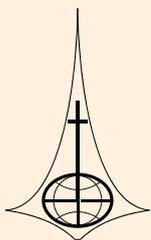


الإتحاد اللوٲري العالبي القدس

**The Lutheran World Federation**  
**Jerusalem**



*Annual Report 2008*

# Table of Contents

Foreword .....	1
Augusta Victoria Hospital .....	4
AVH Programs Embody the Human Rights Mission of the LWF .....	5
AVH Plans to Expand Cancer Treatment Services .....	6
AVH Serves Gaza Cancer Patients Amidst Gaza Crisis .....	8
AVH Develops Psycho-Social Care Center .....	10
AVH Leads in World Diabetes Day Celebration in Palestine .....	12
Blind Workers Empowered by LWF Support .....	15
Augusta Victoria Hospital Board of Governance .....	16
Augusta Victoria Hospital Statistics .....	17
LWF West Bank Area Activities Map .....	18
LWF Vocational Training Program .....	20
LWF Vocational Training Center Faces Access Challenges .....	21
LWF VTP Shines Despite National Trends .....	22
VTC Responds to Low Female Employment Rates .....	24
Young Entrepreneurs Complete Web Training Course .....	25
Alumni Reflect on VTCR Experience .....	26
Vocational Training Advisory Board and Program Statistics, 2008 .....	28
Volunteers Pick Olives to Support AVH Patients .....	30
Ordering Olive Oil .....	31
Material Aid and Scholarships .....	32
Financial Data .....	33
Visitors and Donors, 2008 .....	34
LWF Program Senior Staff .....	36

# FOREWORD

December 10, 2008, marked the 60th anniversary of the United Nations adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The 2008 Annual Report of the LWF's Jerusalem Program emphasizes the UDHR's message, that **"All human beings are born equal in dignity and rights"** and highlights the many activities of the LWF Jerusalem Program designed to promote and protect human rights.



The staff managing the LWF health and educational programs are constantly challenged to uphold and assert the rights of the people they are attempting to serve. In 2008, LWF Jerusalem continued to focus on those most in need – young people without hope of employment and caught in the violence and turmoil of the conflict, patients from Gaza and the West Bank suffering from catastrophic diseases and frustrated by an inadequate health care system, and families overwhelmed by the economic situation, unable to secure adequate housing and meet basic needs.

Physical obstructions, including staffed checkpoints, increased in the West Bank in 2008. The more that **freedom of movement and access to health and other human services** are restricted, the more vulnerable the refugee population served by the LWF becomes. The LWF continues to provide humanitarian services while at the same time advocating for freedom of movement and access to health care, educational facilities, and employment opportunities. The LWF strategic approaches – Empowerment, Integration, and Rights-based -- are essential elements of the work of LWF Jerusalem. In

Augusta Victoria Hospital plans to introduce a continuing education program for nurses in order to strengthen specialized skills needed to meet the challenges related to the changing nature of the medical conditions treated at AVH. *Photo by K. Brown*

2008, the LWF continued its busing program designed to transport patients and staff to and from Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). The LWF also developed a program to house Gaza cancer patients coming to AVH for treatment. Since access to Gaza on a daily basis is unreliable, the hospital even rented a hotel to ensure that medical treatment for Gaza patients would not be interrupted.

In addition to the ongoing efforts of the medical and educational staff, the LWF Jerusalem Program hosted the 2008 Asia Regional Consultation sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service. The theme of the gathering, **"Peace and Human Rights in a Multi-faith Context"**, was studied and debated by colleagues representing the LWF and its related agencies and guest speakers – Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, and Christians -- from a number of countries,



Vuthy Chhuon, Human Resource Development Officer for the LWF Cambodia Program, and other participants of the 2008 LWF Asia Regional Consultation highlighted interfaith understanding, religious tolerance, and the promotion and protection of human rights as critical components of the LWF's relief and development work. *Photo by P. Buck*

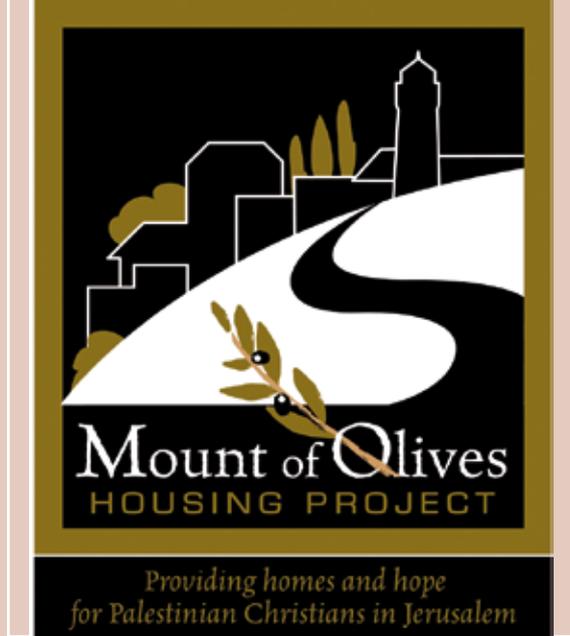
including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Canada, Brazil, Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Colombia, Germany, Switzerland, Finland, and Sweden.

Some of the Consultation participants made reference to the 2002 LWF document, "**Prophetic Diakonia: For the Healing of the World**". The conclusions of the 2002 document continue to ring true: "Diakonia is central to what it means to be the Church. As a core component of the gospel, diakonia is not an option but an essential part of discipleship. Diakonia reaches out to all persons, who are created in God's image. While diakonia begins as unconditional service to the neighbor in need, it leads inevitably to social change that restores, reforms and transforms."

2008 was marred by **escalating violence** in Israel and Palestine. According to the human rights organization B'Tselem, "Israeli security forces killed 455 Palestinians (including 87 minors). At least 175 of those killed (38 percent) did not take part in the hostilities. 18 Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians inside Israel. Eight of them (four minors), were killed in the attack at the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, and four were killed by rocket attacks and

mortar fire. Three Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians in the Territories. Palestinians killed ten members of the Israeli security forces." These figures include Palestinian and Israeli deaths up until December 26, 2008. They do not include the hundreds and hundreds of fatalities related to Israel's "Operation Cast Lead". Israeli human rights organizations have demanded investigations of the Israeli military's behaviour in light of the high number of fatalities among innocent Palestinian civilians during the operation.

**Tax case negotiations** between the LWF and the State of Israel, concluded in December, 2008, led to an out-of-court settlement that was accepted by the Israeli High Court on January 1, 2009. The LWF was granted a tax exemption in 1966 by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and in 1967 by the State of Israel in recognition of the humanitarian services offered by the LWF. The Israeli Tax Department sought to end this exemption in relation to a special employers tax in the late 1990s. In recent years, taxes claimed by the Israeli Tax Department put at great risk Augusta Victoria Hospital and all the LWF services offered to refugees and others living in poverty in the Palestinian Territories. Based on the settlement, all back taxes up to 31 December 2008 were eliminated, thereby



Augusta Victoria Hospital staff are committed to addressing the full range of emotional and social needs of each patient during difficult medical treatments at AVH. *Photo by K. Brown*

removing a strategic threat to the operation of Augusta Victoria Hospital and to the LWF as a whole and it was determined that the LWF would begin paying the employers tax as of January 1, 2009. In addition, apart from the court's ruling, it was agreed that the LWF and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs would conduct annual meetings to ensure the long-term continuation of AVH and to discuss possible allocations.

LWF Jerusalem helped to establish the **Action by Churches Together (ACT) Palestine Forum** in 2008 and participates in its emergency preparedness planning. Cooperation among the ACT partners was important in the context of the ACT Palestine Forum humanitarian response to the Israeli invasion of Gaza in late December 2008. With the escalation of the conflict, LWF Jerusalem maintained and increased its support for Gaza cancer patients coming to Jerusalem for treatment and helped to disseminate information concerning the humanitarian needs arising out of the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

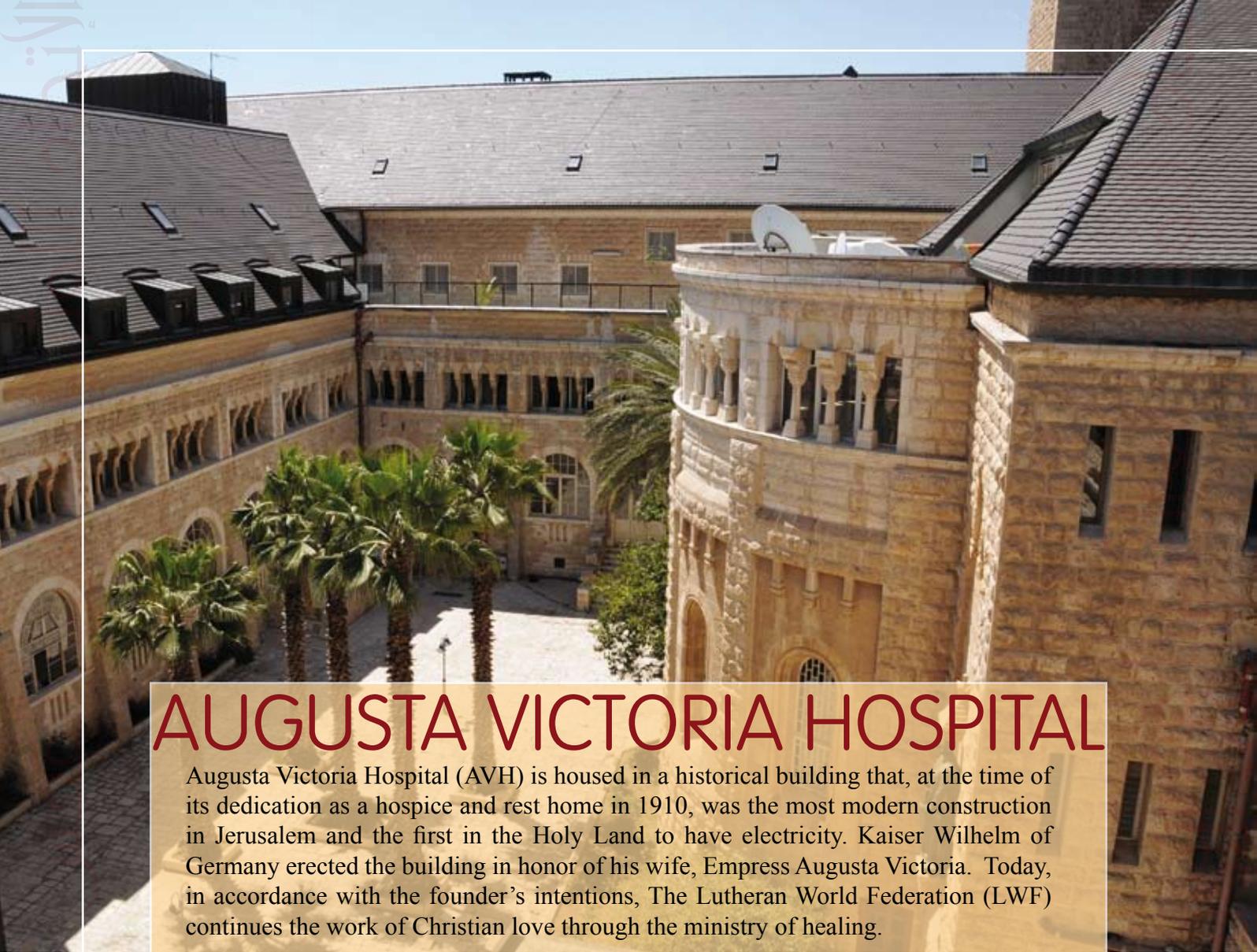
Efforts to secure funding and permits for the **Mount of Olives Housing Project (MOHP)** continued in 2008. The MOHP Advisory Committee met on two occasions to discuss the construction of 84 apartments on the LWF property on the Mount of Olives, an initiative to help sustain the diminishing Palestinian Christian presence in Jerusalem. The Advisory Committee examined construction policies and procedures and a special engineering consultant from Sweden spent several days in December with LWF Jerusalem staff to review and agree upon various policies to

ensure transparency, accountability, and a well-built final product.

The impression of Jerusalem that many have is that of a mosaic, not of a melting pot. The special character of Jerusalem is in the distinct pieces, the unique communities that celebrate and pass on their traditions and values. Each piece of the mosaic is distinct, but when you step back, the pieces together, ideally, reveal a beautiful picture of the richness and diversity of Jerusalem. However, without efforts like the Mount of Olives Housing Project to support local Christians and to help them stay in Jerusalem, the vision of Jerusalem as a city of peace, as a shared city among Jews, Christians and Muslims, may never be achieved.

The LWF has been serving the needs of Palestinian refugees in the Palestinian Territories for 60 years. On behalf of the staff of the LWF Jerusalem Program, I would like to express our gratitude to all of you who have supported the work here through prayer, advocacy, visits, volunteer work, and financial contributions, especially in the midst of the downturn of the global economy. **Your encouragement helps** us to remain firm in our resolve to offer humanitarian services while at the same time challenging the systems that perpetuate violence and injustice.

Rev. Mark B. Brown  
Regional Representative



# AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

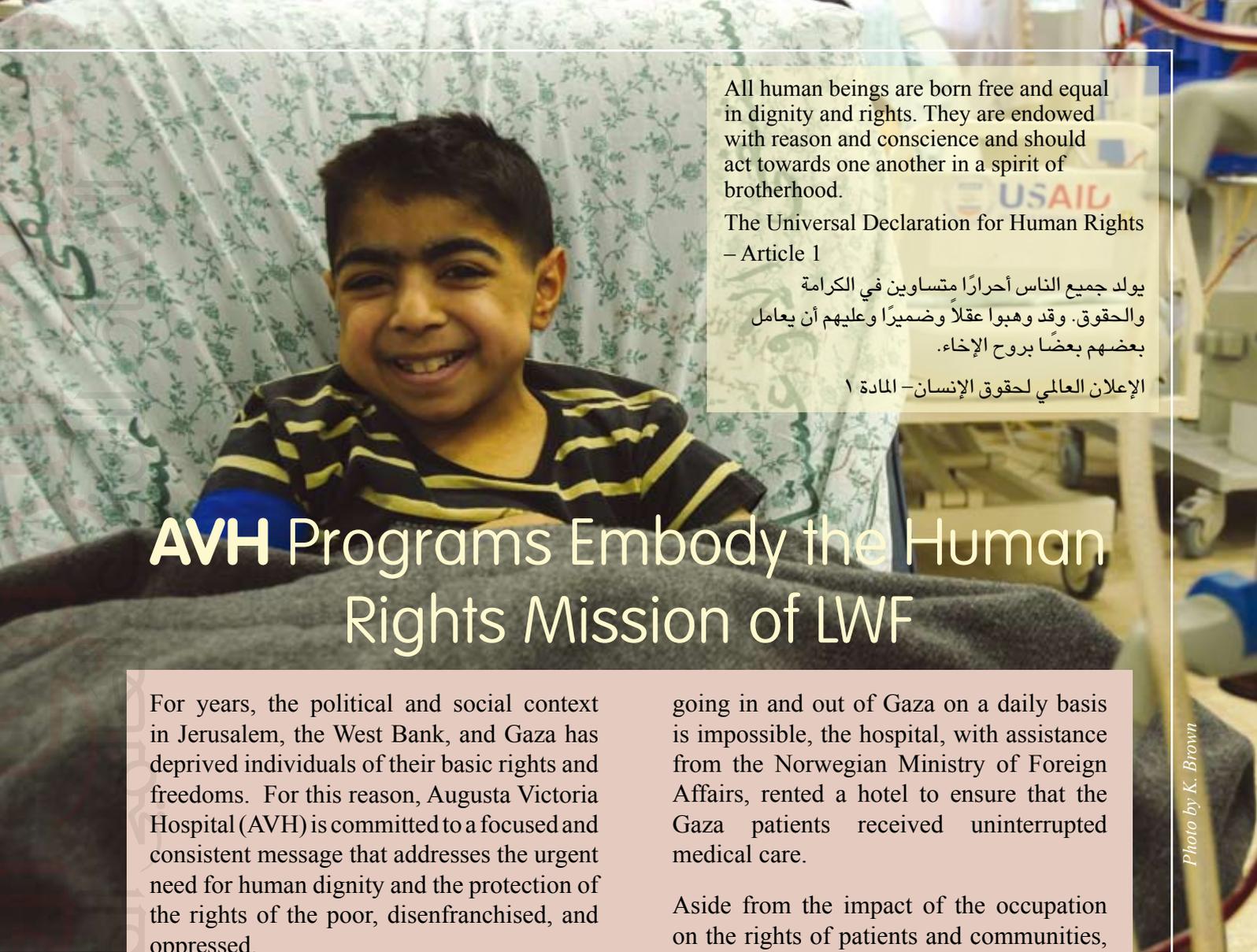
Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) is housed in a historical building that, at the time of its dedication as a hospice and rest home in 1910, was the most modern construction in Jerusalem and the first in the Holy Land to have electricity. Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany erected the building in honor of his wife, Empress Augusta Victoria. Today, in accordance with the founder's intentions, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) continues the work of Christian love through the ministry of healing.

The hospital, situated on the Mount of Olives, was established as a major medical facility in Jerusalem after the 1948 war to care for Palestinian refugees. It was first managed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and then, since May 1, 1950, by The Lutheran World Federation. AVH is now a program of the LWF's Department for World Service. A professional Board of Governance, appointed by the LWF, manages the hospital and represents a wide variety of Lutheran churches, local and international, as well as related agencies that support the mission of the hospital. Board members represent a diversity of professions, including medical, pastoral, and administrative roles.

Most of the patients served by AVH continue to be refugees and others in social need. The hospital is committed to serve its patients and community by providing the needed health and humanitarian services. The hospital provides employment for nearly 250 local staff and continues to be a model for building good institutions that are foundations for establishing civil society.

In 1997, Augusta Victoria Hospital embarked on a new strategic direction that focuses on continuing its mission of health and human services through the establishment of specialty services that are not available to the Palestinian community at large. AVH is the first hospital to provide radiation therapy for cancer patients in the Palestinian Territories and is the only medical facility in the Palestinian Territories offering pediatric kidney dialysis. On a daily basis, these and other specialty services touch countless lives, both young and old, from various communities in the Palestinian Territories.

*Photo by M. Brown*



All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

The Universal Declaration for Human Rights  
– Article 1

يولد جميع الناس أحراراً متساوين في الكرامة  
والحقوق. وقد وهبوا عقلاً وضميراً وعليهم أن يعامل  
بعضهم بعضاً بروح الإخاء.

الإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان – المادة ١

## AVH Programs Embody the Human Rights Mission of LWF

For years, the political and social context in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza has deprived individuals of their basic rights and freedoms. For this reason, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) is committed to a focused and consistent message that addresses the urgent need for human dignity and the protection of the rights of the poor, disenfranchised, and oppressed.

For Palestinians living in the region, daily life is constantly challenged by military occupation and political realities that require the hospital to purposefully highlight the necessity of human rights. The aim is to alleviate the suffering brought on by political realities and to advocate for peace and justice. This way, marginalized groups can be empowered through access to health and human services.

AVH programs work diligently to promote freedom of movement and access to health and other human services. The most visible advocacy program began in September 2004, in response to the near completion of the Annexation Wall surrounding Jerusalem. The LWF and AVH created the “Hope and Health Across the Wall” busing program which still today transports patients and staff from AVH and other East Jerusalem Hospitals. This was followed by a program to house Gaza cancer patients coming to AVH for treatment. Since

going in and out of Gaza on a daily basis is impossible, the hospital, with assistance from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, rented a hotel to ensure that the Gaza patients received uninterrupted medical care.

Aside from the impact of the occupation on the rights of patients and communities, the hospital also targets local traditions that violate the freedoms of certain groups in the community. Women with cancer are one example of a marginalized group of people who seek AVH’s assistance when dealing with the social ramifications of this disease. Rather than receiving the support of the community, many women are neglected because of the cultural stigma that are often associated with the disease. AVH’s rights-based approach empowers them to challenge cultural norms and uphold their rights and the rights of children afflicted with such severe conditions.

AVH is now in the process of consolidating all advocacy programs within the Psychosocial Care Center that will manage all advocacy and rights based programs. The hospital, through this mechanism, will continue to develop programs that “uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed”.

*by Dr. Tawfiq Nasser*



Cancer treatment at AVH will soon include greater investments in radiation oncology, medical oncology, surgical oncology, tumor pathology, and oncology nursing. *Photo by K. Brown*

## AVH Plans to Expand Cancer Treatment Services



In 2008, the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) Board of Governance, management, personnel and interested community groups engaged in active dialogue to assemble the hospital's new strategic Mid-Term Development Plan. The mission of this plan is to respond better to the needs of the people, enhance financially sustainable methods of running the hospital, and ensure that the hospital continues to fulfill the mission of the LWF in all of its work.

Guided by the Board of Governance, AVH solicited input from a wide variety of voices, including health authorities, donors, professional and political figures, and community members. Research was conducted on a range of health care delivery traditions to examine how AVH could better meet the needs of the Palestinian people.

The Mid-Term Development Plan most notably affirms that AVH should continue its role in Jerusalem as a hospital that offers fully comprehensive services in specific areas of treatment. For this reason cancer care has been identified as the key strategic specialty

for expansion in both scope and depth in the future.

Cancer care at AVH will be further developed to include comprehensive adult and pediatric care, research, and psychosocial care. Medical care will include in-depth investments in radiation oncology, medical oncology, surgical oncology, tumor pathology, and oncology nursing.

Research capabilities will also be enhanced to include biomedical and policy research, both areas that have been identified as lacking in Palestine. Policy-directed research is of particular interest and importance to the local population as it contributes to AVH's ability to defend the rights of marginalized patient groups. By confronting the socio-cultural stigma often associated with cancer, AVH can strive to heal and serve the whole person.

The move toward AVH's single strategy of becoming a comprehensive cancer center for treatment, training, and research has a resounding impact on the national care



Thanks to a grant given through Norwegian Church Aid by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the hospital is developing the grounds to prepare for a second radiation treatment machine for cancer patients. AVH currently houses the only cancer radiation machine that serves the 3.7 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. *Photo by K. Brown*



AVH's new Center for Specialized Child Care, expected to launch in early 2009, will provide specialty services such as pediatric oncology, pediatric dialysis, and specialized pediatric surgery to children in the area. *Photo by K. Brown*

delivery system as it will direct all cancer referrals of the Palestinian Ministry of Health to Augusta Victoria Hospital. This not only strengthens AVH financial sustainability, but more importantly reduces the expenditures of the Ministry of Health on treatment outside Palestine. The result is better medicine, more employment, fewer referrals abroad, and better control of quality and costs.

The community-based approach to planning and partnerships, combined with AVH's attention to advocate the right of access to centers of medical excellence, demonstrates how institutional reform can serve the needs of the people and feed into national reform. With the support of the LWF, related agencies, and donors, the work of AVH is a living example of how health reform on the institutional level can benefit an entire national health program.

Healing begins with the "high tech" services as the hospital proved, but the next step in this evolution is attending to the psychological well-being of the patient as well as that of family and friends.

This move towards whole patient care has prompted the hiring of three social workers to counsel patients and their families, especially those from Gaza. This development will eventually lead to the establishment of a Psycho-Social Care Center. Each of the existing centers will ensure that caregivers receive training in whole patient care. The physical plant will gradually be refurbished to create a people friendly environment.

Other partnerships were forged with the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddeh to support the upgrade of surgical equipment and instruments and with a private Arab foundation to support pediatric radiotherapy services. Two proposals were submitted to DanChurchAid for funding a cyber-health program and upgrading the physical environment of the hospital.

Management and staff at the hospital finished 2008 with an image of the hospital as a "good place to be" and a "good place to come back to" for patients, patients' families and friends, and for our donors.

*by Dr. Tawfiq Nasser*

# AVH Serves Gaza Cancer Patients Amidst Gaza Crisis

In December 2008, the region faced a violent culmination to months of building pressure. Just two days after Christmas Israeli Defense Forces launched a full scale attack on Hamas forces in the Gaza Strip in what was coined “Operation Cast Lead.” By the conclusion of the assault in January 2009, nearly 1,300 Palestinians were dead, over 5,320 wounded, and tens of thousands homeless. Additionally, 13 Israelis had been killed in the violent outbreak and 84 Israeli civilians were injured.

In a statement released during the crisis, LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko expressed firmly that “the present bloodshed and destruction will not secure peace for either Israelis or Palestinians. It will only plant the seeds for more conflict, marginalizing the peacemakers, breeding despair, promoting radicalization and strengthening the appeal of violence.”

While the humanitarian situation deteriorated drastically during and after the assault, the situation was already grim in the months leading to the assault. Beginning in June 2007, Israel began stringently restricting entry to and exit from the area, leading to a 22-month blockade of the Gaza Strip. Only some basic humanitarian items were allowed in, and virtually no exports were permitted, paralyzing an already fragile economy. During the duration of the blockade, Gaza’s civilian population was forced to rely on less than a quarter of the volume of imported supplies they received in December 2005. On numerous occasions, significantly fewer supplies than this were granted access, causing severe shortages.

The military assault on Gaza left the population in an even more severe humanitarian crisis, especially for those with chronic diseases. While hospitals began to fill with trauma patients, patients with chronic illnesses often needed to wait for regular treatment.

While Augusta Victoria Hospital did not receive any trauma patients, it did receive cancer patients after the conclusion of the assault. Since 2005, Augusta Victoria Hospital has been the only full-service cancer center for around 3.7 million Palestinians from Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Hospitals in Gaza have facilities for surgery and chemotherapy, but not for radiation treatment. In 2008, over 20,000 sessions of radiation were given at AVH. Access to Jerusalem is necessary for cancer patients, yet strict Israeli border control too often prevents seriously ill patients from receiving treatment on a daily basis.

Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, Augusta Victoria’s Chief Executive Officer, painted a grim picture of the situation: “There were a lot of casualties in Gaza. Hospitals there served severely wounded people and others who needed urgent treatment, but chronic illnesses were neglected. I’m worried about the cancer patients’ care.”

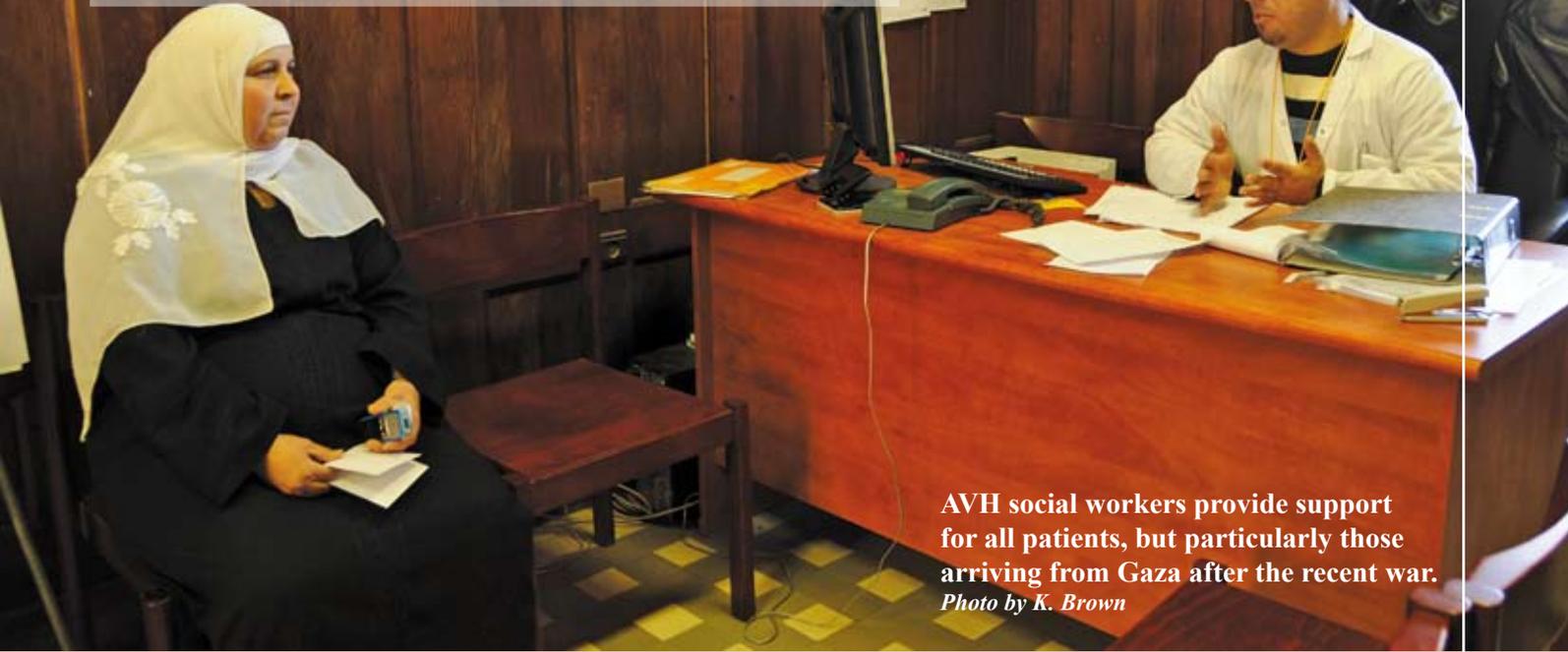
Travel permits for Gazans continue to be an issue for Augusta Victoria, even since the beginning of cancer treatments in 2005. Every Gazan needs a permit to enter Israel and most permits take 30-40 days before they are acquired. Until recently, Israeli officials issued permits for one 24-hour period. The wait at crossings and travel time between

It is my aspiration that health finally will be seen not as a blessing to be wished for, but as a human right to be fought for.

— former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

أته طموحي أن تكون الصحة في نهاية الأمر ليست نعمة يتمناها الإنسان، ولكن  
حقاً من حقوق الإنسان يحارب من أجلها..

الأمين العام السابق للأمم المتحدة كوفي عنان



**AVH social workers provide support for all patients, but particularly those arriving from Gaza after the recent war.**

*Photo by K. Brown*

Gaza and Jerusalem could easily take several hours, and radiation treatment requires more time than what the permit allows.

assault. The importance of protecting the human dignity for all patients in Gaza is more urgent now than ever.

On any given day, AVH usually serves around 30 Gazan patients. Yet the numbers have decreased since the conclusion of the

**Trucks carrying humanitarian aid supplied by Action by Churches Together (ACT) depart the Kerem Shalom checkpoint bound for distribution in Gaza City. Getting aid through to the people in Gaza continues to be a challenge.**

*Photo by A. Jonasson, ACT International*



# AVH Develops Psycho-Social Care Center

As part of Augusta Victoria Hospital's ongoing commitment to improving the total human and social needs of patients and their families, plans for AVH's new psycho-social care center actively moved forward in 2008.

The Psycho-Social Care Center is designed to offer counseling and support for patients and their families with a particular focus on women and children. Research has shown that Palestinian women who suffer from cancer are faced with serious challenges within their traditional communities due to the stigma associated with the disease. Women face neglect and possibly divorce; little support is given to mothers with cancer who have children.

Similarly, children with cancer and other chronic diseases suffer from a diminished quality of life. School is often significantly missed, and they have little opportunity to play and live a normal childhood. The program will have a primary focus of establishing a "quality of child life" program at AVH. Activities such as play, art, and music therapy, coupled with some schooling, will be made available for children.

The department will also play a large role in advocating for patients' rights by managing the AVH busing program and the housing program for Gaza patients. The center will also serve as a referral center for psycho-social care and training for other community-based programs, specifically in cooperation with the LWF Village Health and Outreach program.

For hospital staff, the Psycho-social Care Center will also play a significant role in employee assistance programs. As the nature

of conditions treated at AVH are becoming more difficult, with increases in the number of terminal cases, many staff members themselves have difficulty coping. The center will offer support programs designed to give staff the training and tools needed to avoid emotional and mental burnout working with such stressful cases.

The Care Center is currently managed by a specialist in child psychiatry who is assisted by three social workers. An application to refurbish the north wing of the third floor has been submitted to the KFW/UNDP seventh funding cycle. The plan includes a counseling facility, child play area, library, and an administration area to expand and provide services to the community.





Children are especially affected by severe illness and often must remain inside for days to complete treatment. The psycho-social care center will pay particular attention to the needs of such children. *Photo by P. Buck*

The hospital has invested in a group of social workers led by a child psychiatrist in order to promote a culture of care and quality of life at the hospital. *Photo by K. Brown*



The vicious circle of human rights violations that lead to conflicts- which in turn lead to more violations-must be broken. I believe we can break it only by ensuring respect for all human rights.

—former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson

ان الحلقة الفاسدة لانتهاكات حقوق الانسان التي تؤدي الى صراعات - والتي بدورها تسبب المزيد من العنف - يجب كسرها. أنا اعتقد أنه بالإمكان كسرها فقط من خلال ضمان احترام جميع حقوق الانسان.

مفوض الأمم المتحدة السامي السابق لحقوق الإنسان ، ماري روبنسون

# AVH Leads in World Diabetes Day Celebration in Palestine

World Diabetes Day (WDD), a global awareness initiative introduced by the International Diabetes Foundation and the World Health Organization, marked its 17th year of existence this year with celebrations around the world. WDD was established in 1991 in response to the alarming rise in diabetes globally. Thanks to the efforts of Augusta Victoria Hospital's Unit for Diabetes Prevention, this significant event was celebrated nationally throughout all of Palestine.

For years, diabetes awareness was not considered a priority for Palestinians. Recognizing this in 1993, Augusta Victoria Hospital, in cooperation with World Diabetes Foundation and DanChurchAid, initiated a model diabetes project to begin addressing the rising prevalence of diabetes in Palestine and the need for prevention. The project strove to promote a comprehensive care approach for diabetes in the region. With the help of local partners, AVH began taking major steps in raising awareness on global diabetes issues.

In 2008 AVH continued this leadership in diabetes awareness and prevention through an active role in the National Committee of Chronic Diseases. With AVH's direction and a partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Health and the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development, a national committee was established to prepare an itinerary for World Diabetes Day at the national level. The committee worked to ensure the involvement of all health care and educational sectors, municipalities, diabetic patients and the general public.

Under the global theme of "Diabetes in Children and Adolescents" and a national theme of "United to Combat Diabetes," more than 25 organizations and more than 2000 persons participated in the WDD events. Activities took place throughout the districts and cities of the West Bank (including Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah, Beit-Liqya and Shuqba).

For participants with diabetes, ophthalmic examinations, blood glucose screenings, BMI and blood pressure measurements were offered. Foot screenings for abnormalities and medical consultation were also available for selected diabetics.

For non-diabetic participants, PowerPoint lectures, presentations and videos on healthy life style modifications, and group and individual nutrition counseling were made available to the general public. Brochures, posters, and other educational materials were distributed with hats and pins which carried the WDD Palestine logo. A "Walk for Diabetes" was held in Ramallah under the auspices of the Palestinian Minister of Health to help raise awareness.

Augusta Victoria Hospital, along with the outreach clinic program, has incorporated diabetes care as one of the main areas of focus in response to the great national need to combat this disease and its complications. For both the patients at AVH and the general public, the need for continued diabetes awareness is great.

*by Ahmad Abu-Halaweh*

Community members in the West Bank village of Beit-Liqya were given free blood sugar screenings throughout World Diabetes Day celebrations. The test is a common way of diagnosing diabetes, as well as detecting other conditions such as hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia.

*Photo by A. Abu-Halaweh*



Haila Tabathna, head dietitian for AVH, explains the importance of healthy eating as a preventive mechanism against diabetes. The seminar was hosted at the LWF's Village Health Clinic in Beit-Liqya. *Photo by A. Abu-Halaweh*

Carrying a banner which reads "Diabetes Prevention - Collective Responsibility," over 600 participants took part in a World Diabetes Day march through the West Bank city of Ramallah. The march was led by AVH Staff and the Palestinian Authority Minister of Health, Dr. Fathi Abu Moghly. The march aimed to raise awareness about the importance of diabetes education throughout Palestine. *Photo by A. Abu-Halaweh*





Sir John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, met with AVH CEO Dr. Tawfiq Nasser and the LWF Representative to discuss the obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian services in the West Bank. Holmes' visit was an important one in the context of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights. *Photo by P. Buck*



Augusta Victoria Hospital and LWF staff welcomed Ambassador David Viveash, the Canadian representative to the Palestinian Authority, at the launch of the expansion of AVH's geriatric care ward in March. The project, funded by a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency, will enlarge the capacity of AVH's geriatric care ward from a 16-bed to a 25-bed unit equipped with all necessary medical equipment. Viveash praised the distinctive role Augusta Victoria fills in serving the Palestinian society and expressed the Canadian government's commitment to "the efforts made to end the suffering and achieve peace in the area." He was joined by the Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief Robert Granke and CLWR volunteer Rev. Dale Finch. *Photo by P. Buck*



Braille is one of the many educational and vocational courses offered at the Peace Center for the Blind. The center aims to strengthen self-esteem and enhance the abilities of its members.  
*Photo by M. Brown*

## Blind Workers Empowered by LWF Support

The Lutheran World Federation continued in 2008 to cover the operating costs for the Workshop for the Blind in Bethlehem. The workshop began in 1968 and functions semi-autonomously with the support of the LWF. The blind workers manufacture baskets, rug beaters, and other cane products, brooms, and brushes in order to support themselves.

In 2008, the LWF also worked cooperatively with the Austrian Diakonie Auslandshilfe, the Austrian Development Agency, and the Jerusalem-based Peace Center for the Blind (PC4B) to secure funding to help the Peace Center improve and expand its academic and vocational training programs. By enhancing its current programs and introducing new ones, the Peace Center continues to provide blind women and men with useful skills that empower its members toward their full potential.

Public assistance for the blind is not well developed in East Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories, partially due to the continued economic impact of the Israeli occupation. Ministries like the Workshop for the Blind and the Peace Center for the Blind play an important role in the Palestinian civil society. The Peace Center provides a refuge in a supportive environment and enables women to live more independently and earn their own income in steps toward full integration in the larger society. Courses are offered for blind women in the basics of coping with their condition, Braille, English and other subjects.

As a way of promoting the transition to independence, the Peace Center has established several projects to help the women develop income generating skills. These projects include vocational training in hand knitting, machine knitting and sewing to produce saleable garments. In addition to garment production, a food production center provides women the training and opportunity to generate income through sales of juices, jams, cookies, and various pastries.



The Peace Center for the Blind was established in 1983 by Ms. Lydia Mansour to support visually impaired women in the Palestinian Territories. Ms. Lydia is pictured (center in the blue dress) with (clockwise) Dagmar Lassmann from Diakonie Auslandshilfe, PC4B Volunteer Samer Tarazi, PC4B Board Member Leila Karmi, LWF Regional Representative Rev. Mark Brown, and LWF 2007-2008 intern Paul Buck.

*Photo by P. Buck*

# **The Lutheran World Federation**

## **Augusta Victoria Hospital Board of Governance**

(in alphabetical order)

**Rev. Dr. Robert Bacher**  
ELCA / Executive for Administration  
(Retired)

**Dr. Rainward Bastian**  
German Institute for Medical Mission

**Ms. Leni Bjorklund**  
Church of Sweden

**Rev. Are Blomhoff\*\***  
Managing Director, Stiftelsen /  
Hospitalet Betanien

**Rev. Mark Brown (Ex-officio)**  
LWF Regional Representative

**Propst Uwe Gräbe**  
Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

**Mr. Robert Granke**  
Executive Director, Canadian  
Lutheran World Relief

**Rev. Eberhard Hitzler (Ex-officio)**  
Director, LWF Department for World  
Service

**Dr. Nasser Al-Kudweh**  
(AVH Board Vice Chairperson)\*\*  
Dentist, Executive Director Y.A.  
Foundation

**Dr. Kirsten Lee**  
DanChurchAid

**Rev. Aage Muller-Nilssen\***  
Kirkens Bymisjon / Church of Norway

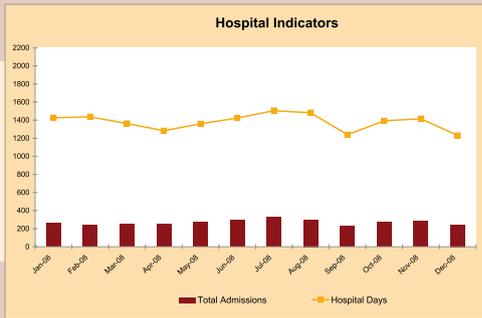
**Dr. Eberhard von Perfall**  
Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

**Bishop Munib Younan**  
(AVH Board Chairperson)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan  
and the Holy Land

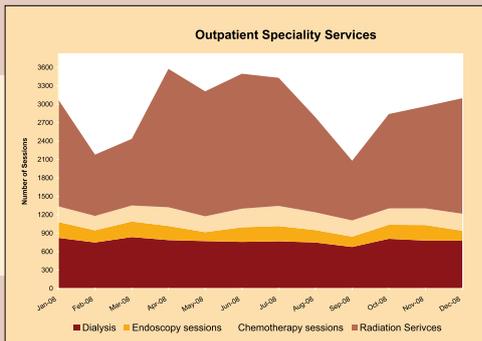
\*Completed Service on AVH Board in December 2008

\*\* Joined the AVH Board in December 2008

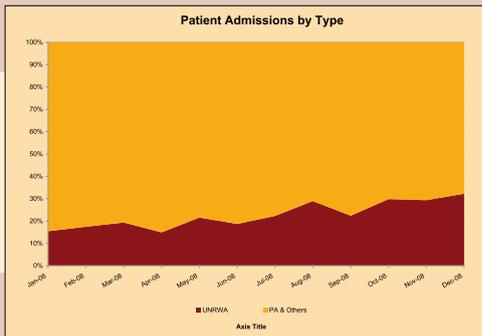
# Augusta Victoria Hospital Statistics



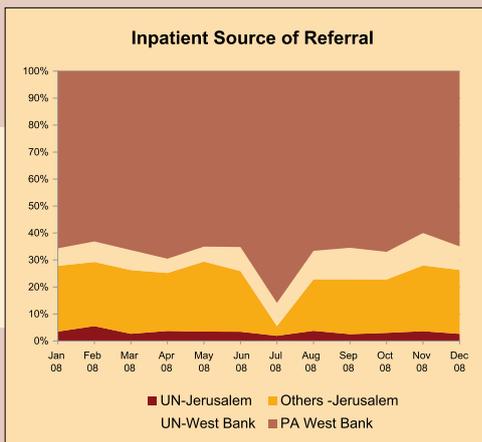
This chart shows the number of inpatient admissions and the inpatient average daily bed occupancy in the hospital overall



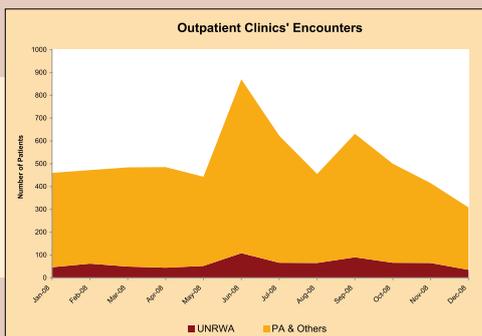
Outpatient specialty services continue to grow at AVH.



During 2008 the hospital experienced a slight increase in UNRWA referrals.

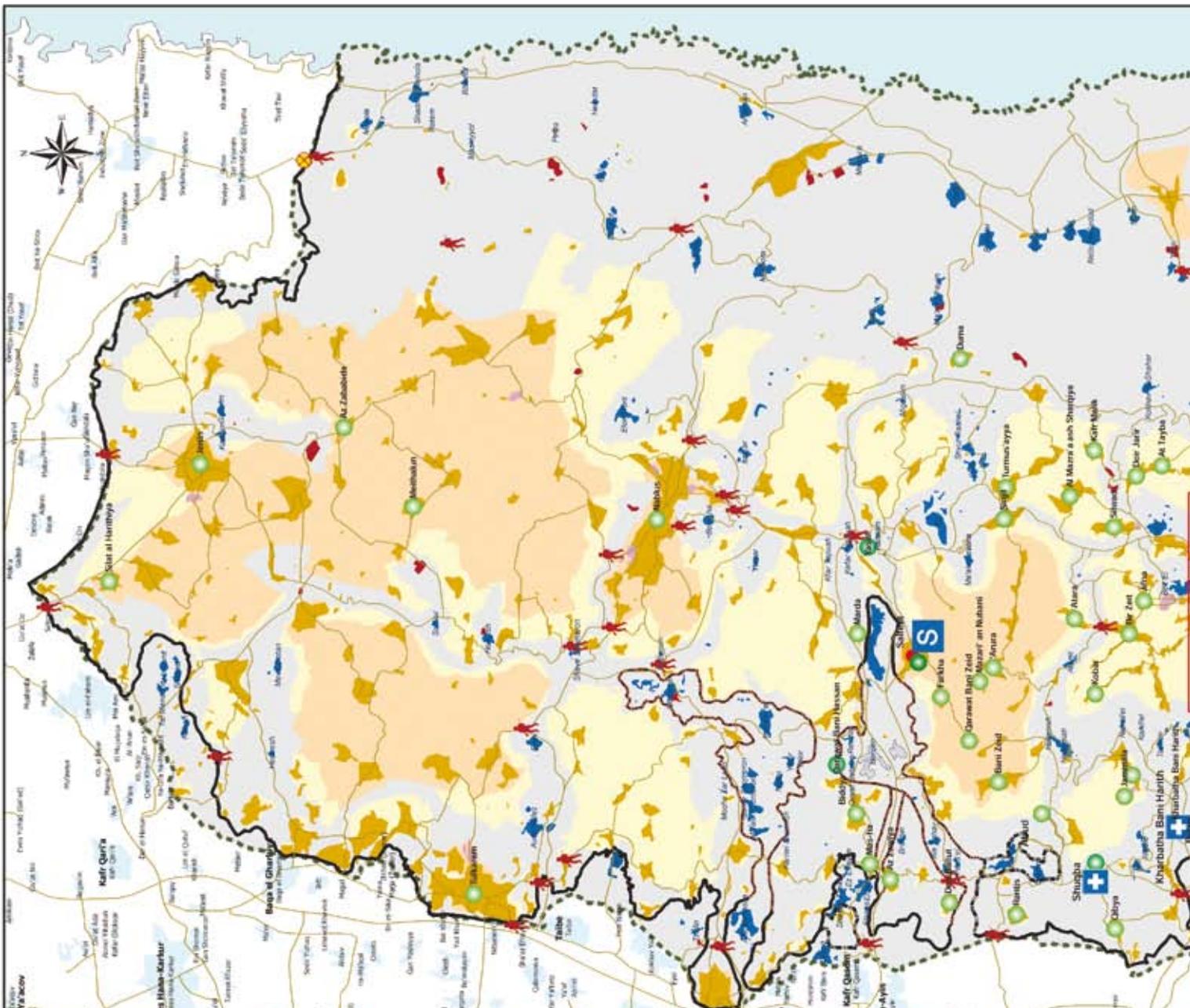
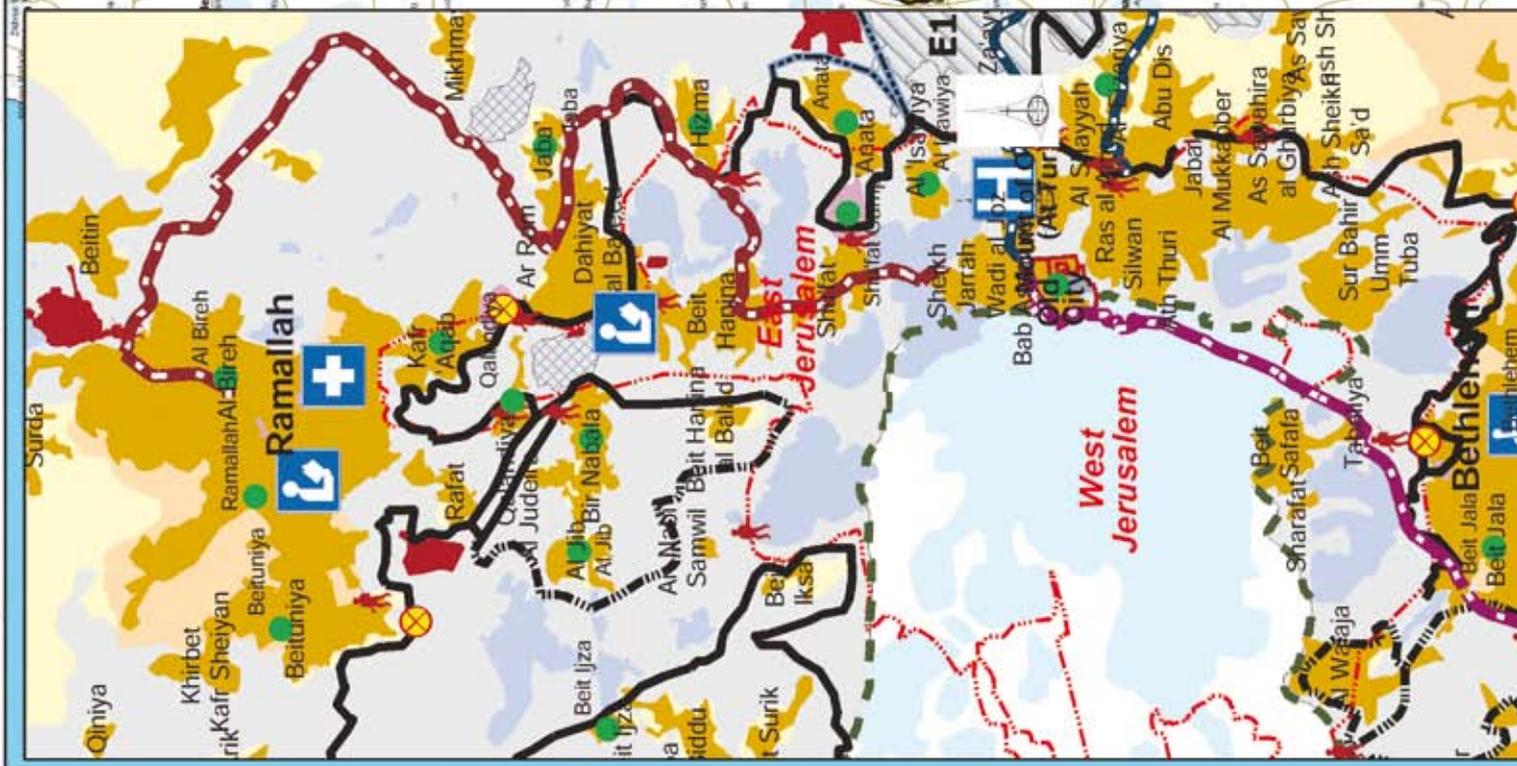


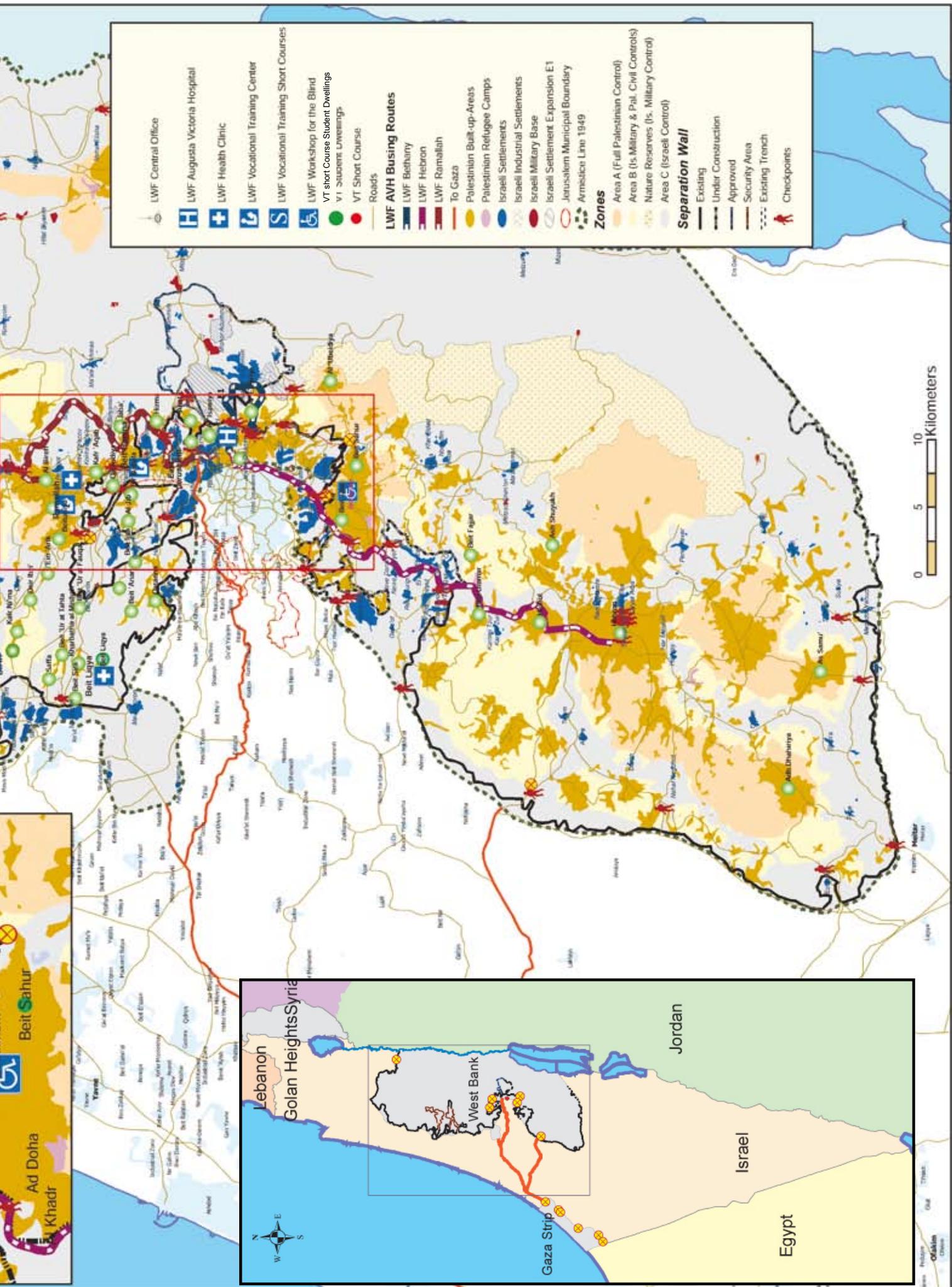
The main source of referrals is predominantly from the West Bank.



Outpatient clinic work continues to be affected by closures and restrictions in movement virtually eliminating the ability of the hospital to serve walk-in patients from the West Bank

# LWF WEST BANK AREA ACTIVITIES 2008

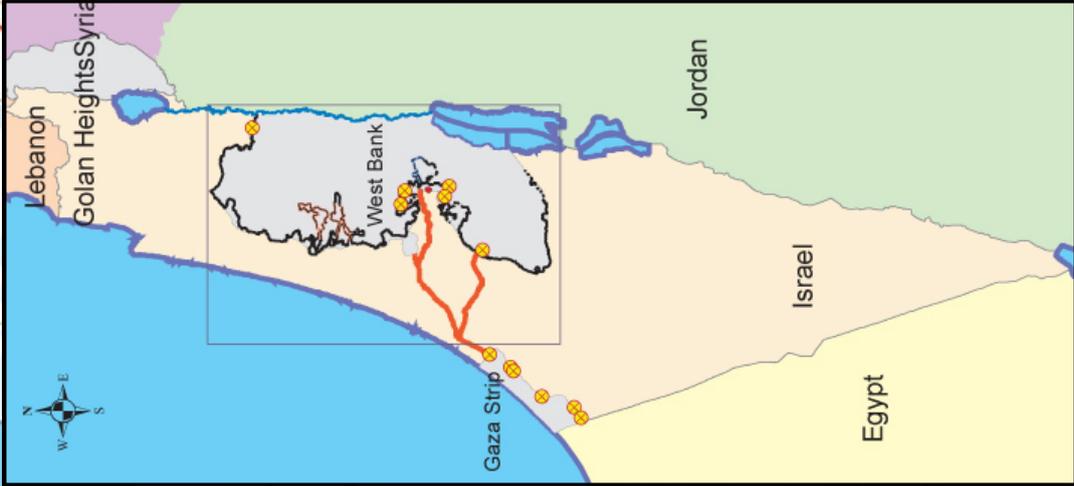




**Legend**

- LWF Central Office
- LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital
- LWF Health Clinic
- LWF Vocational Training Center
- LWF Vocational Training Short Courses
- LWF Workshop for the Blind
- VT short Course Student Dwellings
- VT short Course Unweavings
- VT Short Course
- Roads
- LWF AVH Busing Routes**
  - LWF Beitlany
  - LWF Hebron
  - LWF Ramallah
  - To Gaza
  - Palestinian Built-up-Areas
  - Palestinian Refugee Camps
  - Israeli Settlements
  - Israeli Industrial Settlements
  - Israeli Military Base
  - Israeli Settlement Expansion E1
  - Jerusalem Municipal Boundary
  - Armistice Line 1949
- Zones**
  - Area A (Full Palestinian Control)
  - Area B (Is. Military & Pal. Civil Controls)
  - Nature Reserves (Is. Military Control)
  - Area C (Israeli Control)
- Separation Wall**
  - Existing
  - Under Construction
  - Approved
  - Security Area
  - Existing Trench
  - Checkpoints

0 5 10 Kilometers





## LWF Vocational Training Program

The LWF's Vocational Training Program (VTP) has been providing vocational training to Palestinian youth since 1949. The VTP began as the Lutheran Trade School on the grounds of LWF Jerusalem's Mount of Olives campus. The school initially consisted of three-year training programs offered in carpentry and metalwork. In 1964, the program moved to a new and larger facility just north of Jerusalem in Beit Hanina.

In 2000, the LWF began training women in the profession of telecommunications, and has graduated over 60 females during the past eight years. In 2002, the Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Beit Hanina graduated its 50th class which included the first class of women to complete training at the center.

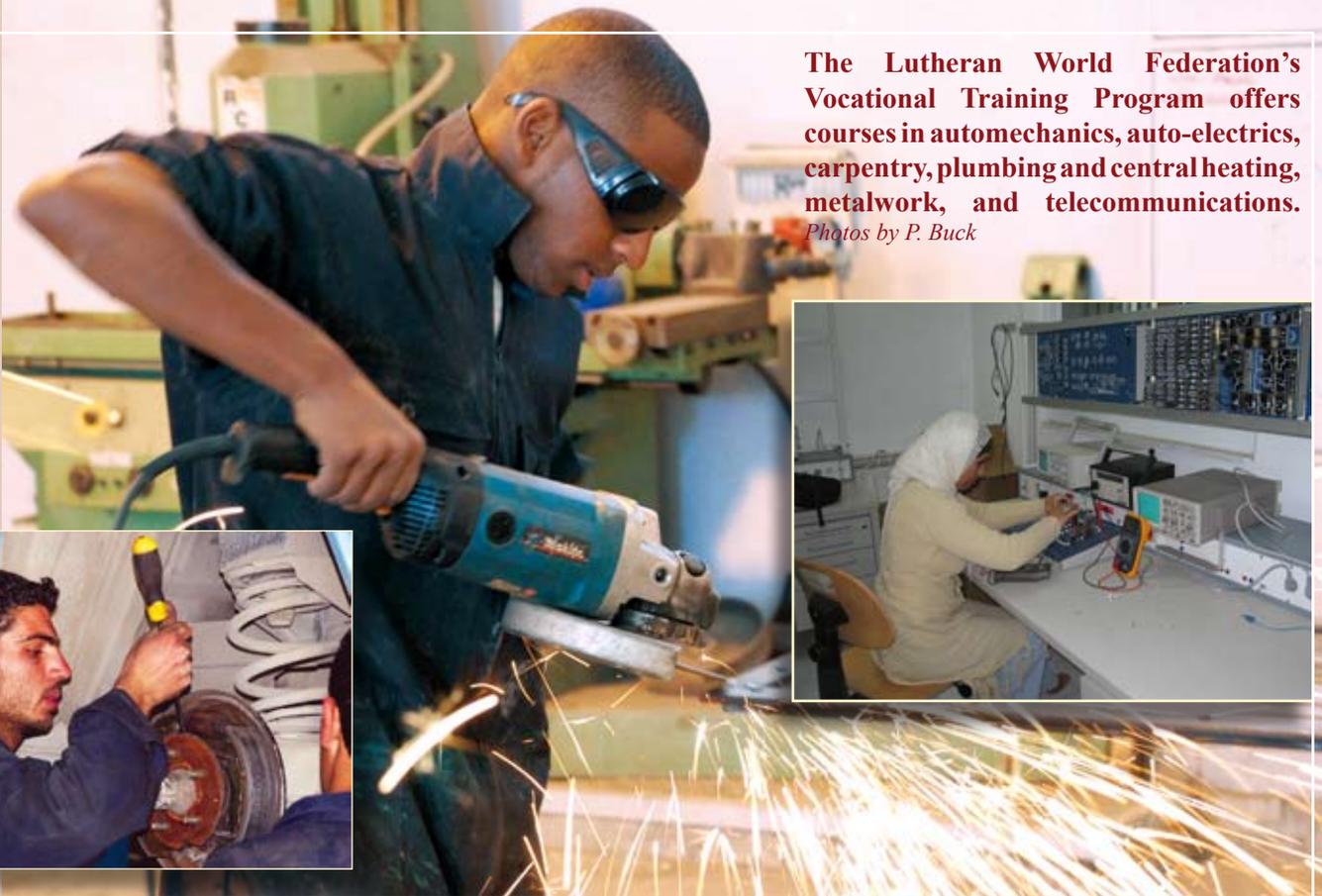
The Vocational Training Program expanded in 2004 by adding a new project: the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR). Recognizing a need for additional training programs in the West Bank as a result of the Israeli-built separation barrier, the VTCR was established to focus on the concepts of apprenticeship training and satellite outreach to small and isolated villages.

The LWF VTP's 2007-2012 strategic plan illustrates the program's overall goal: "To provide quality vocational training and education, to empower young people to become employed skilled and semi-skilled workers, and to contribute to economic development that is critical to building a strong civil society."

By working within five main strategic objectives (continuing the development of market relevant vocational training, increasing the number of women in vocational programs, sustaining and developing the program, enhancing contributions to the building of civil society, and advocating for the right of Palestinian youth to have access to vocational education and training), the LWF VTP continues to provide quality training and the human right of access to education for hundreds of Palestinian youth throughout the Palestinian Territories every year.

The Lutheran World Federation's Vocational Training Program offers courses in automechanics, auto-electrics, carpentry, plumbing and central heating, metalwork, and telecommunications.

*Photos by P. Buck*



## LWF Vocational Training Center Faces Access Challenges

A dramatic increase in access restrictions between the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and between cities within the West Bank, has made access to the LWF's Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Beit Hanina increasingly more difficult for students and staff. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the number of physical checkpoints increased from 607 to 630 in 2008. Four additional checkpoints were added in East Jerusalem alone. Coupled with tightening measures for getting permits, traveling to Jerusalem is often time consuming and demoralizing, and is impossible for those without permits.

The isolation policy directly affects the more than 180 LWF VTC trainees and employees and thousands of other Palestinians on a daily basis. Most VTC students are required to cross at least one of five checkpoints in order to enter Jerusalem to attend classes; they must also hold the proper permits. The students must renew their permits every three months, but some renewals are rejected midway through the year; others receive permits

midway through the year but must wait until the next fall to begin – if they are allowed to keep their permits. Even if they hold the proper permits or a Jerusalem identification card, all individuals must pass all security measures in the checkpoints, a process that adds additional delays and severe stress.

For students and staff traveling to Jerusalem from more distant villages, transportation costs have increased significantly in recent years. In some regions, the costs have even doubled. New routes and additional obstacles have significantly increased the amount of time that is needed to travel to the VTC.

The LWF VTC plays a major role in ensuring that the basic human right of access to proper education and schools remains available for Palestinian youth in the West Bank and Jerusalem. By advocating for justice, the alleviation of human poverty, and the development of young leaders with a peaceful witness in the region, the VTC aims to promote a lasting and just peace in Palestine and Israel.

## LWF VTP Shines Despite National Trends

Since its founding in 1949, The Lutheran World Federation's Vocational Training Program (VTP) has established itself as a model of successful vocational and educational training for young people across Palestine. By enabling largely disenfranchised youth to participate productively in the Palestinian economy, the VT Program aims to alleviate human poverty and help prepare young leaders to succeed in a fragile economic system.

The importance of such programs was again recognized in 2008. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 44.1% of the population in the West Bank and Gaza were living in severe poverty and the unemployment rate increased from 26 % to 28.8%.

While vocational and educational training have proven to be useful tools in combating these realities, a lack of coherent, national vocational training and technical education policies have led to duplicated efforts, a weakened public confidence in the employment outcomes of such programs, and redundant and irrelevant programs. Fewer students have chosen to enroll in such programs nationally, and even fewer students were employed after receiving their certificates and diplomas.

Despite these national trends and challenges, the LWF VTP continued to experience high rates of applicants and enrollment. In 2008, 75% more students applied for training than there were spaces available. Employment rates among recent LWF VTP graduates remained the highest of all degree programs nationally and the enrollment of female trainees doubled in the last two years.

One contributor to these high rates is the VTP's strategic relationship to the wider economic market. First, the program forms

outside relationships with employers in the private sector through the use of production as a training tool. Trainees, with the supervision and direction of instructors, are hired by private consumers to provide the needed goods and services. Second, the apprenticeship program places students directly in the market during part of their training. Real world experiences are conveyed to students through businesses which already have strong, market-relevant practices.



Gabi Kamel, head of the VTC's metal work department, reads the names of graduates during the 2008 commencement ceremony. Many students form lasting relationships with their instructors and keep in close contact after graduation. *Photo by P. Buck*

The LWF VTP has also recognized the need for partnerships and cooperation to better support the needs of the Palestinian population. In 2003, the LWF played an instrumental role in the joining of fourteen non-governmental institutions to establish the League of Palestinian Non-Governmental Vocational Education and Training Organizations (the League). The League functions as a networking body that represents the Palestinian non-governmental VET institutions and supports member organizations in building their capacity



2008 graduates of LWF Vocational Training Center smile after receiving their degrees. Studies have shown that LWF VTP graduates are more likely to be hired directly after graduation than the wider population. *Photo by P. Buck*

to improve Palestinian technical and vocational education.

In 2008, the League reported that unemployment rates among graduates of member vocational and educational training institutions were 15 to 25% lower than the broader youth population. This statistic suggests that there is indeed an existing and heavily under realized market demand for skilled workers in many industries, and that the LWF VTP and League institutions are succeeding in their aim of empowering local youth to participate in the Palestinian economy.

As the national need to make vocational education and training a more strategic and ambitious choice for Palestinian youth increases, the LWF VTP remains a quality model for training in Palestine. By investing in Palestinian youth through technical and vocational education, the LWF strives to serve the local population by cultivating young leaders, developing the economic potential of those most marginalized, and empowering moderate political leaders for the future of the region.

*by Francis Gharfeh*

Heba Khaseeb delivered one of the key speeches before the dignitaries, graduates, teachers, and family members attending the 2008 graduation ceremony of the LWF Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR). The celebration was held at the Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah. *Photo by T. Hauger*



Graduates of the 2007 Beit Rima Short Course for women display their graduation certificates at a 2008 graduation ceremony. The LWF has offered short courses around the West Bank as a means of making educational opportunities more accessible. *Photo by P. Buck*



## VTC Responds to Low Female Employment Rates

For many Palestinian women, finding a job after graduation sometimes can be a challenging and daunting experience. While the LWF VTC boasts high employment rates for its male graduates, employment rates among women graduates are significantly lower. Vocational training has traditionally been a field dominated by men, and the economic situation in Palestine remains at a delicate place; both aspects contribute to the problem.

In order to address this issue, the LWF VTC, in cooperation with Norwegian Church Aid and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, developed an emergency plan to support and empower disadvantaged youth and women gain better access to employment and education.

The plan specifically focused on improving employment opportunities of unemployed graduates, most notably with attention to females. One way of doing this was through increased and enhanced psycho-social counseling capacities to support young people affected by the Israeli occupation and a deep polarization of the Palestinian population. By empowering and supporting those who may feel disenfranchised from the overall population, greater confidence can be built as graduates enter the market.

All transportation costs for women trainees were covered by the LWF in order to allow for more easily accessible education. This served as a major incentive for higher enrollment as the economic situation remained difficult for a majority of Palestinians. Additionally, the VTC offered courses in workshops near the students' homes two days a week as a method of promoting access.

Female trainees at the VTC also were invited to engage in workshops put on by the Palestinian Business Women's Association (ASALA). Such courses were designed to develop management skills and to teach about entrepreneurship and microfinance. Relationships with partner organizations will also help to link female graduates with the market place and microfinance institutes throughout Palestine.

The LWF VTP hopes to open two new fields of training for women in 2009/2010 based on a thorough market-relevant training needs assessment carried out in 2008. This will help to increase the number of women at the centers and provide more opportunities to enter the labour market.

# Young Entrepreneurs Complete Web Training Course

The LWF VTC, in cooperation with the “Leaders Organization” and the French Social Fund for Development (FSD), offered an intensive six-month course entitled “Young Web Designing Specialists” as part of its commitment to empowering local youth for a changing and competitive market. Twenty-two young men and women with hopes of starting their own businesses engaged in the 300-hour training session that provided trainees with Web page development and marketing skills. Additionally, the project also aimed to expand trainees’ administrative and small management skills while concurrently encouraging creativity and inventiveness in each student. The course was developed from student suggestions collected in a needs assessment study and was the second cooperative program of its kind offered by the LWF to provide youth with skills to start their own small businesses.



Trainees in the “Young Web Designing Specialists” course explore new web development techniques in the computer lab. The course, open to both women and men, was designed to engage students who have shown interest in starting their own businesses. *Photo by S. Atshan*

# Alumni Reflect on VTCR Experience

Since its launch in 2004, The Lutheran World Federation's Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) has graduated over 220 students from its one-year apprenticeship training program. The apprenticeship program combines classroom learning with in-the-field training. The first three months are spent entirely in the center, learning the technical skills needed in a competitive market. The rest of the year students are sent directly into the market three days each week. VTCR Trainers visit each student at least once a week and hold regular meetings with site supervisors.

For the alumni of the center, most coming from families living in poverty, the VTCR represented a unique chance for learning and future employment.

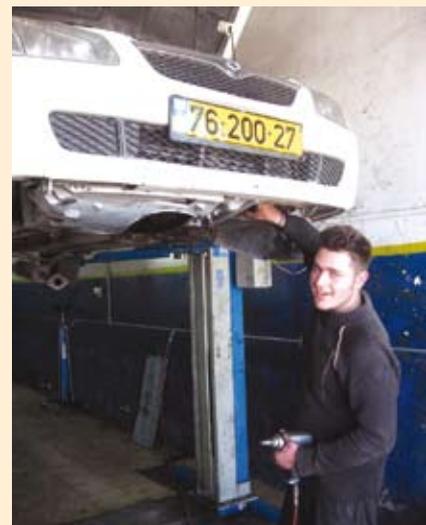


**Ibrahim Abdallah**, age 19, graduated from the LWF VTCR in 2008. Growing up in poverty in the West Bank village of Silwad, Ibrahim applied for the VTCR because he wanted to help support his family while practicing his love of auto-mechanics. Ibrahim's tuition was sponsored in part by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) sponsored while his transportation costs were covered by the LWF through a partnership with Norwegian Church Aid. The VTCR left a powerful imprint on Ibrahim, preparing him both in technical training, but also in "real life-skills like how to deal specifically with customers." Salim Abbadee, Ibrahim's supervisor and owner of Abbadee Car Service in Ramallah explains that Ibrahim has a unique motivation and drive. "LWF VTP graduates are critical thinkers," he says, "they go beyond just technical skills but are whole people."



**Bilal Abd-Al Azeez, (right)** age 22, graduated with the first VTCR class in 2005 with a degree in auto mechanics. Since then, he has been working as a technician at the Alrebat workshop in Ramallah. For Bilal, one of the most rewarding things about his work is having the opportunity to mentor VTC trainees at Alrebat. Having been a trainee himself, Bilal has had similar experiences and can help to relate the material to current students. He is seen here with Sif Abed-Alra'of (left), one of current trainees from the VTCR.

**Ala' Mohtadi**, age 18, is also a 2008 VTCR graduate. Born and raised in Ramallah, Ala' graduated with a degree in auto mechanics and now is employed at the Alrebat workshop in Ramallah. For Ala', the VTCR program prepared him to "find a good job," one that he felt very comfortable in. Ala' appreciated the ability to move directly from his apprenticeship site to the work force. He explained that he knew the environment well and felt empowered and appreciated after being hired by the workshop in which he was trained.



A large portrait of Mahmoud Mkhaimer, a young man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue turtleneck sweater. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

**Mahmoud Mkhaimer**, age 21, now works at Ahmed Ajoly Carpentry workshop in Ramallah. Graduating in 2008, Mahmoud served as an apprentice at the same workshop in which he now works. Originally from Beit'ur, a village near Ramallah, Mahmoud made the decision to attend the VTCR based on its good reputation for training and quick-entry into the workforce. Mahmoud says that the VTCR not only gave him the technical skills needed in carpentry, but life skills needed to work with people. His boss, Akram Ajoly, says that most 40-45 year olds from his village trained at the VTC in Beit Hanina and that he wished he would have been able to train at the VTC when he was Mahmoud's age.



**Heba Khaseeb**, age 21, graduated in August 2008 with a degree in telecommunications. Directly after graduating from the VTCR, Heba was offered a position at Al-Nada Mobile Center in Ramallah and now works as floor manager. Heba specializes in maintenance, hardware, and software and works with customers on a daily basis. After a friend originally told her about the program, Heba decided to enroll especially because of the special training in the market. Heba still keeps in close contact with her instructors and encourages all women to engage in some sort of technical training and to be a voice for all women in Palestine.



**Yousef Abu Safiyeh**, age 19, is from the village of Beit Sera. After graduating in 2008, Yousef went directly into the job market at the Hisham Sarsor Aluminum workshop. Yousef spends much of his time in the homes of clients and believes the LWF VT program taught him how to treat others with respect and kindness, traits that are especially important in the workforce. Yousef keeps in close contact with his aluminum trainer at the VTCR, and still visits the center when he has the chance. For Yousef, the LWF VTCR was "a chance for life."

# The Lutheran World Federation

## Vocational Training Advisory Board

**Rev. Robert Bacher (VTAB Chairperson)**  
ELCA / Executive for Administration (Retired)

**Rev. Mark Brown (Ex-officio)**  
LWF Regional Representative

**Mr. Robert Granke**  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

**Dr. Charlie Haddad**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

**Ms. Ulrike Kipp**  
LWF - Germany (DNLWKZW)

**Ms. Bethan Montague-Brown\***  
The Lutheran World Federation

**Mr. Walid Nammour**  
Chief Executive Officer  
IDaRA - Institutional Development and Reform Associates

**Ms. Ulrika Persson**  
Church of Sweden

**Ms. Liv Steimoeggen**  
Norwegian Church Aid

### Staff:

**Mr. Francis Gharfeh**  
Director, LWF Vocational Training Center – Beit Hanina

**Ms. Randa Hilal**  
Vocational Training Consultant

**Mr. Yousef Shalian**  
Director, LWF Vocational Training Center – Ramallah

*\* Completed Service on VT Advisory Board in 2008*

## LWF-VTP Students Data & Employment Data 2008

In 2008, there were 125 students graduates of the LWF Vocational Training programs including 10 women. There are currently 276 students including 25 women training at the two vocational schools and in 2008, 64 youth including 31 women received instruction in “Short Courses” offered in villages.

### LWF-VTC: Two year “Training through production” program

Department	Established	Trainees 2008/2009		Class of 2008 Graduates (June '08)
		First Year	Second Year	
Auto- Mechanics	1964	18	16	16
Auto-Electrics <sup>1</sup>	2003	19	16	-
Carpentry	1950	21	11	12
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2000	8	11	3
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2001	9	17	13
Plumbing & Central Heating	1988	18	14	16
Metal Work (Welding, Forging and Aluminum works)	1950	17	14	12
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>72</b>

### LWF-VTCR: One-Year “Apprenticeship training”

Department	Established	Trainees 2008/2009	Class of 2008 Graduates (June '08)
Auto- Mechanics	2004	17	15
Carpentry	2004	17	13
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2004	6	7
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2004	12	4
Aluminum works	2005	15	14
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>53</b>

The LWF Vocational Training Program utilizes a multi-tiered training system consisting of a two-year program, a one-year program, and short courses.

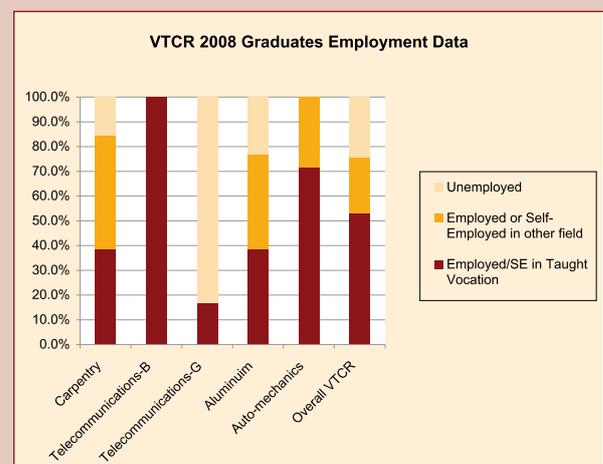
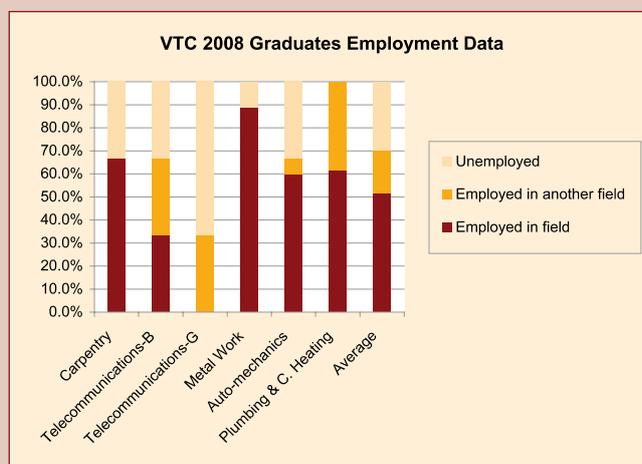
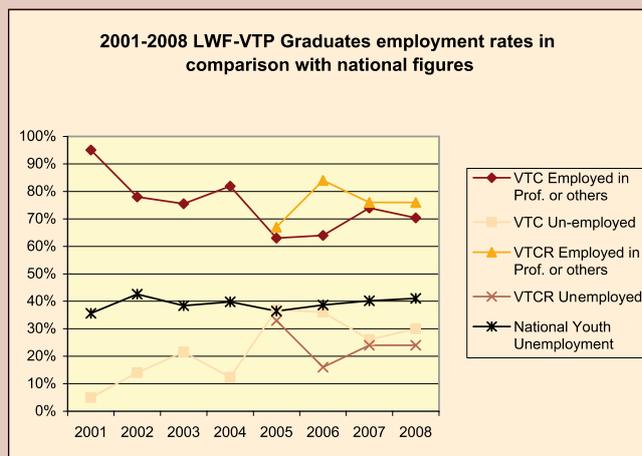
1. This one-year course was changed to a two-year course beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year. The course continues to be accredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Labour.

**Short Courses:**

System	Type	Duration	# of trainees
Courses at the villages, Car-Electrics in Salfit-VTCR	Out Reach course in the village	5 months April-Aug 08	14
Courses within GTZ apprenticeship-VTC & VTCR	Additional Skills (series of short courses)	7 months Nov 07-May 08	19
Tawjihi Course for both graduates-VTCR	Enables the graduates to sit for the national exam to continue education	3 months March-May 08	5
Courses for Juveniles VTC	Short course	6 months Oct 07-Feb 08	14
Auto-electric for Youth-VTC	Short course	2 months	12

**LWF VTP Graduates Employment Statistics:**

In 2008 LWF VTP graduates posted employment rates higher than the national average. 73% of VTP graduates were employed or self-employed within six months of graduation, while nationally only 58.9% of recent graduates found employment. The Labor Force Participation Rate, or the percent of VTP graduates actively engaged in work or seeking work reached 96% compared to 44.7% of youth in the same age group nationally.



# BRANCHES OF LIFE

## Volunteers Pick Olives to Support AVH Patients

By October 2008, the branches of the nearly 800 olive trees that cover the LWF campus on the Mount of Olives were heavy in anticipation of the upcoming harvest. The olive harvest in Palestine normally follows a two-year growth cycle with significant fluctuation between seasons. It was not surprising then that 2008 definitely proved to be a peak, high-yield year after the somewhat smaller yield of previous years.

In just two short months, volunteers from Jerusalem, the West Bank, and around the world had gathered an extraordinary 23,100 pounds of olives, more than 11 tons, to be pressed into olive oil at the nearby Latrun Monastery.

Such a high yield of olives obviously could not be picked without lots of help. This year volunteers from Palestine, Israel, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Norway, the United States, Australia, and Canada spent time in the olive groves.

The olive oil that results from the annual harvest is bottled and shipped to congregations around the world. The money donated for the oil strengthens Augusta Victoria Hospital's Fund for the Poor. The Fund helps to cover the medical costs of patients unable to pay their bills to ensure that everyone receives the human right of quality health care. If you will be in Jerusalem in October or November and would like to volunteer to pick olives please contact us at [info@lwfjerusalem.org](mailto:info@lwfjerusalem.org).



The staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital and their families collected nearly 2,470 pounds of olives during a single day of harvesting. As the sun set, members of the group sang traditional Palestinian olive harvest songs as they celebrated a bountiful yield. *Photo by M. Brown*

## Ordering Olive Oil

LWF olive oil is stored in hand-blown bottles made from recycled glass by Palestinian artisans in Hebron. Each bottle contains ten to twelve ounces of oil (around 250 ml). Olive oil from the Mount of Olives has proven to be a successful fundraiser at churches and community centers.

Olive oil can be requested by the bottle at the LWF campus, and in cases of ten or more bottles, can be shipped by mail. For mail orders, there is a suggested minimum donation of US \$25 per bottle, which includes shipping. Visitors to the campus can receive bottles for a suggested donation of US \$20.



A young volunteer spends a Sunday afternoon in the olive groves. Volunteers from around the globe come together each October to gather the olives that will be pressed into olive oil.

*Photo by M. Powell*

For groups or individuals wanting to donate an olive tree to the LWF campus on the Mount of Olives, donations of US \$1,000 are acknowledged with a commemorative plaque which is displayed in the LWF Central Office after the planting of a tree.

To order olive oil, make a donation toward an olive tree, or make a general contribution to the LWF Jerusalem Program, please mail a check, made out to the Lutheran World Federation, to:

*Rev. Mark B. Brown  
The Lutheran World Federation  
P.O. Box 19178  
Jerusalem 91191*

*Contact us at:  
Email: [info@lwffjerusalem.org](mailto:info@lwffjerusalem.org)  
Phone: +972.2.628.2289  
Fax: +972.2.628.2628*



# MATERIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## LWF Distributes Material Aid to Those in Need

A warm quilt or a child's teddy bear can be a little thing that makes a big difference during the cold winter nights in the West Bank and Gaza. Recognizing this, the Lutheran World Federation has acted as a distribution center for material aid resources sent from donor organizations around the world since the 1950s. After receiving the materials, the LWF works with contacts in the West Bank to distribute goods to families and individuals most in need.

In 2008, material goods donated by the Lutheran World Relief and Canadian Lutheran World Relief were distributed to local orphanages, schools, community centers, vocational schools, and elderly homes. The materials included school kits, health kits, baby layettes, soap, toothpaste, and toys.

A shipment of quilts was sent to local Bedouin families of the 'Arab ar-Rashaydeh tribe living near Jericho. The continued displacement of local Bedouin tribes due to Israeli occupation, as well as the constant building of Israeli settlements, has had a devastating impact on both humanitarian needs and the local economic situation. The quilts were used for Bedouin families most in need as the cold winter season began and were gratefully received.



## LWF Promotes Educational Opportunities

As part of its commitment to protecting the rights of those most marginalized, the LWF promotes access to higher education through educational loans and grants awarded to several Palestinian youth. The scholarships are granted according to financial need and academic performance. During the 2008-2009 academic year, the LWF increased the number of scholarship recipients from 18 to 28, including 18 females and 10 males. The students chose to study a variety of subjects, including Information Technology, Dentistry, Business, Accounting, Engineering, Medicine, Mathematics, Science, Computer Systems, Pharmacy, Law, Social Work, Education, and Education Management. The students come from the regions of Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jerusalem, Jenin, Hebron, Tulkarem, Jericho, and Beit Jala and attend six different universities throughout the West Bank including Bethlehem, Birzeit, Al-Quds, Al-Najah, Palestine Polytechnic, and American Arab University.



Students at the Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour proudly show their new school kits that were distributed by the LWF. The kits, donated by the Lutheran World Relief and Canadian Lutheran World Relief, are welcomed Christmas and Eid Al-Adha gifts for children in the region. *Photos courtesy of the ELCJHL*

The Lutheran World Federation  
Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program  
Income Received Through Geneva

Bread for the World	80,000
CIDA - Europe, Middle East & Maghreb Branch / CLWR	390,206
Charles Zang	484
Church of Sweden	587,755
DanChurchAid/Danida	92,609
DowHower	200
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America	319,823
Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada	19,782
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.(EED)	267,843
GNC-HA Deutscher Hauptausschuss	106,150
Kind Donor	50
Norwegian Church Aid	129,240

In USD

The Lutheran World Federation  
Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program  
Comparative Financial Data

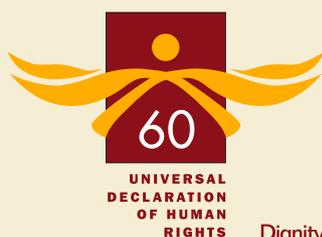
	2008	2007	2006	2005
<b>Revenues</b>				
Vocational Training Program	1,050,585	1,019,168	934,955	778,097
Scholarship Program	28,778	20,531	27,055	40,337
Augusta Victoria Hospital (Operations)	12,526,488	9,346,794	7,110,007	6,472,780
Village Health Clinics	253,222	205,509	206,431	194,586
Emergency through ACT	0	0	1,515,152	411,431
<b>Expenses</b>				
Vocational Training Program	1,050,585	1,019,168	934,955	906,796
Scholarship Program	28,778	20,531	27,055	25,881
Augusta Victoria Hospital	11,014,432	7,922,485	6,279,907	7,342,873
Village Health Clinics	253,222	205,509	206,431	175,371
Emergency through ACT	0	0	1,515,152	479,890

In USD

## VISITORS 2008

Hundreds of pilgrims, students, church leaders, government officials, and partners visited LWF Projects in Jerusalem and the West Bank in 2008. Augusta Victoria Hospital, the vocational training centers in Ramallah and Beit Hanina, and the site of the Mount of Olives Housing Project were the most frequented LWF projects. The visitors included individuals, delegations, and groups from:

Wagner College – New York City, New York • Metropolitan New York Synod • Wartburg Theological Seminary – Dubuque, Iowa • Church of Sweden – International Department • Garrett Seminary – Chicago, Illinois • Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary – Columbia, South Carolina • Church of the Redeemer – Washington, D.C. • Luther Seminary – St. Paul, Minnesota • U.S. Department of State • Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA • Pacifica Synod, ELCA • Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA • Southwest California Synod, ELCA • Trinity Lutheran Church – Lansdale, Pennsylvania • Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA • United Methodist Church • Island Lutheran Church – Hilton Head, South Carolina • UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordination • Paul Gilbertson – Littleton, Colorado • Marc Ostlie-Olson – St. Paul, Minnesota • La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church – Scottsdale, Arizona • Ebenezer Lutheran Church – Lake Stevens, Washington • St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Ft. Dodge, Iowa • Holy Cross Lutheran Church – Libertyville, Illinois • Skara Diocese, Church of Sweden • Stockholm Diocese, Church of Sweden • St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church – Cairo, Egypt • Episcopal Church USA, Office of Government Relations • Saint John’s Lutheran Church – Arroyo Grande, California • Church of Sweden • Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry • Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, Minnesota • Crossways International • UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Delegation • UNICEF Delegation • New England Synod, ELCA • Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Global Priorities Campaign • St. Peter’s Lutheran Church – Lancaster, Pennsylvania • St. John’s Lutheran Church – Columbia, Pennsylvania • Christ Lutheran Community Church – Upper Darby, Pennsylvania • Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland • Seeds of Peace • Habitat for Humanity International • Sabeel Witness Group • St. Luke’s Lutheran Church – Park Ridge, Illinois • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Chicago, Illinois • Incarnate Word Lutheran Church – Rochester, New York • L. Michael Spath Study Group • Valparaiso University – Valparaiso, Indiana • National Council of Churches USA Delegation • Swedish Journalists • St. Luke’s Lutheran Church – Bellevue, Washington • Churches for Middle East Peace Delegation • Sveinn Runar Hauksson, Association Iceland-Palestine • South Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA • Reformed Church in America • Norwegian Church Aid • Strängnäs Diocese, Church of Sweden • Holy Land Pilgrimage group from Annandale, Virginia • Bethel Lutheran Church – Willmar, Minnesota • First Lutheran Church – Sioux Falls, South Dakota • ELCA Clergy Delegation led by Dr. Peter Pettit • Dr. Anton Armstrong, St. Olaf College – Northfield, Minnesota



Dignity and justice for all of us

The UDHR60 logo depicts a human shape standing with arms wide open. The icon is gender neutral and represents liberation and equality. The yellow color is a sign of peace and warmth. The icon is set on a solid block which represents the foundation block of human rights. The choice of the earthy red color for the block reinforces the idea of human rights as the foundation stone and mankind’s common heritage.

**The Lutheran World Federation**  
**Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program**  
**Donors to LWF Jerusalem**

**The LWF is grateful to the many groups and individuals who have supported us through the year including:**

Allison Schmitt • Anna Marie Aagaard • Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church – Baltimore, Maryland • Augusta Victoria Café • Arland Jacobson • Barbara H. Olson • Becky Johnson • Benjamin Kantor • Bethany Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, Minnesota • Betty M. Kulivan • Bo H. Olsson • Brett Williams • Carolyn M. Schneider • Central Lutheran Church - Eugene, Oregon • Central Lutheran Church – Portland, Oregon • Charlotte Cooper-Tracy • Chelsea Mathis • Christ the King Lutheran Church – Nashua, New Hampshire • Christiane Kircher • Cynthia & Philip Hauger • Cynthia Kloss Lytel • Fred H. Anderson • Dale & Janet Crouse • DanChurchAid • Daniel Dickens • Danielle Dupuis • Dave & Linda Horjus • Deb Goplen • Debbie Viola • Denise H. Sealy • Denise Johnson • Denise L. Parrello • Desert Cross Lutheran Church – Tempe, Arizona • Diana Hunstad • Dolores W. Caughey • Donald F. Nelson • Dorette Abruzzi • Doris B Wigg • Eberhard Hitzler • Elaine A. Nagle • English Lutheran Church – Lacrosse, Wisconsin • Ernest S. Olson • Esperanza Lutheran Church – Phoenix, Arizona • Evelyne A. Mueller • Faith Lutheran Church – Bismarck, North Dakota • First Lutheran Church – Bothell, Washington • First Lutheran Church - San Diego, California • First Lutheran Church - Blooming Prairie, Minnesota • Genevieve Odegaard • Global Ministries • Good Shepherd Engineering and Computing, Michael Younan • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Bismarck, North Dakota • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Alexandria, Virginia • Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church – Huntingburg, Indiana • Grace Lutheran Church – Lagrange, Illinois • Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – Chapel Hill, North Carolina • House of Prayer Lutheran Church – Hingham, Massachusetts • Inger Hallquist • Jennifer Chiodo • Jennifer & Steve Edwins • Jenny Zetterqvist • Jens & Trude Dale • John Lundgren • Joyee M. Gould • Karen Kattman • Karla Seckinger • Kathleen NedreLOW • Kathy Burkett • Keith D. Vandenbrink • Kendra Kintzi • Knut Aagaard • Linda Harkness • Lisa & Greg Buck • Lutheran Church of the Atonement – Barrington, Illinois • Lynn Shetzer • Maren Edvardsen • Margaret Fleet • Mark & Susanne Brown • Mark & Marcia Holman • Mary & Greg Steeber • Mary Patterson • Mennonite Christian Committee • Messiah Lutheran Church • Neal Ruedisili • International Center in Bethlehem • Nancy E. Byork • Norwegian Church Aid • Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Opal M Rikansrud • Pamela Zangrillo • Rev. Jim Christopherson • Rev. Monika Wiesner • Patty Brideson • Peace Lutheran Church – Grass Valley, California • Peter Odenfun • Pontifical Mission • Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Marlton, New Jersey • Ralph & Laurel Doermann • Ryan Christensen • Ryan & Heather Lehman • Redeemer Church - Jerusalem • Resurrection Lutheran Church – Monticello, Minnesota • Rev. Tim Hegedus • Rev. Thomas & Lisa Reiff • Richard Hegel • Robert C. Hoffmeister • Rosemarie Strohmer • Ruth Hansen • Sharon H. Books • Sister Sylvia Countess • St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church – Hickory, North Carolina • St. John’s Lutheran Church – Stamford, Connecticut • St. John’s Lutheran Church – Northfield, Minnesota • St. John’s Lutheran Church – Helena, Montana • Saint John Lutheran Church – Phillips, Wisconsin • St. Lukes Lutheran Church – Prosperity, South Carolina • St. Luke’s Lutheran Church – Chicago, Illinois • St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church – Streator, Illinois • St. Paul Lutheran Church – Garrison, North Dakota • St. Paul’s Lutheran Church - Rocky Hill, Connecticut • St. Stephen’s Evangelical Lutheran Church – Monona, Wisconsin • Sveinn Runar Hauksson • Sylvia Campbell • T. Ali • Tami L. Brister • Terry Finseth • The Toronto-Domain Bank • Thomas Weaver • Tiimothy Hansen • Trinity Lutheran Church – Carrington, North Dakota • Trinity Lutheran Church – Valparaiso, Indiana • U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem • Rev. Gunnar Sjobrg • Vibeke Borum • Warren Bardsley • Wartburg Seminary - Dubuque, Iowa • Zion Lutheran Church – Indiana, Pennsylvania

**The Lutheran World Federation**  
**Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program**  
**Donors to the Mount of Olives Housing Project**

Carl Richard Evenson • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Mark & Susanne Brown • International Center in Bethlehem • Rev. Thomas & Lisa Reiff • Trinity Lutheran Church – Valley City, North Dakota • Zion Lutheran Church - Iowa City, Iowa

# **The Lutheran World Federation**

## **Department for World Service**

### **JERUSALEM PROGRAM SENIOR STAFF**

#### **I. LWF CENTRAL OFFICE**

Mark Brown	Regional Representative
Alex Kuttab	Chief Finance Officer
Atif Khatib Al-Rimawi	Director of Human Resources

#### **II. AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL (AVH) and VILLAGE HEALTH CLINICS (VHCs)**

Tawfiq Nasser	Chief Executive Officer
Bassem Sweiss	Acting Chief of Clinical Services
Alex Kuttab	Director of Finance
Atif Khatib Al-Rimawi	Director of Human Resources
Fateh Badran	Director of Information Technology & Computer Services
William Hadweh	Director of Nursing
Muhammad Khweis	Director of Support Services
Ahmad Abu-Halaweh	Deputy Director of Village Health Clinics

#### **III. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – BEIT HANINA (VTC)**

Francis Gharfeh	Director/Principal
Peter Jahshan	Workshop Coordinator
Saliba Bannoura	Department Head - Carpentry
Jirius Bannoura	Department Head - Auto Mechanics
Gabi Kamel	Department Head - Metalwork & Aluminum
Izzat Hamdan	Department Head - Plumbing & Heating
Mahmoud Khatib	Department Head - Boarding
Mahmoud 'Adarbeh	Department Head – Theory and Telecommunications (Electronics)
Thaer Shqair	Vocational Training Quality Controller
Randa Hilal	Vocational Training Consultant

#### **IV. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – RAMALLAH (VTCR)**

Yousef Shalian	Director
Amer Khalaf	Short Courses Coordinator
Thaer Shqair	Vocational Training Quality Controller
Randa Hilal	Vocational Training Consultant

#### **V. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Suad Freij	Supervisor
------------	------------



### **Front Cover**

A young patient at Augusta Victoria Hospital curls into his blanket during a four-hour kidney dialysis session. In order to support the needs of such patients and their families, AVH has developed a psychosocial care center that will pay particular attention to young patients with complicated medical conditions. *Photo by K. Brown*



### **Back Cover**

Adla separates oat from wheat grains in preparation for the late-November planting of her family's fields in Yanoun, a village in the northern West Bank. Yanoun is one of the many villages to which the LWF has delivered humanitarian assistance. *Photo by K. Brown*

## **LWF Jerusalem 2008 Annual Report**

**Editor:** Mark Brown

**Associate Editor:** Tyler Hauger

**Text:** Ahmad Abu Halaweh, Mark Brown, Francis Gharfeh, Tyler Hauger, Randa Hilal, Tawfiq Nasser, Yousef Shalian

**Photography:** Ahmad Abu Halaweh, S. Atshan, Karin Brown, Mark Brown, Paul Buck, Tyler Hauger, A. Jonasson/ACT International, Michael Powell

**Design and Printing:**  turbo design

## The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 140 member churches in 79 countries representing more than 68.5 million Christians.

The Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service operates in 36 countries around the world, offering relief and development to people and populations living in poverty.

The LWF is a founding member of Action by Churches Together (ACT).



Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.

- 14<sup>th</sup> Dali Lama

يستمر السلام فقط عندما تحترم حقوق الإنسان، عندما تطعم الشعوب، وعندما تكون الأمم والأفراد حرة.

دالي لاما – الرابع عشر-

الاتحاد اللوثيري العالمي هو تجمع عالمي للكنائس المسيحية. أنشأ في العام 1947 في مدينة لند في السويد، يضم حالياً 140 كنيسة عضو في 79 بلد ممثلة لأكثر من 68.5 مليون مسيحي. دائرة الخدمات العالمية في الاتحاد اللوثيري العالمي تعمل في 36 بلد حول العالم، تقدم اعانة وتنمية للشعوب التي تعيش في الفقر. الاتحاد اللوثيري العالمي عضو مؤسس لمؤسسة العمل معا من قبل الكنائس.

The Lutheran World Federation  
P.O.Box 19178  
Jerusalem 91191 Israel



Phone: +972-2-628-2289  
E-mail: info@lwjjerusalem.org  
Website: www.lwjjerusalem.org