

الاتحاد اللوٲري العالمى فى القدس THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Department for World Service
JERUSALEM



Annual Report | 2011

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The Lutheran World Federation

Department for World Service - Jerusalem Program

"The road to freedom and independence has been long and the challenges have been many."

So began the President of Namibia in March 2011 as he addressed his compatriots on the occasion of the 21st independence anniversary of the Republic of Namibia. "Today," he continued, "all Namibians enjoy freedom of movement, freedom of association and many other constitutionally guaranteed fundamental human rights and freedoms that they were denied for many decades."

Also in 2011, on July 9th, more than eight million people in the new nation of the Republic of South Sudan celebrated their first Independence Day, an historic moment, a beginning, not the end, of a long road for this new nation. Best wishes and prayers poured in from around the world for happiness and prosperity, peace and stability, and support for South Sudan's self-determination.

We celebrated in 2011 the anniversary of the changes in Namibia and the dramatic developments in South Sudan. Their journeys serve as signs of hope for those who are in the midst of their struggle for freedom and self-determination in the Middle East.

As the day in September 2011 approached when President Abbas would submit the application for Palestinian recognition to the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, church leaders voiced, again, their ecumenical call for Palestinian self-determination, for a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and we remembered what is at stake for those who continue to live under occupation and for those who enforce it.

Little was resolved at the United Nations in 2011 for Palestinians and so we continue to look forward to a day when all children can walk to school, singing and playing along the way, without fear of being attacked; a day when farmers can bring in their crops without being harassed and deliver their goods to markets near and far. We continue to yearn for a time when families can sleep peacefully through the night confident they will be awakened by the sounds of kids and car horns and roosters, not the sounds of bull horns and bulldozers threatening the demolition of their homes.

We look forward to a day when political prisoners and captives will be released to rejoin their families; a time when a husband and wife, one from Jerusalem and one from the West Bank, can live together under the same roof in Jerusalem and raise a family without the threat of unjust laws that would force them to live apart or leave the city.

We look forward to a day when workers in Gaza are employed and the current situation, wherein 70% of all Gazans depend on some form of humanitarian assistance in order to



survive, will be a distant memory, a day when the quiet desperation of a mother and child, waiting endlessly to take their turn to pass through a turnstile at a checkpoint, will be turned into joy over the freedom of movement; a day when the anxiety that overwhelms a parent when a teenager doesn't return home on time will be lessened because the likelihood of being caught up in violent clashes will have decreased dramatically.

We look forward to the cessation of all bombs and all rockets, the termination of the Gaza blockade, the elimination of checkpoints and walls, the eradication of high levels of unemployment and poverty, the invalidation of discriminatory building and zoning regulations, and the cancellation of illegal settlement plans and permits.

The church, in its local and global expressions, is called to be present in this world where violence and injustice seem to dominate and where despair and hopelessness threaten to overwhelm us. As people of faith we are challenged to stand up against prejudice, oppression and occupation wherever we may encounter them. We are called to help those around us who are in need of the very basics of life, provide food for the hungry and struggle against systems that perpetuate injustice. We do this from hearts filled with thanksgiving for the new life God has given us. We serve God, and worship God, when we serve our neighbor in his or her need.

I believe the church is called to serve, to intercede in Palestine and Israel by protesting the violation of human rights, condemning indiscriminate attacks on civilians, serving as observers and accompanying both Palestinians and Israelis who take risks for peace; by calling for an end to the occupation and promoting open debate about how best to resolve conflict, by encouraging people of different faiths to engage in dialogue and challenge stereotypes of the enemy; by providing humanitarian services to refugees and the most vulnerable in society, praying and advocating for justice, holding power accountable, and challenging the very systems which prevent Palestinians from laying the foundation for a life of dignity.



A child from Gaza receives treatment for cancer at the Specialized Center for Child Care at AVH. Nearly half of the children cared for in the Center in 2011 were from Gaza. Photo by K. Brown

This service for peace is at the heart of the work of the LWF Jerusalem Program. The LWF Vocational Training Program and Augusta Victoria Hospital, run by the LWF for over 60 years, provide excellent educational and medical services while they stand steadfast as institutions in East Jerusalem at a time when there is enormous pressure on Palestinians to leave Jerusalem. Every West Bank child bussed to AVH for kidney dialysis, every Gaza patient treated at AVH for cancer, plays a part in asserting the Palestinian right of access to health care and the right of access to Jerusalem itself.

Asmah's story is typical of the children served by AVH. Asmah was just six years old when she made her first journey from a refugee camp in Gaza to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. When she was diagnosed with cancer at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City her family was informed that she would be referred to AVH in order to receive the life-giving care and treatment she needed since there were no comparable cancer care facilities in Gaza or the West Bank. AVH helped to secure Asmah's medical permit so that she could travel to AVH, but the Israeli authorities denied travel permits for Asmah's parents and refused to let them accompany their frail daughter to Jerusalem. Fortunately, Asmah's grandparents were allowed to make the trip with her. It was their first time ever to see Jerusalem, the Haram Ash-Sharif, and the Dome of the Rock.

The course of treatment for this bold little girl was going to take a few minutes a day for six to nine weeks, so Augusta Victoria Hospital provided hotel accommodations for Asmah and her grandparents, a routine

A trainee concentrates on his instructor's advice for learning the important skill of drafting. The LWF Vocational Training Program continues to offer quality practical and theoretical training to students from Jerusalem and the West Bank. *Photo by K. Brown*

part of AVH's psychosocial care for Gaza patients. The drive to Jerusalem, without the delays of checkpoints, is only about an hour and a half, but they could not risk going back and forth to Gaza each day for fear that one day they would not be permitted to leave Gaza and Asmah's radiation therapy would be interrupted with potentially catastrophic consequences.

It was sad that Asmah's parents could not be by her side in Jerusalem, but the hidden blessing was that her grandmother's diabetes was discovered and treated at AVH and both her grandparents took part in classes at AVH that would prepare them for the new diet and life-style changes that were urgently needed for Asmah's grandmother. Asmah is back in Gaza now. She is with her parents and family and happy to be back among her friends in school. In 2011, the LWF Jerusalem Program maintained and increased its support for Gaza cancer patients coming to Jerusalem for treatment.

"Building the Palestinian State: Sustaining Growth, Institutions and Service Delivery," a 2011 World Bank Report, says that, "Strong institutions and sustainable economic growth remain the underpinnings of the future Palestinian state." The LWF fosters hope for that state by maintaining healthy,





well-managed, cutting-edge institutions. It contributes to economic growth by training hundreds of young people each year in vocations that will provide them with gainful employment for decades to come and by assisting college students with scholarships that enable them to complete their degrees. You can read some of their stories on pages 26-29 of the LWF 2011 annual report.

While LWF plays a role in building strong institutions important for an emerging state, the LWF and its partners also continue to ask the difficult questions about the things preventing a viable Palestinian state from becoming a reality. The 2011 World Bank Report reminded us of the importance of asking these questions when it concluded that, "Ultimately, sustainable economic growth in West Bank & Gaza can only be underpinned by a vibrant private sector. The latter will not rebound significantly while Israeli restrictions on access to natural resources and markets remain in place. . . . The economic growth observed in WB&G is arguably donor-driven, and sustainable growth remains hampered by Israeli restrictions on access to land, water, a range of raw materials, and export markets, to name a few."

Protecting and developing the LWF Mount of Olives Property is another vital aspect of the LWF work in Jerusalem. There were major renovations inside Augusta Victoria Hospital completed in 2011 and several more that began in 2011 and will be finished in 2012. See pages 8 and 9 in this report.



Photo by M. Brown

Major projects were also completed on the LWF campus surrounding the hospital, including the construction of a retaining wall along the southeast border of the LWF campus and the refurbishment of the LWF playfield. The **retaining wall** along the street was completed in October 2011. Completion of this wall helps to protect the LWF property and is a necessary first step in the development of the **Mount of Olives Housing Project (MOHP)** planned for the southeast section of the property.

The LWF, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and with funding from the Islamic Development Bank and the Government of Sweden, began in October 2011 to fully refurbish the **LWF playfield** at the southern tip of the west side of the property. For decades the rocky, dirt field in this location has been used extensively by the youth of East Jerusalem. Despite its rough condition, uncontrolled access, and the lack of organized

programs, it was one of the few locations where sports activities and training took place in East Jerusalem. Now, with the refurbishment of the field and installation of security fencing completed in January 2012, the LWF can move forward with the installation of the artificial turf and the development of programming that will serve the youth of East Jerusalem in a safe and inviting environment.

In 2011, LWF Jerusalem continued to focus on those most in need – young people without hope of employment, 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 and unable to secure adequate housing and meet basic needs.

There is hope . . . though fading, that in 2012 there will be steps toward a two state solution – a secure and prosperous Palestinian state on 22 percent of the land living in peace side by side with a secure and prosperous state of Israel on 78 percent of the land – a solution that would be based on the 1967 green line and would include a shared Jerusalem for Palestinians and Israelis, and Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Without a resolution to the conflict and the opportunity for Palestinians and Israelis to build futures for their children in free and democratic states neighboring each other, the suffering for both Palestinians and Israelis will increase, the turmoil in the region may well lead to a wider conflict, and continued settlement expansion in the West Bank may make a viable Palestinian state impossible in the future.

Palestinian self-determination is long overdue. In Jerusalem, in Ramallah and Nablus, in Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya and Tulkarm, in Gaza City and refugee camps throughout Gaza and the West Bank, Palestinian Christians and Muslims are hoping and praying that their day to stand among the free nations of the world is approaching.

Thank you, on behalf of the LWF Jerusalem Program, for your prayers and support throughout 2011.



Rev. Mark B. Brown
Regional Representative



Photo by M. Brown



AVH

AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

مستشفى المطّلع (أوغستا فكتوريا)

Serious Medicine...Caring Staff

Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), situated on the Mount of Olives, was established by the Lutheran World Federation in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a major medical facility in Jerusalem after the 1948 war to care for Palestinian refugees. Today, most of the patients served by AVH continue to be in social need and seeking life-saving specialized care.

AVH provides two distinct levels of healthcare. The first is at the more traditional level, in which AVH serves as a general secondary care hospital for Palestinian refugees and patients referred by UNRWA. This level of care is represented by the general departments of AVH: Internal Medicine, General Surgery, and Diagnostic Services.

The second, higher level of care is represented by specialty departments that account for the majority of work at the hospital. The Cancer Care Center, the Artificial Kidney Unit (dialysis), the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, the Diabetes Care Center, the Specialized Center for Child Care, and the Skilled Nursing and Long-Term (Sub-Acute) Care Unit provide specialized treatments that are not available in the majority of hospitals in Palestine. The hospital now is in the process of establishing the first bone marrow transplantation unit and also a separate building for elder care.

AVH is the first and only hospital to provide radiation therapy for cancer patients in the Palestinian territories and is the only medical facility in the West Bank offering pediatric kidney dialysis. On a daily basis, these and other specialty services touch countless lives, both young and old, from communities across the Palestinian territories.

AVH: By the Numbers

- AVH is licensed for 170 beds and, on average, operates 102 beds a day.
- In 2011, 233 staff at AVH cared for 5,687 inpatients for a total of 16,756 days of hospital care.
- AVH provided 11,940 dialysis sessions, 6,364 chemotherapy sessions, and 13,978 interventions in the radiation oncology unit on an outpatient basis.



Nurses at the AVH specialized centers provide high level, serious nursing care while attending to the most basic human and social needs of patients. *Photo by K. Brown*



Augusta Victoria Hospital Strengthens its Capacity to Serve Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank

Developments at Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) Bolster its Comprehensive Cancer Care Center

Consistent with the 2008-2011 strategic plan approved by the AVH Board of Governance, Augusta Victoria Hospital witnessed a flurry of developments and capital investment in 2011. Major advances at AVH were made possible in 2011 thanks to investments from the United States and Middle Eastern and European countries.

The most significant development was the official installation (March 2011), calibration, and then actual operation (November 2011) of the medical linear accelerator donated by the people of the United States through the USAID/Flagship project. This new radiation therapy system doubles the capacity of AVH for radiation treatment and enables AVH to meet the demand for radiotherapy in the Palestinian territories for years to come.

Also within the plans to focus on cancer care, AVH completed the solid tumor inpatient facility of sixteen beds funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Mount of Olives Foundation-Oslo and administered by Norwegian Church Aid. The facility will increase the capacity of the hospital to receive cancer patients referred from the Palestinian National Authority. From the same grant, the hospital initiated work on the outdoor therapeutic gardens for cancer patients.



The addition of a second medical linear accelerator at AVH strengthens its role as a comprehensive cancer treatment center, improves the quality and availability of cancer treatment, and cost-effectively reduces the number of referrals abroad. *Photo by M. Brown*



The new inpatient rooms for adult cancer patients took the place of the outpatient clinics as AVH is stretched to accept more cancer referrals year after year. *Photo by M. Brown*



The new oncology inpatient facility was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Mount of Olives Foundation-Oslo and administered by Norwegian Church Aid. *Photo by M. Brown*

AVH launched work on developing the bone marrow transplantation program with three major grants. The first is from the Bahraini Committees for Supporting the Palestinian People and is administered by the Welfare Association. This grant was allocated to refurbish the internal medicine area to become isolation rooms for the bone marrow transplantation patients. Work on this project began in 2011 and it is expected to be fully ready and staffed no later than summer of 2012.

The second grant for the bone marrow transplantation program was from the French Consulate in Jerusalem with cooperation and support from the Palestinian Ministry of Finance. The aim of the grant is to establish and upgrade pathology and laboratory medicine to respond to the increased demand from the bone marrow service. The hospital started work on refurbishing the southeast water cistern to be used as new space for pathology and molecular studies that are essential for the bone marrow program. Included in this grant is the relocation and upgrading of the hospital mechanical rooms.

The third grant came from Al-Noor Saudi Foundation to refurbish and expand the intensive care unit in order to receive transplant patients. The capacity of the unit will be increased to seven beds with one isolation intensive care bed. A senior head of department and a senior doctor were employed to start training and setting up protocols.

Work started on the radiology department refurbishment and upgrading with funds from the Islamic Development Bank. The department will be increased in size and more diagnostic modalities will be added to keep up with the pace of development in the cancer center.



In yet another novel idea for improving Palestinian health care delivery, AVH is introducing the idea of healing gardens to receive patients for prolonged infusion treatment protocols in the open air. *Photo by M. Brown*



Renovations and refurbishments prepare AVH for the first bone marrow transplantation unit by Palestinians and for Palestinians. *Photo by M. Brown*



The old medical department at AVH is being converted, with funding from Bahrain, to the first bone marrow transplantation unit to serve the Palestinians. *Photo by M. Brown*



LWF/AVH Staff

Recognized for Their Commitment

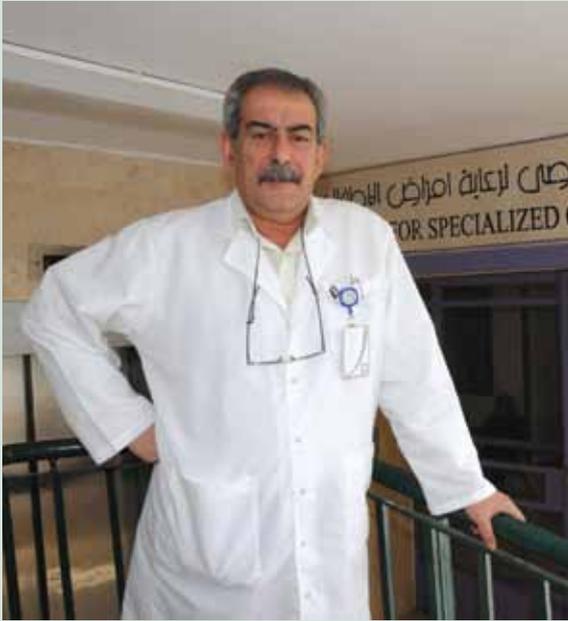


Photo by M. Brown

Some physicians are readily associated with one particular hospital. This is usually because they start their career, develop in their profession and come to excel in their field all in that one hospital. Augusta Victoria Hospital is blessed to have such a physician in the person of **Dr. Basem Sweis**, the **Director of Medical Staff**.

Dr. Sweis has one of the most challenging jobs at AVH, managing over 40 specialists and 20 residents. He has to address multiple clinical technical issues as well as the administrative affairs of all physicians. Basem is also responsible for the official medical education program in the hospital. AVH has a full residency program approved by the Palestinian Medical

Council in Oncology and ENT surgery. The hospital has a partial residency in pediatrics and internal medicine. As Director of Medical Staff, Basem is working on expanding the residency program to include new specialties now at AVH, such as pathology, radiology, hematology and others.

In addition to medical education, Dr. Sweis is heavily involved in the new accreditation program of The Joint Commission. All standards for patient medical care are placed under his responsibility. Through this accreditation program, AVH seeks to differentiate itself as a highly sought after hospital, not only because of its unique services, but also for its accredited quality programs.

Basem Sweis was born in May of 1950 in a beautiful neighborhood of Jerusalem's Old City called "Haret Al-Sadieh" to a Jordanian Christian father and a Jerusalemite mother. In 1961, his father, a Jordanian policeman, was moved to the West Bank town of Tulkarm where Basem received his schooling and graduated in 1970. Basem traveled to Iraq for college in the Faculty of Science, but his heart was set on studying medicine. He moved to Greece and was accepted in the medical college in Thessaloniki where he finished his general medical degree and then specialized in anesthesia.

In 1987, he returned to Palestine and worked in the Ramallah Public Hospital and in 1990 joined Augusta Victoria Hospital as a consultant anesthesiologist, becoming the department head in 1996. In 2003, the AVH Board of Governance appointed him as the Acting Director of Medical Staff. He gradually handed over the responsibilities as the head of anesthesia to devote more time to medical staff management.

Basem, also known as Abu Ibrahim ("father of Ibrahim"), is deeply committed to his family. His wife is a financial manager at The United Nation's Development Programme (UNDP) and his sons, Ibrahim and Bassam, are studying at Birzeit University.



Faith Based Health Care Conference Hosted by AVH

*Photo by:
E. McHan*

The International Learning Network of Leaders in Faith Based Health Care (FBHC) arranged to meet in East Jerusalem in 2011. The conference was held at Augusta Victoria Hospital on the LWF campus on the Mount of Olives from 13 to 16 November 2011. Fifty leaders and academicians from faith based health care institutions within the Christian tradition gathered from Asia, Europe, Africa and America.

The conference, under the motto of Faith in Leadership, focused on the challenges of context, identity and innovation. The conference included global keynote presentations on the individual themes, multi-faith witness and worship. Subcategories of the conference included streams on “Faith Based, Values, Diaconal Identity and Religious Health Assets;” and “Leadership and Capacity Building.”

Rev. Mark Brown, Regional Representative for the LWF in Jerusalem, set the context for the conference on the opening night with a summary of the history of the LWF work in healthcare in the region and reflections on the AVH mission and its continued commitment to caring for the whole person.

As Augusta Victoria Hospital transitioned to providing specialty care just a decade ago, the need to treat the “whole patient”, particularly oncology patients, became even more acute. Oncology patients are at critical junctures in their lives and in these vulnerable moments, patients and medical staff alike often call on their faith as a source of strength. As a faith-based organization, AVH is both a center providing excellent medical care and a center of caring and compassion for our patients. However, the LWF commitment cannot and does not stop at providing these services. We also seek to change the systems that hinder people from gaining access to healthcare and other basic human rights.

Bishop Dr. Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), who also serves as Chair of the AVH Board of Governance and President of the LWF, further elaborated on context and identity by delving into a Lutheran theological and diaconal understanding of the Church’s call in relation to health and wellness.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Beate Jakob, from the German Institute for Medical Mission (DIFAEM) in Tübingen, Germany, provided an entry point for further discussion, raising questions of the role of the church in the field of health, the Christian understanding of health and its implications for a greater understanding of healing, and Christian health service examples from both the Global South and the Global North.

Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, who is a member of the Network, chaired the sessions for the second day and presented the unique experiences of AVH in delivering healthcare in multi-faith and multi-national environments. He emphasized the additional role the hospital management and staff have to assume in order to serve all patients and agencies in volatile and often dangerous national and religious debates and conflicts that surround hospital work. He presented models of programs and projects of LWF/AVH health services that address these sensitivities and that show the success the hospital has had in implementing them with total equity and respect to all concerned.

More information about FBHC and the conference can be found on the FBHC website:

<http://www.faithbasedhealthcare.net/ejc2011/>



Photos by M. Brown



World Diabetes Day 2011 Celebrated at Augusta Victoria Hospital

The World Diabetes Day annual celebration at Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) featured special guests, music, clowns, a healthy lunch and debke dancing. The day centered around children from the West Bank diagnosed with type 1 diabetes who are treated at the AVH Diabetes Center.

The annual activities, marked this year on Friday, 18 November, at AVH, were part of a larger program with festivities throughout the West Bank. Mr. Daniel Rubinstein, U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem, brought greetings to the participants in the event, which was supported by the U.S. Department of State. Two children delivered greetings to Presidents Obama and Abbas and asked for continued U.S. support to the Palestinian Authority health sector in general and to children with diabetes in particular.

IAEA Gives LWF's Augusta Victoria Hospital Green Light

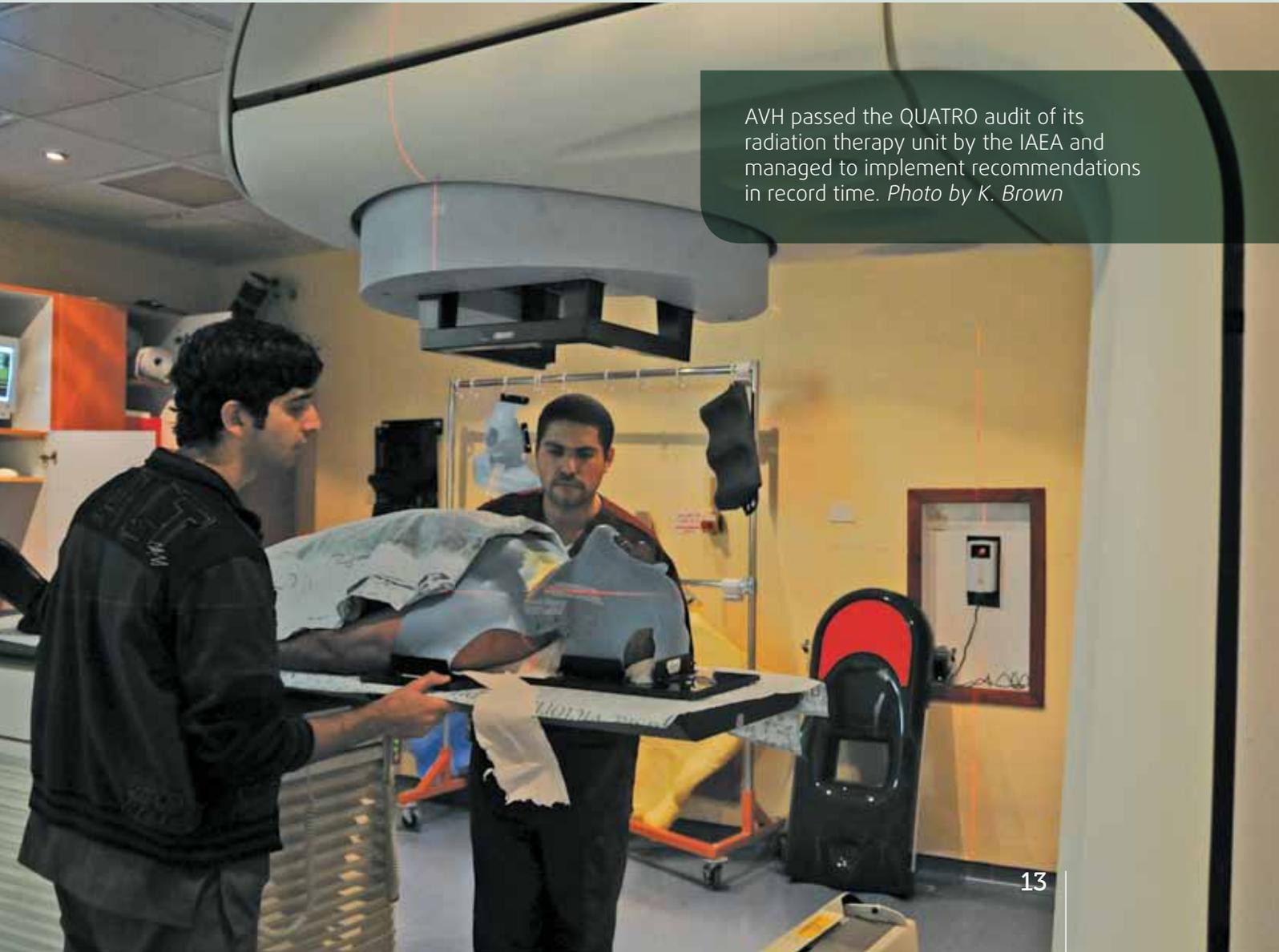
LWF's Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) passed its first Quality Assurance Team for Radiation Oncology (QUATRO) audit by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in October 2011.

The AVH radiotherapy unit was deemed to be safe in practice and following all the approved guidelines for treatment in radiation oncology internationally.

The QUATRO is a comprehensive audit of radiotherapy practices and a tool for quality improvement. QUATRO is also authorized to shut down any machine, unit, or facility that is deemed unsafe or operating below standards. The QUATRO Team gave the hospital constructive and important tips on how to proceed with future challenges in the field of radiation oncology.

AVH now functions as an institution within the Palestinian healthcare system. It was the first such audit conducted by the IAEA on a Palestinian institution, conducted on the week of 3 October, 2011. The next audit will take place in about four years.

AVH's main task has been to provide services for Palestinian refugees in cooperation with UNRWA, the United Nations agency responsible for refugee programs in the Holy Land region since 1948.

A photograph showing two men in a radiotherapy unit. One man is standing on the left, looking at a patient lying on a treatment table. The other man is standing on the right, also looking at the patient. The room contains various pieces of medical equipment, including a large circular overhead device and a control panel on the wall.

AVH passed the QUATRO audit of its radiation therapy unit by the IAEA and managed to implement recommendations in record time. *Photo by K. Brown*



The chemotherapy unit doubled its occupancy in 2011 and nurses have met the challenge by continuous nursing education and upgrading of skills. *Photo by K. Brown*

AVH Begins Development of Bone Marrow Transplantation Program and Hematology Services

"Medical Excellence for State Building"

While much debate is ongoing about acquiring the status of a state for Palestine in the United Nations, Augusta Victoria Hospital, in line with its strategic plan, has been working on building major programs in health care that aim to build institutions complementing the health care system and thus viable institutions of the state from the bottom-up.

Currently, there are about 120 cancer cases in the Palestinian health care system that require bone marrow transplantation from all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These patients and their families continue to face major difficulties in acquiring this service, because it is not available anywhere in the Palestinian area. Patients seeking bone marrow transplantations must acquire such services in either the Jordanian hospital system, the Israeli hospital system, or elsewhere abroad.

The Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) program and Hematology Services have been identified as part of the strategic plan of the country and AVH to complete the full continuum of care for cancer patients in Palestine. The lack of a BMT program in Palestine has been identified as one of the major financial drains on the national health care budget of the Palestinian government. Therefore, the hospital took it upon its shoulders to build this



Medical students discuss cases as they join training rounds at Augusta Victoria Hospital. *Photo by K. Brown*



Physicians and nurses at Augusta Victoria Hospital serve cancer patients in the adult outpatient unit of the cancer center with joy and a team spirit. *Photo by K. Brown*

program in order to have a local and national solution for this very challenging situation for cancer patients.

While the number of recipients of the service are few, this is, nevertheless, a life saving procedure and cure for many cancer patients, particularly for younger adults and children. This program values each human life that is saved and celebrates that these individuals will continue to be productive citizens of an emerging state. Additionally, the cost of providing this service outside the Palestinian territories is prohibitively high. The average cost of one Bone Marrow Transplantation procedure in either Israel or Jordan comes close to 100,000 USD, which means that the 120 Palestinian cases end up being a significant burden on the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The program at AVH aims to produce excellent services in Hematology and BMT while offering a lower cost to the Ministry of Health and reducing the national health expenditure. There are indirect benefits of establishing these departments at AVH that also contribute to the national health care strategy as set by the Ministry of Health. First of all, these programs are based in Jerusalem and therefore the hospital continues to present to the world a Palestinian success story of growth and development of professional identity inside the boundaries of East Jerusalem. These departments also attract high level professionals, some of whom are working abroad and will find reason to return and work in the Palestinian health care systems. Moreover, it will be a venue for additional employment of professional and non-professional staff to work in an institution of excellence and earn a decent living through yet another LWF program.

The department itself will have two main services. The first will focus on hematologic diseases, meaning blood diseases, both benign and malignant. In addition, there will be a major section in the department for admitting patients who need BMT services. Within the BMT services there will be two major techniques. One will be the autologous service which is aimed at re-infusing the patient's own stem cells in the body to generate good cells that can fight the cancerous process. The second service within the BMT to be implemented later is allogeneic transplantation which are transplantations carried from related donors into the patients. Allogeneic transplantations are medically and scientifically more involved procedures, because they involve a donor



that is related to the patient but not identical and therefore much pre-transplantation work has to be done to avoid rejection of transplantation. Therefore, the hospital BMT program will focus on autologous techniques initially as it gains more experience, tools, and resources to move into the more complicated allogeneic techniques of BMT.

While the hospital has acquired the medical staff to run the program, some of the nursing and para-medical staff will be trained while the refurbishments and procurement of instrumentation are ongoing. By the time the physical facilities are complete there will be a core team of transplantation physicians and nurses who are capable of providing these services at the best possible quality. Once the program is fully functional, both in its allogeneic and autologous techniques, the Palestinian Ministry of Health will no longer need to send the patients outside the country. Many funds will be saved from the budget for referrals abroad.



Augusta Victoria Hospital nursing combines serious science with human care. *Photo by K. Brown*

As is the case in many programs at AVH, Hematology and the BMT Department will be a department that will complement the national services provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. The department will render more sustainability to the hospital in the future. It will be a place of learning where new capacities can be transferred to new generations of Palestinians who are interested in this field. Most importantly, it will be part of the institution building and state building that form the main strategy of the current Palestinian government in engaging the international community. These institution building efforts will be particularly important if the attempt to achieve success on the international stage fails and initiatives, such as the one at the United Nations, falter.

All in all, this program represents the effectiveness and efficiency of the LWF programs in impacting the highest levels of national health policy both on the economic and political level. More importantly, at the community level, LWF health programs provide Palestinian children and adults with life-saving treatment while health care students and staff are trained at centers of medical excellence inside the city of Jerusalem.



Sautéed Okra with Fresh Tomatoes

Okra is a staple food of Palestine. It is readily available at fresh vegetable markets when it is in season (early summer). Villagers used to string okra and sun-dry it during summer to preserve it for winter use.

Okra is cooked in two ways, either as a warm stew with lamb meat served over rice, or sautéed to be served as a cold salad and eaten with Taboon bread (wheat bread baked in an earth oven) or pita bread.

The dish is believed to have originated in the mountains of Lebanon and traveled across Greater Syria, including the Palestinian territories.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds of small or medium okra (large okra can be cut cross-wise into one or two pieces)
- ½ pound of diced fresh tomatoes
- 1 large red onion diced
- 1 tablespoon of tomato paste
- 3 cloves of garlic (crushed)
- 2 table spoons of chopped cilantro
- ¼ cup LWF olive oil from the Mount of Olives
- 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 table spoon salt
- ½ cup water

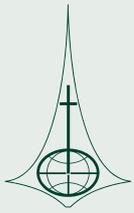
Preparation

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil and sauté the okra until soft with brown edges about 10 – 15 minutes. Set aside to drain. Heat the remaining olive oil, sauté the onions, garlic, cilantro, and keep tossing in the pan for 4 – 5 minutes until onions are glassy and soft. Add okra and mix.

Dissolve tomato paste in water and add to pan with all other ingredients. Add also fresh diced tomato. Mix well and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring regularly. Turn heat off and cool. Add lemon juice, mix well, and serve with bread.

● Serves 4 people

by: Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital.



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 Björklund
Church of Sweden

Rev. Are Blomhoff
Managing Director, Stiftelsen / Hospitalet
Betanien

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

Mr. Robert Granke
Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Propst Uwe Gräbe
Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

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

Rev. Rainer Kiefer*
Oberlandeskirchenrat, Lutherische
Landeskirche Hannovers

Ms. Gunvor Kronman
Director, Hanasaari – The Swedish-Finnish
Cultural Centre

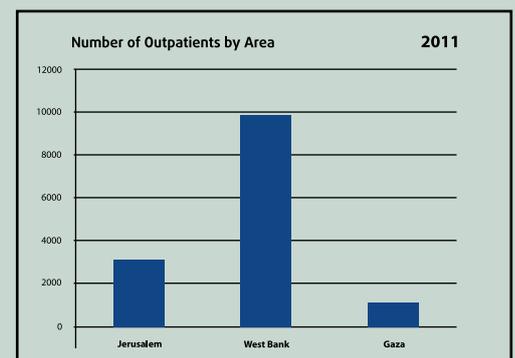
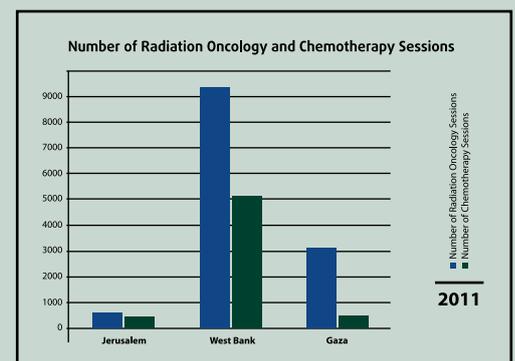
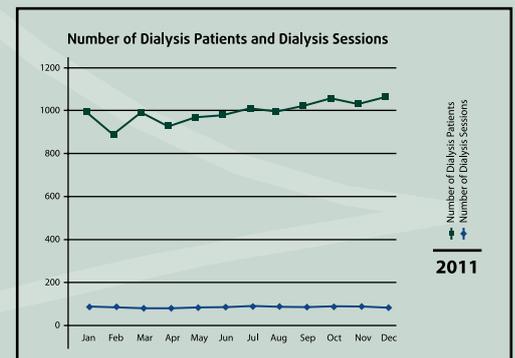
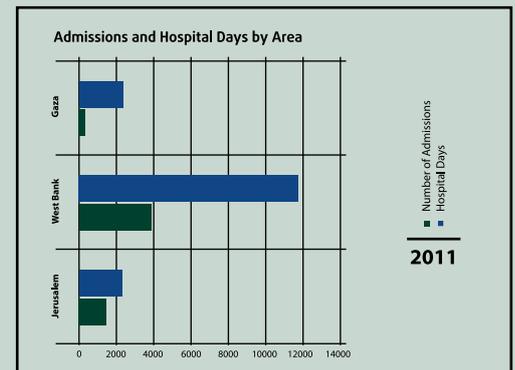
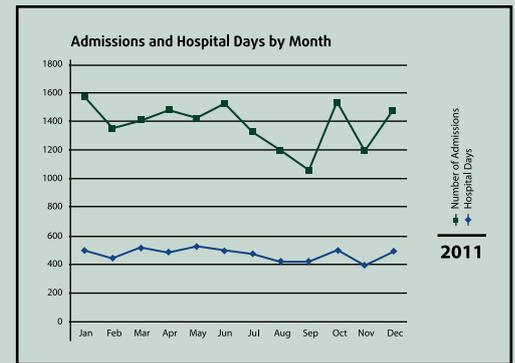
**Dr. Nasser Al-Kudweh (AVH Board Vice
Chairperson)**
Dentist, Executive Director Y.A. Foundation

Dr. Kirsten Lee/ DanChurchAid

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan (AVH Board
Chairperson)**
Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in
Jordan and the Holy Land

* Rev. Rainer Kiefer joined the AVH Board
of Governance as of January 2012,
replacing Dr. Eberhard von Perfall.

AVH STATISTICS 2011



MATERIAL AID

Since the early 1950s, the Lutheran World Federation has served as a distribution center for material aid resources sent from donor organizations to assist Palestinian refugees. Today, much of the Palestinian population remains in need of basic materials, and the LWF continues to distribute such aid.

The LWF works with contacts in the West Bank to distribute goods to communities, families and individuals most in need. Throughout 2011, material goods donated by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) were distributed to refugee camps, an elderly care center, local orphanages, schools and community centers. The materials included school supplies, health and hygiene kits, baby layettes and quilts.

The LWF is expecting another shipment of quilts and kits from Lutheran World Relief early in 2012.



Photo by B. Moyer

Each Lutheran World Relief school kit includes the following items:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½" eraser
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

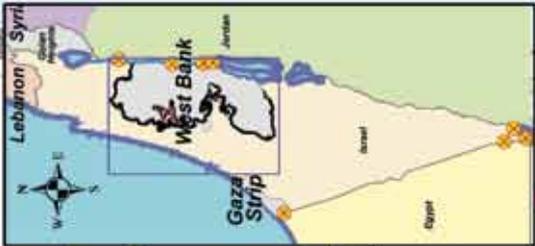
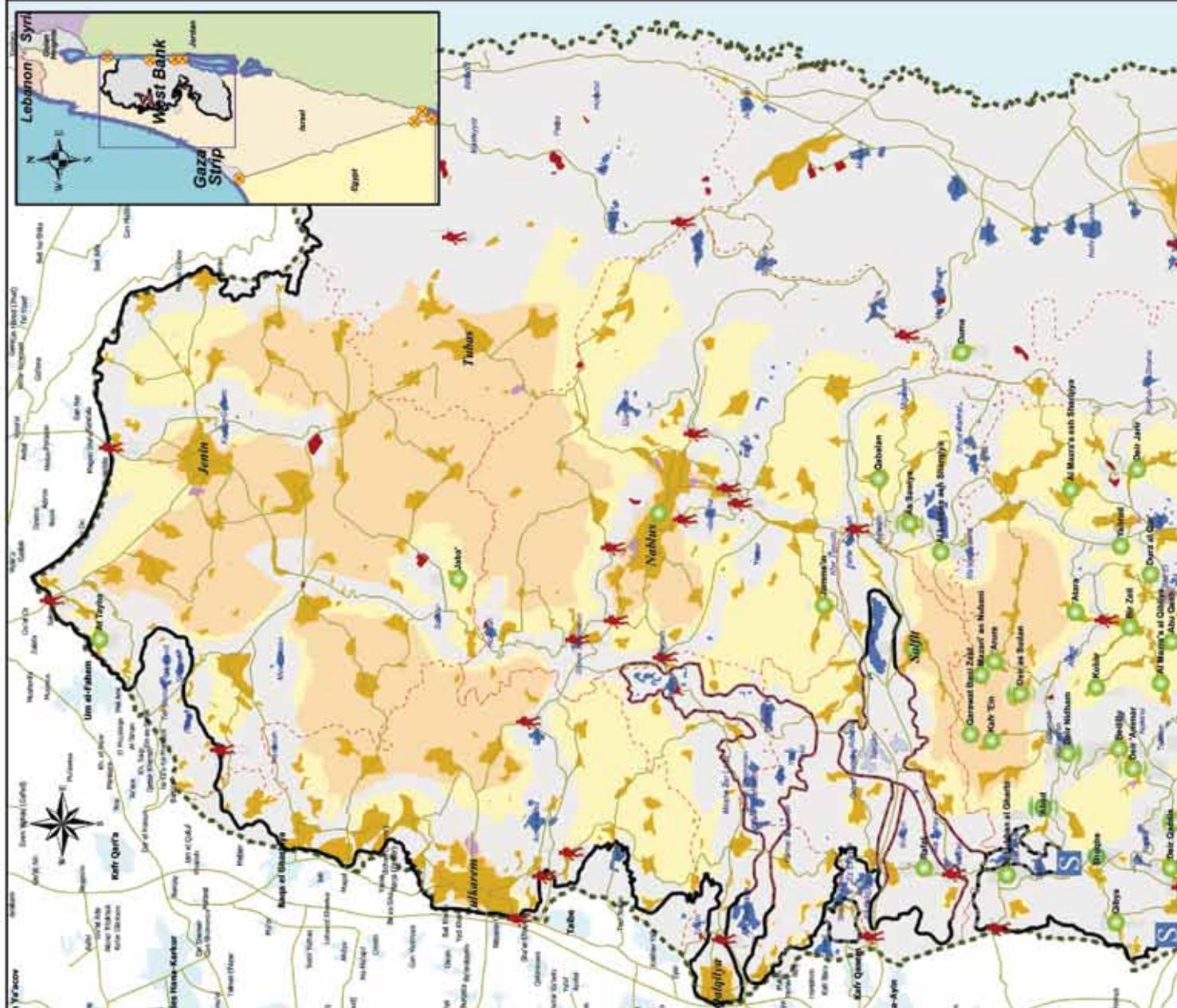
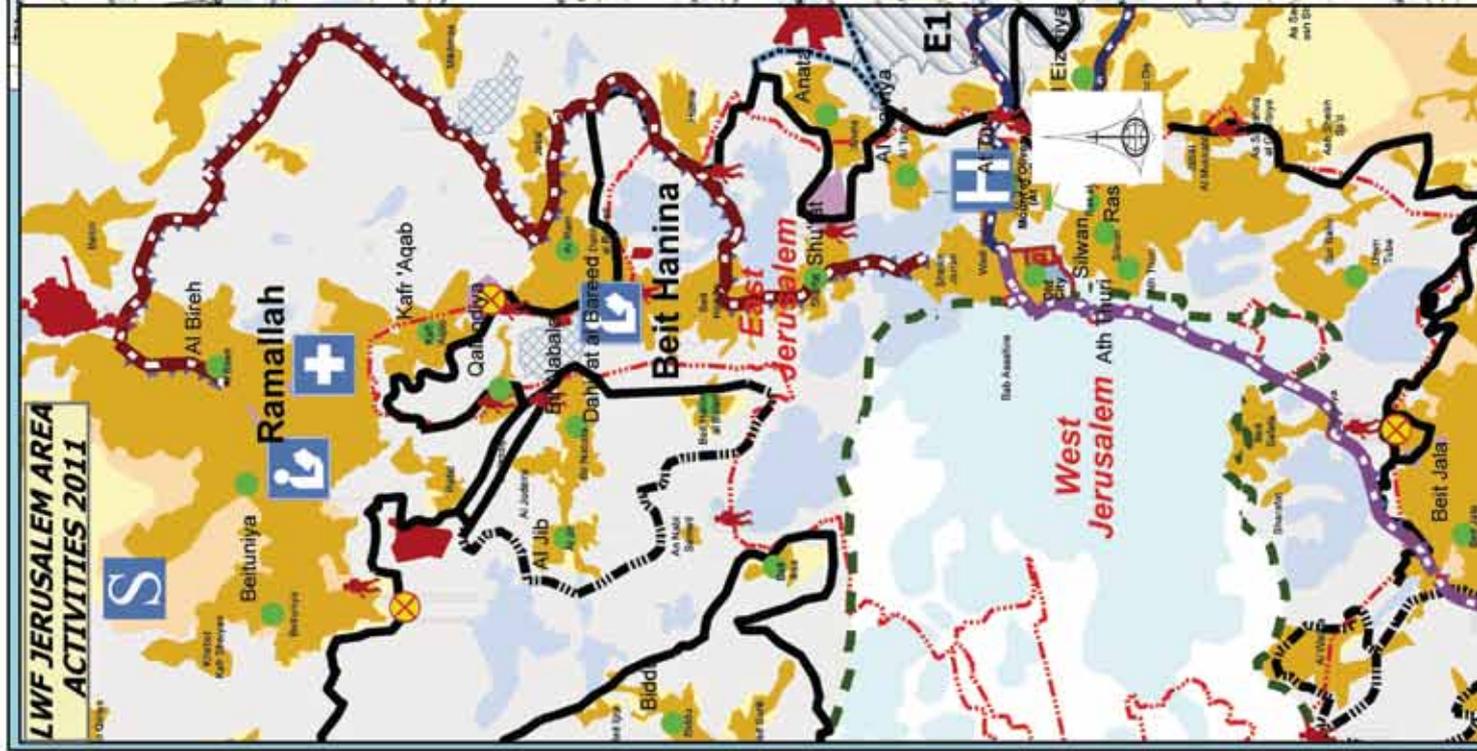
To learn more about assembling school kits, visit the LWR website: www.lwr.org/schoolkits

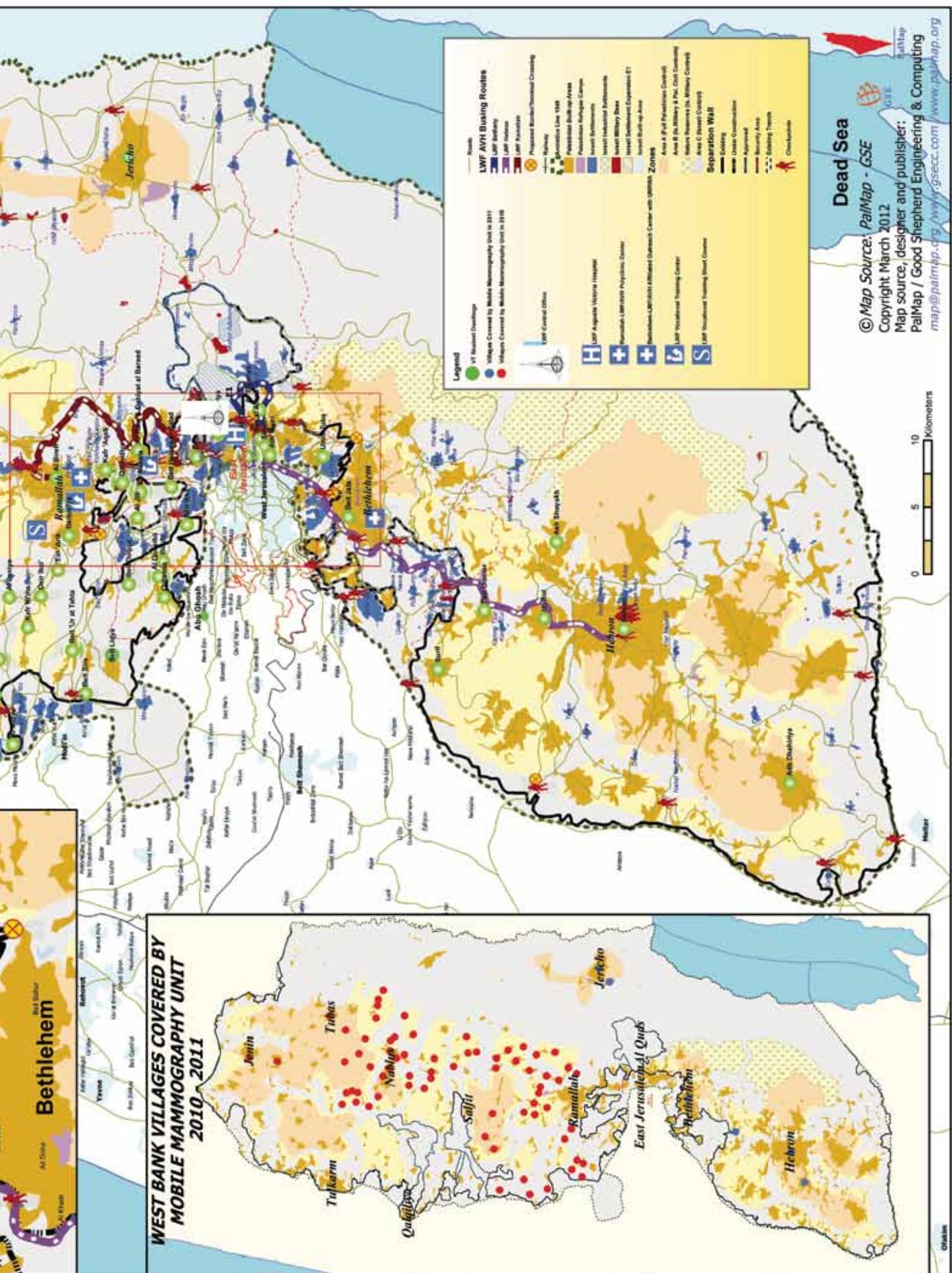
SCHOLARSHIPS

As part of its commitment to protecting the rights of those most marginalized, the LWF promotes access to higher education through educational loans awarded to Palestinian youth. In 2011, the LWF Jerusalem Scholarship Program awarded financial aid to 20 youth - 10 women and 10 men - from Jerusalem and the West Bank to attend university.

A total of approximately 18,000 USD was awarded. The recipients will study at Palestinian universities in the fields of business, engineering, English language, science, accounting, chemistry, pharmacy, nursing, physiotherapy, medicine, journalism, art, French literature, finance and law.

LWF WEST BANK AREA ACTIVITIES 2011







VTP

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM برنامج التدريب المهني

Empowering Youth, Building Civil Society

The Vocational Training Program (VTP), one of the LWF Jerusalem Program's oldest projects, has been providing vocational training to Palestinian youth since 1949. The VTP began on the grounds of Augusta Victoria Hospital, originally offering young men a three-year training program in carpentry, auto-mechanics, or metalwork. In 1964, the VTP moved from the LWF Mount of Olives campus to a new and larger facility in Beit Hanina, a northern neighborhood of Jerusalem, where the Vocational Training Center (VTC) thrives today.

In 2000, the VTC became a co-ed institution and began training women in the profession of telecommunications. Since then, over 120 women have graduated from the VTP.



Female trainees at the VTCR receive practical training in mobile maintenance. The VTCR opened a second class in telecommunications in 2011 due to the high number of female applicants. *Photo by Y. Shalian*

The VTP expanded in 2004, adding a new training center in the industrial zone of the West Bank city of Ramallah. The Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) addressed the need for additional training programs accessible for Palestinians living in the West Bank, as the Israeli-built separation wall continued to isolate them from Jerusalem and Israel. The LWF established the VTCR with a focus on the concepts of apprentice training and satellite outreach to small and isolated villages.



An instructor in the VTC metalwork department explains one of the exercises to a trainee. The metalwork department had the highest employment rate among 2011 VTC male graduates, with 83% finding employment in their field within the first six months after graduation. *Photo by K. Brown*

LWF-VTP By the Numbers:

- In 2011, 492 students received training through the LWF Vocational Training Program
 - 163 students graduated from the program in 2011
 - 96 second-year trainees continued at the VTC in Beit Hanina
 - 191 new students enrolled for the 2011-2012 school year
 - 42 participants completed a short course or upgrade course offered by the VTP
- 38 female trainees were served by the program
- Students training year-round in the VTP can choose from seven courses of study: auto-mechanics, auto-electronics, carpentry, metalwork, aluminum work, telecommunications, and plumbing and central heating.



The top graduates from each department received honors at the LWF Vocational Training Center graduation on June 18, 2011.



65 students celebrated their graduation from the VTCR on July 20, 2011.

Congratulations, graduates!

In the summer of 2011, the LWF Vocational Training Program celebrated the graduation of its 59th class with ceremonies in Beit Hanina and Ramallah. Both ceremonies were held under the auspices of The Right Rev. Dr. Munib A. Younan, LWF President and Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; The Rev. Mark Brown, LWF Regional Representative; and Mr. Yousef Shalian, Director of the LWF Vocational Training Program; and the Program's administration and staff.

"You have worked hard and shown what you can achieve," Rev. Brown said to the graduates during the ceremony. "The skills you have developed will help to build a strong Palestine, and, hopefully, like many graduates before you, you will be role models and mentors for young people in your communities."

Photos courtesy of the LWF VTP



LWF VTP Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 Begins to Take Shape

The LWF Vocational Training Program started in 2011 to develop the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan¹. The approach is participatory and ensures involvement of various stakeholders in the evaluation and in planning its future. Students and trainees, graduates, communities, employers, partners and donors are engaged in the process. Strategic planning sessions involved staff, as well as the Vocational Training Advisory Board. Sessions were based on feedback gathered from stakeholders as well as the review of internal data². The VTP strategic planning is guided by a rights-based approach and global LWF themes.

1. Mission Statement:

Inspired by God's love for humanity, LWF World Service responds to and challenges the causes and consequences of human suffering and poverty. The LWF Jerusalem VTP empowers Palestinian youth through the provision of relevant vocational training aimed at gainful employment which corresponds to their aspirations and contributes to economic and social development in Palestine.

2. Vision Statement:

Palestinian young men and women are fully employed in meaningful, productive work that contributes to their social and economic well-being and to that of their families and communities.

3. Focus Group Definition:

The LWF-VTP priority Focus Group is young female and male Palestinians seeking skills for gainful employment with special regard for youth from marginalized and vulnerable poor families, young women, and refugees/IDPs.

4. Core Values:

The LWF World Service Jerusalem Program in all its actions is guided by its core values.

Dignity and Justice

Every human being is created in God's image, and is thereby gifted with a rich variety of talents and capacities; thus, all persons—independent of their social status or other differences—are to be subjects, rather than objects dominated by others. World Service respects the dignity of every person and supports vulnerable communities in their efforts to achieve justice, human rights and a sustainable future for the human family and the whole creation. World Service facilitates the empowerment of those with whom it works to achieve these ends. **The LWF VTP is committed to providing training that enriches the whole person, fosters self-sufficiency and self-esteem, embraces democratic principles, and strengthens civil society.**

¹ The mission, vision, focus group definition and core values form the foundation of the overall strategic plan to be finalized by the end of 2012.

² Assessments were conducted and facilitated by VT consultant Randa Hilal and supported by international consultant Ralf Lange from FAKT, discussed with the LWF Regional Representative, and the VTP director. The strategic planning sessions conducted in the fall of 2011 with staff and board members were facilitated by Mr. Lange, assisted by Ms. Hilal.

Inclusiveness and Participation

People coming from different backgrounds and circumstances express the richness of God's creation. The approach of World Service reflects the respect for all people's gifts for the sake of the fuller participation and inclusion of all people in society. **The LWF VTP is committed to providing training that is free of gender discrimination and is accessible equally to women and men. The LWF VTP is committed to promoting co-existence, respect, and mutual understanding between youth of different cultures and political and religious backgrounds.**

Accountability and Transparency

World Service maximizes its capabilities through responsible stewardship of all entrusted resources. This is complemented by the highest standards, flexibility and pragmatism in program implementation-balancing accountability towards the affected population and the expectations of partners and back donors. World Service is committed to transparency of its motives and aims, as well as its financial transactions. **The LWF VTP is committed to providing training that is professionally managed, effective and market relevant.**

Compassion and Commitment

World Service cares about people. Inspired by God's love for humanity and preferential option for the poor and marginalized, World Service is committed to provide professional services with compassion for, and commitment to, people in need. **The LWF VTP is committed to providing training for refugees and others living in poverty.**



A small group of VTC boarding section students spent a day harvesting olives in the fall of 2011. Teaching participation and volunteering in the local community is an important aspect of holistic training at the VTP. Every fall, VTP students participate in the annual olive harvest on the LWF's Mount of Olives Campus.
Photo by M. Brown



VTC apprentice Abdullah, a 17-year-old from the Jerusalem neighborhood of Anata, replaces a car tire at his apprenticeship site in Wadi al-Joz. The VTC trainers work closely with local shop owners to provide trainees with continuity between the classroom and their work sites. *Photos by A. Johnson*

VTC Apprenticeship Program Opens Doors for Trainees

Given the success of the apprenticeship program at the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, the VTC-Beit Hanina has introduced an apprenticeship component into all of its departments. After one full year of theoretical and practical training at the VTC, students begin the apprenticeship component, during which they spend one or two days a week in the classroom and the remaining days in a local workshop, guided by a mentor and supervised by the VTC.

In 2011, the VTC sent all 96 second-year trainees to work as apprentices in 64 workshops throughout Jerusalem and the West Bank. The VTP works closely with the private sector to ensure a beneficial and market-relevant experience for the trainees. The partnership with the local market increases the trainees' practical skills and employability and also benefits the employers. Strengthening the local markets is one way in which the VTP contributes to capacity-building for a Palestinian state.

The combination of classroom and market experience provides trainees with a high level of theoretical and practical skills, as well as a network within the local marketplace. When they graduate, trainees have a strong skill set and confidence due to their experiences.



VTC apprentice Diaa, a 17-year-old from Shou'fat refugee camp, poses with auto-mechanic workshop owner Faraj id-Deis. Faraj, whose son graduated from the VTC, has hosted several VTC trainees in his workshop and says he is happy to have a relationship with the center.

Female Trainees Benefit from New Apprenticeship Program

Four female trainees from the Telecommunications Department at the Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina started their year-long apprenticeships in September 2011. They are working in the mobile-maintenance department at Sbitany, the largest company for home appliances and electronics in Palestine.

One of their colleagues, 2011 VTC graduate Yasmin Alayan, says she is glad the VTC incorporated year-long apprenticeships into its program. Yasmin, who is twenty years old and from the Jerusalem neighborhood of Anata, spent two months training at Sbitany during her time as a student at the VTC before year-long apprenticeships were incorporated into the program. Yasmin says her family did not think she would find a job after graduation and were surprised when she easily found work with Sbitany. Her previous experience with them as a trainee made all the difference.

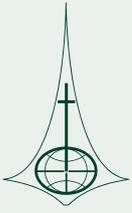
One advantage of the VTC apprenticeship program for female trainees is that it challenges stereotypes and helps to break down barriers for female employment in non-traditional fields. Their apprenticeships provide these female trainees with direct connections to employers and pave the way for employment in the market.



(Left to right) VTC graduate Yasmin Alayan ('11) and VTC apprentices Hadia Ahmad, Rima Qudsi, Isra' Mokuhal and Saja Sweity, work in the mobile maintenance department at Sbitany in Ramallah. The VTC apprenticeship program aims to provide students with the necessary practical tools to find a job after graduation. Sbitany, with over 400 employees and a network of sub-contractors all over the West Bank and East Jerusalem, is an important example of VTC partnership with local Palestinian firms.



Mobile maintenance is one of the key skills taught in the VTC Telecommunications Department. VTC trainee Hadia Ahmad is gaining additional experience in the marketplace through her apprenticeship at Sbitany. Hadia says at first she found it difficult to be in the telecommunications field as a female, but now that she is in the marketplace she sees more and more women and feels empowered to pursue a career. *Photos by A. Johnson*



LWF Vocational Training Program Graduates are Entrepreneurs in their Fields

Omar Malaky, a 2006 graduate of the VTCR auto-mechanics section, says that studying at the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah taught him how to be a “life-long learner”. Three years ago, Omar opened an auto-mechanic and spare parts store in Ramallah with his brother. Omar says that the technical English courses and learning about the diagnostic systems of cars has equipped him for running his own shop.



VTCR graduate Omar Malakay ('06) and VTC graduate Ali Saleem ('98) have opened their own auto-garages right next to each other in Ramallah. The VTP provides ongoing support to its graduates to help them succeed in the market. *Photo by Y. Shalian*

In 2011, Ali Saleem, a 1998 graduate of the Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina, opened his own shop right next door to Omar. Ali has worked as an auto-mechanic since his graduation from the VTC and also completed an upgrade course at the VTCR in 2005. As a graduate of the VTC, Ali has gained the tools for problem-solving in the workshop. He sees this as an important advantage as he tries to manage his own business. Ali is interested in having a VTCR apprentice assigned to his workshop. He welcomes the opportunity to give back to the LWF training program and also potentially to find a good employee.

VTCR Graduates Invest in Their Villages

Laila Khaled, who is 26 years old, lives in Beit 'Ur at Tahta, a small village located to the south of Ramallah. Beit 'Ur at Tahta has a population of 4,500 inhabitants.

In the summer of 2009, Laila graduated from the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah after finishing her training in the telecommunications department. Laila benefited from the support that the VTCR provides to trainees, including tuition fee exemptions and support in transportation costs. After she graduated, Laila became employed in the same workshop where she completed her VTCR apprenticeship.



VTCR graduate Laila Khaled ('09) opened her own mobile maintenance shop in her home village of Beit 'Ur at Tahta. In 2011, the VTCR started a second telecommunications course due to the high number of female applicants. *Photo by Y. Shalian*

As part of the VTCR graduate follow-up support, the VTCR linked Laila with an institution that provided her with a 5,000 USD grant to start a new business in her village. She opened the business, a mobile phone maintenance workshop, in 2011.

She said, "The life skills training I got during my training, the visibility study I did as part of my graduation requirements, and the technical support I am getting from the VTCR helped me in starting my new business."



In the village of Beit Sira, west of Ramallah, VTCR graduate Yousef Abu Safiyeh ('08) opened his own aluminum workshop. Beit Sira is surrounded by the separation wall, settlements and Israeli-only roads. Many VTP graduates return to invest in their home villages. *Photo by A. Johnson*

Only a few kilometers away from Beit 'Ur at Tahta, the village of Beit Sira sits in the shadow of a nearby settlement in the West Bank. 23-year old Yousef Abu Safiyeh graduated from the VTCR aluminum department in 2008 and recently opened his own workshop in his village of Beit Sira.

In recent years, the 4,000 residents of Beit Sira have faced an increasingly difficult living situation because one third of the villagers' land has been taken by the route of the wall and they are not allowed to use the settler-only road that runs adjacent to their small village. To get to Ramallah for class, Yousef had to drive past the road block which leads to the settler-only road and through a narrow tunnel that runs under the road.

Despite these challenges, Yousef is determined to run a successful aluminum workshop in Beit Sira and possibly even add a carpentry section with a fellow VTCR graduate. Yousef remains in close contact with the trainers at the VTCR and is able to receive advice and assistance from the VTCR staff as needed.



VTP Short Courses Offer Flexible Options for a Wide Range of Beneficiaries

The Vocational Training Program serves the broader Palestinian community by providing a series of short courses that serve the most vulnerable and upgrade courses that strengthen the local market.

Outreach courses target unemployed youth living in villages and rural areas affected by the Israeli separation barrier and facing high unemployment. The outreach courses provide the youth with market-relevant skills in a situation where access to vocational training is limited because of poverty rates and mobility restrictions.

In 2011, the VTP offered two upgrade courses for auto-mechanic workers interested in improving their skills to deal with the rapid advances in technology. Without such courses, a worker in this field will not be able to maintain employment in the evolving market.



The Vocational Training Center in Ramallah celebrated the graduation of 13 auto mechanics who completed the 50-hour upgrade course on new car systems. Such courses are very important because they provide workers with up-to-date skills needed to repair new systems in cars. These courses also strengthen the relationship between the VTCR and the private sector and enable the VTCR to find more apprenticeship sites for its trainees. *Photo courtesy of the LWF VTP*

The VTP offered an outreach short course in electrical installation for the unemployed in the West Bank village of Shuqba. Fourteen trainees completed the course in electrical installations.



Fourteen trainees from the West Bank village of Shuqba took advantage of the LWF's outreach course in electrical installations. *Photo by B. Moyer*

Shuqba, with a population of about 4,500, is highly affected by the Israeli separation barrier. Before the separation barrier was constructed, it was easy for men from Shuqba to cross into Israel to find high-paying jobs requiring unskilled labor. Now, Palestinians cannot easily cross into Israel for work. The economy in Shuqba and the surrounding area is stagnant, and as a result there is a high rate of unemployment among both youth and adults.

One of the trainees in the course was Mahmud Jamal, age 34. Mahmud, who is from Shuqba, dropped out of school after eighth grade. He lacked basic skills and struggled to find employment. To support his wife and two children, he resorted to collecting metal scraps to sell.

Through the short course, Mahmud became proficient in electric installations, which allowed him to seek self-employment as an electrician. After an initial investment in an electrician's toolbox, he has been able to complete electrical work in Shuqba and in surrounding neighborhoods.

The Lutheran World Federation Vocational Training Advisory Board

Rev. Robert Bacher (VTAB Chairperson)

ELCA / Executive for Administration (Retired)

Ms. Gudrun Bertinussen*

Norwegian Church Aid

Ms. Ulrike Birkle

LWF - Germany (DNLWKZW)

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. Ulrika Persson

Church of Sweden

Staff:

Ms. Randa Hilal

Vocational Training Consultant

Mr. Yousef Shalian

Director, LWF Vocational Training Program

*Ms. Gudrun Bertinussen joined the VTAB in 2011, replacing Ms. Liv Steimoeggen.

Tool kits are an essential aspect of training at the VTP. Students are usually expected to buy and care for their own tool kits. However, many VTP students are refugees or come from poor families. These students are often unable to afford the tool kits required for their training. Without tool kits, students cannot complete their training and are at a disadvantage in the classroom. Through the help of donations, the LWF VTP assists these students, based on financial need, in purchasing their tool kits. These tool kits serve as important assets for the students throughout their training and as they seek employment. A donation of \$500 provides one tool kit. *Photo by K. Brown*





LWF Vocational Training Program (LWF VTP) Data 2011

LWF VTC, Jerusalem: 2-Year Training-by-Production Program¹

Department	Year the department was Established	No. of Trainees 2011/2012 ²		No. of 2011 Graduates ³
		First Year	Second Year	
Auto-Mechanics	1964	20	21	21
Auto-Electrics	2003	19	17	14
Carpentry	1950	19	15	14
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2000	4	4	2
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2001	15	10	20
Plumbing & Central Heating	1988	20	17	14
Metal Work (Welding, Forging and Aluminum works)	1950	20	12	13
		117	96	98

LWF VTCR, Ramallah: 1-Year Apprenticeship Training Program

Department	Year the department was Established	No. of Trainees 2011/2012 ⁴	No. of 2011 Graduates ⁵
Auto- Mechanics	2004	17	17
Carpentry	2004	13	17
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2004	22	6
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2004	9	10
Aluminum works	2005	13	15
		74	65

Short Courses (Outreach and Upgrading)

System	Type	Duration	# of trainees
VTCR: Electrical installation course in Shuqba village	Village outreach course	Feb. 2011- May 2011	14
VTCR: Upgrading course in auto-mechanics for graduates, workshop owners and employees	Upgrading course for graduates, workshop owners and employees	May-July 2011	13
VTC: Upgrading course in auto-mechanics for local workshop owners and employees supported by COOPI	Upgrading course for graduates, workshop owners and employees	Jan 2011	15

¹ This year the VTC introduced an apprenticeship program during the second year for all trainees.

² All trainees for the 2011/2012 scholastic year as of Dec 2011

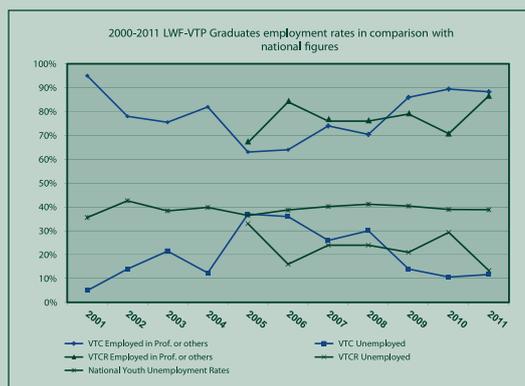
³ 2010/2011 graduates, graduated June 2011

⁴ All trainees for the 2011/2012 scholastic year as of Dec 2011

⁵ 2010/2011 graduates, graduated July 2011

LWF-VTP Graduate Employment Statistics⁶

The LWF VTP 2011 employment rates showed an increase above the national numbers, as indicated in the adjacent graph. Overall, 87.5% of all VTP graduates are employed or self-employed within six months of graduation (88% of VTC graduates and 87% of VTCR graduates), in comparison to the 61.2% employment rate among all youth of the same age in Palestine. The Labor Force Participation Rates (LFPR), or the percent of all persons actively engaged in work or in seeking work, reached 95% among VTP graduates, compared to 25.8% of Palestine's youth in the same age group⁷.

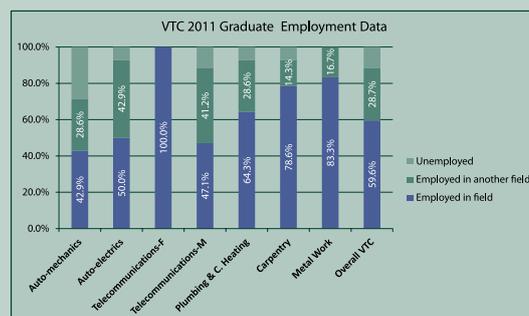


As the graph above indicates, the VTC employment rates remained over 85% for the third year in a row. These high rates are largely achieved due to an increased link between training and the local market, achieved through the apprenticeship system of the three main departments during the past years, as well as to planned and monitored training of trainees within industry. Building on the VTCR apprenticeship model, in 2011 the VTC started apprenticeship training for all professions. 23.5% of the graduates who participated in the pilot apprenticeship program at the VTC and who are now employed within their professions are working in the same place they trained in. Similarly, 39% of the VTCR graduates employed in their professions are working in the same place they trained in.

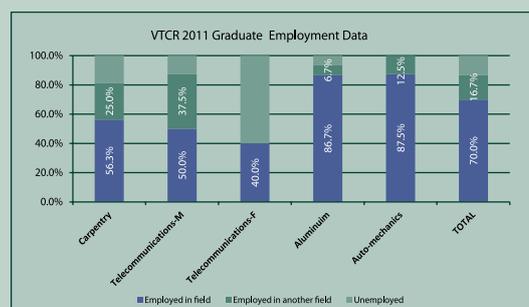
The VTCR employment rates have risen this year to 87%, due to interventions carried out by trainers to assist graduates in their employment, particularly female graduates. The increase of VTCR market relations and the opportunity for some trainees to apprentice at more than one location have played an important role in this regard. Nevertheless, some of the graduates that were employed have terminated their employment due to low salaries, or improper work conditions, which highlights the importance of advocating for just labour laws, worker protection, and monitoring of the work environment.

Employment Statistics by Profession

Metal work, carpentry, and plumbing and central heating were the highest employment fields for male graduates in the VTC in 2011. All fields are linked to the highly active construction industry. There were only two female VTC graduates in 2011 and the trainer was involved in finding employment for both. Additionally, the period for training before graduation for the profession increased, which provided them with higher market relevant skills.



The VTCR graduate employment data reflects the highest employment in the profession of auto-mechanics and aluminum. As in previous years, employment of women remained the lowest. In focus groups conducted with women graduates, they highlighted poor working conditions and low salary as the main obstacles for their employment.



⁶ Annual tracer study is done for graduates within six-months- to 1 year of graduation. 97% completed the survey.

⁷ Source for national figure is the PCBS, Labour Force Survey, Annual Report 2010.



From Tree to Table

Olive Oil from the LWF Jerusalem Campus Supports Augusta Victoria Hospital



The olive tree is a way of life in Palestine. Having withstood the wintertime freezes and summertime droughts, by October its branches bear plump green and purple

olives ready for harvest. The olive fruits are a valuable commodity for their nutrition and oil, and the olivewood is a beautiful hardwood that burns cleanly and carves smoothly. For thousands of years, olive trees have flourished in the Mediterranean region and become a symbol of hope in the midst of the desert.

Following a year of low rainfall and unfavorable weather conditions, Palestine experienced a poor olive harvest in 2011. For some families, this is only one of many hardships as the Israeli separation barrier isolates them from their fields and settler attacks on Palestinian farmers and fields were frequently in the news.

Despite the poor weather conditions, the LWF Jerusalem Program harvested nearly 9,000 pounds of olives with the help of LWF staff and volunteers. The olives are pressed into fresh, golden olive oil at the nearby Latroun Monastery and used throughout the year in the Augusta Victoria Hospital kitchen. The rest is available to LWF visitors and friends, accompanied by hand-blown glass decanters made with recycled glass by Palestinian artisans working in Hebron. The oil is distributed around the world to raise money for Augusta Victoria Hospital programs.



Photo by A. Johnson



LWF staff members sort through olives from the 2011 olive harvest. The olives are cleaned and pressed at the Latroun Monastery into the pure oil that is shipped around the world to raise money for the Augusta Victoria Hospital "Fund for the Poor". Photo by K. Brown

Support AVH through the Olive Tree!

Through the olive tree, you can support the work of the LWF and Augusta Victoria Hospital. All donations go toward the AVH "Fund for the Poor," which helps to cover the hospital's operating costs and fees of patients unable to pay for necessary medical treatments.

Order Olive Oil:

When shipped through the mail, olive oil can be ordered in cases of ten or more decanters, for a requested minimum donation of \$30 per decanter. The decanters will be shipped empty with the olive oil in a separate container to reduce breakages of the hand-blown glass during shipping.

Donate an Olive Tree:

For a donation of \$1,000 or more, an olive tree will be planted on the LWF Mount of Olives campus. The donation will be commemorated with a personalized plaque in the LWF Jerusalem central office.

Volunteer for the Olive Harvest:

Tourists, pilgrims, students and others who are in Jerusalem during the harvest season are welcome to donate a half-day or more picking olives in the LWF grove. It is a marvelous experience of which we welcome you to be a part!

To make a donation for olive oil or an olive tree for the campus, or to make a contribution generally to the LWF Jerusalem Program, please send a check made payable to "The Lutheran World Federation" to:

Rev. Mark B. Brown

The Lutheran World Federation
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Members of the LWF-Jerusalem central office and Augusta Victoria Hospital senior staff braved the cold November rain to harvest olives on the LWF campus. Despite the hard labor it requires, the olive harvest is an age-old tradition for Palestinian families and a time of celebration and fellowship. The annual harvesting day has become a tradition for the LWF staff who gather in the olive grove each fall to support the hospital.

Photo by K. Brown



Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program

DONORS 2011

The LWF is grateful to the many groups and individuals who have supported the Jerusalem Program in 2011, including:

Aghavni Habash • Aida Haddad • Rev. Alison Shaw • Anna Johnson • Anna Schattauer • Anne Koch Hansen • Arlyn & Marcia Lanting • Ashley & Matt Price • Barbara Hoyt • Barbara & Michael Breads • Rev. Beth M. Warpmaeker • Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven, Connecticut • Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN • Bobby Lee • Brandon Hagenbuch • Brian Duss • Bruce Duss • Bruce Moyer & JoAnn Bowman • Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarkston, Michigan • Carl D. Onofrio • Central Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon • Central Lutheran Church Women, Eugene, Oregon • Christ The King Lutheran Church, Nashua, New Hampshire • Christian Peacemaker Teams • Christine Mummert • Church of Sweden-In Honor of Bishop Munib A. Younan • COOPI International • Custodia Di Terra Santa F.F.H.L. • Dagmar Lassman • Dale M. Crouse • Daniel & Marjorie Bergeland • Rev. David Wunderlich • Rev. David Johnson Group, Trinity Lutheran Church, New Holland, Pennsylvania & Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania • Derek Brommerich • Dianne Witte & Richard Ford • Edda Freidank • ELCA Leaders Fact Finding Group • ELCA-Nebraska Synod Group • Rev. Elizabeth McHan • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneva • Finn Edwardsen • First Lutheran Church WELCA, Bothell, Washington • First Lutheran Church WELCA, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota • Friends of Sabeel, Colorado • Gail Marie Chupick • Garry Mihaichuk • Gary Gillespie • Gil & Frans Schultz • Gordon Edwards • Grace Lutheran Church, Palo Alto, California • Gregory & Mary Steeber • Helle Paulsen • I. Ruth Hansen • Rev. Jack Mithelman Group • Jan Ogden • Jerusalem Expat Network • James Cahalan • Rev. Jim Lindus-In Memory of Donald Leroy Trackwell (1915-2006) • Jodie Lee • Rev. John Cockram • Josh Swank • Julianne Johnson • Karen & Ron Danielson • Karin Stilling Krogh • Kathryn D. Jensen • Kathryn Talbot • Rev. Kathy Gerking • Katrine Krogh • Kay Scheetz • Kelly Sullivan & Jared Teslow • Kim Smith • Knut & Ann Aagaard • Krista Kopchick • Linford & Violet Moyer • Lois Schlachter • Lorraine Dibbert • Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Foundation, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Lutheran Church of the Redeemer English Speaking Congregation, ELCJHL, Jerusalem • Rev. Mark & Susanne Brown • Rev. Mark & Marcia Holman • Mark & Melissa Steiner • Marlys & Robert Shaff • Martha Maier • Martin B. Hillila • Mary Ardner • Masroji Pharmaceutical Company • Meaghan D. Byrne • Meredith Harber • Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Nancy Wissink • New Hope Lutheran Church, Missouri City, Texas • Niemeh Ateek • Novo Nordex Co. • Patricia Sellick • Rev. Paul Sinnott • Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD • Permanent Qatar Committee • Peter Miller • Peter Misleh • Productivity Inc • Ralph & Laurel Doermann • Raquel & Olaf Stutenbaecker • Raymond S. Totah • Redeemer Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio • Maj. Richard Kameel Cassem • Richard Dowhower • Robert Granke • Robert Shaff • Roland Schlott • Rev. Rolf Svanoë • Rosemary Dean • Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, Hickory, North Carolina • Student Congregation of Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota-In Honor of Andy Willis • Saint Olaf College Group, Northfield, Minnesota • Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa • Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, Streator, Illinois • Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona, Wisconsin-In Memory of Cynthia Burnside • Sandra Hudson • Sharon Homan • Sirpa Rissanen • Rev. Suzanne Wagner • Suzette C. Jensen • Rev. Sven Oppegaard • Sylvia L. Campbell • Tara J. Young • Timothy & Emily Fries • Rev. Timothy J. Keyl • Todd Readinger & Susan Schultze • Tommy Whitt • Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland, Washington • Trinity Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, Indiana • Tyler Hauger • Members of the U.S. Consulate Olive Picking Group • Valerie A. Bartl • Vibeke Borum • Virginia J.Pace • Virginia Schlegel • Wartburg College Alumni Group

Donors to the Mount of Olives Housing Project in 2011:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission • Lutheran Church of the Redeemer English Speaking Congregation, ELCJHL, Jerusalem

The Lutheran World Federation
Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program

FINANCIAL DATA 2011

Donations Received Through Geneva: (in Euro)	
Bread for the World	116,344
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	44,706
Church of Sweden	532,126
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America	271,546
Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission	81,260
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.(EED)	96,100
GNC-HA Deutscher Hauptausschuss	59,320
Evangelical Lutheran Church In Geneva	425
Other donors	51
Sub Total	1,201,878

Income Received Locally: (in Euro)	
Norwegian Church Aid / Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	627,172
Norwegian Church Aid	65,175
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America	55,141
Lutheran World Relief	55,768
Welfare Association	305,190
Chemonics International Inc.	37,402
Chemonics International Inc. - In-kind	3,863,344
PNA - Ministry of Finance	197,389
Representative Office of Finland	50,000
Sub Total	5,256,581

Income Received Locally: (in Euro)					
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Revenues					
Vocational Training Program	942,366	862,302	817,701	791,091	767,433
Scholarship Program	17,981	16,089	17,308	21,670	15,460
Augusta Victoria Hospital (Operations)	16,131,607	12,424,725	9,538,652	9,432,445	7,038,136
Village Health Clinics	99,918	98,069	147,614	190,676	154,748
Emergency through ACT	44,585	33,716	0	0	0
Expenses					
Vocational Training Program	942,366	862,302	817,701	791,091	767,433
Scholarship Program	17,981	16,089	17,308	21,670	15,460
Augusta Victoria Hospital	15,815,273	11,160,358	8,922,481	8,293,867	5,965,631
Village Health Clinics	99,918	98,069	147,614	190,676	154,748
Emergency through ACT	44,585	33,716	0	0	0



The Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program

VISITORS 2011

In 2011, the LWF Jerusalem Program received hundreds of visitors who came to witness the LWF's work in the region. Many of them toured Augusta Victoria Hospital and the site of the Mount of Olives Housing Project, traveled to see the Vocational Training Centers in Beit Hanina and Ramallah, or helped in the olive harvest.

The visiting individuals, churches, delegations and groups included:

Churches for Middle East Peace Delegation, Washington, D.C. • St. Olaf College Group, Northfield, Minnesota • Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Group • Rev. Dr. Lowell Stime Group from Seattle, Denver, Modesto & San Antonio • David & Innes Wunderlich, Canada • World Council of Churches Delegation • Rolf Gunnar Heitmann, Norwegian Church Ministry to Israel • Peter Prove Family • Rev. Helle Bundgaard Poulsen Group, Denmark • Sabeel International Conference Group • Rev. Heidi Torgerson-Martinez, ELCA • United Church of Christ Group, Iowa • Rev. Mark & Miriam Hoelter Group, Portland, Oregon • Rev. John Cockram, Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church Group, Sun City, Arizona • Rev. David Sloop, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Group, Raleigh, North Carolina • Rev. Bruce R. Glover, USAF, Arlington, Virginia • Rev. Beth Warpmæker Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Bishop Wille Riekkinen Delegation I, Finland • Finn Edvardsen Group, Helsing, Denmark • Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Group, Apple Valley, Minnesota • Dr. Kam Kalantar & Craig Scott • Sabeel "Way of the Cross" Group • Grace Lutheran Church Group, Palo Alto, California • Bishop Wille Riekkinen Delegation II, Finland • Rev. Jim Lindus, Trinity Lutheran Church Group, Freeland, Washington • Joanne Fairley, Lutheran World Relief • Icelandic Delegation, Reykjavik • Delegation of Ecumenical Youth Organizations, Uppsala, Sweden • Swedish Bishops Delegation • Rev. Darlis Swan Group of ELCA clergy • Sebastian Schneider Group, North-Elbian Lutheran Church of Germany • Dr. Chip Bouzard, Wartburg College Alumni Group, Waverly, Iowa • Roland Schlott, LWF/World Service • Anglican-Lutheran International Commission • Rev. Thomas Dodd & Andrea Bakas, RN, United Lutheran Church, Eugene, Oregon • Rabbi David Rosen, American Jewish Committee Delegation • Global Ministries' Council of Theological Students, United Church of Christ & Disciples of Christ • John Lindner, Yale Divinity School • Rev. Dave Keck, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Hickory, North Carolina • ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission, Jerusalem / West Bank • Mona Sahlin, Member of Parliament, Sweden • Lena Scherman, Church of Sweden • Rev. Rudolf Hinz, University of Kiel Group, Germany • Elaine Peters, Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Swedish Theological Institute Journalist Group • Rev. Timo Frilander, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission • Arlyn Lanting, Holland, Michigan • Gary Gillespie Group, Salt Lake City, Utah • Erik Lysén, Church of Sweden • Beth & Kent Horsager, Todd Readinger & Susan Schultze, Minnesota • Eidsvoll College Group, Norway • Nesbru High School, Norway • Steve Quill & Christel Beldin Group, New Hope Lutheran, Missouri City, Texas • Dr. Per Anderson & Dr. Mark Krejci, Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota • Rev. Jan Lookingbill Group, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bethesda, Maryland • Greg Buck & representatives of Productivity Inc, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst • Rev. David Johnson Group, Trinity Lutheran Church, New Holland, Pennsylvania & Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania • Jennifer & John Grosvenor, Central Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon • Rev. Tim Keyl, New England Synod Delegation • Rev. Rolf Svanoë Group, Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota • Anglican International School Jerusalem • U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem • Lutheran Church of the Redeemer English-Speaking Congregation • Rev. Jack Mithelman Group, Iowa City, Iowa • Schmidt School, Jerusalem • Seeds of Peace • Jerusalem Expat Network • International Conference on Faith-Based Health • Rev. Ian Galloway, Church & Society Council, the Church of Scotland • Compassion, Peace & Justice Unit, Presbyterian Church (USA) • Telos Group Hybels Delegation • Brot für die Welt • Rev. Lara Janssen Group, California • U.S. Consul General in Jerusalem, Daniel Rubenstein • Scott Thams, Southeast Michigan Group • Rev. Dr. Thomas Schattauer & Dr. Paula Carlson, Northfield, Minnesota • Delegation led by The Right Reverend David Arnott, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland • The Very Rev. Ragnhild Jepsen, Dean of Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim, Norway • LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital Board of Governance • LWF Vocational Training Advisory Board • LWF Mount of Olives Housing Project Committee • United Nations Relief and Works Agency • World Health Organization • United States Agency for International Development • DanChurchAid • Norwegian Church Aid

Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, visited the LWF Jerusalem campus

Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, visited the Lutheran World Federation's campus in East Jerusalem on February 2, 2012. Mrs. Ban, who has for many years devoted her attention to women's and children's health, was accompanied by Mr. Felipe Sanchez, Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Operations in the West Bank.



Photo by A. Johnson

Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), and Rev. Mark Brown, the LWF Regional Representative, received the guests and spoke about the historic relationship between AVH and UNRWA, as well as present day issues of access to healthcare facing Palestinians.

The LWF began working with UNRWA and the International Committee of the Red Cross more than sixty years ago in order to establish Augusta Victoria as a hospital for refugees. With significant support from UNRWA, AVH became the largest hospital in the area and played a key role in the provision of secondary healthcare to Palestinian refugees after the 1948 war. Today, AVH is a leading specialty hospital in East Jerusalem and continues to serve Palestinian refugees in this capacity.



Photo by A. Johnson

WCC General Secretary and Norwegian Representative to the Palestinian Authority Visited Augusta Victoria Hospital

Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, Norwegian Representative to the Palestinian Authority, and Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, a Norwegian Lutheran theologian and General Secretary of the World Council of Churches since 2010, visited Augusta Victoria Hospital early in 2012.

Dr. Nasser and Rev. Brown emphasized the role of Augusta Victoria Hospital as a specialty care facility providing access to treatment for Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. The AVH Cancer Care Center is the only facility in the West Bank and Gaza where Palestinians can receive radiation treatment.

Special attention was given to projects supported by the Norwegian government, Norwegian churches and church associations, and other Norwegian institutions. The hospital's second medical linear accelerator, which provides radiation treatment to cancer patients, is installed within the \$1.2-million chamber donated by the Government of Norway through Norwegian Church Aid.

Many referrals for treatment at the hospital come directly from the all-female team of Palestinian physicians, nurses and technicians that staff the hospital's Mobile Mammography Unit (MMU), donated by the people and government of Norway.



During a visit by the AVH Board, the AVH Director of Cancer Screening explained the objectives of the mobile mammography program at an UNRWA camp in Jericho.

Photo by M. Brown



The Lutheran World Federation

Department for World Service – Jerusalem Program

JERUSALEM PROGRAM SENIOR STAFF

I. LWF CENTRAL OFFICE

Mark Brown	Regional Representative
Alex Kuttab	Director of Finance
Atif Rimawi	Director of Human Resources

II. AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL (AVH) and OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Tawfiq Nasser	Chief Executive Officer
Atif Rimawi	Director of Administration and Human Resources
Basem Sweis	Director, Department of Medical Staff Affairs
William Hadweh	Director, Department of Nursing
Alex Kuttab	Chief Financial Officer
Amira Juha	Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Muhammad Khweis	Director, Department of Public Services, Buildings and Grounds
Ahmad Abu-Halaweh	Director, Department of Community Programs and Diabetes Care Center
Siham Awwad	Director, Cancer Screening and Early Detection Programs
Kholoud Ashab	Director, Department of Pharmaceutical Services
Raheed Rjoub	Director, Department of Patient Information and External Contracting
Hanan Issa	Director, Department of Quality and Patient Safety

III. VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM (VTP)

Yousef Shalian	VTP Director
Thaer Shqair	VTP Quality Controller
Randa Hilal	Vocational Training Consultant

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – BEIT HANINA (VTC)

Mahmoud 'Adarbeh	VTC Deputy Director; Department Head - Theory
Peter Jahshan	Workshop Coordinator
Saliba Bannoura	Department Head - Carpentry
Munir Qreitem	Department Head - Auto Mechanics
Gabi Kamel	Department Head - Metalwork & Aluminum
Izzat Hamdan	Department Head - Plumbing & Heating
Majdi Bakri	Department Head - Telecommunications
Mahmoud Khatib	Department Head - Boarding

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – RAMALLAH (VTCR)

Thaer Shqair	VTCR Deputy Director
Amer Khalaf	Short Courses Coordinator

IV. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Suad Freij	Supervisor
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The Lutheran World Federation has been serving the needs of Palestinian refugees in the Palestinian Territories for more than 60 years. As a major Christian presence on the Mount of Olives, the LWF/DWS Jerusalem Program provides essential health care, vocational training, scholarships and material aid, and promotes justice, peace and reconciliation. This service, or “diakonia,” is the embodiment, through human actions, of God’s love for the world, and it is the very essence of what it means to be the church in a place suffering from poverty and injustice.



Front Cover:

A pediatric dialysis patient proudly displays the coloring she has done as part of the psycho-social care facilitated for children at Augusta Victoria Hospital’s Specialized Child Care Center. *Photo by K. Brown*



Back Cover:

A carpentry instructor and trainee work together to complete a bookshelf at the Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina. *Photo by K. Brown*

actalliance is an alliance of 125 churches and church-related organizations that work together in humanitarian assistance and development. The alliance works in 140 countries and mobilizes USD 1.6 billion annually in its work for a just world and has over 33,000 people working for it globally.

LWF Jerusalem 2011 Annual Report

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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 145 member churches in 79 countries all over the world representing over 70 million Christians.

The Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service (DWS) is the relief and development arm of the LWF. Drawing on a firm commitment to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed, DWS works in 32 countries with local and international partners to alleviate suffering, combat injustice and poverty, and lay the foundation for a life in dignity for all.

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

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