

# PNGO Narrative Report

## 2002

### Introduction

Despite the entire unstable situation and all the political, economical and social complexities, PNG continued to implement, to a certain extent the Network's planned activities during the year 2002. It is important to point out that such an environment had enforced the addition of a "relief program plan" to PNGO's Program Document, in order to contribute to the support of the Palestinian population in cop with the surrounding developments.

### Activities:

#### I: The Emergency Initiative (added due to the Israeli military reoccupation by the end of March 2002):

Due to the Israeli Military reoccupation of the Palestinian territories on March 28, 2002, and subsequent Israeli direct military control, the Jerusalem committee, a PNGO Network sub-committee, took the initiative in organizing emergency committees meet the needs of the Palestinians. The emergency committees included:

- 1- The Humanitarian Aid Committee responsible for the distribution of basic needs (food and medical supplies).
- 2- Human Rights Committee responsible for following the issues related to the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons.
- 3- International Solidarity Committee responsible for organizing international/ Palestinian joint humanitarian aid convoys to the Palestinian needy areas.
- 4- The Grassroots International Campaign for the Protection of the Palestinian People responsible for mobilizing the international solidarity in support of the Palestinian legitimate political and human rights.
- 5- The Media Committee responsible for the dissemination of information, the issuing press releases, communiqués, petitions, and position papers reflecting the NGO position with regard to the situation.
- 6- The Emergency Fund Committee is a PNGO sub-committee, and is responsible for developing a strategy with regard to the distribution of emergency donations received by PNGO to help the Palestinians in coping deterioration of the economical situation, as a result of the Israeli aggression. The committee meets regularly and includes in its membership: **The Bisan Center for Research and Development, UPMRC, Ma'an Development Center, LAW Society, PARC, The Democracy and Worker's Rights Center, The Palestinian Hydrology Group, Miftah, The Center for Peace and Democracy, Al-Manhal, The Educational Network.** It worked on developing the criteria on which the distribution of donations will be based, in accordance with the most needy areas and sectors. According to the criteria, it was decided that 30% of the donations will be contributed to the needy Palestinian students in universities and schools, 30% to support critical Palestinian patients.

handicapped, and 15% to Palestinian families supported by women. The committee, in coordination with municipalities and other civil society organizations has developed a computerized database on these cases. The four-month project has been implemented by a executive staff comprising of a field worker and an overall coordinator based at PNGO's coordination office. The staff is administratively and financially accountable in front of the Network's Emergency Fund Sub-Committee.

## **II: Advocacy and Public Education Program:**

- The Grassroots International Campaign for the Protection of the Palestinian People (GIPP):

During the year 2002, PNGO organized the three following main protection campaigns:

- 1- The reoccupation phase starting the end of March, 2002: the 'campaign' included activities, such as organizing peaceful protests at the Israeli Military roadblock solidarity visits to Palestinian families, visiting the injured at the hospitals, solidarity visits to the besieged Palestinian President's headquarter in Ramallah. It is important to note that many international delegates were banned entry by the Israeli authorities upon reaching the Tel-Aviv airport, and were forced back home.
- 2- The Olive Picking Campaign: In the period between 15 October-5<sup>th</sup> of November, international delegates helped the Palestinian farmers to reach their olive orchards harvest the olive yield of the year
- 3- The Wall of Hate Campaign: In the period between December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002-January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003, under the slogan of "*no to the wall of hate & discrimination, no to Berlin wall*", and as part of the World Social Forum activities held in Ramallah, Palestine, International delegates to the forum, together with the GIPP, organized solidarity visits to the Palestinian villages surrounding the Wall of Hate built recently by the occupation forces, and which has resulted in the confiscation of more Palestinian lands. In addition, GIPP organized similar solidarity activities in Gaza, and another visit to the territories within 1948. Finally, on the New Year's Eve, a candle light vigil organized in the city center of Ramallah in solidarity with the Palestinian people aspiration for liberty, freedom, and peace.

- Second; World Social Forum (WSF):

On December 27-30, 2002, PNGO organized a special WSF session on Palestine upon the recommendation submitted by PNGO and the Arab NGO Network for Development in the WSF conference held in Porto Alegre, Brazil by the beginning of the year. Over 600 delegates had attended from Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, Japan, Brazil, Canada, USA, and others.

As part of the activities, besides the conference, international delegates took part in solidarity activities & events with the Palestinians in the northern part of the West Bank, particularly the wall of hate area. Also, international delegates went to the Gaza strip in similar solidarity events, and participated in other solidarity visits to the Palestinian territories within 1948. A press release/communiqué was issued at the end of the WSF events.

- WSF participation/ Porto Alegre: PNGO participated in the WSF annual conference at Porto Alegre, Brazil, between January 29, and February 5, 2002.

PNGO has issued a number of press releases, petitions, communiqués, and position papers during the year 2002, all available on PNGO's website

### III: Contributing to the Development of Legislation and to the Planning of Developmental Policies, through Providing Relevant Analysis

Reform and Reconstruction: PNGO has been in the forefront of the reform & reconstruct movement, especially, when PNGO represents an important element of the civic societal institutions in Palestine. The International Discussion Committee on Reform in the civil society sector, headed by the Norwegians, had invited PNGO representatives to participate in a series of meetings in regards to the issue, and matters connected to the civil society in general. Also, as part of this ongoing discussion, PNGO was invited to the Paris' conference, on April 22 & 23, 2002. As the conference did not have a clear agenda and as it did not tackle basic issues, the Coalition decided not to participate and has issued a press statement clarifying the Coalition's position. Having that said, PNGO initiated the work towards a national coalition on the reform reconstruction process. The Coalition comprises of "Aman Coalition", The Union of Charitable Societies, the National Commission of Palestinian NGOs, representatives of the private sector, Women's Affairs Technical Committees, and representatives of the trade & workers unions. The "Coalition" held series of meetings, including meetings with the Palestinian Minister of Labour, Mr. Ghassan Al-Khatib, as the latter being the head of the governmental committee "on reform in the civil society organizations". In the meeting with the Minister of Labour, the group discussed the 100-Days Reforms Plan prepared by the PNA. Finally, the Coalition organized a conference in Ramallah, on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002, under the slogan of "The Resistant Democratic Society Building" which was attended by over 120 delegates, representing local civic & social organizations, in addition to international missions and INGOs' representatives based in Palestine. The conference had elaborate discussions on three main topics:

- 1- The general perimeters of the PNA reforms.
- 2- The Palestinian State Building Strategy.
- 3- The importance of the Civic & Social non- governmental institutions in steadfastness & resistance.

The Palestinian Election Law: PNGO, in coordination with other Civic NGOs had formed a memorandum of principles discussing proposed amendments to the 1995 Palestinian Election Law. The memorandum was circulated to the PLC members, local media, and other civil society organizations. Muwatin, the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy was the initiator of a series of meetings that led to the introduction of the memorandum which dealt primarily with:

**The threshold percentage, women's and election, elections' structure, and the integrity of the elections.** Participants in the discussions, in addition to Muwatin, included The Agricultural Relief Committees, MIFTAH Organization, HDIP, The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, The Arab Thought Forum, The Jerusalem Center for Women, The Parliamentary Research Unit in the PLC, and representatives of the Palestinian political factions. Jointly, with the latter, the group developed the memorandum and organized a signature gathering petition.

Meetings with the Ministry of NGO Affairs: At the beginning of the year, PNGO had held a series of meetings with the Minister of NGO Affairs, Mr. Hasan A'sfour to discuss policies pertaining to the NGO sector, and its funding policies. \_\_

- International Democracy Day: On March 7, 2002, PNGO and the Union of Charitable Societies organized a march in commemoration of the Day of Democracy, which is an annual event.

- Follow up on the NGO Law: PNGO with the professional assistance of a local law office completed the amendment of PNGO's By-Laws, in preparation for PNGO's registration, in accordance with the ratified NGO Law.

#### **IV: Expanding the Managerial Programmatic and Institutional Capacity of the NGO Sector:**

- PNGO had participated in a seminar organized in Britain by the "Responding to Conflict Center". The latter is a British non-governmental organization that organizes three seminars annually, aiming at empowering the capacity of NGOs from different parts of the world in coping with conflict resolution. PNGO's

participation came after a series of meetings between PNGO and RTC representatives were held to discuss future cooperation in this field. Some member organizations also participated in another seminar held under the topic "Politics & Practices" in November 2002. The latter is also another seminar held yearly to advance the capacity of civil society organizations in dealing with conflict resolution, and to empower their capacity at the level of peace making.

Recently, PNGO and RTC had formulated a tentative work paper on creating an NGO "Strategy Group" to further develop the administrative skills & tools for the Palestinian Civil Society Organizations, in order for these local organizations to play a more effective & efficient role in conflict resolution through their work in NGOs.

- As part of the "Bunyan" capacity building regional program, and in cooperation with the German Friedrich Neumann Institute, a seminar was held under the theme of "the Arab Civil Society Organizations, Good Governance", held in Amman, Jordan in May 2002. The seminar was attended by representatives of 45 Arab NGOs. PNGO participants were the Development Center-"Ma'an", Bisan Center for Research and Development, the Woman Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, and the Popular Art Center, in addition to PNGO office staff. The seminar had discussed issues such as governance in the NGO sector leadership, and tools & methods in the achievement of good governance. Preceding the seminar, on February 19-20, 2002, a preparatory workshop was held in Amman to discuss "Bunyan's" strategy & programs, where representatives of the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees and Bisan Research & Development Center, both had represented PNGO.

- Upon the invitation of the Welfare Association, PNGO participated in two workshops aimed at developing an ideal NGO working model that could be used to guide the NGOs.

#### **V: Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation among the NGO Sector and the Different Civil Society Organizations:**

PNGO, since its establishment aimed at creating a coordination mechanism among the NGO sector, hence coordination is considered a common factor in PNGO's different programs. PNGO considers coordination a main domain in the Network's activities, as it limits redundancy and overlapping, let alone the streamlining of all themes & goals of the PNGO community. In part, PNGO had done the following:

- Meetings of the Steering Committee: The steering committee of PNGO continued to hold its weekly meetings to follow up on the implementation of PNGO's activities. Sometimes, and due to the restriction on movements, members were obliged to hold phone meetings. The Committee discussed numerous issues pertaining to PNGO, such as:

1. The situation on the ground, and how to keep PNGO carrying out its responsibilities and obligations.
2. Ways for activating the members' involvement in decision-making, planning, and in executing the plans.
3. Evaluation of PNGO's performance and ways of improvement.

- The General Assembly Meetings: In the year 2002, the G.A in the West Bank and Gaza continued to hold their meetings, three times annually at least. One of these meetings was held to discuss and approve the annual administrative and financial reports in preparation for the holding of the elections of the steering committee. It is important to point out that the total G.A meetings during the previous cycle (2001, 2002), were at least 7 in each of the West Bank and Gaza. That does not include membership organizations' attendance to many sub-committees, such as the Jerusalem Committee, The Child's Right's Coalition, The Contingency Relief Funds' Committee, Preparatory Committee on WSF, the Reform and Reconstruction Coalition and others.

- Holding the Fourth Election Cycle of the Steering Committee:

The PNGO Network held its fourth cycle elections at the premises of the Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees in Ramallah on November 23, 2002. Fourteen member organizations competed for the membership of the steering committee and 40 organizations participated in the elections.

The results were as follows:

The Palestinian Hydrology Group 36 votes, Muwatin, The Palestinian Institute for the study of Democracy 33 votes, Ad-Dameer Institute 31 votes, the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees 31 votes, Al-Haq Institute 30 votes, The Union of Health Working Committees 28 votes, First Ramallah Group 25 votes, The

Palestinian Counseling Center 24 votes, The Arab Thought Forum 23 votes, The Education Network 23 votes, and Bisan Center for Research and Development 22 votes.

Following the elections, the new steering committee decided in its first meeting held on December 9, 2002, and in accordance with the Network's policy that the new hosting organization of PNGO's coordination office, which will follow up on the daily administrative work of PNGO will be the Palestinian Hydrology Group as from the beginning of the year 2003. The physical address and contact numbers of PNGO will remain at the same place **in PARC/ Ramallah**. As well, and after the holding of elections in Gaza, the hosting of PNGO was transferred from the Medical Committees to Addameer Institute.

- Consultations with the French Consulate: PNGO established consultative process with the French Consulate in regards to the follow up on the NGOs' organizations projects submitted to "Consulate" for financial support. In that regard, PNGO had organized workshops for representatives to empower their capacities in proposal writing.

- Organizing a coordination meeting with the European NGO Network (APRODEV) on September 30, 2002:

A consultative meeting between the European NGO Network (APRODEV) and the latter Palestinian partners and other civil society organizations, was called for to discuss APRODEV future five years program in advocacy and public education. In the meeting, participants agreed to organize a series of workshops aiming at empowering the Palestinian NGO sector capacity and technical approach of the European Union (EU), in order to bring the attention of the EU to the Israeli violations of International law, while these violations continue to be ignored by the EU despite the fact that the EU countries themselves have endorsed the international laws.

During the year 2002, PNGO with the Union of Charitable Societies and the National Commission of the Palestinian NGOs, continued joint consultation and coordination with regard to the World Bank NGO Trust Fund Project.

**Assessment of NGO Offices Losses:** In cooperation with the Welfare Consortium, PNGO followed up with the member organizations the losses assessment resulted by the Israeli aggression during the incursion of the Palestinian territories on March 28, 2002. After the assessment has been completed, member organizations have been compensated for their losses by the Consortium.

PNGO continued to attend the monthly meeting of AIDA, the latter stands for the Association of International Development Agencies. Attending the meetings aim at strengthening cooperation, and at the exchange of information between the two sides.

PNGO held a series of meetings with representatives of the Union of Arab NGOs, Ittijah in the territories within 1948. The meetings aimed at keeping up coordination and the exchange of information. Participants also discussed the participation in the NGO conference held in Cairo in October, 2002.

**Al-A'mal Al-Ahli:** PNGO continued on the publication of the Network's newspaper supplement (Al-A'mal Al-Ahli). In addition PNGO proceeded in the **Palestine Monitor Project**, a website media unit hosted by the HDIP member organization.

#### Sectoral Coordination:

- Membership in the Social and Psychological Support Committee, a committee comprising of a number of Palestinian governmental and non-governmental organizations and representatives of international funding agencies.

#### - The Jerusalem Committee/ activities:

1: Coordinating between all civil society organizations during the emergency phase.

2: Evaluating the work of the Jerusalem Committee during the emergency phase.

3: Organizing a sit-in protest next to the American Consulate against the US Congress' decision to consider "Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel".

4: Participating in consultative meetings with different Palestinian Civil society organizations to discuss the developmental role of NGOs in Jerusalem.

5: Organizing a solidarity visit to Silwan Athletic Club building, after the threats by the Israeli Occupation Authorities to confiscate the building.

The Child's Rights' Coalition: The Coalition was formed previous to the holding of the Palesti Child Right's Conference, which was organized by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The initiators were PNGO members working in the relevant sector, (Early Childhood Resource Center, International Movement for Child Defense, Al-Haq, Tamer Institute, and the Palesti Medical Relief Committees. Activities of the Coalition included during the year 2002 participating in the UN Child Conference held in Geneva. The Early Childhood Resource Center & the International Movement for Child Defense had represented the Child Coalition in a press conference held during the Geneva conference. On another notice, the Coalition participated in the "Soldier Child" conference held in Amman/ Jordan in June, 2002, where the Coalition presented its reservation on the themes suggested for discussion. Thus, the Coalition had presented a paper in regards to the protection of the Palestinian child's rights. Tamer Institute & the International Movement for Child Defense had represented the 'Coalition' in the said conference. Activities also included the publication of a number o posters, leaflets, booklets, and fact sheets concerning the Palestinian child's rights. By the end of the year 2002, the Coalition held its first local meeting attended by different organizations working in the field of child work, whereas an election was held for a steering committee.

### **Administration**

1. New memberships: The General Assembly of PNGO, and in accordance with the Network's BY-Laws had increased the members' numbers by approving the membership of a num organizations in the West Bank and Gaza. The new members are the Jerusalem Center for Legal Services, Shaml Center, Land Research Center, Palestinian Counseling Center, and the Counseling & Training Center for Child & Family.
2. Preparation of PNGO' Administrative Documents: PNGO had finalized its annual narrative and financial reports. Additionally, PNGO had finalized the Network's Program Document for the next upcoming three years. PNGO managed to obtain 1/3 of its financial budgetary needs from the Ford Foundation for implementing the planned projects & activities. Meantime, PNGO continues to seek for the needed remaining funding.
3. Electronic Site: PNGO is active & working towards keeping the website up to date, and actively linking it w member organization's sites.
4. Membership fees: So far, 80% of the membership fees for the year 2001, (\$ 150/ member) had been collected during 2002.

