the planting, harvesting, olive picking and grazing seasons.

In Sousya a member of the focus group said that when the EAs are present in the village at night, he is able to sleep better.

Objective 3: Churches and Christian Communities, Palestinians and Israelis are supported in their non-violent struggle to end the occupation and their messages reach a wider audience.

The general public surveyed stressed the importance of the EAs presence in demonstrations and public protests, 81.6% view the EAs presence at checkpoints and in popular protest as an important role played by the EAs.

Thirteen of the 21 organizations interviewed stated that the EAPPI support them in their programs.

21 organizations believe that the EAs participation in public protests and demonstrations is very important and enhances non violent resistance among the Palestinians.

Twenty organizations of the twenty one interviewed agreed that the EAPPI is capable of bringing the Palestinian suffering to world attention.

When asked the twenty one (100%) organizations agreed with the assumption that the living conditions will improve to a certain extent if the world is aware and informed of the Palestinian situation.

Examples were given in Yanoun and Sousya of how their living conditions improved once people became aware of the problems. The UNDP provided Al Yanoun with an electricity generator. Additionally, solidarity with the people with the two villages has resulted in the preservation of their land, cattle, olive trees and property.

However, only sixteen organizations believe that this knowledge will change the government's policies towards Israel.

Most of the organizations interviewed feel that the EAPPI should develop a more focused advocacy program that targets policy makers on various levels. The EAPPI being a World Council of Churches (WCC) program, should play a more vocal role in reminding the world in general and the churches in particular of their moral role and responsibility towards the plight of the Palestinian people and their lawful cause. The EAPPI being a witness of the Palestinians' oppression and suffering should urge the various churches to take a firm stance against the injustice that is being committed on a daily basis against the Palestinian population and to take all necessary measures to deter Israel from further violating the Palestinians' basic human rights.

The villagers in Yanoun felt that there is not enough feedback from the EA's once they return to their countries, especially in the area of advocacy. They also expressed the need for the EAPPI to focus more on advocacy work in their own countries and media work in Palestine.

Objective 4: Those who suffer from the oppression of the occupation in the communities where the project is present have greater hope.



83.5% of the general public surveyed while crossing and gates and who have encountered EA's, stated that the EA's presence reduces their suffering.

In Sousya and Yanoun; the EAs and other internationals' presence breaks the villagers' feeling of isolation as expressed by the villagers. Both villages are small in numbers and are separated from their neighboring villages by military checkpoints. Contact with the outside world is therefore minimal. The villagers often feel that the EAs and other internationals are their voices and contact with the outside world. This gives them hope that when people know of their suffering they would do something to help them. In Yanoun for example, when their case became more known, a French organization provided them with a bus to take the children to school and others helped build a primary school with the Ministry of Education. As one of the villagers stated: "with our friends around us, we don't feel alone anymore".

In both villages the people believe in the justness of their cause and are ready to struggle for their lands and property. They however sometimes feel helpless when faced by Israel's military power. The EAs and other internationals' presence gives them hope and is proof that if they resist they will be able to maintain their lands and obtain some of their rights. As one of the villagers in Sousya explained the success of the accompaniment strategy: "Israel claims that it is a Western democratic country. Israel wants to maintain this image in the outside world, so it cannot allow the soldiers or the settlers to abuse us in front of the EAs and their cameras. It is all documented in their cameras. Had the EAs not been here the situation would have been much worse."

Objective 5: The programme can lend its weight to self-organising Palestinian and Israeli civil society initiatives in communities where the project is present.

Mr. Arik Asherman from Rabbis for Human Rights and Ms. Efrat Ben Zeev, from Taayush (both are Israeli human rights activists) were interviewed and asked how they assess the work of the EAPPI in general and the extent to which the EAPPI support them in their activities. Both of them expressed their high appreciation of the role played by the EAPPI both in their accompaniment program and their advocacy work outside. They strongly support the continuation and expansion of the program especially in remote areas where there is a need for witnesses of the acts of the army or settlers and where there are vulnerable and exposed communities. Ms. Ben Zeev stated that EAPPI volunteers always respond to requests to participate in activities organized by Taayush and their presence is very helpful especially on short notice when other Taayush members are not easily mobilized. Ms. Zeev also added that some of the EA's are quite helpful in facilitating their work; she gave the example of one volunteer (David from England) who responded to a request by Taayush and helped in organizing villagers (in Nahaleen, Batteer and other neighboring villages) to coordinate their efforts and work collectively.

Eight of the twenty one organizations interviewed said that they use the reports produced by the EAPPI, Ms. Zeev clearly noted that the reports of EAPPI were quite helpful for her in the Nu'uman village website. Four organizations said that they rarely use the reports whereas eight organizations said that they do not use them at all.

Twenty organizations out of twenty one stated that the EAPPI is capable of transmitting the Palestinian problems to the outside world. Nevertheless, some believe that the work done is not enough and can be further enhanced and developed, and that the EA's should be mobilized to do more work in their respective countries upon their return. Some believe that the quality and intensity of the advocacy work abroad is quite dependent on the motivation and willingness of the EA's rather than on organized systematic efforts.

All twenty one organizations agreed that the EAPPI's advocacy work is very important and should be further developed.

All twenty one organizations said that the churches should be more vocal on human rights abuses in Palestine and that EAPPI could be one of the churches channels of communication to the outside world.

On the other hand some organizations said that the EA's initiatives and activities are often hampered by extensive bureaucratic procedures such as taking permissions, waiting for security clearances, etc.

Findings related to the Objectives and monitoring system

The planning approach adopted by the EAPPI was mainly based on matching the capacities available at the program with the needs of the community.

In line with the PCM model, the EAPPI's planning process started with the programming phase, where it was decided that the EAPPI's intervention in Palestine and Israel falls within the general EAPPI strategy as well as within the receiving countries' strategies.

In the following identification phase, the EAPPI started with an in depth analysis of the existing problem that needs to be solved. This analysis helps establish the cause and effect relationship which will ensure that the selected strategies will addresses the root causes of the problem rather that the resulting effects. In the case of the EAPPI the problem was that of vulnerable communities that are subjected and at risk of violations and abuses by the Israeli occupation. The root cause of the problem being the occupation, the EAPPI successfully selected advocacy as a strategy for their work in Palestine and Israel. Since the communities are subjected to violations, protection was also successfully selected as another strategy. The selection of the third strategy of reflection and learning however had failed to address both the root cause as well as the resulting effects. There is no doubt that reflection and learning is extremely important both on the level of the program and on that of the EAs, it is however important to differentiate between a strategy and an activity that could be undertaken throughout the program cycle. Defining reflection and learning as a strategy will have implications throughout the planning process. In addition to technical implications, such as, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation implications having it a main strategy could also impact the time and efforts invested to respond to the real needs of providing protection and advocating to end the occupation.

In the formulation stage, goals and objectives are defined and programs and projects are designed to achieve those objectives. In the case of the EAPPI three main goals were defined. A set of six intermediate objectives were defined for the first goal, that of protection. No intermediate objectives were formulated for the two other goals. A set of indicators were defined against the main goals. The indicators are clear and help specify the areas where the EAPPI should focus on. They however remain too general and very difficult to measure both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The implementation phase that follows should include the preparation of work plans, the production of reports and the monitoring of activities. In the case of the EAPPI, and due to the difficulties facing the executive staff in acquiring essential information, such as the number of EAs recruited for the coming year and due to the constantly changing emergency situation in the oPt, annual work plans seem to difficult to prepare. Plans per group or placement are prepared.

Reports on a weekly basis or weekly logs are prepared by the EAs and submitted to the EAPPI coordinator. An end of group report is prepared by the program coordinator at the end of the three months placement. An annual report is also prepared by the program coordinator and submitted to the Local Reference Group, the WCC headquarters in Geneva and to donors. All reports contain valuable information and are well structured. The weakness in the reports lie in absence of the corresponding plans. The information presented fails to report against pre-formulated work plans. The reporting is done against the main general plan and not against what was planned for that specific year or this particular group, for example.

The monitoring of activities should be carried out throughout the implementation phase. In addition to the various reports mentioned above, which are all also used for monitoring purposes, a number of additional activities are undertaken by the EAPPI executive staff:

1. Field visits to the various locations where EAPPI operate are done periodically. An average of four monitoring visits are conducted per group.
2. Contacts with local communities and organizations, either through visits or over the telephone to discuss the work and performance of the EAPPI and EAs.
3. The program coordinator meets with each group between two to three times per placement.
4. The EAs submit their own written evaluations and do Strength- Weakness- Opportunities-Threats analysis in their placements.
5. The EAs fill in an evaluation form at the end of their placement that covers professional and logistical areas of the program.
6. The executive staff are not evaluated.

Evaluation and audit is the last stage of the cycle. External evaluations of the EAPPI take place although not in a systematic way.

The EAPPI's planning process in general terms proved to be participatory. The WCC headquarters, the Local Reference Group the executive staff as well as the local communities and target beneficiaries seem to have participated in identifying objectives and activities. According to the data collected from the surveys and interviews, the EAPPI and the EAs are sensitive, aware and show respect to the local customs and needs. The EAs involvement in the day to day lives of people and their interaction with all sectors of the community helps enhance the feeling of partnership between them and the people.

Recommendations

From the report it is clear that overall the EAPPI in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of many Palestinians. However there are a number of areas where EAPPI could improve at the level of planning and implementation. These will likely impact on the program's ability to better respond to the increasing need for accompaniment services as well as on the program's quality. The recommendations outlined below are per the EAPPI programs and the objectives and monitoring systems:

Presence at checkpoints and agricultural gates

It was clear from the survey conducted on the random sample of 401 individuals crossing checkpoints and agricultural gates that 61.2% of the people who cross checkpoints and gates suffer from a number of problems with the Israeli army. The need for international presence that reduces the incidents of harassment and violations was therefore established. The majority of the people surveyed (73.2%) confirmed the fact that the EAs presence reduces the violations committed against them and (70.5%) help them cross more easily with less fear and therefore enhances their mobility and productivity.



It is therefore recommended that the EAs presence at checkpoints and gates continue.

It was also established from the survey that the (71.3%)of people surveyed know about the EAPPI but only (44.1%) benefited from the services. This is mainly due to the fact that the EAs are present for certain periods of time only at the surveyed checkpoints and agricultural gates. **The main recommendation of the people surveyed is to increase the number of EAs and their presence at the checkpoints and gates.**

Another reason for the relatively limited knowledge of the EAPPI is the difficulty the EAs face in communicating with the people at checkpoints and gates due to language constraints.

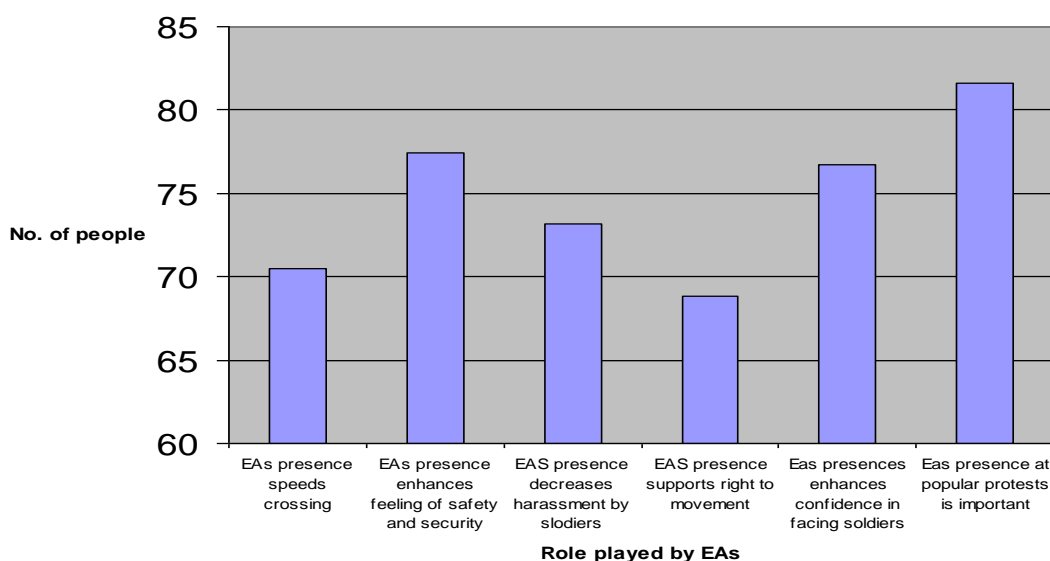
It is therefore recommended that the EAPPI produce a small simple leaflet in Arabic that introduces the program, its goals and objectives, to be distributed to the individuals crossing the checkpoints and gates.

At Qalandyia checkpoint – a big checkpoint where thousands of people cross daily including foreign internationals - people were less familiar with the EAPPI and felt less of a need for their services compared with Qalqilya and Deir El Ghousoun checkpoints, smaller more remote and isolated checkpoints that expressed the grave need for the EAs to be present especially during the rush hours.

It is therefore recommended that priority importance be given to smaller and remote checkpoints and gates, while coordinating with other programs such as Machsom Watch and others to be present at the other checkpoints.

Chart 7 indicates the assessment of the people passing checkpoints and agricultural gates of the various roles played by the EAs. It is clear from the chart that people consider the various roles played by the EAs as very important. The EAs presence at checkpoints and gates enhances the people’s feeling of safety and security, it also enhances their confidence in facing the soldiers and asking for their rights. The individuals surveyed confirmed that the EAs presence decreases harassment by soldiers as well supports their right to access and movement. However, the vast majority of the individuals surveyed viewed the EAs presence at popular protests and demonstrations as important (81.6%).

Chart 7 - People's assessment of the EAPPI's role



This could be explained by the fact serious injuries among the Palestinian civilians are inflicted during demonstrations and public protests. The Israeli army during mass marches and protests reverts to the use of extensive force. The soldiers however become reluctant to use extreme forceful measures with the presence of internationals. The EAs presence in this case is considered more important as it implies saving lives.

It is therefore recommended that while maintaining an increased presence at checkpoints and gates, EAs should ensure their visible presence at popular protests and demonstrations.

Presence with communities at risk of settlers' assaults

The EAPPI's presence in Yanoun and Sousya villages have has made both these cases success stories. The EAs as well as other internationals' presence has helped the people protect their lands and property, maintain a living and lead a life with an improved sense of security, safety and hope.

It is therefore beyond any doubts that the EAs presence in both villages should continue but over longer periods of time. In Sousya the need for prolonged international presence is needed and recommended. The EAPPI's program that aims at protecting communities at risk of settlers' attacks and / or evictions should be improved and enlarged. The need for international presence in other communities is on the rise due to the fact that Israel aims at clearing all the communities adjacent to the annexation Wall.

Support to organizations in their peaceful non violent struggle

It is clear from the interviews conducted with the organizations and individuals who closely cooperate with the EAPPI that the impact of the EAPPI work is felt much more with the organizations working on the ground. Organizations who do similar or complimentary work to that of the EAPPI feel the value of the EAPPI's work and support it much more than the organizations that, for example, do more desk work. The EAs cooperation on the field is appreciated and is considered efficient and effective. However, in some cases, and for bureaucratic reasons, the EAs fail to respond to urgent situations.

Some organizations feel that they can make better use of the EAPPI's filed reports if the process of data gathering and presentation is done in an improved methodological and systematic way.

All twenty one organizations and individuals interviewed strongly emphasized the importance of the EAPPI's advocacy work. This component of the EAPPI's programs should be developed and improved. The EAPPI is viewed by all as a credible source of information on the suffering and oppression endured by the Palestinian people and should therefore take a stronger role in advocating for an end to the injustice endured by an oppressed nation. Suggestions by the organizations included an intensification of church delegations to visit the oPt and the organizations and communities with whom the EAPPI work.

Recommendation; the advocacy work of the EAPPI should be developed into a program with clear goals and objectives, target audiences, key messages and outcomes that clearly define the desired changes in policies and positions.

Due to the dire situation in Gaza caused by Israel's blockade and daily bombardments of Gaza, several organizations and individuals recommended that the EAPPI should also operate in Gaza. It is hoped that intensified international presence in Gaza would deter Israel from pursuing it extreme measures against Gaza's one and a half million Palestinian population and therefore decrease their suffering.



Recommendation: a decision whether to operate the EAPPI's programs in Gaza should follow a careful assessment of the situation there including an assessment of the risk on the EAs lives.

Objectives and monitoring systems

Based on the above findings it is recommended that a revision of the strategic plan take place paying more attention to the planning process. The stages in the Project cycle, if followed, will minimize the flows that often occur while planning both for the long and short terms. A revision of the plan entails also a revision of the strategies selected and in particular the reflection and self learning. The long term goals are well defined and clear. It is recommended though to define intermediate and specific objectives that should serve for a period of three to five years. Against the goals and objectives it is essential to formulate clear and measurable indicators. Although difficult, annual work plans should be prepared. This will help improve the quality of the various reports produced and will also improve the monitoring and evaluation system.

Annex I - Terms of Reference monitoring the impact of EAPPI

Summary

The WCC is seeking a consultant to monitor the impact of the EAPPI through field visits and interviews to assess the difference it makes to the accompanied people. The consultant will need to work closely with the EAPPI staff, the Local Reference Group (LRG), the partners, the people in the placements and the Ecumenical Accompaniers in order to measure the impact and the relevance of the program to the people.

Introduction

The EAPPI is an initiative of the World Council of Churches under the *Ecumenical Campaign to End the Illegal Occupation of Palestine: Support a Just Peace in the Middle East*. Its overall goal is to support local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with a just peace, based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. Its mission is to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in their non-violent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation. The EA's are monitoring and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, supporting acts of non-violent resistance alongside local Christian and Muslim Palestinians and Israeli peace activists, offering protection through non-violent presence, engaging in public policy advocacy and, in general, standing in solidarity with the churches and all those struggling against the occupation.

The EAPPI is an international programme operating locally in Israel-Palestine and co-ordinated at the international level by the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Since August 2002, it has received over 430 Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) from more than 16 countries, who have served in small teams for periods of 3 months each (some have done extra terms), in various locations of the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The EAs are recruited, employed and prepared for field work by sending organisations in most of these countries. Whilst in the field, the EAs are managed by WCC/EAPPI staff based in Jerusalem. Upon their return home, the EAs are debriefed by their sending organisations and are encouraged to carry out public speaking engagements.

The EAPPI is functioning based on agreed aims and objectives and has developed tools for monitoring its activities. Recently, EAPPI staff began to frame the EAs' activities in each location (placement) within these objectives and report against these objectives qualitatively. An external evaluation of the programme was undertaken in June 2004 and another consultancy to help build the monitoring systems was conducted in 2006.

The need for this consultancy

The EAPPI now needs to have an external voice to measure its achievements and shortcomings locally. The need is also to review the indicators of achievement, which had been selected based on the monitoring and evaluation system which was built after the last consultancy, and to adapt these as necessary.

Objectives of the consultancy

3. Measure the impact and the relevance of the EAPPI (qualitatively and quantitatively) to the people. In particular, to find out the level of knowledge about EAPPI in the communities we work in. To seek recommendations/advice from local people on how to improve and develop the work. To find out if people know about our advocacy work, if

it matters to them and if they see a connection between the advocacy work and the situation on the ground.

4. Recommend any necessary changes in the current objectives and monitoring system.

Activities

1. Field visits to the placements to see the work, to meet and interview the accompanied people.
2. Meet national and international partners and interview them about their perception about EAPPI
3. Write an evaluation report proposing changes if necessary.

Methodology

The consultant will need to

- Read the appropriate documents and EAs logs,
- Make field visits to the different placements,

Meet and interview the different partners and community members.

ANNEX II - Organizations names, type and main activities.

Organization	Name of person interviewed	Type of organization	Main activities
1. Arab Educational Institue (AEI)	Fo''ad Jacqaman	Palestinian NGO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crises situations
2. Augusta Victoria Hospital	William Hadweh	Hospital	Head of the nursing department. Manages the Augusta Victoria bus that transports chronically ill patients from the West Bank.
3. B'Tselem	Abed Al Karim Al Sa'di	Israeli Peace/ Human Rights Organization	Legal advice, support and publications
4. Farmer from Azoon	Jalal Azeez	Individual	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crisis situations
5. Head of the local Council	Rashid	Palestinian Citizen	All popular activities against the occupation.
6. Holy Land Trust	Marwan Fararjeh	Palestinian NGO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crises situations
7. International Solidarity Movement	Abed Al Karim Dalbeh	International Organization	Mobilizes international volunteers who come in solidarity with the Palestinian people.
8. Laje' Center	Salah Ajarmeh	Palestinian NGO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crises situations
9. Land Defense Committees	Sharif Mohamad Khaled	Palestinian NGO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crises situations & Land restoration and tree planting programs
10. Local Committees against the wall	Mohammad Othman	Palestinian NGO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences

Organization	Name of person interviewed	Type of organization	Main activities
11. Ministry Of Economy	Adnan	Palestinian GO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and Participating in national conferences
12. Municipality of Jayoos	Tareq Abu Taher	Palestinian GO	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crises situations & Cooperation with families regarding permit applications
13. UN / OCHA The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Hamed Qawasmi	International Organization	Coordination between agencies to ensure effective distribution of humanitarian assistance. Coordination and decision making through its dissemination of humanitarian information and analysis of facts.
14. Project Hope	Hakim	International organization	Support
15. Qurtuba school	Reem Sharif	Palestinian GO	Palestinian public school.
16. UNRWA	Susan ABU Laban	International Organization	The United Nations Relief and Works Agency – UN agency in charge of Palestinian refugees.
17. A resident of tel rumeideh	Hashem AL Azzeh	Palestinian Citizen	Demonstrations in National Occasions and against the Wall, Participating in national conferences, demonstrating in crises situations
18. Local reference Group - EAPPI	Bishop Muneeb Younan	Lutheran Church	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
19. Rabbis for Human Rights	Arik Ascherman	Israeli Peace/ Human Rights Organization	Human Rights and advocacy organization.
20. Shepherd	Ahmad	Shepherd	living in a cave, struggling to survive
21. Taayush	Efrat Ben Zeev	Israeli Human Rights Organization	Demonstrations, political activities against occupation, solidarity work

ANNEX III

When asked about the importance of the services provided by the EAPPI, the 22 organizations interviewed gave the following answers in the table below:

	Don't agree at all	Don't agree	Agree	Strongly agree
EAPPI's participation in demonstrations enhances peaceful resistance.		1	10	10
EAPPI's participation in public activities is important.			9	12
Program is capable of transmitting the Palestinians' suffering to the outside world.		1	7	13
The world's knowledge of the Palestinians' suffering improves their living conditions.			12	10
Raising the world's awareness on Palestinian issues could change the Western countries policies towards Israel.	1	4	10	6