



Gaza Community Mental Health Programme Conducts Donors' Consortium Annual Meeting



GCMHP held its annual meeting for donors' consortium which lasted for two successive days 30-31 March 2009. The meeting was held in Gaza with Video Conference link to Jerusalem as some members were not able to attend because of the Israeli closure. [More Details...](#)

Activation for Toll Free Phone Counseling

In response to the increasing demands for psychological assistance resulting from the war on Gaza, GCMHP has activated the telephone counseling line. In this regard, GCMHP launched a mass media campaign by broadcasting a series of advertisement in verge of 150 advertisements a week in many popular radio stations (Al-Shaeb, Gaza FM, Al Quads and Al-Raya in Ramallah). This advertisement will continue for a complete month and it will be broadcasted 5 times a day in each station. It is worth to mention that there is a significant increase in the number of clients who call for psychological help.

Delegations and Visitors :



Gaza Community Mental Health (GCMHP) received a delegation from the Swedish Agency for Development and Cooperation (SIDA) headed by Mr. Magnus Lindell. The delegation met with Dr. Eyad El Sarraj, Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina, and Mr. Husam El-Nounou where they discussed the activities that GCMHP has launched in response to the current crisis, the general situation in Gaza and the needs for the coming stage for Gaza reconstruction.

"Global Exchange" Delegation visits GCMHP



Husam El Nounou and Hassan Ziada met with a delegation from Global Exchange and other



organizations which consist of 40 members. They talked about the current psychological situation after the war on Gaza and the program activities in providing services for the affected people, especially the children.

- Dr. Eyad El-Sarraj met with the Quartet representative Mr. Tony Blair in Gaza in one of the refugee schools in Beit Hanoun.
- Dr. El-Sarraj met with a member of the German Parliament. This meeting was in cooperation with UNRWA and the German delegation was acquainted with what happen during war on Gaza and the devastation resulted from this war in all respects.
- Dr. Eyad El Sarraj met with the head of The Inquiry Commission, Mr. Ian Martin, in UNRWA main office. Mr. Martin was acquainted with the effects of the war on Gaza Strip during his visit which aimed at finding facts about the war on Gaza.
- Dr. Eyad met with a delegation from the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung institution which is considered one of the institutions working in human rights and democracy. The delegation was acquainted with the damage and destruction resulted from the last war on Gaza and the role of the program in crisis intervention. Also, Dr. Eyad talked about the nature of the program work in such circumstances to provide the required psychological and social services.
- Dr. Eyad El Sarraj and Hassan Zyada met with a group of Palestinian doctors from inside the green line who work in different Trauma treatment centers in Nazareth. The delegation gets acknowledged with the work of the program and mechanism for cooperation.
- Gaza Community Mental Health (GCMHP) received an Italian delegation which consists of four doctors and psychiatrists. The

delegation met with Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina and Hussam El Nounou. Also the delegation visited Gaza clinic and discussed some cases and went for other field visits to be acquainted with the damaged areas because of the Israeli violence as well as other program activities and services in this regard.

- Husam El Nounou, Hassan Zyada and Ms. Naima El Rawagh met with a delegation included 15 women from various Canadian and American organizations such as Grass Roots, Code Pink and Global Exchange. The Program provided them with an explanation about the psychological situation in Gaza as well as the program activities.
- Mr. Jochi weil and his wife, Anjuska, from Medico International Switzerland visited Gaza Community Mental Health Program where they talked about the possibilities for continuing the psychodrama program. This program was held during three years and provided workshops for professionals in the program. As well as, they discussed the impact of the last war on Gaza and the psychological situation on the Palestinians and the possibilities for joint cooperation between both institutions.
- Ms. Nichola krey- Middle East Representative of Austcare world for Humanitarian Aid in Australia visited Gaza Community Mental Health Program(GCMHP). This visit aimed at identifying the possibilities for future cooperation and they agreed on developing joint project about integrating mental health services with the public services in the primary health care. As well as they focused on the importance of providing these services to schools, kindergartens and universities in order to provide these services for the highest possible number.



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- Mr. Johan Brisman / Consultant – Nordic Consulting Group NGC from Sweden visited Gaza Community Mental Health Program(GCMHP) and met with Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahinia. This visit aimed at making a study in Gaza for one week about the institutions which cooperate with SIDA in order to make plans and development projects in the future.
- Ms Bera Redaeli, The head of the Terre Des Homme Association Program, , visited GCMHP to discuss the joint project between the program and the Palestinian Medical Relief Society in Gaza .This project aims at integrating mental health services within the primary health care services. In addition, Ms. Radaeli asked some questions which Dr. Ahmed answered and present the required explanations to enable Terre Des Homme Association to present it's project for it's donors.
- Mr. Mario Carara, Director of SDC and coordinator GCMHP consortium of Donors, visited GCMHP as part of his consecutive series visits to the program in order to follow up the ongoing work and the implementation of crises intervention plan.

Dutch Representative Office Delegation visits GCMHP



A delegation from the Dutch representative office of to the PA visited the program. The delegation consists of the head of delegation's deputy ,Mr. Hans Tenies , the head of developing cooperation and the second secretary representative, Mr. Gays Deeby. The delegation met with Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina and Husam El Nounou and discussed the general situation in Gaza Strip after the war as well as the program activities.

- Dr. Eyad El Sarraj met with Mr. Alexei Maslovo , The director of Gaza office of the United Nation special coordinator for Middle East peace process. They talked about the situation in Gaza after the Israeli war on Gaza Strip.
- Dr. Eyad El Sarraj met with a delegation from World Health Organization WHO. The delegation included the director of WHO office in Europe, the Director of Emergency office in the Middle East, the director of WHO in Gaza, Muhammad Daher and Dyaa Sayma, National Mental Health Officer In Gaza .They discussed the continuous work and cooperation between the program and WHO.
- Dr. Eyad El Sarraj met with the United Nation General Secretary in the Middle East. They talked about the situation in Gaza after the war.
- Dr. Eyad El Sarraj met with Mr. Tony Blair, the representative of the quartet committee in Jerusalem by video conference. They talked about the current situation in Gaza and its impact on peace process.
- A delegation from World Health Organization (WHO) Main Office in Geneva and the director of WHO office in Gaza visited GCMHP. The delegation met with Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina, the program's Director General. The delegation was a fact



finding committee which will investigate about the effects of the last war on Gaza Strip. In addition, the delegation was acquainted with the programs which the institutions provide to deal with the effects of this war. Also they talked about future plans related to training, prevention and treatment programs.

- Mrs. Melinda Borne, Director of Programmes in United Palestinian Appeal / USA visit GCMHP and met with Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina to be acknowledged with the services which they provide. They also discussed the possibilities of future joint cooperation and the program express its readiness to cooperate.
- Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina met with the Norway Ambassador to PA in UNDP office where they discussed the psycho-social situation after the war on Gaza and the difficulties which the program faces. They also talked about the Program's future plans.

Media:

• Radio Programs:

As part of its campaign to alleviate the psychological consequences of war on the Palestinian community, GCMHP conducted a series of radio programs to raise awareness of the population concerning the impacts of war and how to deal with its problems. The programs were conducted by three radio stations (Gaza Fm, Al-Shaeb, and Alwan) as follows:

- Dr. Samir Zaghout held an interview talked about the psychological effects of the war on the Palestinian community and methods of dealing with it.

- Hassan Ziada held an interview about "Loss and its Impact and Treatment".
- Osama Freena held another interview about "The Behavioral Reaction of Children during the War on Gaza".

• Interviews:

- Dr. Ahmed was interviewed by Mr. Tim Assman from the German radio stations agency and talked about the consequences of the last war on the people's mental health in general and specially on the children mental health.
- Mr. Husam Al Nounou made an interview with Canada Television website (CTV) where he talked about the war impacts and effects on children Mental Health on the long term.
- Ms. Enas Juda made an interview with Palestine Today website where she talked about "the increasing of nervousness among the Palestinian community".
- Dr. Abed Al Aziz Thabet made an interview with Al Eman Radio about "Verbal abuse and its relation with post trauma disorder".
- Dr. Ahmed made an interview with the Swiss TV. He met with the journalist Raphael Guillet for making reportage about mental health situation in Gaza Strip and the people's need for this kind of services where he talked about the nature of GCMHP's activities.
- Dr. Eyad Al Sarraj held an interview with CNN as a part of a documentary film about the situation in Gaza. Dr. El Sarraj talked about the role of the program in providing mental health services for the public after the war on Gaza.



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- Ms. Khitam Abu Shawareb, psychologist, was interviewed by Al Eman radio where she talked about the increasing of cases suffering from depression and physical diseases which lead to family problems.
- Ms. Khitam Abu Sawareb was interviewed by Al Eman radio where she talked about children introversion reasons and solutions.

Work Meetings:

- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in a meeting in the rehabilitation sector of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations PNGO. They discussed the possibilities for cooperation in establishing data base for Gaza institutions as well as other required needs after the war. They also discussed ideas for advocacy activities in the area of handicaps rights.
- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in a workshop organized by the Non-governmental organizations Development center (NDC). The workshop talked about the real needs of the nongovernmental organizations which work in health, rehabilitation and agriculture field. In addition, they talked about the importance of the psychosocial support programs and the necessity of integrating these programs in mental health and other rehabilitation programs.
- Mr. Hassan Ziada participated in a workshop with staff of women affairs. The workshop talked about the impact of war on children and women's mental health on the long term from social and psychological aspects.
- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in a meeting with representative from Open Society Institute in USA and representatives from other Palestinian Human Rights Organizations by Video conference. They talked about many issues regarding the Palestinian advocacy matters, violation of human rights and mechanisms of setting joint work strategies to activate working in this field.
- Dr. Ahmed Abu Tawahina met with David Henley, Henrik Pelling and Yvonne Fredriksson from PGS to follow up the work and the future planning in terms of integrating mental health services in primary health care (PHC) facilities. They agreed to continue working with the Rehabilitation National Association and other rehabilitations centers working on Gaza Strip.
- Dr. Ahmed met with the Dean of Medicine Faculty in the Islamic University of Gaza Dr. Mufeed El Mokhalalti. They discussed the possibilities for cooperation between the program and the Islamic university regarding teaching Psychological medicine Course for IUG students in the next year. They agreed to prepare memorandum of understanding between them to be discussed in the next week.
- Dr. Ahmed met with the Special Coordinator of United Nations Humanitarian Affairs in the Palestinian Territories Mr. Feleeb Lazerini in the Palestinian Non Governmental organizations Network (PNGO). The meeting aimed at discussing the difficult humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip. Mr. Fleebe Lazerni chairs the fact finding committee which included the deputy of humanitarian affairs coordination office and deputy of human rights general commissioner. This committee came to Gaza for fact finding missions to investigate the Israeli forces violations during the war on Gaza.
- Mr. Hassan Ziada, Dr. Yasser Abu Jamaa, Dr. Zyad Awad and Dr. Tayseer Diab met with the psychiatrist Johan Sorensen, The



psychiatrist, Richard Ohrstron and the coordinator of 4C Recovery Solution institution. They presented a brief summary about their work in the treatment of the psychological trauma field. Also, they talked about the possibilities for cooperation between the program and their organizations. They agreed to visit the program next April for follow up.

- Mr. Hassan Zida met Jem Gorden from Body and Brain Center USA where they discussed war topics and the children psychological reaction and the efficiency of some techniques especially body and Mind as well as the intervention crisis plan.
- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in a meeting in the Rehabilitation Center in the Palestinian Non Governmental Organization for advocacy issues. During this meeting, the attendants gave ideas and comments about advocacy activities which the rehabilitation sector intends to implement.
- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in Health sector network to discuss the consequences of Hamas take over of referral abroad department and they participated in formulating a press release about this regard.
- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in a meeting for a number of local institutions in PNGO's main office. They discussed the issue of the buffer zone area and other ideas about launching a campaign for facing this issue. Husam El Nounou was nominated for the special committee membership which will prepare for a campaign to face the buffer zones dangers.
- Dr. Ahmed met with Ms. Cindy Greer, a Norway Development Advisor from the Norwegian Association of Disabled. They talked about following up the development regarding integrating mental health services within community based rehabilitation

services in Gaza Strip. Mrs. Greer was acquainted with the training programs which the community rehabilitation center performs as well as the implementation of some activities with cooperation between the program and other rehabilitation centers.

- Dr. Ahmed participated in a meeting with Roots Institution in Ram Allah with videoconference link to UNDP office. Dr. Sylvie Mansour from French Cooperation and other members from Roots Institution talked about the modification plan regarding mental health diploma for doctors and specialist working in the primary health care centers. They agreed that the program will reconstruct its plan by coordination with Roots institution in Ram Allah while Mrs. Sylvie will cooperate with the concerned authorities in the Ministry of Health in Gaza Strip.
- Mr. Hassan Ziada met with Dr. Elina and Dr. Thyra from Doctors without Borders Institution to talk about the nature of their work and the possibilities of referring some cases to the program. They agreed to refer some cases which suffer from psychological diseases.
- Mr. Hassan met with UNICEF members and other institutions working in providing community mental health services regarding psychological coordinating meeting.
- Mr. Hassan met with UNICEF child protection group. They discussed the institution work in children protection field and they made a presentation about the nature of child protection group.
- Ms. Enas Jouda attended a meeting in UNICEF in which they present a following up group of children who were exposed to psychological and physical attacks.



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- Mrs. Ayda Kasab attended a meeting in Mercy corps to discuss the mechanism for continuing the action plan.
- Mr. Husam El Nounou participated in a focus group meeting with AL Dameer Institution to talk about conflict and development priorities in Palestine. Five human rights institutions participated in this meeting to make a study research from Development Study Center in Berziet University.
- Mr. Mahmoud Abu Aisha participated in 2 training meetings at WHO organized by OCHA on Matrix system to provided the OCHA's Gaza Response Activity Database sponsored by UNICEF with GCMHP's information and activities.
- A Researcher from Al-Quds Abu Dies University visited GCMHP and met with Mr. Husam El-Nounou and Mahmoud Abu Aisha who provided him with the researches and studies presented in GCMHP's 5th International Conference "Siege and Mental Health... Walls vs. Bridges".
- Samir Zaghout, Psychologist, visited Free Holland University Institution in Gaza City. The university chairman expressed his desire to cooperate with Gaza Community Mental Health Program by presenting lectures about Trauma and it's impacts on mental health.
- Samir Zaghout, Psychologist, visited Women Studies Center and agreed to specify a mechanism for visiting the freed female prisoners.
- Samir Zaghout, Psychologist ,participated in conference on health profession faculty which was entitled" The psychological and social effects of war".
- GCMHP met with Lueiza from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights to talk about the impact of war on children on the

short and long term effects. The meeting aimed at making documentation to use them in preparing a report for the center.

Training Courses and Workshops:

A training Course Entitled "Crisis Intervention"



- A Training course was held by a group of doctors for two weeks and was entitled "Crisis Intervention" .The course was attended by 22 participant from GCMHP's partner organizations such as (Red Crescent Society, National Rehabilitation Association, Al Wedad Association, Sharek Youth Forum and Union of Near East Council of Churches). It was held in the training department hall and aimed at training the professionals on how to deal with crises. Also, it included many topics such as the psychological effects of disasters on children , the primary psychological support, crisis intervention, relaxation mechanism and debriefing.
- A training Course was held by a group of doctors and psychiatrists in GCMHP's training department hall for four weeks. The course was entitled " Introduction in Mental Health" and attended by educational counselors in



the Ministry of Health. The course aimed at improving the professionals' expertise in dealing with children. Also, The course included many important topics such as mental health, sleeping disorders, children anxiety, Involuntary urination, lying and jealousy, the child growth and development the impact of media on children, lack of concentration, war psychological effects on children and difficulties in learning.

Public Meetings:

- Mr. Mohammad Abu Shugeer and Mrs. Bushra Abu Lalia held a public meeting in Al Fokhari Association for Development and Culture . 25 women attended the meeting which was entitled" The effects of war on society" and they talked about their traumatic experience during the war and about the worst moment they faced. They used drawing to express the most supportive sources for them. They also talked about the positive aspects during the war such as social support and how they adapted with the social situation.
- Mr. Basem Lafi , Psychologist , held a lecture about the psychological impacts resulting from the war on Gaza as well as how to treat it. This lecture took place in Al Hameen Mosque in Gaza and attended by 30 women.
- Mohammad Abu Shugeer and Mrs. Bushra Lalia Abu lalia held a public meeting in Abu Humid Primary School for mothers . 27 mothers attended the meeting which entitled " The Effect of War On Gaza". The women talked about the positive aspects after the war experience such as solidarity among the people.

- **Press Releases:**

GCMHP issued a joint press release as a member of the Health Sector in the Palestinian non governmental organizations Network (PNGO) which talked about Hamas controlling the referral abroad department.

[More Details....](#)

- **Articles and stories:**

GCMHP issued two affidavits for people who were severely affected from the last war on Gaza Strip.

[More Details...](#)