# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**FOREWORD** | 1-6  
**AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL (AVH) | 7-22**  
Serious Medicine, Caring Staff | 7  
AVH Responds to Dire Needs in Gaza | 8  
AVH Remains Committed to Community Health | 10  
AVH Strives to Empower Invaluable Staff | 12  
AVH Psychosocial Care Unit: Providing Holistic Care | 16  
AVH Development Projects Update | 18  
Recipe from the CEO’s Kitchen | 20  
AVH Board of Governance | 21  
Statistics, 2014 | 22  

**SCHOLARSHIPS and MATERIAL AID | 23**  

**MAP of LWF JERUSALEM PROGRAM ACTIVITIES | 24-25**  

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM (VTP) | 26-37**  
Overview | 26  
VTP Development Projects Update | 28  
VTP Graduates Impact Their Communities | 30  
Women’s Empowerment Remains Focus | 32  
VTP Short Courses Provide Invaluable Skills | 33  
Vocational Training Advisory Board | 34  
Statistics, 2014 | 35  

**SYRIAN REFUGEE PROGRAM in JORDAN | 38-41**  

**LWF OLIVE OIL from the MOUNT OF OLIVES | 42-43**  

**VISITORS, 2014 | 44-45**  

**DONORS, 2014 | 46**  

**JERUSALEM PROGRAM FINANCIAL DATA | 47**  

**LWF JERUSALEM PROGRAM SENIOR STAFF | 48**
FOREWORD

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Department for World Service
Jerusalem Program

In reporting on the work and achievements of the LWF Jerusalem Program in 2014, it is important to underline how traumatic this past year has been for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and to acknowledge the context in which we are attempting to serve.

The United Nations report, “Fragmented Lives”, documents the escalation in violence in 2014. According to the report, the civilian death toll among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza was higher than in any year since 1967, while there was also a marked increase in Israeli casualties due to the Gaza hostilities and increased tensions in Jerusalem. A total of 2,314 Palestinians and 87 Israelis were killed as a result of conflict-related violence in 2014. During the July-August hostilities in Gaza there were 1,492 Palestinian civilian fatalities, including 551 children, and four Israeli civilian fatalities, including one child.

The “Fragmented Lives” report states that more than 100,000 Palestinians remain displaced in the Gaza Strip as of the end of December 2014. In the West Bank, more Palestinians were displaced in 2014 due to house demolitions and other measures than in any other year since the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs began tracking this indicator in 2008. At the same time, the UN report notes that Israeli settlement expansion continued in the West Bank “contrary to international law, and at the expense of the housing, livelihood and development needs of Palestinian communities.” The report describes the movement and access restrictions that “impede access to services and resources, disrupt family and social life, undermine livelihoods and compound the fragmentation of the occupied Palestinian territory.”

The conditions are ripe for renewed armed conflict in 2015. Former US President Jimmy Carter wrote in March 2015 that, “Nearly seven months after the end of the latest war in Gaza, none of the underlying causes of the conflict have been addressed.” In an article titled, “Rebuild Gaza, and avert the next war”, President Carter called for “sustained pressure to implement reconciliation agreements between Fatah and Hamas and to end Israel’s closure of Gaza.” According to the former US President: “Ultimately, only a peace agreement that grants freedom to self-governed Palestinians can bring the security that both the Israeli and Palestinian people deserve. As long as Palestinians remain divided, it will be difficult for any leader to sell to the Palestinian people a peace agreement with Israel. Absent such an agreement, lifting the closure and jump-starting Gaza’s reconstruction can do much to avert the next war.”

An article in The Guardian in March 2015, “Jerusalem at boiling point of polarization and violence – EU report”, refers to a leaked EU report that warns that “the city has reached a dangerous boiling point . . . not seen since the end of the second intifada in 2005.” According to The Guardian article: “The leaked report describes the emergence of a ‘vicious cycle of violence … increasingly threatening the viability of the two-state solution’, which it says has been stoked by the continuation of ‘systematic’ settlement building by Israel in ‘sensitive areas’ of Jerusalem.”

1
AVH RESPONSE TO THE WAR IN GAZA

On 1 August 2014 a team of four physicians and one nurse from various AVH departments arrived in Gaza to provide emergency and intensive care in three hospitals. Shortly after the first team of AVH specialists arrived, another team of physicians from departments such as intensive care, surgery, oncology, gynecology, internal medicine and pediatrics, was quickly dispatched with more supplies. As an additional aspect of its emergency response, AVH assisted in evacuating and receiving wounded casualties during the war. Twelve surgical and four intensive care beds were reserved, and on 31 July 2014, AVH received its first trauma patient from Gaza. [see pages 8-9]
AVH BRINGS DIABETES CARE TO GAZA

With funding from the World Diabetes Foundation, AVH has responded to public demand and established a presence and services for its diabetes program in Gaza. The hospital made an agreement with the Health Work Committees, a local Gaza NGO that also runs a hospital, and the clinic opened in 2014. AVH provided the clinic with items of equipment and supplies and it is now one of the most successful models in the country for implementing diabetes care. This coming year, AVH will focus on juvenile diabetes and how to provide better education for patients and their families about this issue.

DIABETES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

New initiatives in 2014 include a community health program targeting diabetes. AVH medical specialists and nurses travel throughout southern Palestine on a daily basis to provide quality diabetic care to surrounding villages. AVH has also continued to improve its state-of-the-art diabetes center on the Mount of Olives campus in Jerusalem. The Mobile Mammography Unit, founded in 2010, continues to engage the community in breast cancer awareness. (see pages 10 – 11)

AVH 2014 CASH CRISIS

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), and the AVH board, together with LWF member churches and related agencies, intensified their advocacy work in 2014 in order to address the cash flow crisis resulting from delays in payments for patient treatment by the Palestinian Authority (PA).

As a result of vigorous advocacy efforts, the EU and USAID made designated payments to the PA intended to reduce the amount of money owed by the PA to AVH and other East Jerusalem hospitals. AVH received 44,000,000 NIS [New Israeli Shekels] in July 2014 from the European Union via the PA, and in November 2014, AVH received 50,192,646 NIS from USAID via the PA. These substantial payments, along with some monthly payments from the PA, covered the PA debts owed prior to May 2014.

These payments enabled AVH to ensure that all AVH staff salaries were paid in full, that all loans were eliminated, that the vast majority of the AVH debts to medical and pharmaceutical suppliers were paid, and, most importantly, that AVH was not forced to interrupt its life-saving oncology and nephrology treatments.
The PA continues to refer patients to AVH for cancer and other treatment not available in Gaza or the West Bank. The PA made one payment to the AVH of one million NIS in December 2014, but soon fell behind again early in 2015 in its patient referral payments to all East Jerusalem hospitals, including AVH. PA referrals to AVH alone cost between $2 and $2.5 million per month. As of the end of December 2014, the PA owed AVH 64.67 million NIS (or approximately $16.6 million) for the period from 15 May 2014 to 31 December 2014.

The PA’s financial situation is exacerbated by the decision of the Israeli government to freeze hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues, and also by the possibility of restrictions imposed by the U.S. Congress on assistance in response to PA plans to join the International Criminal Court (ICC). Securing budgetary assistance for the PA was also made more difficult due to other financial pressures in the region, including the rebuilding of Gaza after last summer’s war and relief efforts for Syrian refugees.

The LWF continues to monitor these and other developments affecting the ability of the PA to cover the costs of its referrals to all East Jerusalem hospitals, including AVH, and encourages advocacy by friends and partners.

### AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

The Lutheran World Federation established relief programming for Syrian refugees in Jordan in late 2012. The LWF continued to provide support for basic human needs in 2014.

As of 1 July 2014, management of the LWF work in Jordan was transferred from the LWF Jerusalem Program to the LWF Jordan Program. Mr. Rifat Kassis began serving as LWF Representative in Amman in early January 2015. (see pages 38-41)

### MOUNT OF OLIVES BUILDING AND RENOVATION PROJECTS

Due to the war in Gaza, renovation of the Specialized Surgical Care Center was delayed until all the wounded patients treated at AVH could return to Gaza. Renovation of the center got underway in late 2014. Renovation of the AVH Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Department was completed in July 2014. Other work on the campus, such as the paving of a large parking lot and the strengthening of a building weakened by earthquakes, was also accomplished in the past year. (see pages 18–19)

Construction of the Elder Care and Palliative Medicine Institute, to be located in a field to the east of Augusta Victoria Hospital, could begin as early as the summer or fall of 2015. The new building will have 148 beds for elder care and palliative care and will focus on the alleviation of symptoms of serious illnesses and their side effects.

Planning for the Mount of Olives Housing Project (MOHP), to be located on the western slope of the Mount of Olives property, is proceeding. The tatasr registration was completed in early 2015, clearing the way for an application for a construction line. The proposed project would offer 115 affordable housing units, including guest housing, independent living, staff housing and assisted living.
VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM (VTP)

Several developments took place at the LWF Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina during 2014. In May, the VTC announced the opening of a newly renovated and fully equipped Plumbing and HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) Department. In October, the LWF center in Beit Hanina received two generous donations from Haas Automation and Productivity, Inc. The addition of a CNC tool room lathe and tool room mill will enable the students at the VTC in Beit Hanina to train with the most modern and computerized equipment. (see pages 28 – 29)

The LWF and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) formed a committee in 2013 regarding the localization of the VTP. The committee submitted its recommendations in mid-2014 to the LWF and the ELCJHL. A joint LWF/ELCJHL working group has been formed to address the conditions for localization outlined by the localization committee.

On Saturday, 21 June 2014, the LWF Vocational Training Program celebrated the graduation of its 62nd class. The class of 222 graduates, including 52 females, joined the ever-growing alumni community of the VTP. (See page 26)
Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East

The LWF and the ACT Palestine Forum, partners in offering humanitarian services in the West Bank and Gaza, initiated a prayer vigil in 2012 for the Christian communities in Palestine and Israel, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world.

This global ecumenical prayer vigil began on 24 December 2012 and will continue across the globe, on the 24th of every month, until the Israeli occupation is dismantled, violence in the Middle East ends, and all can celebrate a just and lasting negotiated resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The vigil is coordinated by the ACT Palestine Forum.

Go to: www.actpalestineforum.org and click on “Prayer Vigil for Middle East Peace” for updates and more information.
AVH

AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL
مستشفى المطلع (أوغستا فكتوريا)

Serious Medicine...
Caring Staff

Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) is a program of the Lutheran World Federation Department for World Service in Jerusalem. It was initiated in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) following the 1948 war as a major medical facility in Jerusalem to care for Palestinian refugees. Today, most of the patients served by AVH still rely on social assistance and are seeking life-saving specialized care.

After serving for many years as a secondary care hospital, AVH is becoming a specialized center of medical excellence. In addition, AVH is building complementary community programs that support these specialties by promoting screening, early detection, and health education.

The specialty care centers and departments at the hospital are:

- The Cancer Care Center
- The Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Center
- The Kidney Care Center
- The Surgery and Ear, Nose, and Throat Care Center
- The Community Care and Diabetes Care Center
- The Specialized Center for Child Care
- The Skilled Nursing and Long-Term Care Facility
- The Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Department
- The Diagnostic Radiology Department

These care centers provide specialized treatment that is not available in the majority of hospitals in Palestine.

AVH is now focusing much of its strategic efforts on establishing an elder care and palliative care facility. This approach is in line with the hospital’s overall strategy to establish health services otherwise not available to the Palestinian community and complements the existing services at the hospital.

AVH BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed inpatient beds</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed ambulatory beds &amp; stations</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of staff</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of inpatient admissions</td>
<td>6293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hospital days</td>
<td>48544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of dialysis sessions</td>
<td>19611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of chemotherapy sessions</td>
<td>13214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of radiation sessions</td>
<td>19629</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL
RESPONDS TO DIRE NEEDS IN GAZA

It is not often that a normal day at AVH turns into a bustle of relief operations in response to a devastating war in the Gaza Strip. A courageous physician expressed his eagerness to volunteer and offer relief amidst the overwhelming horrors and trauma experienced in Gaza during the summer of 2014. The harrowing media reports made it clear that additional medical expertise was needed. The healthcare system in Gaza was completely compromised due to the ongoing violence and the daily increase in the number of injured. With medical staff and facilities in Gaza exhausted, it was a natural response for AVH to set up a team to provide emergency assistance.

After two days of preparation, AVH staff bid farewell to a committed group of medical experts as they made their way to the border with their supplies and materials. It was a powerful representation of both AVH’s commitment to the community and of the LWF’s ministry to “uphold the rights of the poor and the oppressed”.

On August 1, 2014, a team of medical specialists comprising four physicians and one nurse from various AVH departments, arrived in Gaza to provide emergency and intensive care in three hospitals. The team first arrived at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza city. Soon after, members of the team were sent to hospitals in the city of Rafah, near the Egyptian border, and to a hospital in the city of Khan Younis. Shortly after the first team of specialists arrived, another team of physicians from departments such as intensive care, surgery, oncology, gynecology, internal medicine and pediatrics was quickly dispatched with additional supplies.
To meet the huge demand, all hospital beds in Gaza, including those reserved for cancer patients, had to be turned into emergency beds for urgent cases. As a result, those suffering from chronic disease were unintentionally neglected. The arrival of AVH medical teams with an oncologist and other specialists enabled expert care to be offered to cancer patients while other staff met emergency care needs.

AVH medical teams returned to Jerusalem one week later and shared their experiences with AVH staff upon their return to Jerusalem. Photo by M. Brown/LWF

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AVH medical teams returned to Jerusalem one week later and shared their experiences with AVH staff upon their return to Jerusalem. Photo by M. Brown/LWF

As part of the emergency response, AVH assisted in evacuating and receiving casualties during the war. Twelve surgical and four intensive care beds were reserved and the first patient from Gaza arrived on July 31, 2014. By organizing medical referrals and entry permits, AVH was able to secure access for twelve patients with serious wounds in the aftermath of the Gaza war. The Psychosocial Care Department was also available to patients and their accompanying family members during this distressing period.

AVH was able to respond to the many challenges of 2014 with resilience. Its rapid response to the overwhelming trauma and loss experienced in Gaza demonstrates the commitment of AVH staff to serving those in need and to inspiring hope amidst utter despair. The intake of patients from Gaza to AVH in Jerusalem continues to increase and ranges from 20 to 30 percent of AVH’s patients.
Community health programs modeled after a strategy designed by the World Health Organization have enabled Augusta Victoria Hospital to reach an exceptional number of patients affected by non-communicable diseases. Through partnerships with area clinics throughout Palestine, AVH and its partners have been able to operate within a transitional primary care system.

New initiatives in 2014 include a community health program targeting diabetes. On a daily basis, AVH medical specialists and nurses travel to key locations in southern Palestine to provide high quality diabetic care. In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, AVH staff treat patients seeking eye, foot and diabetes care.

AVH also continues to improve its state-of-the-art diabetes center on the Mount of Olives campus in Jerusalem. Around 2,200 diabetes patients registered at the AVH Diabetes Care Center in 2014 received comprehensive diabetes care. The average age of the patients served was 59 years and nearly 51% of them were female. As a hub for research and training, the AVH Diabetes Care Center provides the community and local institutions with a nationally recognized model for addressing non-communicable diseases.

The effectiveness of the AVH model for community health may be illustrated in many ways, but a measurement of Hemoglobin A1c, or HbA1c, is a major indicator that a patient is responding to treatment. With a target of reducing the Hemoglobin A1c level to 7% within
the patient population, AVH has succeeded in lowering the average level from 9% at the first visit of 2014 to 8.3% by the last visit of 2014. Although the target has not yet been met, this reduction in the level in the patient population is significant and demonstrates the effectiveness of the mobile program. Additionally, it is testimony to the commitment of AVH staff and their ability to treat and engage patients in sustaining healthy lifestyles that will continue to reduce blood HbA1c levels and prolong lives.

Breast Cancer Community Program

When AVH opened its doors as a Cancer Care Center, almost 70% of patients seeking breast cancer treatment were in the late stages of the disease and required palliative care. With this in mind, a mobile mammography and screening program was established to promote breast cancer awareness and education in Palestine.

Since its founding in 2010, the Mobile Mammography Clinic has continued to engage the community in breast cancer awareness. In 2014, AVH reached more than 11 village clinics in southern Hebron. Within these clinics, nearly 5,700 women learned how to examine themselves properly for breast cancer and over 1,800 sought mammography scans. Of these, 201 scans showed abnormalities that required further investigation and treatment.

While direct cause and effect are hard to establish in scientific research, the AVH Cancer Center has found that 30% of all cancer referrals are breast cancer and 52% of those referrals are at an advanced stage and in need of palliative care. This is a significant reduction that may be linked to the ongoing AVH mobile screening program, alongside an overall increase in public awareness.
When the Nursing Development and Education Department was established in 2013, the aim was clear: to improve patient safety and care through nursing empowerment and development. From the start, the department leadership decided to use competency based education as one of the most effective approaches in a hospital setting. Through an integrated outcome-oriented and performance assessment system, AVH is able to promote competence and accountability among nursing staff and ensures that nurses are qualified to perform tasks in line with Joint Commission International (JCI) Accreditation Standards. Almost immediately, managers and external institutions sought training from the AVH Nursing Development and Education Department for its quality advice and expertise.

During 2014, two main domains were targeted: 1) general skills, and 2) infection control practices. Training was provided to all nurses in both theoretical classroom sessions and in on the job training within the department and on the wards. Specialized courses, workshops and seminars were also provided by trained staff from AVH and by external international consultants.

All nurses were assessed at the end of the year according to Wright’s Model for Competency Testing, which is outcome-focused and accountability based in its approach and provides nursing staff with the tools to deliver safe and effective patient care.

By the end of 2014, the professional attitude of nurses had improved significantly and the results of several nursing indicators showed that the interventions of the Nursing Development and Education Department had had a positive impact.
Celebrating 10 Years of Medical Devotion, Salem Billan M.D.

Radiation oncology specialist, Salem Billan M.D., is a prominent figure in his field who has made his mark on radiation oncology in Palestine. As a recognized Palestinian physician and researcher with Israeli citizenship, AVH sought the benefits of his expertise, leadership and unique background and invited him to join the AVH family ten years ago.

Dr. Billan began his journey into the world of medicine from Kafr Kana, a small Christian village near Haifa. After years of studying in Torino, Italy, he returned to his home country to specialize in Clinical Oncology. In 2005, he received his Israeli Medical Board certificate in Medical and Radiation Oncology, which led him to a leadership position in the Unit for Head and Neck Tumors at Rambam Medical Center.

Since joining AVH, Dr. Billan has established the first radiation oncology unit for the people of Palestine in East Jerusalem where patients can receive weekly treatment. Dr. Billan has established management systems that ensure the operation of the unit at the highest possible levels of quality and safety.

As a caring clinician and avid researcher, Dr. Billan has authored a wide array of articles and given presentations around the world. His areas of interest are three dimensional radiation treatments of the head and neck, as well as molecular research as it relates to colon cancer.

AVH celebrates 10 successful years with Dr. Salem Billan, who embodies the spirit and values of the hospital. Patients and staff alike have come to appreciate his calm demeanor and deep respect for his patients and colleagues. On behalf of patients and staff who have been touched by Dr. Billan’s kindness and care, we thank you.
Khalil Ahmad Mohammad Bader, or “Abu Ahmad,” as many choose to call him, is not just a name or an employee, but a representation of the values AVH holds. In the most hopeless of times, he had hope. When work was slow, he persevered. When the demands of his job increased, he worked harder. After years working for AVH, he has never stopped. Even while tending to his work, he would attend to the patients, calling out to a technician, “fast please, the patient is waiting.”

On October 1, 1996, after many years working at the American Colony Hotel, Abu Ahmad joined AVH. In his first contract, he was employed as a custodian until becoming a staff member with support services. This year, after 19 years of service to the patients and staff of AVH, Abu Ahmad concluded his contract.

Originally from Abu Dis, Abu Ahmad is the father of five passionate children. Throughout his time with AVH, three of his sons have been arrested on countless occasions by the Israeli military. Despite this heavy burden, he relentlessly continued to work with a smile on his face and hope in his eyes. His prayers of hope spread to all who were near him. When he was asked about his children, he would simply reply, “Praise be to God, they will come home soon.” After showing a smile and asking about your health, he would eagerly return back to work.

AVH celebrates all of its employees and the devotion they have shown during their time, but all would agree that Abu Ahmad is the most cherished employee and will be for years to come. He is loved by many, and appreciated for his loyalty and resilience.
AVH is addressing the psychosocial care of patients as part of the hospital’s goal of providing holistic and fully integrated health and medical care to the people of Palestine. In a philosophy that aims to combine spiritual and psychosocial health with biomedical services, AVH established the Psychosocial Care Unit in 2014.

This model of care offers a unique and challenging means of providing high quality psychosocial care for patients and their families. The Psychosocial Care Unit is led by a female expert in psychosocial care and has four passionate employees who provide a variety of psychosocial services. The unit offers AVH patients individual counseling and a weekly follow-up with AVH social workers.

Intermodal Expressive Arts Therapy is a unique program of art therapy offered by the Psychosocial Care Unit to AVH patients, especially those undergoing dialysis, and in the pediatric and geriatric departments. Patients from Gaza and remote villages throughout the West Bank also benefit from this expressive program. At the Mount of Olives Hotel where patients stay during their treatment, AVH social workers provide art therapy to patients and those who accompany them.

Among many other interactive services the AVH Psychosocial Unit provides, social workers also engage patients in small group therapy as a way to foster relationships and healing, especially for those who are accompanying their loved ones for treatment at the hospital. 

*Photo by K. Brown*
The Psychosocial Care Unit is especially beneficial for patients from Gaza who travel to AVH for quality cancer care. For many patients, Jerusalem becomes a temporary home during their extended hospital visits and the Psychosocial Care Unit contributes a comfortable and welcoming environment during their stay. AVH also provides meals, group therapy, counseling and play therapy for children receiving medical treatment.

The Psychosocial Care Unit is active in organizing volunteers and visitors from throughout the community. School students, community volunteers, social welfare organizations and churches have all been invited to spend time with patients at AVH. In 2014, more than 30 different schools visited the hospital and were introduced to the medical and psychosocial services on offer.

The Dr. Ibrahim Al Saadi Foundation, a local charity founded in memory of a son killed in an accident while studying medicine in the United States, has been hugely supportive to the work of the Psychosocial Care Unit. In honor of their son’s passion and commitment to medicine, the mother and father have dedicated their time and support to the work of AVH. Thanks to the support of the Foundation, the playroom at AVH was remodeled and equipped with new toys, televisions and many other gifts for child patients at the hospital. The Foundation has also brought volunteers to help with activities provided by the Psychosocial Care Unit.

Through the generous support of the Dr. Ibrahim Al Saadi Foundation, the children of the AVH Pediatric Department received a newly renovated playroom equipped with toys, televisions and many other gifts.

The Psychosocial Care Unit is actively engaged in the community, inviting students, community volunteers, churches and social welfare organizations to spend time with patients at AVH. In 2014, more than 30 different schools throughout the region visited the hospital.

Thanks to the generosity of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, AVH staff and patients enjoyed musical concerts at the hospital. Conservatory students in the Eastern Musical Ensemble and Choir performed a beautiful concert for patients, staff and families in the Festival Hall adjacent to the hospital. The Psychosocial Care Unit is now planning a full program with the Conservatory that will provide music therapy and a student-patient music program in which students from the Conservatory will introduce patients to simple musical instruments.

In 2014 and early 2015, students from the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music shared their music with patients and staff at AVH. Due to its success, the Psychosocial Care Unit is preparing a music therapy program, where students of the Conservatory will introduce AVH patients to new and simple musical instruments. Photos by T. Montgomery/LWF

Future plans for the Psychosocial Care Unit promise a variety of innovative programs involving expressive arts, music and counseling to lift the spirits of patients, families and staff at AVH.
PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE DEPARTMENT
Refurbishment of Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Laboratories

Thanks to two grants received by the Augustana and USAID, the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Laboratories have come to fruition. With a newly renovated clinical lab, AVH is now positioned as a specialty hospital with one of the largest pathology and laboratory medicine departments in the healthcare system of Palestine. The services provided by the lab include a general clinical lab, histology lab, cytology lab, genetics lab, molecular lab, and acellular technology lab. These advances in diagnostics significantly reduce AVH’s dependence on external labs. Additionally, AVH can now serve as a reference laboratory for nearby hospitals.

The labs include tissue banks where every tumor from surgical oncology is collected for the purposes of further medical research and diagnostics.

In the recently refurbished Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Laboratories, staff collect tumors from surgical oncology that will benefit further medical research and diagnostics. The newly renovated and equipped Pathology Department, funded by USAID and the government of France, is one of the largest in Palestine.

Photos by T. Montgomery/LWF
SPECIALIZED SURGICAL CARE CENTER
Refurbishment of Operating Rooms, Sterile Processing Unit and Inpatient Surgery

Thanks to grants funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Arab Monetary Fund based in Kuwait, and the Islamic Development Bank, AVH is upgrading its surgical services with a newly refurbished inpatient surgical department, a sterile processing unit and state-of-the-art operating rooms.

Once completed, AVH will have the capacity to perform major surgeries in most specialties, which is well beyond its current capacity. This was a strategic decision for AVH, especially as surgical interventions in cancer care are key elements in the success of treatment. The greater the capacity of AVH in surgical care, the greater the potential for achieving the highest possible standards of cancer care. It is anticipated that these three surgical facilities will be completed at AVH by the end of 2015.

In 2014, AVH began renovating the surgical care center of the hospital to become a state of the art center for cancer surgery. Photos by T. Montgomery/LWF
Ingredients for Cucumber Yogurt Salad

• 3 cups plain yogurt
• 3 medium size cucumbers, finely chopped
• 2 tbsp olive oil
• 1 clove garlic, minced
• 1 tbsp dry (or fresh) mint
• ½ tsp salt

Rice Pilaf Preparation

Heat two tablespoons of olive oil in a saucepan, then add the meat and spices. Stir for five minutes until lightly browned. Add the rice to the meat and onion mixture and stir well until the meat and rice are fully incorporated. Add water to cover and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and cook for 30 minutes on low until the rice is fully cooked and the water absorbed.

Yogurt Salad Preparation

In a separate bowl, combine yogurt, olive oil, garlic, salt and mint. Add the chopped cucumber and mix well.

To serve, place the rice pilaf on a serving plate, sprinkle with the nuts and drizzle some olive oil. Enjoy this traditional Palestinian dish with a serving of the cucumber yogurt salad on the side.

Ingredients for Rice Pilaf

• 1 pound ground lamb or beef
• 2 cups rice
• ½ cup vegetable oil
• 3 cups water
• ½ tsp salt
• ⅛ tsp ground nutmeg
• ⅛ tsp ground cinnamon
• ⅛ tsp ground black pepper
• 2 tbsp pine nuts or shaved almonds
• 2 tbsp olive oil from the LWF Mount of Olives
THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL - BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

(in alphabetical order)

• Ms. Leni Bjorklund
  Church of Sweden

• The Rev. Mark Brown [Ex-officio]
  Regional Representative, LWF Department for World Service

• The Rev. Wyvetta Bullock
  Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

• Dr. Anne Dørum
  Mount of Olives Foundation, Oslo

• Mr. Robert Granke
  Canadian Lutheran World Relief

• Ms. Maria Immonen [Ex-officio]
  Interim Director, LWF Department for World Service

• Ms. Gunvor Kronman
  The Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre

• Mr. Georg Kulenkampff
  Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

• Dr. Kristen Lee
  Dan Church Aid

• Propst Wolfgang Schmidt
  Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

• The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan [AVH Board Chairperson]
  Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

LWF Staff:

• The Rev. Eberhard Hitzler
  LWF Special Representative for the Mount of Olives Trusteeship

• Ms. Caroline Tveoy
  Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa, LWF Department for World Service

Immersed in the wide array of colored pencils and crayons, this young patient is one of many children treated at the Augusta Victoria Hospital Center for Specialized Child Care. Photo by T. Montgomery/ LWF
AVH Statistics 2014

Chemotherapy Treatment by Month

2014 Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy Sessions, and Hospital Days by Area

Radiotherapy Oncology by Month

2014 Dialysis, Chemotherapy, and Radiation Sessions by Age

Dialysis Treatment by Month
MATERIAL AID

Since the late 1940s, 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 aid.

The LWF works with contacts in the West Bank to distribute goods to communities, families and individuals most in need.

Throughout 2014, school kits and quilts donated by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) were distributed to hospitals, elderly care centers, local orphanages, schools and community centers. Schools kits, blankets, quilts and baby kits were also distributed to Syrian refugees in Jordan.

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 2014, the LWF Jerusalem Scholarship Program awarded financial aid to 34 youth – 28 women and 6 men – from Jerusalem and the West Bank to attend university.

A total of 18,216 Euros was awarded in 2014. The recipients are studying at Palestinian universities in fields of accounting, dentistry, engineering, language, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health nutrition and science.
The Vocational Training Program (VTP), one of the most longstanding projects in the LWF Jerusalem Program, has provided vocational training to Palestinian youth since 1949. The VTP began in the grounds of Augusta Victoria Hospital, originally offering young men a three-year training program in carpentry and 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 380 women have graduated from the VTP.

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) addresses the need for additional training programs accessible to Palestinians living in the West Bank, who are isolated from Jerusalem and Israel by the Israeli-built separation wall. The LWF established the VTCR with a focus on the concepts of apprentice training and satellite outreach to small and isolated villages.

In 2012, the VTP began a new chapter in its history with the opening of three new departments: catering and craftwork departments in Beit Hanina, a vocational secretarial department at the VTCR, and a third center in downtown Ramallah. These departments have significantly increased the VTP’s outreach to women.
LWF Vocational Training Program
Graduates 222

On Saturday, 21 June 2014, the Lutheran World Federation Vocational Training Program (VTP) celebrated the graduation of its 62nd class. The class of 222 graduates, including 52 females, joined the ever-growing alumni community of the VTP.

The commencement ceremony took place at the Ramallah Cultural Palace, where dignitaries such as the Right Rev. Dr. Munib A. Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and LWF President, congratulated the graduates. Bishop Younan praised the staff and the courses offered by the VTP for playing a crucial role in offering Palestinian youth opportunities for vocational training and employment. Representatives from the Palestinian Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor who attended the ceremony expressed their deep appreciation of the work of the LWF Vocational Training Program.

Rev. Mark Brown, LWF Regional Representative, acknowledged the impact of vocational training in his remarks to the graduates. Briefly outlining the growth of the VTC from an initial 30 students in 1949, Rev. Brown spoke of the incredible energy, dedication, and innovation that have allowed the program to expand its reach to several hundred students each year.

Speaking directly to the graduates, Rev. Brown acknowledged that the ceremony marked only the beginning of accomplishments yet to come. “You are part of the legacy of the VTP and a part of this community, but you are also a part of the future of Palestine.”

The students were supported on graduation day by over 800 friends, family and VTP staff in the audience to congratulate them. There was certainly much to celebrate as the graduates reflected on their hard work and accomplishments during their courses. A new class of VTP graduates will enter the workforce well prepared for the challenges and joys of their professions.

- 161 female trainees acquired skills at the VTP.
- Students training year-round in the VTP can choose from ten courses of study: aluminum work, auto-electronics, auto-mechanics, carpentry, catering, craftwork, metalwork, plumbing and central heating, telecommunications, and vocational secretarial skills.
Developments in the Plumbing and HVAC department have immediately served the forty first and second year trainees, and, in addition, will benefit participants in the VTC’s occasional short courses and upgrading courses. It is due to the generous donations of the European Union (EU) and the Community Resilience and Development Program (CRDP), the implementation efforts by Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), as well as the work of the entire staff of the VTC, that this project was such a success. *Photo by G. Steeber/LWF*

**LWF VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

**UPDATE 2014**

Many new developments were introduced to the LWF Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina during 2014. In May the VTC announced the opening of a newly renovated and fully equipped Plumbing and HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) Department. LWF Regional Representative Rev. Mark Brown was joined by VTC director Yousef Shalian and Mr. Rafat Dies in welcoming VTC students, staff, and representatives of our partner organizations to the opening ceremony.

The Plumbing and Heating Department at the VTC in Beit Hanina was established in 1988. There continues to be a high demand in the market for plumbing and heating skills and the employment level for graduates of the VTP Plumbing and HVAC Department has consistently been around 85%.

Renovations to the department, which began in the summer of 2013, were the first extensive renovations since the department first opened. The renovations and new equipment will ensure that the VTC maintains a standard of excellence.
The complete renovation of the building that houses the LWF Plumbing and HVAC Program was made possible by the generosity of the European Union (EU) through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), while the new equipment for the department was provided by the European Union (EU) and the Community Resilience and Development Program for Area C and East Jerusalem (CRDPI). The renovation enables the LWF VTC to continue to be market-relevant and to introduce new technology and systems to VT students. Without this financial assistance, the department was under threat of closure for safety and security considerations.

We are also grateful to Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), the implementing agency for these projects, and our partner, the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce.

The changes in the Plumbing and HVAC Department have had an immediate impact on first and second year trainees, but will also benefit participants in the VTC’s occasional short courses and upgrading courses. The success of this project is thanks to the efforts of the entire staff of the VTC.

CNC MACHINES, HAAS AUTOMATION & PRODUCTIVITY, INC.

In August 2014, the LWF Vocational Training Center received generous donations from Haas Automation and Productivity, Inc. The addition of a CNC tool room lathe and tool room mill will enable students at the VTC Beit Hanina to train with modern computerized equipment.

A student of the Metalwork Department receives guidance from his instructor on the intricacies of the CNC tool room lathe and mill through a recently produced product. *Photo by LWF VTP*
The village of Ash-Shuyukh lies on a hillside just six kilometers northeast of the city of Hebron. Home to approximately 9,000 Palestinians, Ash-Shuyukh is known for its rich agricultural resources. The view from the top of the hill stretches for kilometers over rolling fields of grape vines and olive trees.

Jasim, 26-years-old, graduated from the LWF Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina in 2006. After graduation, he was eager to work independently. He opened his own workshop in 2007, with the encouragement of the Vocational Training Program (VTP). In the seven years that he has owned his business, he has become the village expert in aluminum, serving the surrounding area with his knowledge and skills.

In 2013, Jasim opened a joint workshop with his brother, Ahmad, a 2011 graduate of the VTP. Ahmad, a carpenter by trade, is one of 23 graduates from the VTP who received assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) through the Church of Sweden. This project included conducting feasibility studies of the business proposals of graduates and providing graduates with a course in project management. Through the project, the VTP purchased equipment for graduates under a rent-to-buy agreement.

The VTP provided Jasim and Ahmad with both technical skills and also business know-how, empowering them to step into an unpredictable market and an economy impacted by years of occupation. The lessons they learned from the VTP, both inside and outside the classroom, remain with them. The two young men hope that someday they will give something back to the VTP by participating in the apprenticeship program, an opportunity that allows students to learn from people with experience in their fields.
25-year-old Yousef, a 2006 graduate of the VTC in Beit Hanina, has started his own metal workshop in Ash-Shuyukh. Although he earned a good salary moving from job to job, Yousef wanted to work independently. Together with his brother whom he could employ in his business, he provides quality craftsmanship for the community.

On the outskirts of Ash-Shuyukh, just down the road from Jasim and Ahmad’s workshop, 25-year-old Yousef has started his own metal workshop. After nearly eight years navigating the labor market, Yousef, a 2006 graduate of the VTC in Beit Hanina, decided to open his business in Ash-Shuyukh. Yousef says that although he earned a good salary moving from job to job, he is much happier with his newfound independence. He is also able to provide employment and an income for his brother, who, after four years at a university in Yemen could not find a job when he returned home. With the education provided by the VTP, Yousef and his brothers have the freedom to create their own schedule while providing quality workmanship to their community.

Located just off the bustling town square of Ash-Shuyukh, 26-year-old Qusai has started his own auto-mechanic garage. After graduation from the VTC in Beit Hanina in 2007, he worked in many different garages near his home village of Ash-Shuyukh. In 2009, he decided to open his own garage. His beginnings were simple, located in a small building on the outskirts of the village, but he eventually moved into a larger space that allowed him to add a car wash service to his garage.

Qusai’s father, a principal of a local school in Ash-Shuyukh, has been a vocal proponent of the VTP, encouraging the many youths of the community to consider vocational education, especially if their interests do not veer towards a university degree. Some people thought the decision to pursue vocational training over a degree in higher education was a disgrace for the son of a school principal, but Qusai was supported by his father and the community can now see the benefits of vocational education. “It is a decision I will never regret,” says Qusai.

In 2009 Qusai, the son of the town’s school principal, started his own auto-mechanic garage. His beginnings were simple, located in a small building on the outskirts of Ash-Shuyukh, but he eventually moved into a larger space that allowed him to add a car wash in addition.
NEW VOCATIONS BRING NEW BEGINNINGS

Brought up in an impoverished village wrought by a military presence, An’ám sought employment in Silwad, a small village east of Ramallah. Although eligible to attend university, she decided to pursue training that would prepare her to find a sustainable employment and income. With the support of her family and community, she enrolled in the LWF Vocational Secretary program in 2013. Through the assistance of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), An’ám, along with many others, received her vocational secretary degree in one year at the VTC rather than spending four years to receive a similar degree at a university.

Now, at the age of 21 and a recent graduate of the VTP, An’ám works as a secretary at Orabi Car Rental and Garage. As she had discovered a growing interest in auto-mechanics, this job feels nearly perfect. During her studies at the VTCR, she was able to explore this interest with passionate and knowledgeable teachers. With their guidance, she became familiar with the language of auto-mechanics, making her skills even more marketable. In addition to her secretarial duties, she also learned to assist with financial management and accounting at Orabi.

An’ám is proud of her experience at the VTP. Her education and the encouragement of her teachers taught her greater self-confidence and independence. “This is really essential for a Palestinian woman,” she declared.
VTP SHORT COURSES PROVIDE INVALUABLE SKILLS

In response to staggering rates of unemployment among Palestinian youth, the Vocational Training Program is broadening the depth and breadth of its outreach courses and short courses. In 2014, the VTP reached out to school dropouts, unemployed and unskilled youth to offer sixteen short courses in remote villages and refugee camps, as well as in the Beit Hanina and Ramallah centers. Cooperation and support for the courses came from partners such as the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in the United States and Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI).

2014 VTP SHORT COURSES:

- Three air conditioning courses (VTCR) – 51 trainees
- One auto-mechanics course (VTCR) – 19 trainees
- Four auto-electrics courses (VTCR) – 57 trainees
- One electrical installation course (VTCR) – 18 trainees
- One mobile maintenance course (VTCR) – 13 trainees
- One cosmetology course in Al-Zababida village (females) – 19 trainees
- One cosmetology course in Habia village (females) – 20 trainees
- One catering course (VTC) – 14 trainees
- Two Electronic Building Management Systems (EBMS) courses (VTC) – 33 trainees
- One auto-mechanics course (VTC) – 17 trainees

A student takes a break from his work at an Electronic Building Management Systems (EBMS) short course at the VTC in Beit Hanina. In response to increased demand and high unemployment, the VTP increased its short course offerings. With this education, graduates are more qualified to find employment in a shop or open their own as a way to accumulate income. Photo by LWF VTP
The Lutheran World Federation

VOCATIONAL TRAINING ADVISORY BOARD

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LWF Regional Representative

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

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Ms. Caroline Tveoy
The Lutheran World Federation

LWF Staff:

Ms. Randa Hilal
Vocational Training Consultant

Mr. Yousef Shalian
Director, LWF Vocational Training Program

* completed service on the VTAB in 2014

Since 1949, the VTP has prepared young Palestinian men and women to become leaders and entrepreneurs despite harsh circumstances and an oppressive occupation. As it continues to empower young Palestinians, it leads the way in innovative vocational training programs that are in line with market demands. Photo by T. Montgomery/LWF
# LWF Vocational Training Program

## Data 2014 (LWF VTP)

### LWF VTC, Jerusalem: 2-Year Apprenticeship Training Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year the department was established</th>
<th>No. of Trainees 2014/2015</th>
<th>No. of 2014 Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Mechanics</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Electrics</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing &amp; Central Heating</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metalwork (Welding, Forging and Aluminum Works)</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 121 First Year, 104 Second Year, 99 Graduates

### LWF VTC, Jerusalem: 1-Year Apprenticeship Training Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year the department was established</th>
<th>No. of Trainees 2014/2015</th>
<th>No. of 2014 Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craftwork (Female)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering (Female)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering (Male)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 28 First Year, 39 Graduates

### LWF VTCR, Ramallah: 1-Year Apprenticeship Training Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year the department was established</th>
<th>No. of Trainees 2014/2015</th>
<th>No. of 2014 Graduates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Mechanics</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum Works</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational Secretary (female)</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 91 First Year, 84 Graduates

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1. All trainees for the 2014/2015 scholastic year as of Dec 2014
2. 2013/2014 graduates, graduated June 2014
3. All trainees for the 2014/2015 scholastic year as of Dec 2014
4. 2013/2014 graduates, graduated June 2014
5. All trainees for the 2014/2015 scholastic year as of Dec 2014
6. 2013/2014 graduates, graduated June 2014
Short Courses (Outreach and Upgrading)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th># of Courses</th>
<th># of Trainees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air conditioning course (VTCR)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Mechanics (VTCR)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Electrics (VTCR)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Installation (VTCR)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Maintenance (VTCR)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetology in Al-Zababida village (Female)</td>
<td>Outreach Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmetology in Habia village (Female)</td>
<td>Outreach Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering (VTC)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications (VTC)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Mechanics (VTC)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Conditioning (VTC)</td>
<td>Short Course</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LWF-VTP 2014 Graduate Employment Statistics:
Analysis by Randa Hilal, LWF-VT Consultant

LWF-VTP employment rates in 2014 continued to reach remarkably high rates compared with previous years, remaining ahead of national youth employment rates. Overall, 88.6% of all VTP graduates were employed or self-employed within six months of graduation (86% of VTC graduates and 91.25% of VTCR graduates). These results are promising and contrast with an employment rate of 59% among youth of the same age in Palestine. The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), or the percentage of all persons actively engaged in work or in seeking work, was 92% among VTP graduates compared with 29.3% for Palestinian youth in the same age group (in figure above).

This is reflected in the fact that 28% of VTC graduates now working in their professions are employed at the same location at which they trained. Similarly, 20% of VTCR graduates employed in their professions are working at the same location at which they trained.

To meet the goals of the LWF VTP Strategic Plan for 2013-2018, additional elements were incorporated to support trainees and graduates. Post-training support, for example, provides trainees with a matching fund initiative to support graduates to start up their

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1 An annual tracer study is conducted for graduates within six months to one year of graduation (92% completed the survey).
2 The matching fund initiative for first job experience provides a 3-6 month employment opportunity by paying part of the salary, while the employer pays the other part. This initiative to support VTC graduates involves Chamber of Commerce intervention supported by the Welfare Association. The initiative to support VTCR graduates, and some VTC graduates, specifically women, is through the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) as part of the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program (MGMGP), administered by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC).
own business, locate income generation opportunities\(^3\), or to help trainees to move successfully into the market. It is clear that this support has improved employment rates for both male and female graduates: 35% of VTC graduates and 7% of VTCR graduates have found work in their respective professions after graduation. For female graduates, the rate is over 60%.

Rates for graduate employment or self-employment in their field were 74.6% for the VTC, 82.5% for the VTCR and 78.5% overall. Although these rates are relatively high, the lower employment rates in the VTC branch are specific to the socio-economic and political context of East Jerusalem, as a recent study highlighted\(^4\).

A graduate evaluation indicated that some West Bank graduates had refrained from seeking employment in their respective professions due to low pay. Most graduates working in the West Bank are paid less than the minimum wage, a conclusion confirmed in national findings\(^5\). This indicates a need to advocate for just labor laws, worker protection, and monitoring of the work environment, which the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan implemented.

**Employment Statistics by Profession**

Three new market-relevant professions attracted increased female enrollment in 2014; the VTC catering and handicraft department and the VTCR vocational secretarial department all celebrated a successful year\(^6\).

As a result of the telecommunication training program review supported by COOPI, employment rates for graduates of the telecommunications program have also increased, especially with the integration of the Electronic Building Maintenance Systems (EBMS) skills\(^7\).

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\(^3\) The self-employment initiative supports graduates to start their own business or become self-employment through loans. COOPI provided support for this year’s handicraft graduates.

\(^4\) Hilal, R. 2013. Labour Market Analysis and Skills Surveys in East Jerusalem. COOPI

\(^5\) PCBS has found that a quarter of Palestinians working in Palestinian Territories receives less than the minimum wage. PCBS Annual Labor Market Survey 2013.

\(^6\) Professions were based on a Training Needs Assessment conducted in 2008/2009 and development of market-relevant curricula. This was made possible by funding from the Church of Sweden.

\(^7\) Hilal, R. 2013. Labour Market Analysis and Skills Surveys in East Jerusalem. COOPI
TENSIONS RISE AS WAR ROLLS ON:
AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

The civil conflict in Syria has entered its fourth year and continues to escalate in scale and scope. The number of people displaced by violence continues to grow as war persists. According to UN OCHA estimates, there are now 7.6 million internally displaced persons, while over 3.3 million refugees seek refuge in Syria’s neighboring countries and Northern Africa. The regional refugee crisis shows no signs of ending, and LWF Jordan has been consistently scaling up relief programming since the establishment of the Amman office in late 2012. The Emergency Program’s projects are designed to meet critical needs of Syrian refugees in Jordan, as well as to mitigate the impact of refugees in Jordan’s host communities.

As of December 2014, over 625,000 Syrians were registered in Jordan with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Since the start of the crisis in Syria, Jordan has received a large number of refugees despite the country’s limited resources. At its peak, Za’atari camp houses nearly 85,000 refugees, while many more have found homes in neighboring host communities. The several thousand refugees of Za’atari have become dependent on aid over the years as they are forbidden to work and struggle to find affordable housing in the area. Conditions in the camp have become dire as child labor, child marriage and education dropouts grow in number. With a significant strain on the country’s infrastructure, tension in host communities has also increased.

LWF Jordan’s programs in Za’atari have focused on meeting basic immediate needs, such as winter clothing and clean bedding, as well as nuanced psychosocial and mental health programs. With nearly 15 active projects, LWF Jordan has established two fully functional offices in Amman and Za’atari camp. Since the provision of services started in 2012, the LWF Jordan Program has provided assistance to approximately 200,000 refugees and
affected persons. The distribution of food vouchers and non-food items, including hygiene kits and winterization items, has been a consistent long term project of the LWF Jordan. Additionally, LWF Jordan has developed programs that focus on psychosocial care, including conflict mitigation and peace building, vocational training, and recreational and life skills support. Many programs are delivered in the Peace Oasis, an LWF site that provides a safe and peaceful refuge for children and adolescents. In addition to the staff facilitators and psychosocial specialists present in the Oasis, many young adult refugees are trained to facilitate and lead activities.

Refugee camps often receive disproportionate attention from the international media, but in the Jordanian context, up to 80% of Syrian refugees are hosted by Jordanian communities outside of a formal camp setting. Northern cities such as Mafraq, Irbid and Zarqa have borne the brunt of the refugee crisis and the population has doubled due to the influx of Syrians. In the host communities, LWF Jordan focuses on education, shelter and psychosocial care and humanitarian assistance.

LWF Jordan recognizes the dire circumstances faced by Syrian refugees trying to survive in and around cities in Jordan. Programs for urban and peri-urban refugees have largely revolved around the distribution of core relief items for winter such as heaters, gas cylinders, blankets, and carpets. In addition to the distribution of non-food items, LWF Jordan has been active in education, life skills, conflict mitigation and psychosocial services. Work in the water/sanitation and hygiene sectors has been conducted in joint efforts with Islamic Relief. Partnerships such as this are vital for the community to ease tensions and reinforce social cohesion. Since January 2014, over 50,000 Syrian refugees and Jordanians in host communities have directly benefitted from LWF activities.

LWF Jordan also supports many Christian minorities who are fleeing Iraq through activities that include installing partition walls, upgrading kitchens, installing water and sanitation, and distributing monthly food rations.

From January 2014 to June 2014, the Lutheran World Federation offered support in response to the Syrian crisis as follows:

- **42,480** Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians received Non-Food Items (NFI)
- **12,654** Syrian and Jordanian refugees received food assistance
- **400** Syrian and Jordanian households received shelter upgrades
- **2,200** Syrian and Jordanian refugee youth engaged in psychosocial support, recreational activities, conflict mitigation and life skills training
- **13 schools** were rehabilitated and **29 classrooms** were constructed with the help of the Ministry of Education, thereby permitting 725 more students to enroll in classes

**Training conducted covered:**
- Conflict mitigation and communication
- Non-violent communication
- Movement/Sport/Games
- Life skills training
Siham is a young mother who arrived in Za’atari refugee camp one year ago with her husband and four children: two boys and two girls under the age of nine. After struggling to make a home in the camp, she and her family moved to a small flat in the city of Mafraq, subsequently moving from one temporary home to another. Siham’s husband was arrested by the Jordanian police as he rode on a local bus outside Za’atari camp because he did not have the appropriate papers. The family’s future is uncertain as Siham remains with her children in Mafraq and her husband is held in custody by the Jordanian authorities. Although it is illegal for Syrian refugees to work, Siham’s husband used to take on various types of employment to earn money for his family. Without the extra income from her husband, Siham and her family face eviction. Like many Syrians, cash to pay rent is a prime concern: they have to pay JD180 per month, without utilities, for their small flat. They have very little legal protection as their lease agreements are renewed every few months and this leaves them vulnerable to eviction and sudden rent increases.

Siham’s youngest son suffers from hemophilia and needs regular injections to sustain his health. The injections cost nearly JD 350 each, but are free with a valid UNHCR card. However, the family’s card expired in July and the appointment for card renewal is in September, leaving the family without access to health care for three months.

Siham dreams of returning to her home in Syria: “If there was peace, I would go tomorrow.” Her home was destroyed during the war and she lost her brother, sister and her sister’s two children amidst the devastation. Three of her sister’s children remain in a hospital in Syria. Although she is grateful to have her children, sister and mother-in-law with her, Siham has experienced an incredible amount of trauma during this time. She finds solace in her grief by cooking and drinking tea with her family in Mafraq.
Abu Mohammad and his family live in a dilapidated house in Mafraq. He traveled to Jordan from Syria with his two wives and 10 children. His first wife is Jordanian and is the mother of five of his children, three of whom struggle with mental and physical disabilities. Medical, educational and recreational resources have been difficult to access due to their circumstances, which is why their teenage cousins have taken on the responsibility of caring for them and providing them with a taste of childhood that would otherwise be difficult to find. Abu Mohammad’s second wife is from Syria and is also the mother of five of his children. His entire family has managed to create a home in a house that is run down from years of neglect. With rent of JD 250, there is little choice to move elsewhere. “All the houses are expensive in Mafraq,” says Abu Mohammad when asked if the family intend to find a better location.

After a long journey through Syria, the family arrived at Za’atari camp in February of 2013. They spent nearly two months in a tent before receiving approval to leave the camp. This came as a relief to Abu Mohammad and his family, who are one of many families who prefer to seek refuge in host communities rather than feel imprisoned in the camp. As they continue to make a life in Mafraq, they navigate precarious living conditions. Due to lack of space and significant distances, it has been difficult to enroll any of his children in neighboring schools. The children bear the brunt of this. When asked what their greatest needs are at the moment, the youngest daughter interrupted to say: “I want to go to school; that is what I need.”
The olive tree, with its characteristically gnarled trunk and stately branches, has been a symbol of hope and resilience. The stout twisting trunk of this ubiquitous tree attests to a lifespan of hundreds of years, regenerating and repeating its life process with every harvest. The “tree of eternity”, as many choose to call it, has graced the terraced highlands of Palestine for centuries and supported the ancient heritage of the people who work and till the land they are rooted in.

The year brought both rain and snow to the 800 olive trees that cover the LWF property on the Mount of Olives. By October, the olive trees drooped with the weight of their bountiful fruit. With the help of LWF staff and volunteers, the olives were harvested and pressed into olive oil. Throughout the year, some of the oil is used in the kitchen at Augusta Victoria Hospital, while the rest is available to LWF visitors and friends. Packaged in hand-blown glass bottles made with recycled glass by Palestinian artisans working in Hebron, the oil is distributed around the world to raise money for Augusta Victoria Hospital.

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 the fees of patients unable to pay for required medical treatment or psychosocial care.

Order Olive Oil

The olive tree is at the heart of life in Palestine. Olives are a valuable commodity for their nutrition and oil, and olivewood is a beautiful hardwood that burns cleanly and carves smoothly. For thousands of years, olive trees have flourished in the Mediterranean region as a symbol of hope and endurance.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>750 mL of olive oil in a plastic bottle</td>
<td>$35</td>
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Minimum order of $300. While supplies last.
Members of the LWF Jerusalem central office and Augusta Victoria Hospital senior staff gathered to harvest olives on the LWF campus. The annual harvesting day has become a tradition for the LWF staff who gather in the olive grove each fall to support the hospital and enjoy a time of celebration and friendship. Photo by M. Brown/LWF

**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
P.O. Box 19178
Jerusalem 91191, Israel

**Contact us at:**
Email: info@lwfjerusalem.org
Phone: +972-2-628-2289
Fax: +972-2-628-2628
In 2014, 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:

Peter. Kelly, Grand Prior of Canada • Dr. Thomas Shattauer, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa • Bobby Morris, South Carolina • Rev. Timothy Kennedy, Grace Lutheran Church of Yorktown Heights, NY • Tom Brook, Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Lyn Stienstra, Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Florian Hubner, German National Committee of the LWF • Dr. Albrecht Schrøter (Lord Mayor of Jena Delegation/DST – Dt. Stadtetag), Head of Delegation for Partner Municipalities to Palestine an Israel from UK and Germany • Bishop Claire Burkat, ELCA Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod • The Swedish Theological Institute • Rev. David Mueller Group • Canadian Lutheran World Relief Delegation • Rev. Sue Sprowls Group, University of Michigan • Mark and Veronica Heckler, President at Valparaiso University in Indiana • Peter Kanelos, Dean at Valparaiso University in Indiana, Father Johannes Livelli Group, Hamburg, Germany • Bishop Donald Kreiss, Southeastern Michigan Synod • Rev. Ewa Munther Youth Group, Sweden • Department for International Development (DFID) Delegation • Jill Swergold, American Jewish Committee (AJC), Westchester, NY • DanChurchAid Delegation • Tim Frakes Productions • Botkyrka Parish Delegation, Church of Sweden • Beth Warpmaeker Group • Kathryn Clemen Group, Church of Sweden • Bishop Brian Maas Delegation, Nebraska Synod (ELCA) • Arnie Voigt Group, Friends of Sabeel Colorado • Pope Francis • Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria • Rev. Nick Doversberger Group, Oregon Synod (ELCA) • Peace Not Walls Delegation, Metro DC Synod (ELCA) • Rev. Erik Apelgardh Group, Church of Sweden • Rev. Leland Lantz Group, Laguna Woods, CA • Katie Rowold Group, Montana • Rudolf Hinz Group, Germany • Archbishop Anders Wejryd • Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota • Wang Min Group, China • LWF Geneva Delegation • Diocese of Vastersas Delegation, Church of Sweden • Heather Pryse, Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Heather Patterson, Canadian Lutheran World Relief • First Church of Christ Congregational led by Rev. Dr. Dean Ahlberg, Redding, Connecticut • Churches for Middle East Peace Delegation • Tyler Hauger, Karibu Foundation, Oslo, Norway • Norwegian Church Aid Delegation • Living Stones of Holy Land Trust Delegation, United Kingdom • Peace Not Walls Delegation, La Crosse Area Synod (ELCA) • Nancy Amacher, Wisconsin • The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago • Doris Gfeller, LWF Geneva • Concordia College Orchestra led by Rev. Elizabeth McHan, Moorhead, Minnesota • Queen Anne Lutheran Church Group, Seattle Washington • Living Word Lutheran Church Group, Katy Texas • Our Savior Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry Group led by Rev. Michael Thomas, Hanover, New Hampshire • Kristy Bergman Schroeder, Canadian Lutheran World Relief • Linnea Lundgren Group, Sweden • Rev. Timothy Kennedy Group, Grace Lutheran Church, Yorktown Heights, New York • Aura Kanegis, American Friends Service Committee • Nancy Amacher • Rev. Martin Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation • Dr. Ann McReynolds • Dr. Rudy Menschel • Rebecca Duerst, Director of Global Health for the ELCA • Rev. Richard Holmer, St. James Lutheran Church Delegation, Lake Forest, IL • Steve Weaver, Middle East Regional Coordinator for Church World Service (CWS) •
Reverend Martin Junge, LWF General Secretary, visited Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) and the Vocational Training Center in Jerusalem in early December 2014, to witness the services provided by the Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem.

AVH Chief Executive Officer Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, VTC Director Yousef Shalian, and LWF Regional Representative Rev. Mark Brown welcomed Rev. Junge to the ministries of the Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem Program.

A memorable moment of Rev. Junge’s visit to Jerusalem was a tour of the Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina. “It gave me hope to look into the eyes of the young people,” he recalls. “While I recognized in some of them the pain of violence, loss and conflict, I saw in all of them a determination, a real thirst for a life of dignity: earning their own salaries, finding a place in society, contributing to building the social and political fabric of their society. That’s why they are learning in the VTC, even when traveling long distances, or sometimes spending hours at checkpoints: education is the key and these youth want to make use of it.”
The LWF is grateful to the many groups and individuals who have supported Augusta Victoria Hospital, the Vocational Training Program, the Mount of Olives Housing Project, and other projects of the Jerusalem Program in 2014: These supporters include:

Mark Boorsma • St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church • Rev. Richard Hegel • Ruth Hansen • Mary Margaret Powers • Southeast Michigan Synod (ELCA) • Ralph & Laurel Doermann • Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Manchester, Connecticut • Women of Central Lutheran Church, Eugene, Oregon • Matthew Alexander Hassaine • Mary Alexia Wightman • Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Julia Fitzpatrick • United Church of Los Alamos, Los Alamos, New Mexico • Robert Granke • Friends of Sabeel North America, Portland, Oregon • Shepherd’s Tours and Travel Co. Ltd., Jerusalem • Rev. Jennifer Hilt & Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Needham, Massachusetts • Rev. Michael Thomas & Our Savior Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, Hanover, New Hampshire • First Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota • Rev. Nick Doversberger & Oregon Synod (ELCA) • Sylvia & Gary Campbell • Lois Schlachter • St. James Lutheran Church, San Clemente, California • Linda Howard • Peace Lutheran Church, Grass Valley, California • Deborah Ann Taylor • Sara Anderson • Trinity Lutheran Church • Eugene Fitzpatrick • New England Synod (ELCA) • Jill Dampier Need • Susan Ellis • Anna Johnson • Mark and Marsha Holman • Lutheran Church of the Master, La Habra, California • Ascension Lutheran Church, Louisville, Kentucky • Mohammad & Mary Doghman • John Else • Patrick Finn • Dorothy Dunovan • Kris & Diane Lausterer • Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska • Rev. Delvin & Gertrude Hutton • Abd Almonem Abdelrahman • Greg & Mary Steeber • Peace Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia • St. John’s Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Michigan • Gary Graber • Anna Karin Hammar • Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven, Connecticut • Gail Marie Chupick • Janet & Dale Crouse • Steve & Danae Hudson • Central Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska • Roland & Hiroko Temme • Barry George • St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania • Dorothy Powers • Ascension Lutheran Church, Burlington, Vermont • Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa • Bishop Kevin Kanouse & Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana Mission Area (ELCA) • Queen Anne Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington • Nebraska Synod (ELCA) • Andrea Weyhe • Sandra & John Stumme • Bill Morgan • Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Bob & LuAnn Gast • St. James Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, Illinois • Lisa Froberg & Diocese of Vasteras, Church of Sweden • Peace Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minnesota • Zion Lutheran Church, Indiana, Pennsylvania • Debra Jeanne Johnson • Barbara Breads • Dody Johnson • Pitter Poulsen Family • Zion Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, Illinois • Richard Hale • Lyn Stienstra • Tom Brook • Randy & Christian Hale • Jonas Ewe • Helle Poulsen • Swedish Theological Institute • Tom & Darlene Dunham • Christ the King Lutheran Church, Nashua, New Hampshire • Ninna Edgardh • Joanna Hiebert Bergen • Kristy Schroeder • Heidi Hesselin • Judith Ingram • Rose Marie Leon • Jeaninne Ortega-Vigo • Wytte Bullock • Doris Gfeller • Alexander Bach • Henrick Denker • Concordia College Orchestra, Moorhead, Minnesota • Pam Egeland • Chris Cowan • Kristine Christensen • Diana Tahtinen • Peace Not Walls Metro DC, Delaware & Maryland Synods Delegation • Gordon Billings • Mary Brodd • William Walch • Birgitta Johansson • Robin Cosby • Diego Hardodo • Sunny Thai • Shelly & Mark Hollis • Christine Bemal • Beverly Henderson • Connie Sassanella • Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Waho, Nebraska • Julianne Johnson • Thomas Witt • Sarah Steel • Florian Huebner • Christ Lutheran Church, Monticello, IL • Daniel Sullivan & Annelisa Steeber • Tyler Hauger • Souad Freij • Trena Montgomery • Custodia Di Terra Sancta F.F.H.L • DFW International • Esther Nelson • Permanent Qatar Committee • Steve Hudson • Welfare Association • Gregory Buck • John Monson • Mark and Susanne Brown • Ravalia Abdul Salani • Rebekah Anne Mierau • Ulfkjaer Ministry, Finland • Redeemer Lutheran Church, English Speaking Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) • Anglican International School Jerusalem (AISJ) • Alan Hanson • Alexandra Bech • American Consulate and Embassy Delegation, Israel • British Consulate Delegation, Israel • Carla Papano • Carmen Gustafson • Peace Not Walls, ELCA • Hendrik Denker • Marlene Walch • Ranch Holz • Randall Hudson • Rock Spring Congregational UCC, Arlington, Virginia • Ronald Latimer • Souad Freij • Arlyn and Marcia Lanning • Diaconie Evang-Lutherse • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) • Jean Kuebler • Katina Levin, Gotykryka Forsamling Sweden • Martin & Nancy Hilla • Pastor Beth Warpmaker • Susan Wells • Living Stones of the Holy Land Delegation • Aida Haddad • Lucie J Damier • Mohammad & Mary Godhman • Reverend Delvin D. Hutton •
### Donations Received Through Geneva: (in Euro)

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### COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL DATA: (in Euro)

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<td>22,343</td>
<td>21,598</td>
<td>17,981</td>
<td>16,089</td>
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<td>100,312</td>
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JERUSALEM PROGRAM

SECRETARY GENERAL

I. LWF CENTRAL OFFICE
Mark Brown Regional Representative
Alex Kuttab Director of Administration and Finance

II. AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL (AVH) and COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
Tawfiq Nasser Chief Executive Officer
Alex Kuttab Chief Financial Officer
Atif Al-Rimawi Director of Administration & Human Resources
Amira Juha Director of Development / Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Basem Sweis Director, Department of Medical Staff Affairs
William Hadweh Director, Department of Nursing
Muhammad Khweis Director, Department of Public Services, Buildings & Grounds
Ahmad Abu-Halaweh Director, Department of Community Health & Diabetes Center
Maha Tarayyrah Director, Nursing Development and Education
Kholoud Ashab Director, Pharmaceutical Services
Hanin Issa Director, Quality & Patient Safety

III. VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM (VTP)
Youcef 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 Bannoua Department Head - Carpentry
Munir Qreitem Department Head - Auto Mechanics
Gabi Kamel Department Head - Metalwork & Aluminum
Rafat Dies Department Head - Plumbing & Heating
Majdi Bakri Department Head - Telecommunications
Mahmoud Khatib Department Head - Boarding
Ameer Babeesh Department Head - Catering

• VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – RAMALLAH (VTCR)
Thaer Shqair VTCR Deputy Director
Amer Khalaf Short Courses Coordinator

IV. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
Suad Freij Supervisor

(Senior Staff as of 31 December 2014)
The Lutheran World Federation has been serving the needs of Palestinian refugees in the Palestinian Territories for more than 65 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:
On 22 February 2014, Augusta Victoria Hospital’s community program celebrated the inauguration of the first mobile diabetes clinic to serve the southern part of Palestine. The event, held in Hebron, was attended by the PA Minister of Health, the Governor of the Hebron District, and the Representative of DanChurchAid. The LWF was represented by AVH CEO Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, the LWF Regional Representative, and numerous AVH staff. The mobile clinic is equipped with a diabetes clinic, eye clinic, and a foot care clinic. Photo by A. Johnson/LWF

Back Cover:
Since 2000, the LWF Vocational Training Program has focused its outreach on women. Through new programs such as catering and the vocational secretarial department, the LWF VTP has successfully equipped female graduates with marketable skills. Photo by G. Steeber/LWF

actalliance is an alliance of more than 140 churches and church-related organizations that work together in humanitarian assistance and development. The alliance works in over 130 countries, supported by 25,000 staff, and mobilizes USD 1.5 billion annually in its work for a just world.

LWF Jerusalem 2014 Annual Report
Editor: Mark Brown
Associate Editor: Trena Montgomery
Contributing Authors/Editors: Mark Brown, Randa Hilal, Karen Mann, Trena Montgomery, Tawfiq Nasser, Yousef Shalian, Julia Tarpy
Photography: Karin Brown, Mark Brown, Danae Hudson, Anna Johnson, LWF Jordan, LWF VTP, Trena Montgomery, Greta Steeber
Map Source, Designer and Publisher: PalMap / Good Shepherd Engineering & Computing
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 144 member churches in 79 countries all over the world representing over 72 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 31 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].