

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)

Heading towards achieving hope



Annual Report 2006

- Summary Report
- Progress of Implementations

WCLAC Summary Report 2006

1. General Information:

Name of NGO: Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC).
Reporting period: January 1-December 31, 2006.
Date of last report: 26 August 2006
Date of this report: 3 February 2006

2. Progress Summary:

The main goal of the program:

The Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling started the second year of implementation of its five-year strategic program "Building Hope". The five main strategic objectives of this program are:

- a. Contribute to the development of legislation and institutional policies which support women and their rights.
- b. Develop local cultural and moral resources in order to eradicate negative social attitudes/practices against women.
- c. Build the capacity of relevant official and grassroots organizations that have direct impact on women's issues.
- d. Expose, locally and internationally, the practices of the Israeli occupation violations of women's rights.
- e. Develop WCLAC's own capacity, performance, and sustainability.

All activities conducted during the year are in line with the expected results for each specific objective per the strategic plan. To a large extent, the planned activities have been implemented successfully and in accordance with the action plan 2006. Please refer to the section, Progress of Implementation, for description of activities, progress achieved, and operational obstacles. Progress related to output involving political leaders and Members of the Legislature were obviously fewer than hoped, while activities at the level of NGOs and grass-roots organizations, research activities, advocacy and networking, technical and legal services, were farther than originally planned.

The human resources needed for the implementation was higher than planned due to vacant positions (which are still not filled), wide geographical distribution of activities, and general work overload. This has led to the contracting of some activities and projects.

The restructuring process of WCLAC management system started last year, which included reviewing, revising, and amending existing policies and regulations and creating new ones, has led to clearer responsibilities and duties of the operational units of the Centre, a better streamlined system of management and administration, and a renewed commitment by staff to our vision, mission, and objectives. This process of critical review and creation is on-going, as the Centre has committed itself to be a learning organization, constantly evolving and developing towards fulfilling its mission.

3. Political Landscape

Although organizations and institutions operating in Palestine have been used to ever-changing and evolving political, social, and economic conditions, it seems almost no one was fully prepared, or positioned, to handle the events and dramatic changes in the aftermath of the long-awaited legislative elections conducted in January 2006. The integrity of the transparent and democratic elections, commended by international, regional, and local observers, resulted in a landslide victory for Hamas, who claimed a majority of 74 seats out of 132. This victory, partially anticipated, marked a turning point and a drastic change for the entire Palestinian political scene, as well as for the overall regional geopolitics. For the first time in 40 years, Fatah is no longer the ruling party; a movement alleged by some as a “terrorist” organization is in power. The negative repercussions of this change emerged instantly. The new government was boycotted and the international donors’ community froze its aid. This led to a severe financial crisis that left thousands of civil servants without salaries for months, and to the near collapse of the health, education, and social welfare sectors. Public order and the rule of law gave way quickly to a state of lawlessness and, more gravely, to internal factional conflicts.

The situation deteriorated even further as Israeli measures tightened the closures on the West Bank and the continual shelling of Gaza Strip resulted in civilian casualties and destruction of civilian infrastructure. The crisis culminated in June with the capture of an Israeli soldier. This provided the justification and gave the green-light for full-scale military aggression in Gaza Strip in particular, which resulted in more extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure and killing of civilians. Simultaneously, Hamas members of the legislative and executive branches were arrested and entry points to Gaza closed down.

This year also witnessed the war against Lebanon and the situation in Gaza Strip has deteriorated into a grave humanitarian crisis.

Factional in-fighting and the state of political deadlock marred the remaining part of the year. As of the time of writing this report the number of Palestinians who lost their lives to factional infighting has been on the increase and despite several efforts and agreements to stop the fighting, the situation continues to deteriorate particularly in Gaza.

The political landscape at the moment is grim at best, and it is very hard for anyone to predict where things are heading or what the outcomes will be. In trying to chart the possible scenarios and their impact on WCLAC’s work we have come up with the following:

A. A prisoners-exchange deal with Israel and the formation of a national unity government:

Under this scenario, a satisfactory deal is achieved, followed by an easing of restrictions on Gaza Strip and West Bank, withdrawal of Israeli troops from current positions in Gaza Strip. On the Palestinian side, such a scenario envisages the formation of a national unity government, funding mechanisms are in place to allow the flow of aid and donors’ funds to ease the humanitarian crisis. For WCLAC this

would mean easier access to various locations in the West Bank, easier access to decision-makers and legislators, and continuation of work as planned.

B. The escalation of infighting and its spread to the West Bank: Under this scenario a Palestinian-Palestinian agreement is impossible, the infighting spreads to the West Bank and any attempts to take action on the President's call for early elections are met with violence and disobedience. Under this scenario internal chaos and total breakdown of law and order will take place, and Israel could proceed with unilateral actions. Clearly WCLAC's work will be impacted under such scenario, as access to locations will be extremely limited, travel restrictions of staff for safety reasons, delays in implementation, and potentially a shifting of some of the work priorities.

In practical terms, the situation on the ground meant that many of our stakeholders within political parties, Legislative Council, Ministries, were either unavailable or in a state of limbo. However, it also meant that our work became even more relevant, more urgent, and more crucial. Our long-term relationships with grass-root organizations, with Ministries' staff, members of coalitions created and activated by WCLAC, with volunteers, civil society organizations, women organizations, and professional syndicates allowed us to continue our work at a full pace, exceeding in some areas what was originally planned. However, this might change if the haunting second scenario materialized.

For now, WCLAC, like all Palestinian organizations, is watching with great concern the unfolding events on the ground but stays true to its mission of serving Palestinian women and the Palestinian society as a whole. The events have highlighted more than ever the importance of women's engagement and activism in the political and decision-making arenas and WCLAC might have to start concentrating more on women leaders and members of local councils and political parties.

4. Cooperation Partners

Our partners and stakeholders have played an active role so far in the planning process of activities through regular meetings and discussions. This was evident in all the coalitions that WCLAC have created, activated, or participated in. Together we have identified coping mechanisms and alternative strategies thus allowing the activities to be carried out at a healthy pace. This help also came in the form of hosting and coordinating activities, providing logistical support, sharing in the implementation of activities in remote areas, advocating WCLAC's mission and objectives, media coverage, and others. Above all, our partners, donors included, have helped us through their unwavering commitment and support to the mission and objectives in a completely voluntary manner.

5. Executive Summary

In 2006 WCLAC has:

- Activated/was engaged in 7 coalitions for support of key legislation (Personal Status Law, Criminal Law, and Family Protection Law).
- Built relations with 250 influential persons.
- Initiated, continued, put the final touches on 6 analytical studies.
- Launched two media campaigns, and finished preparations for another one scheduled for the first half of 2007.

- Implemented awareness raising activities in 7 main locations (total of 24 sub-geographical areas) in the West Bank, and 4 tours of the exhibition “No to Violence Against Women” in 3 different locations in the West Bank, targeting 2522 people including 402 males.
- Trained 40 volunteers in women’s rights issues, and management, leadership, and communication skills.
- Trained 4 Jericho Shelter’s staff.
- Provided shelter services to 17 women in Jericho.
- Conducted 18 training activities to staff of a grass-root organization.
- Provided social and legal services to :
 - 231 women (170 women in the south, and 61 women in the middle areas). These women received counselling based on a one-time session from lawyers and/or social workers.
 - 272 women (all new cases),
 - 168 cases were closed by the end of 2006
 - 315 cases were taken to court
 - 69 women who solicited the services of the Centre in the past who came back with new cases or for follow up on their old cases. (33 cases at the Hebron office, 36 cases in Ramallah and Jerusalem).
 - 40 emergency cases
 - 7 legal counselling sessions were provided
- Provided introductory training to 14 women on documenting violations.
- Initiated/continued/put the final touches on 4 studies and papers documenting violations against women.
- Attended three international conference on issues related to women’s human rights and the international human rights laws.
- Attended 7 international workshops/trainings.
- Organized/attended 19 local workshops/trainings.
- Issued two press-releases and one briefing sheet on women’s and girls’ education

1. DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO THE PLAN FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD:

First Strategic Objective: Contribute to the development of legislation and institutional policies which support women and their rights.

Specific objectives:

- 1- Establish coalitions and set up coordination coalitions and committees with influential organizations and individuals to rally support for the Centre’s proposals for law reform.
- 2- Influence political and professional decision-makers.

Main impact points for 2006:

- The Centre has managed to consolidate its societal, institutional, regional, and international credibility as a point of reference for many coalitions and many organizations. Recent efforts to engage the Centre in different lobbying activities came from coalitions such as the “Coalition for safe abortion”,

- Several media institutions rely constantly on the Centre in preparing for programs and events that address women's issues. Among those media institutions are Al Quds Educational TV, Palestine radio and TV stations.
- The Centre attracts a high level of interest and coverage by media professionals, particularly those members of the Media Forum, through audio, visual, and written media outlets. The Centre has been receiving an increasing number of invitations to appear on TV or be interviewed on radio programs or even nominate guests for different such programs to talk about the laws and the legislative reforms.

The indicators mentioned above bring WCLAC closer to the realization of its specific objectives and ultimately its overall objective. While the foundations are there, a lot of work lays ahead us towards creating the real desired impact in the lives of Palestinian women.

Lessons learned:

It is crucial to prepare different scenarios for proposed amendments to legal texts, while maintaining the rationale behind them. It is also necessary to devise alternate plans to proceed with media campaigns and lobbying activities around these amendments and reforms to correspond with the difficult political conditions and the paralysis of the Council.

Result 1-1: Three bodies were created or activated through meetings and visits to institutions to rally support on proposals for reform/endorsement of: Criminal Law Coalition, Personal Status Law Coalition, and Family Protection Law Coalition.

During 2006, WCLAC created, activated, or participated in 7 coalitions: Criminal Law Coalition, Personal Status Law Coalition, Family Protection Coalition, Media Forum, Coalition against Violence Against Women, and the International Humanitarian Law Coalition.

The progress under this result has exceeded the original plan which envisaged the initiation and involvement in 3 coalitions. However, this expansion has come only to serve the three main coalitions centered around proposals for law reform. The Media Forum in particular has been instrumental in highlighting and attracting attention to the Centre's proposed amendments/new draft legislation. Additionally, the Forum on Violence against Women has agreed to carry the Family Protection Law coalition and be primarily engaged in rallying support for the draft law prepared by WCLAC. (Details of activities are provided in the "Progress of Implementation" section of the report).

Activities under this result involve expanding consensus among civil society organizations and different stakeholders in support of the law reforms proposed by the Centre. The major obstacle for taking the lobbying work to the next step this year was the political situation and the almost paralyzed Legislative Council. Furthermore,

political parties and decision-makers were preoccupied first with the elections and later with the deteriorating political, social, and economic situation. These conditions prevented the Centre from discerning the level of acceptance and responsiveness of the new Council to its proposals. Meanwhile WCLAC is going full-speed in all other activities and preparations to be well positioned to help move these reforms/new legislations when the Legislative Council resumes its normal functioning and operations. Changes in strategies and approaches to secure the desired changes might be needed in the future depending on the new Council's reactions to the proposed reforms.

The impact of this output is reflected in the level of engagement by different women and legal NGOs as well as other relevant parties in bringing about change in the legal environment in Palestine to be more supportive of women's rights. On the long-term, these changes and proposed amendments once passed will impact the lives of all Palestinian women granting them more protection and equality before the law.

Result 1-2: Build relations with 300 influential personalities

In 2006 WCLAC was able to build relations with 250 influential personalities (a list of names can be provided upon request). While the target for 2006 wasn't quite met, yet WCLAC has a database of at least 600 influential personalities that have over the last two years been engaged/involved/ supportive of its various activities and coalitions. This output is directly linked to the first one but is also a cross-cutting output that serves to promote the Centre's vision and mission.

Despite the difficulties in accessing Legislative Council members, yet WCLAC managed this year to initiate contacts with 12 new members.

Result 2-1: Complete 3 analytical studies.

In 2006 WCLAC initiated, continued, or put the final touches on 3 analytical studies (Personal Status law research, Women's need research, and Family Protection Law research). Research work is very crucial for good lobbying and advocacy work, as well as for providing valuable insight into the needs and priorities of sectors that the Centre strives to serve.

The year 2006 was truly a year of teaching and learning in the field of research work, as the Centre focused on the feminist methodology in conducting research. Feminist methodology implies active participation, learning, teaching, building skills, and listening to the women's voices, trying to reflect their experiences and the details of their lives. Additionally, feminist methodology questions the conventional definition of knowledge and argues knowledge can be found within, and generated by, the women we work with and whose experiences we write or read about. The impact of this new methodology was clear as WCLAC staff moved from the role of coordinators/reviewers of research work to the role of main researchers and leaders of the research groups alongside the actual authors. The training of field researchers who helped carry out several tasks for the research projects as well as the experience gained within the Centre will help establish a core group of feminist researchers who combine their educational and academic skills with knowledge and field expertise on women's issues. As for our indirect beneficiaries, Palestinian women, organizations, legislators, community as whole, the high quality of the research publications will

eventually bring about the desirable social and legal change supportive of women's rights and true partnership in creating a modern and democratic society.

Lessons learned:

While adopting a new methodology and undertaking the leadership role in implementing the research work has been an invaluable learning experience, yet it has created a larger workload than initially planned. Additionally, the wide geographical coverage of the research projects and the need to review and evaluate all the various practical steps have also meant that progress was not as fast as hoped for. These elements will be factored in the actions plans for 2007 to better reflect the amount of work needed from the various units within the Centre.

Result 2-2: Launch/complete three media campaigns (Campaign for Personal Status Law, Campaign for Criminal Law, Campaign for Family Protection Law)

During 2006, WCLAC was able to launch two media campaigns while the Campaign for Personal Status law was postponed till 2007. The inability of the Personal Status law Coalition to finalize the paper on the proposed amendments and the rationale behind it, in addition to the paralysis within the Legislative Council, were the main reasons behind this delay. However, the personal status law and the proposed amendments thereof received a lot of attention through the various awareness programs and activities conducted by the Centre.

One important development related to the media campaigns is associated with the regional part of the campaign for the Family Protection Law that will be conducted in 2007. This regional program was made possible through the help of Heinrich Boll Foundation and involves the Salma regional network with members from Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. This level of media campaigning is relatively new to WCLAC. Over the last 10 years the Palestinian legislators have been looking to the experiences of countries such as Egypt and Jordan in drafting and passing new Palestinian legislations. Therefore the success of the regional campaign for the Family Protection Law will be instrumental setting the scene for the adoption of this law by the Palestinian legislature.

On another note, the Media Forum established by WCLAC has been very active and engaged in carrying out the activities under this result. The input and participation of Media Forum's members have helped expand the outreach of the media campaigns and added credibility and to its components.

The major setback however remains to be the current stalemate of the Legislative Council. Therefore it is expected that some elements of the campaigns will have to be reactivated once Council operations are back on track.

Result 2-3: Publication of the oral history project report on impact on women of Israeli army violence.

Second Strategic Objective: Develop local cultural and moral resources in order to eradicate negative social attitudes and practices against women.

Specific objectives:

- 1- Develop knowledge and dialogue mechanisms in local community to empower women.
- 2- Develop effective local and voluntary community activists to promote positive cultural attitudes about women

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-1: Organize regular group awareness activities around women’s rights in 7 main locations with broader participation from other social groups.

This result is part of the lobbying and advocacy mechanisms through which awareness programs are designed to target the various sectors within the society. WCLAC’s strategy for this result is a two-pronged approach:

- 1- Empowering women by providing them with the social, rights-based, and legal information.
- 2- Convey specific messages that expose the existing discrimination and the need to change social or legal behaviours to ensure equity and fair treatment for women.

The awareness program was assessed in the beginning of 2006 through internal workshops. It was agreed to design a legal, social, and rights-based awareness program that is based on accumulating experiences (several sessions with the same target groups instead of sporadic one-time meetings). Furthermore, it was agreed that the awareness programs will focus on community based grass-roots organizations that have community outreach and activities in several areas, particularly in Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, Bidya, Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Jenin. Additionally a triangulation of different strategic objectives is one of our goals under this result, as the awareness programs are focused around the law reforms that the Centre is working on.

This year was marked by a tremendous number of requests from different organizations for these awareness programs. We had to decline some requests due to our human and time resources limitations. However, we managed to work with 53 organizations in 24 geographical locations with twice the amount of accomplished activities from the 140 activities originally planned. We managed to conduct 249 activities targeting a total of 2522 individuals (of which 402 were males). During these activities 583 legal and social counselling services were provided and 23 women were referred to the services unit within the Centre. Additionally, WCLAC staff were hosted by several radio and TV stations which target large numbers of audiences.

Additionally, the awareness activities conducted this year revealed the female members of the local, village, and municipal councils need to be specifically targeted and custom-designed awareness programs particularly in the areas of rights and legislations with direct impact on the lives of women in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness within their local councils. Therefore the Centre is studying the possibilities of targeting local women leaders in official institutions or civil society organizations to build up their skills and also to attract more support for law reforms proposed by the Centre.

The other important element of the awareness programs is related to the enhancement of the culture of women’s rights are human rights that was conducted with university students. The evaluation of this component was very positive because it has generated discussions and debates among the students and allowed them to express their opinions. Despite the diversity of the students’ political affiliations, however the

awareness program was able to bring them closer around the social rights-based agenda, particularly in terms of women's rights.

Lessons learned:

- The need to increase the number of male beneficiaries of awareness programs. The current figure is low and maybe it could be related to the fact that our programs are designed mainly for women. Therefore, it is important to design joint programs.
- Community based organizations, such as Women for Life in Bidya, should be encouraged to carry out awareness programs in neighbouring villages with support from the Centre. This is particularly important as they might have more access to remote areas and to the women who are unable to travel to training courses outside their villages.
- The limited number of organizations in Qalqilya and Tulkarem has prevented the scope of awareness programs there. In order to address this issue, more staff need to be hired or to contract the actual implementation to specialists living in these areas.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Production of four educational and counselling materials

WCLAC was able to produce only two of the four educational and counselling materials, namely the adverts for the Family Protection Law. However, other materials are in final stages of development prior to publication in 2007. Internal reviews and heavy workload have prevented the finalization of all such planned materials.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-3: Monitoring media institutions and publishing a report on how the Palestinian media address certain women related social and legal issues.

WCLAC believes in the importance of media in influencing and generating change in the existing cultural norms and behaviours of people in the community. Therefore in 2006, work continued full-scale on the study of media institutions' coverage of social and legal issues related to women. Several meetings were held by the consultative committee of the study (Alpha Organization, WCLAC's Research Unit and Management Unit staff).

Several important milestones were reached in this study related to the administration of the questionnaire for the local newspapers, setting up a database for the data entry, training of 19 university students on gender issues and their relation to media, and on administering the questionnaire designed for the students. 1350 questionnaires were completed in the West Bank and Gaza: 900 questionnaires in Al Quds University, Birzeit University, An Najah University, Bethlehem University, and Hebron University. 450 questionnaires were completed in three Gaza Strip universities. Special questionnaires were designed and administered for media people and decision-makers. All statistics and data were received, a paper was prepared on issued addressed in the study, and a first draft of the study was completed and distributed within the Centre for review.

The study was completed and will be published early 2007. The study combined with the work of Media Forum should start the process of change within the society, an exciting prospect that WCLAC will be monitoring very closely.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-1: Training of 40 males and female volunteers in women's rights issues, and management, leadership, and communication skills.

This is another important result under this overall strategic objective. It has impact on two levels:

- 1- Promote voluntarism within the Palestinian community, a spirit which has started to decline in the last few years.
- 2- Provide local communities with trained social actors who can spread awareness among the people of women's rights and legal issues so that they become real actors in their own lives.

Work carried out with volunteers this year is a continuation of activities that started two years ago with the same group of people (accumulation of experience and expertise). The volunteers have shown full commitment towards the training programs as well as the implementation of their own activities with the support of the Centre. The Centre also created more volunteering opportunities within its units which helped provide these volunteers with the opportunity of applying practically the skills acquired through training.

18 activities were implemented by the volunteers, exceeding the originally planned number of 10 events. The increase came upon the demand of the different communities where the volunteers reside. In fact the volunteers have become very well known to the local communities in relation to women issues. Additionally, the volunteers have shown their ability to initiate, design, prepare, and implement their own activities rather than just being coordinators for WCLAC's activities, and there are increased requests for these activities by different community based organizations.

It is worth noting that the actual number of volunteers that have been trained exceed by far the 40 mentioned here if we take into consideration that Media Forum members are actually volunteers and have received training through WCLAC. However, under this output reference is made to the specific volunteers program within the Centre.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-2: Supporting voluntary activities in 6 locations in 2 Areas.

Please see above.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Develop incentive system for volunteers.

WCLAC has been working on a manual for volunteers. The final draft of the manual was circulated to the Centre's staff and was discussed in four all-staff meetings. The manual will include rules, procedures, expectations, WCLAC code of ethics, and other useful information for volunteers in addition to the structure of the incentive system.

As part of the incentive for volunteering, to enhance leadership skills, and to recognize their skills and efforts, the volunteers were offered the opportunity to take the lead in some of WCLAC's activities. Additionally regular meetings with the volunteers provide chances for exchanging experiences, listening to obstacles that they might face, and providing personal and professional support. WCLAC provided some volunteers with financial incentives in the form of transportation allowances to attend WCLAC activities and training sessions.

We also implemented the system of issuing certificates to volunteers following the completion of the training courses and certificates of appreciation in recognition of distinguished efforts and achievements.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-4: Implement incentive system for volunteers.

Once the manual is finalized, the incentive system for volunteers will be implemented consistently and will be reviewed in 2007.

Meanwhile, in 2006, WCLAC gave symbolic financial awards to 37 volunteers (17 in Jericho and 20 in Bethlehem) for their commitment and dedication throughout the year.

Third Strategic Objective: Build the capacity of relevant official and grassroots organizations that have direct impact on women's issues:

Specific objectives:

1. Provide support to the Ministry of Social Affairs in developing shelter services in Jericho.
2. Provide support to the Ministry of Social Affairs in developing shelter services in Bethlehem. (This is a specially funded project coordinated and planned with the Italian NGO Differenza Donna which will be completed in 2006)
3. Build capacity of grassroots women's organizations in governorates to provide services to women victims of violence.
4. Support referral institutions, such as police, dealing with women victims of violence.
5. Provide legal representation and abridgement services for women victims of violence whose problems are not addressed by social support programs

Impact notes:

As a result of WCLAC's work under the first and second specific objectives, we could say the following:

- The Ministry of Social Affairs has recognized its primary responsibility towards protecting women in distress, taking into consideration that such protection is the responsibility of the state and thus all the activities of the Centre are now carried out under the auspices of MOSA. This was reflected in the renewing of contracts with MOSA related to the two shelters.
- The work with the police and public prosecution offices have led to recommendations submitted by them to build safe homes for women and the importance of creating women protection programs.

- The shelter is the first of its kind in the Middle East region that provides different kinds of services that take into consideration the status of women, their needs for protection, development, and empowerment.
- The existence of professional staff with a feminist vision and mission. While the Centre continues to train these staff members, yet they have clearly made real tangible progress that distinguishes them from staff working in other shelters in the region.
- The Centre has been receiving a large number of calls requesting services although the Shelter in Bethlehem is not yet opened. Meanwhile the shelter in Jericho received 17 cases this year.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-1: Continue training 6 staff including members of safe shelters proposed to work in the emergency Centre, including a social worker, shelter mothers, and a shelter coordinator.

Training of staff continued during 2006 as follows:

- 1- Conducting 2 group counselling sessions at an average of 6 hours a month with the team members in the presence of a consultant.
- 2- Conducting regular meetings with the team members working at the shelter.
- 3- Conducting orientation and training sessions for the Shelter's accounting department staff on the Centre's financial and administrative systems.
- 4- Training for one of the staff members was scheduled during this reporting period at a shelter in Nazareth. However, this training did not materialize due to permit related issues.
- 5- Four house mothers were hired on a daily basis system to work at the shelter.
- 6- 9 regular meetings were held with the staff to organize the work in general and the shifts in particular.
- 7- A professional supervisor was hired and conducted 3 professional supervision sessions with the staff.

The training will have a great impact on women who seek the services of the shelter, equipping the staff with the needed skills and expertise of handling the different situations and in dealing with women in distress.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Providing the infrastructure for the safe house in Jericho.

This result was completed in 2006, with direct impact on women who receive services. Of course this result will be subject of on-going maintenance.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-3: Developing systems and policies for safe house.

Systems and policies for the safe house are in place and have been developed through a participatory approach with all relevant parties, particularly referral institutions. The institutionalizing of operating rules are crucial to maintain high standards and quality services within the safe house, as well as provide clear, consistent, and easy to follow guidelines for referral institutions.

Specific Objective 2 – Shelter services in Bethlehem

This project will be reported on separately.

Specific Objective 3- Build Capacity of grassroots women’s organizations to provide services to women victims of violence.

In 2006, WCLAC decided to continue the capacity building activities of “Women for life Society” only. The decision was made for two main reasons:

- 1- To focus on the quality and the impact of training activities that started with the society last year, particularly given the long process of developing the mission and vision of the society. The weak administrative and managerial experience and skills of the Society’s staff makes more the reason to focus on building their capacity.
- 2- Financial constraints that prevented WCLAC to start training staff of another organization.

This specific objective is particularly important as grass-roots organizations are empowered and trained to provide services to women victims of violence. As the Centre resources are limited, and thus services cannot be provided to all women in all places, the work with grassroots organizations is of particular importance. Additionally, this has helped WCLAC remain in touch with the popular bases through the people-centered capacity-building programs, the transfer of knowledge, and the mutual learning experience. Furthermore, the work conducted has helped promote good practices, higher levels of awareness among larger sectors of the community.

In 2007, WCLAC plans to start this program with a new grassroots organization in Tulkarem.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-1: Begin training staff of one local organization.

In 2006, we provided 18 training activities to the staff of “Women for Life” in Bidya. The training activities varied from proposal writing to training of the society’s specialists. For details on the training activities, please refer to the “Progress of Implementation” section of the report.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-2: Develop regulations for one local organization.

This was completed in 2006, including financial and procurement regulations.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-3: Develop external relations for one organization.

This was completed in 2006. The society was able to initiate the formation of a feminist coalition of 10 women organizations in Salfit district that will support and endorse activities in favour of the women in the region.

Additionally, the Ministry of Social Affairs regional department has cooperated with the Society on following up individual cases.

Additionally, the society was able to receive 84 cases during the year 2006 and has received several requests from surrounding villages for workshops and activities.

Specific Objective 3**Result 3-4: Develop programs for one local organization.**

This results was completed in 2006. The society was able, through help from WCLAC staff, to develop a program of legal awareness and services for 10 villages in the northern governates that was funded by several donors including UNIFEM.

Additionally, the Society was able to implement several workshops and lectures with different organizations through which a number of cases were referred to the Centre and the society for follow up by lawyers or social workers.

Fourth Specific objective: Support referral institutions, such as police, to deal with women victims of violence.**Specific Objective 4****Result 4-1: Train staff of referral institutions.**

1- Evaluation of Adolescent Health Program conducted last year:

A workshop was held to evaluate the training program of 150 counsellors employed by the Ministry of Education in the area of adolescent health. The workshop was attended by the trainees themselves and the Ministry officers responsible for counselling in the various regions. An evaluation report was prepared and submitted to the Ministry, and 350 copies of the Manual on Adolescent Health were printed upon request by the Ministry of Education.

2- Support of new social work graduates and counsellors employed by the Ministry of Education (unplanned project)

This new project came as a result of cooperation between WCLAC and UNFPA and though unplanned, it was decided that influencing newly credentialed social workers and counsellors early in their career toward feminist human services practice would be a very worthy goal. The program involves the designing and implementing a series of training workshops and courses with fresh university graduates who specialized as social workers in Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus, and Gaza. The program also involves support to the department of counselling within the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, as well as their involvement in the training and evaluation activities. The program involves practical training as the new graduates will be able to work in public schools for four months under the supervision of the school counsellors (a total of 12,000 training hours for the graduates).

This result is crucial in developing professional skills among staff of referral institutions in handling cases of violence against women, and providing high-quality counselling services. Additionally, this would help promote more supportive cultural attitudes towards women's right and issues.

Specific Objective 4**Result 4-2: Provide technical support to 100 cases of referral institutions.****Specific Objective 4****Result 4-3: Provide services for 200 women**

Results 4-2 and 4-3 constitute a very important core component of our work. This year WCLAC has provided the following services:

- Provided social and legal services to :

- 231 women (170 women in the south, and 61 women in the middle areas). These women received counselling based on a one-time session from lawyers and/or social workers.
- 272 women (all new cases),
- 168 cases were closed by the end of 2006
- 315 cases were taken to court
- 69 women who solicited the services of the Centre in the past who came back with new cases or for follow up on their old cases. (33 cases at the Hebron office, 36 cases in Ramallah and Jerusalem).
- 40 emergency cases

WCLAC has managed to work with formal referral institutions and provide them with the necessary support to step in and assume their legal responsibilities towards the protection of women. These institutions were reluctant in the past to play their roles due to social limitations and/or lack of expertise and skills in dealing with these sensitive cases.

Formal agreements were reached with the public prosecution about cases of violence committed against girls under the age of 18 whereby they are committed to extract the girls who suffer from domestic violence and provide them with a safe shelter.

One of the success stories was the case of a 14 year old girl who was raped at the age of 11. The Centre together with the police and public prosecutor managed to move the girl to a safe shelter, accompany her to the medical exam, dealing with the family and explaining the next legal steps, talking with the girl and understanding the details of what exactly has happened, and finally moving the case against the rapist who is currently in prison under the custody of the police and will be taken to court. This was a real breakthrough, particularly for the formal institutions who have acquired the needed skills to handle such cases, despite their limited resources.

Details and analysis of the types of cases and the specific problems in the area of legal and social counselling services could be provided upon request.

Fourth Strategic Objective: Expose, locally and internationally, the practices of the Israeli occupation violations against women’s rights.

Specific objectives 1: To monitor and expose the Israeli violations against the International Humanitarian Law.

<p>Specific Objective Result 1-1: Training of 6 women on documenting the violations.</p>

An introductory training course on principles of the International Humanitarian Law and how it relates to women, as well as the history of the Palestinian society under the occupation was conducted with a team of 6 female field researchers.

Training activities on documenting the violations took place in the November with 16 field researchers. The 5-day training course focused on women under occupation and the international humanitarian law as well as techniques of documenting the violations.

Specific Objective 1**Result 1-2: Publish reports submitted to CEDAW.**

WCLAC translated into Arabic all reports submitted to CEDAW Committee during the year 2005. The reports were proof read for accuracy, and 70 copies in English and Arabic were printed. Copies will be distributed to local NGOs, women's groups, government ministries, and other concerned parties.

Specific Objective 1**Result 1-3: Issue a report on Palestinian women's experience of suffering under occupation**

1- WCLAC worked on finalizing a study on the Palestinian women's experiences under occupation. Several drafts reviewed by WCLAC's Feminist Research Consultant then forwarded to an outside copy editor. Her comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the paper and this version will be sent to the research team leader for final approval before being sent to printer. This report will be published in both Arabic and English by the end of February 2007.

2- WCLAC is also working this year on preparing a comprehensive study on the impact of Israeli violations of the International Humanitarian Law on Palestinian women. The study is expected to be finalized in the first half of the year 2007. Activities during the first half of the year have included:

- a. Identification of field researchers' team.
- b. Meetings with the team to prepare a first draft of the research questionnaire.
- c. Internal meetings within the Centre to agree the final scope of the project.
- d. Meeting with the documentation officer at Al Haq organization to benefit from their experiences in the field of automated database for the documentation of violations.

Specific Objective 1**Result 1-4: Study "The Exclusion of Women from the Protection of IHL: Experiences from the Arab World"**

The work continued on finalizing the concept paper initiated in 2005. Several meetings were held with the legal researcher to provide her with the information needed, addressing questions, providing legal studies, the Criminal legal texts relevant to the study, review and study of the Personal Status Laws, Criminal Laws, Citizenship Laws, and the Constitutions of Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon for any changes or amendments.

The study was finalized and comments received by all relevant staff within the Centre. They are currently being incorporated by the legal researcher.

Some of the obstacles that WCLAC faced in preparing this study could be summarized as follows:

- 1- The original concept paper had old information that needed to be updated.
- 2- Lack of internet resources with information regarding some of the specific aspects of the study.

- 3- The general context at the time of the initial drafting of the concept paper does not meet the current needs and objectives of the study.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-5: Attend one international conference on issues related to women's human rights and the international human rights laws.

In April, the General Director of the Centre attended the launching of the International Women's Commission in the US. The Director attended a meeting with the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Congress Members, and media people.

In May, two WCLAC staff members attended a 4-day international conference at the University of California, Riverside, organized by the International Solidarity Working Group. WCLAC presented a paper on the impacts of the Isolation Wall on Palestinian women.

In June, one staff member attended an international conference in Morocco, titled "Equality without Reservations" on CEDAW and the optional protocol.

Fifth Strategic Objective: Develop WCLAC's own capacity, performance, and sustainability.

Specific objectives:

- a. Develop planning, evaluation, and monitoring system.
- b. Build capacity of WCLAC staff.
- c. Develop partnership relations with donor organizations.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-1: Revise and further develop and refine strategic plan, annual activity plan, budgets, and annual reports.

This was completed in 2006. A separate document will be provided regarding the refinement of the strategic plan as a result of internal strategic planning workshops that took place in late September and continued through the end of the year.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Prepare monitoring and evaluation matrix.

This result was completed in 2006. WCLAC has developed staff evaluation forms as well as evaluation guidelines that were implemented as a pilot project in 2006. These will be reviewed in 2007 for further enhancements based on practical implementation.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-3: Prepare 3 operations guidelines and manuals.

Activities under this result included:

- 1- A comprehensive revision of job descriptions within the Centre, clarifying the responsibilities and roles of staff and operational units of the Centre. All job descriptions were formulated through active participation of all staff regarding their respective jobs.
- 2- Work started on revising the employees' manual.
- 3- Internal workshops and finalization of WCLAC's code of ethics.

4- Internal workshop on indicators.

The complete revision of the employees' manual was not completed by the end of the year due to heavy workload and the internal strategic planning workshops and procedures.

This is viewed as an on-going process within the Centre to improve and enhance the work environment, the clear delineation of roles and responsibilities, as well as rights and duties of staff. Ultimately this should help increase the level of job satisfaction among staff as well as reduce and minimize burnout potentials.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-1: Conduct training needs assessment.

This is scheduled for 2007.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-2: Train staff in organizational and practice area.

A list of all staff training activities is provided within the "progress of implementation" section of the report. Training activities have reflected significantly on the performance of staff who have demonstrated higher levels of professionalism, understanding, and renewed commitment to the vision and mission of the Centre. Ultimately, this benefited our target groups as they receive higher quality levels of services and interactions.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Develop electronic client database

The electronic client database was supposed to be implemented in April 2006. However, WCLAC decided to suspend this project pending the creation and implementation of a unified integrated information system for the Centre as a whole, with the database as an integral part of it. This will take place in 2007.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Develop WCLAC's Library assets.

This is an ongoing process. In 2006, we managed to develop our library through classification and indexing of available books, initial compilation of audio materials and classification in an easy access style, compilation of all Centre's publications and work papers in the library as the central location for classification and indexing.

WCLAC also looked into the development of a database that will constitute a reliable source of information in preparing international reports, particularly relating to the CEDAW. To that effect, the Centre contacted research and documentation institutions to coordinate reciprocal acquisition of studies for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006. The publications were compiled by the Centre's librarian. All publications were classified and coded. A field researcher was contracted to document femicide cases during the years 2005 and 2006. Basic criteria for documenting these cases were developed and 13 study cases were documented in depth.

The library has become a favourite destination of many researchers and university students, and is evolving into a valuable resource Centre within the community.

Specific Objective 3**Result 3-1: Evaluate WCLAC programs and partnership agreements.**

This result was set in motion at the end of September with a 3-day retreat of unit heads in Jericho. The meetings evaluated WCLAC five-year strategic plan, its different programs, activities and types of interventions. This process continued over the last three months of the year and resulted in a revision of the Strategic plan, a review of the budget status for the following year and the preparation of action plans for 2007 based on a new approach to reporting, indicators, and outputs expected. As a result of these meetings and consultations, it was decided to evaluate the work of two units within the Centre during the year 2007.

On another note, WCLAC's consortium meeting was held in May 2006. Minutes of the meeting were prepared and circulated. WCLAC's views the consortium meetings as a great opportunity not only to update its donors on the progress of the work, but also an important venue for the exchange of ideas, for providing a different insight into our programs, in other words, a real partnership.

Finally for the year 2007, WCLAC has been awarded three new projects (within the strategic plan) and we are partners in the implementation of a fourth project.

Specific Objective 3**Result 3-2: Develop WCLAC media materials in English and Arabic**

In 2006, WCLAC produced the following media materials:

- 1- Two press releases were prepared during the first half of the year.
- 2- One briefing sheet on Women's and Girls Education was finalized and is being edited for publication.
- 3- A media committee was formed to decide on the media strategies of the Centre.

Although the Centre's activities received wide coverage through the various media campaigns, the Media Forum, and the various awareness programs, special events and occasions, the Centre is behind schedule and planned output. We have been so busy implementing the wide range of activities as demonstrated above, that this component was overlooked or had to be put on the back-burner. Additionally the English and Arabic Media and Communications Officer positions have been vacant. We have already taken steps towards resolving this issue by announcing the vacancies in the daily newspapers and expect to fill these positions in 2007.

6- Obstacles and solutions

We discussed the major obstacles faced under each result and described our solutions and approached followed to overcome these obstacles.

Additionally, the strategic planning process has revealed the need to review and revise the quantitative indicators within the original strategic plan. The year 2006 was a good year to do that since it marked the mid-point of the five-year plan. It was important to give time for the restructuring process that took place in 2005 to settle in and go through the whole workings of a full year of implementation. The revisions that will

be submitted separately emanate from the highly ambitious figures set out originally. The field experience has demonstrated that activities/interventions require longer periods of time to be implemented if we wanted to maintain our high standards of quality and tangible impact orientations that have characterized our work throughout the years. This came also as a result of comparing our current human resources capabilities and limitations against the expected outputs. While new staff need to be hired to implement the full range of planned activities, we believe that hiring new staff is not necessarily always the best solution. Therefore a lot of consolidation work and review took place in 2006 and will continue throughout 2007 with the planned evaluation of two of our units. This is intended to ensure that we are not stretched out too thin, which might undermine our financial and socio-cultural sustainability, and to avoid deviation from our original mission and vision. In those terms, the year 2006 was the year of critical thinking and review par excellence.

7- Sustainability

The ability of WCLAC to continue its work under the current difficult political conditions can be viewed as a result of its socio-cultural sustainability, which is manifested in the acceptance and endorsement by the local community of its programs, mission, and activities. WCLAC conducted awareness activities and focus groups in more than 24 locations all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, many of which are extremely conservative areas. The participation and commitment of participants in these activities and their willingness to share their ideas and be present at these activities was possible due to the excellent reputation of WCLAC as professional, transparent, and development oriented organization. Over the years, we continuously work on improving the conditions for women in Palestine. We were never an organization that conducted a one-time activity or event then left, and our beneficiaries know that.

Additionally, the coalitions that WCLAC has created/joined provide a more solid foundation for the sustainability of the positive effects and impact of its programs and activities, as its feminist vision is shared by an increasing number of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Work with grassroots organizations in remote areas is helping us stay in touch with the people and serves as our compass, keeping us on track and in sync with our target groups' needs and priorities. This is extremely essential for our sustainability as we keep our feet rooted on the ground while our ambitions and goals keep us focused on the social change that we hope will contribute to the building of a democratic Palestinian society based on principles of equality and social justice between men and women

Financial sustainability can be viewed in the existence of a donors' consortium that is financially committed to WCLAC's mission and objectives. Furthermore, the participation of new donors in the consortium is yet another proof that our financial transparency, our accountability, integrity, and achievements are a guarantee of financial sustainability. In 2007 we received two core funding grant agreements which is another element of enhancing our sustainability, as opposed to the short-term project based funding agreements. We have also bought our own premises with the approval of our donors. On the long-term this investment will increase our financial sustainability. Additionally, volunteers who assist in

carrying out the work of the Centre can be seen as contributors to the financial sustainability of the Centre. We are also exploring ways to enhance our self-financing activities as part of our long-term strategy.

Progress of Implementation 2006

First Strategic Objective: Contribute to the development of legislation and institutional policies which support women and their rights.

Expected long-term results:

- 2- The existence of gender sensitive laws that do not discriminate against women and conform to international human rights standards.
- 3- Development of a culture of activism and civic responsibility in Palestinian society.
- 4- The Palestinian community considers gender sensitive laws more legitimate and necessary.

Specific objectives:

- 3- Establish coalitions and set up coordination coalitions and committees with influential organizations and individuals to rally support for the Centre's proposals for law reform.
- 4- Influence political and professional decision-makers.

In its on-going efforts to achieve the above first specific objective, within the framework of the overall specific objective as defined in the five-year strategic plan, WCLAC is focusing in 2006 on 3 key pieces of legislation that greatly impact the condition of Palestinian women, namely the Criminal Code, the Personal Status Law, and the proposed Family Protection Law.

The main strategies followed for achieving the planned outputs can be summarized as follows:

- 1- Preparation/drafting of documents and distribution to potential coalition members.
- 2- Regular meetings and visits to the concerned institutions.
- 3- Conducting workshops with various relevant stakeholders and opinion makers.
- 4- Consultations with relevant bodies and institutions.
- 5- Exhibitions and media contests.

Specific Objective 1:

Result 1-1: Three bodies are created/activated through meetings and visits to institutions to rally support on proposals for reform/endorsement of: Criminal Law Coalition, Personal Status Law Coalition, and Family Protection Law Coalition.

Time frame: January-December 2006
Progress: 100%

Main activities/achievements:

1. **Personal Status Law Coalition:** (Progress 70 %)

- a. Study on the Personal Status Law:
 1. Study on articles related to a) marriage and marriage contracts b) custody rights, c) age of marriage, d) accumulated assets during marriage, and e) polygamy was completed.
- b. Adoption by Civil Society Organizations, in addition to the Coalition, of the document on amending 5 articles of the law. Total number of Coalition member organizations is 13.
 1. Meetings of Coordinating Committee for Personal Status Law:
Nine meetings were held to review and prepare final drafts of the articles of the law that need to be amended.

The coordinating committee was charged with preparing a background paper on the rationale for the amendments. However, this was not completed during 2006; therefore some meetings with the Coalition members in Gaza were postponed to early 2007.

2. Large-scale meeting of the Coalition within the General Union of Palestinian Women:
Meeting held in May endorsed the work of the Coordinating Committee. Another meeting of the full general assembly of the coalition was held in December which agreed to devise a work plan for advancing the document.
3. Individual meetings with political parties:
Meetings were not completed due to political parties' preoccupation with Legislative Council elections and the complicated, ever evolving, political dynamics that followed. This held true for the second half of the year, as the political and security conditions were high on their agenda. Also, the Coalition did not finalize the concept paper of the law on time.

2. **Criminal Law Coalition:** (Progress 70%)

- i. Meetings with the coalition:
 1. 6 meetings were conducted with the coalition. It was agreed to work on re-drafting certain articles within the Jordanian Criminal Law and submit the amended draft, and not the whole law to the PLC. The articles are related to: adultery, and arguments against reduced sentences for "honour" crimes. The legal drafting of these articles was finalized.
- ii. Individual meetings with political parties, Ministry of Women's Affairs, and women organizations and groups:
 2. A meeting was held in February with the legal department of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to coordinate joint activities related to the Criminal Law. However the planned activities were not carried out because of the prevailing political conditions.
 3. Meetings with political parties did not materialize during this first half of the year due to preoccupation with preparations for elections and later with the prevailing political conditions.
 4. Four meetings were held with women organization to discuss their position on the Criminal Law and rally their support. The meetings were

ii. Regular coverage of Legislative Council sessions:

WCLAC designated staff attended regularly PLC sessions related to discussions of the Criminal Law and circulated reports and updates to all staff members.

Additional meetings and workshops with the political parties and the Ministry of Women's Affairs did not materialize due to the political conditions and the changes that occurred within the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Furthermore, change of direction in the work strategy on this law has led to postponing the main workshop that had been planned for the second half of the year.

Total number of coalition member organizations: 7.

3. **Forum against Violence Against Women (VAW):**

WCLAC attended all 19 meetings of the Forum that took place in 2006. Our work with the coalition covered the following:

- 1- Contributed to the preparation of the Forum's report of achievements submitted to OXFAM.¹
- 2- Contributed to the preparation of a report on femicide to be presented in a press conference.
- 3- Worked on collecting and documenting signatures for the petition campaign against femicide. A total of 3400 signatures were collected, the majority of which were collected by WCLAC.
- 4- Coordinated and prepared for a press conference in Jericho with media professionals and institutions to present the report on femicide and to listen to the opinions of PLC Members regarding this issue. However the conference was interrupted due to the Israeli invasion of Jericho on 14/3. The invasion of Jericho and the events that followed caused a lot of confusion among the journalists and the PLC Members who were already at the press conference venue.
- 5- Active participation in the discussions on design, contents, implementation and evaluation of special spots on "femicide".
- 6- Follow up on designing posters on femicide. One of the paintings from the Exhibition "No to Violence against Women" was selected to be the official poster.
- 7- Participation in writing a proposal for raising funds for a special research on femicide.
- 8- Participation in the consultative research committee for a research paper to be prepared by the Forum.
- 9- Participation in drafting press releases on different occasions.
- 10- Participation in writing a proposal for the global campaign against violence against women, which included 10 regional conferences on the current political situation and its impact on the social and psychological health of women. Under this project, the Centre conducted a conference

¹ OXFAM-NOVIB: Partners' report on best practices.

with “Women for Life” Society in Bidya, which was attended by 65 women (housewives, members of local councils, feminist activists) from 11 villages. Another conference was held in Jericho and was attended by 40 women activists in women organizations and housewives from Jericho city, Aqbet Jaber refugee camp, Ein Al Sultan refugee camp, and Al Oja village. The Centre also worked jointly with the Feminist Studies Center in Hebron to conduct the conference and presented an analytical paper.

- 11- Participation in the Forum’s committee for conducting a national joint campaign with other organizations including MIFTAH and PCBS. This also included the submission of three papers related to the impact of the current situation on women’s health, the situation of wives of martyrs, as well as live testimonies about Israeli violations of the international humanitarian law. Additionally the Centre participated in drafting the closing statement of the conference and a staff member was hosted by a TV program to talk about the conference.
- 12- Participation in preparing for a press conference on the status of women and murder and violence against women.

4. **Family Protection Law Coalition** – (Progress 80%)

i. Endorsement of draft law internally:

The endorsement of the draft law internally was a first important step towards conducting consultative and lobbying meetings with various women and legal organizations to establish a coalition. An all-staff workshop held earlier this year reviewed and approved the draft. After some delays in the first half of the year, the draft was discussed and approved by the senior WCLAC staff and the Board of Trustees in August.

ii. Conducting meetings with women and legal organizations to establish a coalition:

The idea of the draft law was proposed to the Forum against Violence against Women², who agreed to endorse it and shoulder the lobbying work.

Additionally 4 workshops were held with women and civil society organizations to discuss the proposed draft law and provided valuable legal feed-back on it. The workshops were divided as follows: Two workshops in Ramallah, one of them dedicated to the Forum’s member organizations. The two other workshops were held in Hebron and Nablus and were attended by a combined number of 54 legal and women organizations in addition to journalists and media professionals. (Total number of participants was 100 with 35 men and 65 women).

iii. Conducting meetings with political parties and PLC Members

It was decided to postpone the meetings with the political parties and the PLC members for two main reasons: 1) the difficult political conditions that shifted their priorities. 2) The focus on discussions with women and legal organizations and the need to incorporate the valuable feed-back into the draft prior to discussions with the parties and the Council.

² The Forum consists of 13 women's organizations fighting violence against women and providing services in addition to counselling and awareness-raising to battered women in addition to their work in the advocacy and lobbying around changing policies and laws.

5. Media Forum Advocating Women's Rights:

The Media Forum was established in 2005 as a response to increased levels of violence against women and the low awareness level of journalists and reporters regarding coverage of women's issues and perspectives. A completely unplanned outcome in 2005, the Media Forum has been playing a considerable role in the overall increase in media coverage of women-related activities undertaken by both WCLAC and other civil society organizations in Palestine. The Forum has also been raising the public profile of WCLAC.

Below are the main activities related to the development of the Forum. Details of activities of Forum members in each region are provided in Annex 1 to this report.

1- Establishment of the Forum- continued since 2005

- a) Discussions of the strategic plan of the Forum were completed by organizing 3 meetings with groups of media people in Qalqilya, where 12 media professionals (11 men and 1 female) joined the Forum, and in Tulkarem, 19 media professionals (14 men and 5 women) joined, and in Gaza through the video-conference, 19 media professionals (10 men and 9 women) joined. The total number of Media Forum Members has reached 156 (53 women, and 103 men). The meetings were extensively covered by local TV stations, news websites, and local radio stations.
- b) Small committees were established in each of the three locations to focus on priority areas of work in the field of violence against women. Follow up with Gaza committee is done over the phone and via e-mails.
- c) All regional committees were asked to meet and prepare the work plans for the media people in their areas.
- d) Two general meetings took place in Ramallah with all regional committees to present the regional plans and approve them. The central work of the Forum as a whole was also discussed in this meeting. The activities include awareness – raising debates, training, networking, the media contest (See Specific objective 2 Result 2-2 below), preparing a brochure, and general meetings. The second general meeting was an overall evaluation of the work completed in 2006 and selection of a logo for the forum (several designs were submitted). The meeting coincided with the declaration of the start of the global campaign against violence against women and began with a press conference under the auspices of the Forum against Violence against Women.
- e) Based on the findings from the second general meeting, the small regional committees were deemed not as effective as desired, and therefore suggestions were made to establish working committees on specific topics that members could join according to their different interests. These working committees are: Monitoring the Legislative Council, Monitoring the Portrayal of Women, Public Relations and Networking, and Training.
- f) Three general training courses were held for Media Forum members addressing the topics of media, women's rights, and gender issues.
- g) One general training workshop was organized by the Forum in Ramallah titled "Coverage of women issues in media". The workshop was conducted voluntarily by Scotty Wilson, a media advisor and consultant working for the Al Quds Educational TV station.
- h) Legal awareness meetings on the Criminal Law: Three educational workshops were held in Tulkarem, Qalqilya, and Hebron on the status of women in the

The Centre is closely monitoring the evolution of this project. It and its activities were evaluated at the end of the year in relation to Centre's annual work plans and long-term strategic plan. The Forum can be seen as a cross-cutting output between the First and Second Strategic Objectives of the Centre since it also helps sensitize influential individuals within the society, namely media people, to women's issues and perspectives, thus promoting a culture of activism and respect of women's rights among the larger public. The Forum's scope of work could be expanded. It will also provide increased coverage of WCLAC activities, thus potentially enlarge community support for its mission, which directly and indirectly enhances WCLAC sustainability.

Main Indicators of Media Forum Activities:

- Number of Forum members: 191 media professionals (69 women, 122 men)
- Number of regional workshops: 6
- Number of beneficiaries (media professionals): 113 (65 men, 48 women)
- Media coverage of the art exhibition "No to Violence against Women" in four locations through the various media means and outlets.
- Number of general workshops: 2
- Number of training courses/workshops: 7
- Regional networking: 1
- Media coverage of the Forum and WCLAC activities:
 - Written-22
 - Visual-11
 - Audio-29

6. Coalition for Safe Abortion:

This is a new coalition that the Centre as a whole decided to join in October 2006. The idea behind the coalition is to generate awareness and lobby around laws and policies in relation to the right to safe abortion and to conduct studies about abortion. The Centre attended two meetings held by the coalition in November and December. Developments on the work of the coalition and the involvement of the Centre in it will be reported on in 2007.

7. International Humanitarian Law Forum

The Centre attended several meetings conducted by this forum, in addition to a workshop on education and the International Humanitarian Law. Additionally, the Centre participated in preparing several workshops on forced migration, international sanctions, and compensations for people affected by the Isolation Wall.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Build relations with 300 influential personalities

Time frame: Jan-December 2006
Progress: 90%

WCLAC built relations with more than 250 influential persons³ through its work with the coalitions and committees that were either activated or created and throughout the advocacy and lobbying campaigns. However, some of the meetings that were planned with political parties and influential individuals had to be postponed due to preoccupation during this year with the elections as well as the political conditions that followed. However, the Centre was able to start contact with more than 12 new members of the Legislative Council.

An initial database containing the names and contact information of more than 600 influential persons gathered through different organizations, coalitions, within political parties, and women organizations. Through all its various activities, WCLAC has expanded and strengthened its contacts within the society and believes that the enduring nature of the relations will result in tangible impacts in the future.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-1: Complete 3 analytical studies.

Time frame: February-October

Progress: 85%

The scope of the research work during first half of 2006 enlarged in unanticipated ways, resulting in what we hope will be on-going Centre-based research endeavours in years to come. The primary foci of the effort were to conduct in-depth training of WCLAC staff and community research associates in community-based feminist research methodologies and to enhance the abilities of researchers to examine social phenomena from deeper feminist perspectives. Several training sessions on theories and skills of conducting research were held. Also, staff participated in planning meetings to decide on the specific research projects and their respective researchable questions, to form research teams consisting of staff from all the Centre's programmatic units, and to draft the overall research plan divided into three phases. The decision was to conduct two new studies, the Personal Status Law and Women's Needs. The plans for both include the overall purpose and goals, the methodology, timeframe for completion, and dissemination of final report as well as of other segments of the findings as appropriate. We also have progressed on the on-going project to draft the Family Protection Law for Palestine. Please refer to previous reports for more background on the project.

1. **Personal Status Law Research**: The field work for data collection started with 28 focus groups (20 in West Bank and 8 in Gaza Strip) with 15 participants in each group. The work in the field was coordinated through WCLAC field office in Hebron for focus groups in the South, in addition to the "Women for Life" Society in Bidya for the focus groups in the village itself and in Salfit governorate in general. The focus groups included male and female groups and covered the following locations: Ramallah, Bidya, Salfit, Hebron, Dheisheh camp, Jerusalem, Aboud, Hizma, Zababdeh, Nuweihmeh, Samou', Hebron, Beit Jala, Amari Refugee Camp, Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, Khan Younis Refugee Camp, Rafah, Bureij Refugee Camp, Mughraqa, and Gaza city. The data are currently being coded and analyzed. The findings from the analysis will be used as the basis for generating

³ Influential persons are decision-makers in the society and others who can influence those decision-makers, such as elected officials, heads of government institutions, judges, and so on.

the in-depth interview guide. The interviews are the next step of the research process. A group of community-based research associates initially complemented the Centre research team but now have become a vital part of both teams. Both staff and community researchers, including in Gaza, were trained on how to conduct focus groups.

The interview guide was finalized and tested after several meetings with the research team and the Centre's Feminist Research Consultant. The interview guide was divided into four sections, each containing 28 questions. The entire research team were trained and 11 outside community researcher associates were contracted to conduct and transcribe the 30 planned interviews.

By the end of 2006, 4 in-depth interviews with women who received services from the Centre were completed. The remaining interviews and the subsequent process of coding and analyzing data from all the interviews will take place early 2007.

2. **Women's Needs study:** This research followed the steps mentioned above. 18 focus groups in total (15 for women and 3 for men) were implemented covering West Bank (north, middle, and south) and Gaza Strip, with a total of 270 women and 45 men. All data entry work was completed and distributed among research team members for analysis. The analysis work has been finalized, and a first draft of questions for the in-depth interviews is currently reviewed for comments and amendments. The women who will be interviewed and the areas where the interviews will be conducted have been identified. Five in-depth interviews were conducted under the testing phase, following which a large-scale meeting was held with all the community field researcher associates to discuss the results and the process of testing interviews.

By the end of the year, all the individual interviews, a total of 100, were held in the West Bank. This included a reading by the Research Team Coordinator of at least one interview per researcher and follow up activities on individual and intensive basis. It, however, was impossible to conduct the interviews in Gaza. The difficult prevailing conditions there prevented the research team from travelling and training the field researchers on the techniques of the in-depth interviews.

Currently the research team is developing the theoretical framework of the research paper. The heavy load at the end of the year prevented the completion of this specific phase.

3. **Family Protection Law project:** Further work was done on the draft study by adding new definitions, a chapter on the claims process procedures, a chapter on the judicial procedures, in addition to a chapter on powers of family protection counsellors. Meetings were held between Women's Empowerment Program of the Mental Health Centre in Gaza and the WCLAC through the video-conference for suggestions and comments. Comments were circulated and discussed. Additionally, exchanges of expertise took place with "Salma," a regional group consisting of violence against women projects in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and

Palestine, that aims to draft laws to protect women and children against violence in the family. During a two-day workshop in Jordan, members of Salma and several Centre staff discussed the two drafts of the law, one proposed by Salma and other by Centre, and formulated the final draft. This draft was disseminated to Centre staff and Board of Trustees as well as to local interested parties including the Family Protection Law Coalition, lawyers, members of the Media Forum in Nablus, judges, and court officials, to secure final approval before attempting to have it legislated and implemented. Comments received from different parties were incorporated in the final draft. However, the paralysis that plagued the PLC during the first half of the year deteriorated further and therefore the presentation of the draft law to the PLC was not possible.

The two new studies (Personal Status and Women's Needs) included a significant capacity-building and knowledge-transfer among Centre staff. Research team members and community-based research associates were trained thoroughly on facilitating focus groups, documentation and data-collection and -analysis skills, and foundational feminist theories.

Indicators: two new studies were designed and begun during the first part of the year; third project is progressing as planned.

Other documentation projects and workshops begun or conducted in the first half of the year are the following:

1- Workshop with the judiciary based on WCLAC report “Child Sexual Abuse”:

Based on the above report, the “Sexual Molestation of Children” workshop was conducted. Final workshop report, which included all the working papers presented at the workshop, was published and distributed to all Higher Judicial Council workshop participants and to the Board of Trustees.

2- Documenting the ground-breaking Palestinian Model Parliament and the pioneering role played by WCLAC and other feminists in this project.

Further work was done on this book during the latter part of the year, although the finalization of the book has again been delayed due to inability to gather information from all the key figures involved.

3- Analytical study of Maintenance Fund law and its executive by-laws:

WCLAC played an active role in the Maintenance Fund board of directors in its capacity as a board member. The Centre drafted a study on articles that need amending, proposed amendments to the executive by-laws, along with rules and procedures for implementation. These were circulated to all board members (consisting of MOSA, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Chief Justice Office, General Union of Palestinian Women, Khansa'a Society, and WCLAC).

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-2: Launch/complete three media campaigns (Campaign for Personal Status Law, Campaign for Criminal Law, Campaign for Family Protection Law)

Time frame: April-December 2006

Progress: 70%

1. **Personal Status Law Media Campaign:**

The media campaign which was scheduled for the second half of the year did not materialize due to difficult political conditions and the paralysis within the Legislative Council. Additionally, the coalition's paper on the proposed amendments was not ready in time to conduct the media campaign activities. This activity will be carried over to 2007.

2. **Criminal Law Media Campaign**

a. Media Contest- Women and the Criminal Law:

Journalists were invited to participate in a media contest on women and the criminal law using three main genres of writing: story, report, and article. A special jury was formed for each genre and worked in close cooperation with a committee from within the Centre. The jury set the criteria and judged the 40 submissions. The results were announced on 9/3 under the auspices of the Minister of Women's Affairs. The contest and the winners received wide coverage on local radio and TV stations in addition to local daily newspapers. The Documentation of submissions for the media contest through the publication will be published in a book in 2007.

b. Art Exhibition "No to Violence against Women" :

The Art Exhibition was on display in four locations:

- In Jericho under the auspices of the mayor there, with a total number of 600 visitors over a three-day period.
- At the Hebron University under the auspices of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, with a total number of 500 visitors over a two-day period.
- At Al-Najah university, under the auspices of the university's president, with a total number of 300 visitors over a three-day period.
- At the American University of Jenin, in cooperation with the Public Relations Department and the Students' Affairs Department, with a total number of 200 visitors.

The exhibition was extensively covered by various local media outlets in all four locations due to the influence of the Media Forum. The coverage included articles in newspapers, detailed reports in local TV and radio stations. A book and a videotape documenting the exhibition were produced and published. (All documentation of media coverage can be provided upon request).

Discussions about the exhibition were held with university students which focused on the phenomena of violence against women with requests for awareness raising workshops and seminars about this topic.

c. Film on femicide: The script of the film was drafted and agreed upon by WCLAC's committee (the committee consisted of representatives of the Research Unit, Capacity Building Unit, Services Unit, Advocacy Unit, and the Centre's director) with the contracted writer. However, due to budgetary constraints, the production of the film is currently on hold.

- d. Documentary Book on the Exhibition “No to Violence against Women”: 200 copies of the book were printed. This book was originally published in English but not circulated because of the numerous language errors. The book will be published in the Arabic only
- e. Three workshops with media professionals on the Criminal Law

3. Family Protection Law Media Campaign

- a. Media campaign planning
 - 1. A proposal for the media campaign related to this proposed law was prepared, submitted, and approved by a donor, with events scheduled to start in the second half of the year.
 - 2. Discussions took place with the same donor during a planning meeting for a regional campaign to be conducted jointly with organizations in Egypt and Jordan. A proposal was submitted for funding.
 - 3. Ideas for three media spots were discussed within the Centre and one was approved and prepared for future production with a production company
- b. Actual campaign
 - 1. Two TV and radio spots were produced.
 - 2. All files with materials related to the proposed draft law were prepared for distribution during meetings with decision-makers and media professionals.
 - 3. Four workshops with civil society organizations to discuss the proposed law. These workshops were widely attended by civil society organizations as well as media professionals. The workshops received wide coverage in TV and radio stations in Hebron, Nablus, and by the Al-Quds Educational TV.
 - 4. One WCLAC staff member was hosted by a TV program during which he illustrated the proposed draft law and the legal rationale behind it. It is important to note that the host of the program is a member of the Media Forum.
- c. Activities postponed to the second phase of the project: The workshops with the media professionals, the 4 TV and radio programs, as well as visits with the decision makers have been postponed to the second phase of the project because efforts focused in 2006 on building the Family Protection Law Coalition. Additionally, the second phase of the project will be part of a regional effort funded by Heinrich Boll Foundation and the European Union.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Publication of the oral history project report on impact on women of Israeli army violence.

Time frame: May- November 2006

Progress: 80%

The oral history project report is currently being finalized for publication.

Second Strategic Objective: develop local cultural and moral resources in order to eradicate negative social attitudes/practices against women.

Long-term expected results:

- a. Palestinian community is more aware of women's rights and position of women in Palestinian society.
- b. Development of a culture of activism and civic responsibility in Palestinian society in all regional areas, especially among the future generations of Palestinian society.

Specific objectives:

- a. Develop knowledge and dialogue mechanisms in local community to empower women.
- b. Develop effective local and voluntary community activists to promote positive cultural attitudes about women

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-1: Organize regular group awareness activities around women's rights in 7 main locations with broader participation from other social groups.

Time frame: January-December 2006

Progress: 100%

During 2006, WCLAC targeted 7 main locations: Bidya, Jericho, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jenin, Hebron, and Bethlehem. The activities covered 24 geographical locations within the 7 main targeted locations. Following is a brief description of the main methods of intervention in implementing the group activities. Detailed description of activities per location can be found in Annex 2 to this report.

I - Methods of Intervention in Main Locations:

- 1- Lectures and Debates: The Centre organized, presented, and participated in a total of 14 lectures and debates during the year.
- 2- Workshops/meetings: The Centre organized and participated in a total of 127 workshops and meetings.
- 3- Legal awareness courses: The Centre designed and implemented 7 legal awareness courses (8-12 sessions each course) in the various locations.
- 4- Dialogue Tents: The Centre organized 4 dialogue tents during 2006
- 5- TV and Radio Programs: 2 TV and 1 radio programs were designed and implemented.

II – Special Activities and Interventions:

1- Women's Rights are Human Rights Program:

This program is specifically designed for university students and consists of awareness raising sessions around women's rights from social, legal, and health aspects. Originally designed for Birzeit University and Hebron University students, the launching of the program faced some obstacles in the first half of the year due to bureaucratic procedures of the universities, as well as preoccupation of students with

student council elections and later with end of semester exams. However, the Centre managed to conduct two awareness sessions with 20 students at Birzeit University (men and women).

The program was resumed in November 2006 with 9 sessions with 14 Birzeit students (8 men and 6 women). The Hebron University does not seem to be currently ready to accommodate this program. Topics discussed included: the concept "Women's Rights Are Human rights," women's health rights, rights to be liberated from violence within the family, political and civic rights, rights to education and economic rights, in addition to women's right during times of war, and protection of women's rights through international instruments and mechanisms

2- International Women's Day

Several events were organized on or around the International Women's Day on March 8th. These included the following:

- 1- Showing of "Women facing the Wall" film which documents the experiences and suffering of women living in areas affected by the Wall. The film was shown in the framework of a full one-day event with Women for Life Society in Bidya. 80 women from Bidya and surrounding villages attended the event, which also included presentations about women's experiences, about the Centre's work, particularly the services provided to women in distress. The event was extensively covered by daily newspapers and Wafa news agency.
- 2- Women's March in Ramallah: The Centre participated in the Women's March organized by the General Union of Palestinian Women together with 5000 participants who came from the various areas and cities. The participants were addressed by President Mahmoud Abbas, and key speakers from the Union and the Ministry of Women's Affairs.
- 3- Participation in 3 TV and radio shows: The Centre was active and staff were the key speakers hosted by Palestine TV and other local radio stations talking about women's issues as well as expectations of the new government.
- 4- Announcement of results of the media contest (details under the First Strategic Objective).
- 5- Other events took place in three of the main targeted locations, namely Jerusalem, Jericho and Hebron. Details are listed under each area.
- 6- Touring of the Exhibition "No to violence against women". (Details provided under the first strategic objective).

3- Series of film showings and discussions:

WCLAC agreed with Shashat (a Palestinian NGO whose focus is on women's cinema and the social and cultural implications of women's representations) to facilitate discussions held post showing of the movie "Divorce in the Iranian way." The film was shown in 6 locations: Qalqilya, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Jericho, Nablus, and Jenin. WCLAC lawyers along with a lawyer from Women for Life Society and a training volunteers of the Centre, facilitated discussions and the preparation of a joint report documenting this experience is currently underway.

Overall Indicators for all awareness activities:

Number of activities: 249 + 4 exhibitions.

Number of beneficiaries: 2522 including 402 men.

Number of referrals: 23

Number of social and legal counselling services: 583

Number of cooperation/coordination with organizations: 53 organizations.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Production of four educational and counselling materials

Time frame: March-November, 2006

Progress: 70%

Several educational and counselling materials were produced in the year 2006, including 2 public service announcements regarding the Family Protection Law. However, another two pieces of counselling and educational materials, scheduled for publication by the end of the year, were not finalized. Their publication is expected early 2007.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-3: Monitoring media institutions and publishing a report on how the Palestinian media address certain women related social and legal issues.

Time frame: Jan-December, 2006

Progress: 100%

1- Media study:

Work continued full-scale on the study of media coverage of women and related social and legal issues. Several meetings were held by the consultative committee of the study (Alpha Research Organization, Research Unit, WCLAC administrators). Several things were accomplished in the following areas: administering the questionnaire to the local newspapers, setting-up a database for the data entry, training 19 university students on gender issues and their relation to media, and administering the questionnaire designed for the students. 1350 questionnaires were completed in the West Bank and Gaza: 900 questionnaires in Al Quds University, Birzeit University, Al Najah University, Bethlehem University, and Hebron University. 450 questionnaires were completed in three Gaza Strip universities. Special questionnaires were designed and administered for media people and decision-makers. All statistics and data were received, a paper was prepared on issues addressed in the study, and a first full draft of the study was completed and distributed within the Centre for review.

The study was completed and will be published early 2007.

2- Monitoring the coverage of women's issues in two daily newspapers:

WCLAC compiled two files of articles and photographs from two daily newspapers, Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam related to violations against Palestinian women committed by the Israeli authorities. The data was analyzed and an initial report was drafted. Final design and publication of the files will be completed in the beginning of 2007.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-1: Training of 40 men and female volunteers in women's rights issues, and management, leadership, and communication skills. (200 volunteers in strategic plan for year 2).

Time frame: April-December

Progress: 75%

During the year 2006, 40 male and female volunteers were trained. WCLAC was able to achieve this through the following activities:

- 1- Training courses: There were four training courses in total conducted for volunteers. These were divided as follows:
 1. Two training courses were conducted for 7 consecutive days in Bethlehem and Jericho on the following topics: issues of voluntary work, facilitation of dialogue, communication skills, report writing, needs assessment skills, time management, and task planning as they relate to developing leadership skills resulting in positive practices toward women. The number of participants in Bethlehem was 20 and 20 in Jericho
 2. Two training courses were conducted for four consecutive days in Bethlehem and Jericho on societal awareness raising skills (total of 20 training hours).

The four courses were documented, and a report is available upon request.

Additionally Capacity-Building Unit staff met regularly, at the rate of once per month, with the group of volunteers in both areas to further discuss and enhance their skills, capabilities, and needs.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-2: Supporting voluntary activities in 6 locations in 2 Areas.

Time frame: Feb-December

Progress: 90%

In the year 2006, WCLAC was able to support voluntary activities in 6 locations that helped develop and reinforce the capabilities of some of the volunteers trained by the Centre.

- 1- In Jericho:
 - a. The group of volunteers from Jericho participated in the organization and showing of the exhibition “No to Violence against Women”. The activity allowed the volunteers to practice some of their newly found skills of coordination, communication, time management, and task planning.
 - b. One of the volunteers facilitated discussions following the showing of the film “Divorce in the Iranian Way”.
 - c. 5 activities were implemented by the volunteers. These activities involved awareness-raising of women about the relevant laws, particularly the Personal Status Law and the Criminal Law. The breakdown of these activities is as follows: one activity in Jericho city itself, during one of Ramadan evening's programs, 2 activities in Ein Al Sultan refugee camp, and 2 other activities in Nuweihmeh village.
 - d. A series of awareness-raising workshops on the Adolescent Health Program was implemented by the volunteers. A total of 16 workshops were conducted (8 for girls and 8 for boys).
- 2- In Bidya village: volunteers trained by the Centre participated in the scheduling, coordination, facilitation of focus groups in Bidya and Salfit district for the research on the Personal Status law.

- 3- In the Bethlehem area: 4 workshops were implemented in Batteer, Husan, Artas, and Aida refugee camp on the “Status of Palestinian Women in the Palestinian Legislation” and “Women empowerment and enabling” targeting housewives, and young men and women. These workshops were implemented by the volunteers in the Bethlehem area with the help of WCLAC relevant staff.
- 4- An evaluation was conducted for the volunteers program in both Jericho and Bethlehem. However, this was not fully completed by the December 2006 and the remaining part of this evaluation, particularly in Jericho, will be completed in the beginning of 2007.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Develop incentive system for volunteers.

Time frame: March – November, 2006

Progress: 80%

WCLAC has been working on a manual for volunteers. The final draft of the manual was circulated to the Centre’s staff and was discussed in four all-staff meetings. The manual will include rules, procedures, expectations, code of ethics, and other useful information for volunteers in addition to the structure of the incentive system.

As an incentive for volunteering, to enhance leadership skills, and to recognize their skills and efforts, the volunteers were offered the opportunity to take the lead in some WCLAC activities. Additionally regular meetings with the volunteers provide chances for exchanging experiences, listening to obstacles they face, and providing personal and professional support. WCLAC provided some volunteers with financial incentives in the form of transportation allowances to attend WCLAC activities and training sessions.

We also implemented the system of issuing certificates to volunteers following the completion of the training courses and certificates of appreciation in recognition of distinguished efforts and achievements.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-4: Implement incentive system for volunteers.

Time frame: July- December, 2006

Progress: 80%

Once the manual is finalized, the incentive system for volunteers will be implemented consistently and will be reviewed in 2007.

Meanwhile, in 2006, WCLAC gave symbolic financial awards to 37 volunteers (17 in Jericho and 20 in Bethlehem) for their commitment and dedication throughout the year.

Third Strategic Objective: Build the capacity of relevant official and grassroots organizations that have direct impact on women’s issues:

Long-term expected results:

- b. Palestinian women in all areas of the West Bank have access to professional social services.
- c. More coordination and efficiency between institutions dealing with women victims of violence.
- d. More women are encouraged to seek help.
- e. Better statistics on the needs of women victims of violence, contributing to better coping strategies.

Specific objectives:

- 1. Provide support to the Ministry of Social Affairs in developing shelter services in Jericho.
- 2. Provide support to the Ministry of Social Affairs in developing shelter services in Bethlehem. (This is a specially funded project coordinated and planned with the Italian NGO Differenza Donna which will be completed in 2006)
- 3. Build capacity of grassroots women's organizations in governorates to provide services to women victims of violence.
- 4. Support referral institutions, such as police, dealing with women victims of violence.
- 5. Provide legal representation and abridgement services for women victims of violence whose problems are not addressed by social support programs

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-1: Continue training 6 staff including members of safe shelters proposed to work in the emergency centre, including a social worker, shelter mothers, and a shelter coordinator.

Time frame: March-November, 2006
Progress: 70%

During the first half of the year, WCLAC continued training of Jericho shelter's staff as follows:

- 1- Conducting 2 group counselling sessions at an average of 6 hours a month with the team members in the presence of a consultant.
- 2- Conducting regular meetings with the team members working at the shelter.
- 3- Conducting orientation and training sessions for the Shelter's accounting department staff on the Centre's financial and administrative systems.
- 4- Training for one of the staff members was scheduled during this reporting period at a shelter in Nazareth. However, this training did not materialize due to permit related issues.
- 5- Four house mothers were hired on a daily basis system to work at the shelter.
- 6- 9 regular meetings were held with the staff to organize the work in general and the shifts in particular.
- 7- A professional supervisor was hired and conducted 3 professional supervision sessions with the staff.

In support of the Shelter's staff, WCLAC worked with the support group of volunteers in Jericho, signed volunteering contracts with them, and met five times with them to arrange the schedule of their voluntary support activities with the shelter.

Meetings concerning the Jericho emergency shelter with stakeholders:

1- One expanded meeting was held at the level of Jericho governorate (including the governor, Jericho Hospital representatives, Police Chief in Jericho, and Mayor of Jericho). The purpose of the meeting was to inform the participants about the Jericho emergency shelter. Two other meetings that were scheduled for the first half of the year for purposes of orienting the police departments in Ramallah and Hebron about the shelter in Jericho had to be postponed upon the request of MOSA, since that was a joint effort between MOSA and the Centre.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Providing the infrastructure for the safe house in Jericho.

Progress: 100%

We reported in 2005 that the safe house in Jericho was equipped and ready for receiving clients. In 2006 we received 17 women who solicited the services of the safe house. The cases of these women were followed up by WCLAC lawyers and social workers. A total of 22 activities were implemented with these women, and WCLAC accompanied six of them as they went for medical services, to finish paperwork with the police, or with the Ministry of Social Affairs. We are working with these women on a case by case basis and according to their situations.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-3: Developing systems and policies for safe house.

Time frame: March-May, 2006

Progress 100%

The systems and policies of the safe house, finalized in 2005, were the focus of meetings with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Police to evaluate them and follow up on amending them. To the end, the following meetings/workshops were held:

- 1- A central workshop was held in Al Bireh on 7/3/2006 with 40 staff members (men and women) of the Ministry of Social Affairs from all West Bank governorates and WCLAC staff to discuss the procedural manual of the Jericho emergency shelter.
- 2- A workshop was held in Al Bireh on 5/4/2006 with 44 policemen and women from all West Bank governorates to discuss the procedural manual of the Jericho emergency shelter.
- 3- A meeting was held in the Jericho emergency shelter on 4/5 with representatives from the Ministry of Social affairs to discuss cases that were referred to the shelter.
- 4- A meeting was held at the Ministry of Social Affairs on 22/5/2006 for further discussions of the procedural manual.
- 5- Three meetings were held with the Police department. One of these meetings was held at the Police headquarters in Ramallah with representative from the police forces and the public prosecution office to discuss ways of institutionalizing the work with both entities.
- 6- A meeting was held with the public prosecution office on 17/5/2006 to discuss ways of institutionalizing the work between WCLAC and the public prosecution.
- 7- Three meetings were held with the Ministry of Social Affairs to discuss the work at the Shelter and the activities and work implemented with the women.

Finally, the manual of systems and procedures for the Shelter was designed and printed.

Specific Objective 2 – Shelter services in Bethlehem

(Please refer to Annex 3 since it is a special project).

Specific Objective 3- Build Capacity of grassroots women’s organizations to provide services to women victims of violence.

In 2006, WCLAC decided to continue the capacity building activities of “Women for life Society” only. The decision was made for two main reasons:

- 3- To focus on the quality and the impact of training activities that started with the society last year, particularly given the long process of developing the mission and vision of the society. The weak administrative and managerial experience and skills of the Society’s staff makes more the reason to focus on building their capacity.
- 4- Financial constraints that prevented WCLAC to start training staff of another organization.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-1: Begin training staff of one local organization.

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 100%

Women for Life Society in Bidya

The agreement between WCLAC and the “Women for Life” Society was renewed for another year 06-07 with some amendments based on the capacity building program designed with them in the beginning of the year. Following are the main activities accomplished in 2006:

Meetings:

- 1- 8 meetings were held with the administrative board and staff of the Society to follow up on the work of the Society, and to contribute to the planning process for the awareness raising project and provision of legal services to 10 villages in 4 governorates.
- 2- 9 meetings were held with the director of the Society to discuss aspects of cooperation and the cooperation agreement between WCLAC and the “Women for Life”.

Training:

- 1- Proposal writing training course: An outside consultant was selected, through a transparent bidding process, to provide training to members of the administrative board and staff of the Society on proposal writing. The training was conducted for five days with a total of 25 training hours. Five proposals were prepared during the workshop that is ready for submission to donors.
- 2- Training of Society’s social worker and lawyer follow up: Monthly meetings were held with the Society’s social worker and lawyer to follow up on their training at WCLAC. The social worker completed her training in April and

- 3- The two staff members have shown significant progress as a result of the training. Both were able to conduct awareness workshops in the villages of Marda and Masha on legal and social issues. WCLAC staff was present at the Masha workshop and provided feed-back and comments as part of the hand-on, on the job training. Reports documenting the work of the social worker and the lawyer of Women for Life Society are available, and can be provided upon request.
- 4- Training on designing and information to be included in the brochure of the Society. WCLAC helped the Society finalize the brochure and print 1000 copies of it.
- 5- WCLAC nominated the social worker and the lawyer of the Society to continue the training course offered by the Continuous Education Department of Birzeit University on issues of domestic violence.
- 6- WCLAC staff accompanied the Society's lawyer at a workshop on laws at the village of Talfet.

Workshops:

- 1- 3 workshops with the administrative board and staff of the Society were conducted with two consultants contracted by the Centre. The workshops focused on completing discussions started last year of the vision, mission and objectives of the Society.
- 2- 15 sessions of the legal awareness program were implemented with the Society's members and staff. The program was designed and implemented by WCLAC. The topics addressed in the program are: women's rights, Personal Status law, and Criminal Law. Please refer to Annex 2 for further details.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-2: Develop regulations for one local organization.

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 65%

1. Conducted 2 meetings to assist the Society in developing standard procurement procedures related to bidding, receiving of bids, analysis of bids, and awarding decisions.

Consultative and field visits were conducted by WCLAC financial staff who worked with the administrative board and financial staff of the Society on further enhancing and developing their financial and administrative reporting. Technical assistance was provided in preparing the financial reports of the Society in addition to the preparation of a budget for the "Legal and Social Services Project" of the Society. WCLAC staff also assisted in preparing the narrative half year and annual reports of the society.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-3: Develop external relations for one organization.

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 80%

WCLAC facilitated the meetings and subsequent agreement between UNIFEM and Women for Life Society to implement “Legal awareness and services” program targeting women in the northern governorates. Furthermore, WCLAC staff assisted the Society in writing the proposal and submitting it to UNIFEM. WCLAC staff was also present at interviews for the position of two lawyers to work in Jenin and Tulkarem under the same project.

Additionally, WCLAC nominated the lawyers working at the “Legal awareness and services project” of the Society for training with Women Affairs Committee.

Furthermore, WCLAC assisted the Society in reviewing and enhancing its brochure, in soliciting printing bids, and in printing 1000 copies of the brochure.

WCLAC staff were also present at a workshop organized by UNIFEM to talk about the Centre’s experience in working with the “Women for Life” Society.

With the assistance of WCLAC the Society was able to write and prepare five proposals to be submitted to different donors.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-4: Develop programs for one local organization.

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 80%

While no specific activities were conducted in the first half of the year, all training courses, workshops and meetings conducted can be seen as laying the foundations for the development of programs by Women for Life Society. In fact the Project of “Awareness and Legal Services” with UNIFEM is a direct result of on-going and concerted efforts under the Specific Objective 3.

Additionally, the Society cooperated with Ashtar Theatre Group to show a play on early marriage to 100 women from the Salfit Governorate on the occasion of the International Women’s Day.

Fourth Specific objective: Support referral institutions, such as police, to deal with women victims of violence.

Specific Objective 4

Result 4-1: Train staff of referral institutions.

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 50%

3- Evaluation of Adolescent Health Program conducted last year:

A workshop was held to evaluate the training program of 150 counsellors employed by the Ministry of Education in the area of adolescent health. The

workshop was attended by the trainees themselves and the Ministry officers responsible for counselling in the various regions. An evaluation report was prepared and submitted to the Ministry, and 350 copies of the Manual on Adolescent Health were printed upon request by the Ministry of Education.

4- Support of new Social work graduates and counsellors employed by the Ministry of Education (unplanned project)

This new project came as a result of cooperation between WCLAC and UNFPA and though unplanned, it was decided that influencing newly credentialed social workers and counsellors early in their career toward feminist human services practice would be a very worthy goal. The program involves the designing and implementing a series of training workshops and courses with fresh university graduates who specialized as social workers in Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus, and Gaza. The program also involves support to the department of counselling within the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, as well as their involvement in the training and evaluation activities.

During 2006, the following activities were carried out:

- 1- Co-ordination communications with union of social workers branches all over the West Bank.
- 2- A partnership agreement was drafted with the department of women support and rehabilitation within the Gaza Mental Health Program to implement the training program in Gaza scheduled for a later stage of the program.
- 3- Meetings were held with the Union of Social Workers in Hebron, Nablus, and Jerusalem.
- 4- A preparation meeting was held with 18 trainees in Hebron.
- 5- A training team was established.
- 6- The first training course was implemented in Hebron focusing on violence and dealing with its victims of domestic violence, societal awareness skills, sex education within the adolescent health, and communication skills. The course involved 15 trainees, trained for 15 days with a total of 75 training hours.
- 7- 3 coordination meetings with the counselling department within the Ministry of Education to agree on guidelines of cooperation and coordination for the program. The department staff participated in the Hebron workshop, and the Ministry was engaged in evaluating the workshop.
- 8- The program involves practical training as the new graduates will be able to work in public schools for four months under the supervision of the school counsellors (a total of 12,000 training hours for the graduates)

Specific Objective 4

Result 4-2: Provide technical support to 100 cases of referral institutions.

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 100%

In 2006 WCLAC was able to provide social and legal counselling to:

- 1- 231 women (170 women in the south, and 61 women in the middle areas). These women received counselling based on a one-time session from lawyers and/or social workers.

- 2- 69 women who solicited the services of the Centre in the past who came back with new cases or for follow up on their old cases. (33 cases at the Hebron office, 36 cases in Ramallah and Jerusalem).

Specific Objective 5

Result 5-1: Provide services for 200 women

Time frame: Jan-Dec 2006

Progress: 100%

In 2006 WCLAC provided legal and social services to 272 women (all new cases) through individual counselling sessions or through courts.

- 2- 168 cases were closed by the end of 2006.
- 3- 315 cases were taken to court. Most cases were settled with sentences issued. Additionally, WCLAC was able to get all the social and legal information and documents needed to follow up on these cases.
- 4- Among the 272 cases there were 40 emergency cases with the following breakdown:
 - 1- 18 cases of women running away from home.
 - 2- Five cases of women battered and subjected to harm by their own families.
 - 3- Three cases of suicide.
 - 4- Two cases of sexual assault within the family.
 - 5- One case of forceful entry into the house.
 - 6- Five cases of rape.
 - 7- Two cases of extra-marital sexual relations.
 - 8- Five cases of hymen tests.
 - 9- One case of attempted murder
- 5- Empowering battered women through group therapy and counselling:
WCLAC has planned to have two groups of battered women who receive therapy and counselling in the Southern areas of the West Bank. One such group was formed in the village of Al Khader with the group consisting of mothers at the Flowers of Hope school there. However, the formation of the second group, coordinated with a foster care center for girls, did not materialize as a result of the public strike within the Ministry of Social Affairs.

For the cases that were taken to courts, the technical assistance included preparing the case files, explanation of step-by-step procedures and regulations of filing claims, and in few cases legal representation of women before courts. This method was implemented as part of empowering women when they face possible relationships with court system. Additionally the Centre is working on a manual on alimony which comes in the framework of awareness raising materials and the technical assistance provided.

To systematize the tracking of cases and to gather important data concerning women and families served, WCLAC is designing a comprehensive questionnaire intended to gather data about demographics, nature of problems, service plan, implementation, and outcome, and follow-up. This system will be computerized and data available for various uses.

From the observation of the cases, the Centre noticed a higher than usual number of emergency cases. The cases indicated the difficult conditions of women, particularly young women under the age of 18, who face increasing violence within their families, sexual assaults and harassment by relatives or neighbours or family friends. WCLAC was able to handle these difficult cases with high levels of professionalism and with the close cooperation and support of the official institutions, mainly the Ministry of Social Affairs in Ramallah, and the public prosecutors.

Fourth Strategic Objective: Expose, locally and internationally, the practices of the Israeli occupation violations against women's rights.

Long-term expected results

- a. UN international and national human rights and women's rights organizations have a reliable source of information on Palestinian women.
- b. International community is more aware of the social implications of the occupation on Palestinian women and intervene on their behalf.
- c. Dialogue on human rights principles and women's rights is stimulated within the Palestinian community.
- d. Networks with international and national organizations allow for sharing of information and experiences which help develop strategies for their work.

Specific objectives 1: To monitor and expose the Israeli violations against the International Humanitarian Law.

Specific Objective

Result 1-1: Training of 6 women on documenting the violations.

Time frame: Nov-December 2006
Progress: 100%

An introductory training course on principles of the International Humanitarian Law and how it relates to women, as well as the history of the Palestinian society under the occupation was conducted with a team of 6 female field researchers.

Training activities on documenting the violations took place in the November with 16 field researchers. The 5-day training course focused on women under occupation and the international humanitarian law as well as techniques of documenting the violations.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Publish reports submitted to CEDAW.

Time frame: March 2006
Progress: 100%

WCLAC translated into Arabic all reports submitted to CEDAW Committee during the year 2005. The reports were proof read for accuracy, and 70 copies in English and Arabic were printed. Copies will be distributed to local NGOs, women's groups, government ministries, and other concerned parties.

Specific Objective 1**Result 1-3: Issue a report on Palestinian women's experience of suffering under occupation**

Time frame: 2006

Progress: 80%

1- WCLAC worked on finalizing a study on the Palestinian women's experiences under occupation. Several drafts reviewed by WCLAC's Feminist Research Consultant then forwarded to an outside copy editor. Her comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the paper and this version will be sent to the research team leader for final approval before being sent to printer. This report will be published in both Arabic and English by the end of February 2007.

2- WCLAC is also working this year on preparing a comprehensive study on the impact of Israeli violations of the International Humanitarian Law on Palestinian women. The study is expected to be finalized in the first half of the year 2007. Activities during the first half of the year have included:

- a. Identification of field researchers' team.
- b. Meetings with the team to prepare a first draft of the research questionnaire.
- c. Internal meetings within the Centre to agree the final scope of the project.
- d. Meeting with the documentation officer at Al Haq organization to benefit from their experiences in the field of automated database for the documentation of violations.

Specific Objective 1**Result 1-4: Study "The Exclusion of Women from the Protection of IHL: Experiences from the Arab World"**

Time frame: January-June

Progress: 90%

The work continued on finalizing the concept paper initiated in 2005. Several meetings were held with the legal researcher to provide her with the information needed, addressing questions, providing legal studies, the Criminal legal texts relevant to the study, review and study of the Personal Status Laws, Criminal Laws, Citizenship Laws, and the Constitutions of Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon for any changes or amendments.

The study was finalized and comments received by all relevant staff within the Centre. They are currently being incorporated into the final draft.

Some of the obstacles that WCLAC faced in preparing this study are summarized as follows:

- 4- The original concept paper had old information needing updating.
- 5- Lack of internet resources with information regarding critical specific aspects of the study.
- 6- The general context at the time of the initial drafting of the concept paper does not meet the current needs and objectives of the study.

2- Analytical Paper "Protection of Women's Health Rights under IHL":

The first complete draft of the paper is done. The final version is currently being written incorporating the suggestions and edited for publication in 2007.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-5: Attend one international conference on issues related to women's human rights and the international human rights laws.

Time frame: April – June 2006

Progress: 100%

In April, the General Director of the Centre attended the launching of the International Women's Commission in the US. The Director attended a meeting with the US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Congress Members, and media people.

In May, two WCLAC staff members attended a 4-day international conference at the University of California, Riverside, organized by the International Solidarity Working Group. WCLAC presented a paper on the impacts of the Isolation Wall on Palestinian women.

In June, one staff member attended an international conference in Morocco, titled "Equality without Reservations" on CEDAW and the Optional Protocol.

Fifth Strategic Objective: Develop WCLAC's own capacity, performance, and sustainability.

Long-term expected results:

- b. WCLAC's operations are more efficient and effective.
- c. Staff are more involved in the planning process and directing the future activities of WCLAC, thus leading to less turn over and greater employee satisfaction.
- d. Donors receive standardized reports which allow for better communication and understanding between WCLAC and donors

Specific objectives:

- d. Develop planning, evaluation, and monitoring system.
- e. Build capacity of WCLAC staff.
- f. Develop partnership relations with donor organizations.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-1: Revise and further develop and refine strategic plan, annual activity plan, budgets, and annual reports.

Time frame: February -December 2006

Progress: 40%

During the first half of the year, WCLAC revised and refined the annual activity plans. This was done through various internal workshops with participation of all WCLAC staff.

The annual narrative and financial reports of 2005 were prepared and submitted on time.

Further revision and refinement of strategic plans and mid-year budget review took place in the second half of the year.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-2: Prepare monitoring and evaluation matrix.

Time frame: April – June 2006

Progress: 100%

The monitoring and evaluation matrix has been revised and was implemented.

Specific Objective 1

Result 1-3: Prepare 3 operations guidelines and manuals.

Time frame: June- November 2006

Progress: 60%

Activities under this result included:

- 1- A comprehensive revision of job descriptions within the Centre, clarifying the responsibilities and roles of staff and operational units of the Centre. All job descriptions were formulated through active participation of all staff regarding their respective jobs.
- 2- Finalized staff performance evaluation tool and procedure.
- 3- Work started on revising the employees' manual.
- 4- Internal workshops and finalization of WCLAC code of ethics.
- 5- Internal workshop on indicators.

The complete revision of the Employee Manual was not completed by the end of the year due to heavy workload and the internal strategic planning workshops and procedures.

Activities scheduled but postponed until 2007:

- 1- Internal workshops to develop WCLAC's system of incentives
- 2- Revision and further development of the administrative and financial system were completed by the Administrative staff and to be approved by Centre Board of Trustees in March 2007.
- 3- WCLAC rules and regulations: WCLAC staff lawyers and the legal consultant worked on the amendments to be approved by WCLAC and BOT in April 2007

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-1: Conduct training needs assessment.

According to the strategic plan, none was planned for the year 2006.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-2: Train staff in organizational and practice area.

Time frame: January-November 2006

Progress: 80%

During the first half of the year, WCLAC staff were able to participate in the following international and local workshops and training events:

International Workshops and Trainings

United States

1. February: the General Director presented a paper on “Legal Status of Palestinian Women” at the University of Virginia Law School.
2. May: the General Director presented a lecture on “Palestinian Women under Occupation” at the Wellfleet Public Library, near Boston, Massachusetts.

Jordan

1. February: one staff member attended the launching of “Karameh” programme of the international “V-Day” organization.
2. August: The general director attended MIFTAH general assembly in Amman
3. September: One staff member attended a training course on ' The Principles of Protection TOT) in Amman. The training course organized by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Egypt

1. May: Meeting with the Network of Women under Moslem rules and the Centre of Egyptian Women’s Issues to discuss and identify priority issues for women in the Arab region, and to explore means of joint efforts and networking around these issues through the Network.
2. June: Deputy Director participated in “Joint Women Seminar: challenges and the way forward”. A workshop organized by Dan Church Aid.
3. November: One staff member attended a workshop on the experiences of different countries in the field of reproductive health and presented the Centre’s experience in this area. The workshop was conducted by the Social Research Center of AUC in Cairo, Egypt.
4. November: One staff member attended and presented a paper for the workshop on “The image of the Arab women in the media” organized by Act Media Institution in Cairo, Egypt. The paper presented focused on WCLAC experience in establishing the Media Forum.

Tunisia

October: One staff member participated in a workshop on CEDAW organized by UNFPA

Greece

July: the General Director attended the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Peace in Israel and Palestinian, under the chairpersonship of Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UNIFEM, to develop political strategy and programme of the commission.

Sweden

November: The General Director participated in a study visit to Stockholm, Sweden that included visiting organizations of civil society, women's organizations, members of Parliament and a meeting with the Swedish Minister of Cooperation.

Italy

1. September: Three staff member participated in a training course in Rome on "Training to Manage and Run Safe Homes" organised by Differeza Donna .
2. December: The General Director went to Rome to participate in a meeting "Women's Networking, Across Borders Cooperation, Diaspora and Migrations between Italy and the Middle East" organized by UNDP/UNOPS and CIRPS Sped-La Sapienza University

Local workshops and trainings:

On-going: 12 monthly meetings were held with the Centre's Feminist Research Consultant on feminist concepts and code of ethics according to WCLAC's mission and vision.

Training workshops for WCLAC staff providing legal and counselling services to women:

- 1- On-going supervisory sessions with a specialist at the rate of 9 hours per month.
 - 2- A workshop on proposal writing
 - 3- A workshop on documentation.
 - 4- An evaluation workshop of staff performance and the overall provision of services.
-
1. January: 3 staff members attended a workshop to develop a document targeting candidates in the legislative elections with specific demands from women organizations.
 2. February: Two staff members participated in the workshop organized by Al Haq for deliberations about work mechanisms with the new Legislative Council.
 3. February: one staff member participated in a one-day workshop at Inaash Al Usra society in Ramallah on the pre-marriage medical examinations.
 4. March: the general director presented a lecture on "Palestinian Women under Occupation" at Ne'mat organization in Tel-Aviv.
 5. March: two staff members attended a workshop on Juvenile Law organized by Diwan Al Fatwa Wa Tashree in Ramallah.
 6. March: one staff member attended a two-day training course on legislations within the Palestinian Legislative Council with PNGO. .
 7. June: One staff member attended a three-day training course with the Bar Association in Ramallah on documentation of human rights violations.
 8. July: One staff member attended a workshop on the draft law for prohibition of torture.
 9. September:
 - Two staff members attended a workshop on advocacy.
 - The General Director, The Deputy Director and the Feminist Research Consultant participated with Mu'assasat in a seminar: "Issues and Challenges Facing the Palestinian Human Rights and Good Governance Sector"
 10. October: One staff member attended a workshop on the publication of the Palestinian Oral History Book on the political activism of Palestinian Women.
 11. November: One staff member attended a three-day training course on "The Role of the Civil Society in Monitoring the Law enforcement" in Ramallah at Birzeit University.

12. November: One staff member participated in a meeting with Sweden parliamentarian at Al Haq Human right Organization.
13. December: One staff member participated and presented a paper for the conference on domestic violence organized by the Childhood Programme Institution in Ramallah.

WCLAC's librarian attended 3 specialized workshops in the field of Library Science:

- a. A course on developing libraries' assets and information centres.
- b. Descriptive classification of documents.
- c. Various types of classification and indexing.
- d. Types of books' lending and library users services.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Develop electronic client database

Time frame: 2006

Progress: 28%

The electronic client database was supposed to be implemented in April 2006. However, WCLAC decided to suspend this project pending the creation and implementation of a unified integrated information system for the Centre as a whole, with the database as an integral part of it.

Specific Objective 2

Result 2-3: Develop WCLAC's Library assets.

Time frame: January-November 2006

Progress: 100%

Work continued on developing WCLAC's library through classification and indexing of available books, initial compilation of audio materials and classification in an easy access style, compilation of all Centre's publications and work papers in the library as the central location for classification and indexing.

WCLAC also looked into the development of a database that will constitute a reliable source of information in preparing international reports, particularly relating to the CEDAW. Toward that goal, the Centre contacted research and documentation institutions to coordinate reciprocal acquisition of studies for the years 2004 through 2006 and the publications were compiled, classified, and coded by the Centre's librarian. A field researcher was contracted to document femicide cases during the years 2005 and 2006. Basic criteria for documenting these cases were developed and 13 study cases were documented in detail.

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-1: Evaluate WCLAC programs and partnership agreements.

Time frame: November 2006

Progress: 70%

This result was set in motion at the end of September with a 3-day retreat of unit heads in Jericho. The meetings evaluated WCLAC five-year strategic plan, its different programs, activities and types of interventions. This process continued over the last three months of the year and resulted in a revision of the Strategic plan, a

review of the budget status for the following year and the preparation of action plans for 2007 based on a new approach to reporting, indicators, and outputs expected. As a result of these meetings and consultations, it was decided to evaluate the work of two units within the Centre during the year 2007.

On another note, WCLAC's consortium meeting was held in May 2006. Minutes of the meeting were prepared and circulated. WCLAC views the consortium meetings as a great opportunity not only to update its donors on the progress of the work, but also an important venue for the exchange of ideas, for providing a different insight into our programs, in other words, a real partnership.

We would also like to mention that a new donor has joined the WCLAC's consortium of like-minded European government donors, the Secretariat for Human Rights "MUASSASSAT".

WCLAC conduct individuals meetings with the following donors:

- ICCO
- NOVIB
- Dan Church Aid
- EED
- Dutch Representative Office
- UNFPA
- Belgium Vonsalte
- Mu'assasat
- Ford Foundation
- Heinrich Boell
- ACSUR
- Canadian Representative Office

Specific Objective 3

Result 3-2: Develop WCLAC media materials in English and Arabic

Time frame: April-December 2006

Progress: 50%

- 4- Two press releases were prepared during the first half of the year.
- 5- One briefing sheet, "Palestinian Women's and Girls Education," was finalized for publication.
- 6- A media committee was formed to decide on the media strategies of the Centre.
- 7- One Arabic newsletter was published in March 2006 that showcased the Centre's main achievements for 2005.
- 8- WCLAC 2006 Calendar dedicated to combating all forms of violence against women, using the artwork from the art exhibition.