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USAID/WBG Celebrates Palestinian Women March 2010



Young nursing students take a break from training at the Palestine Medical Complex. The USAID funded Palestinian Health Sector Reform and Development Project, the Flagship Project, helps to develop the Palestinian Ministry of Health nursing curriculum to include community mobilization and community initiatives. The Flagship Project's integrated approach considers nurses the back bone of the entire health system.

Overview of USAID Assistance to Palestinian Women:

Women constitute about half of the Palestinian population and have an important influence at home and in the community. Although their influence outside of home is still relatively modest, women are becoming increasingly involved in the Palestinian work force and a growing number of women are receiving university degrees.

To support equal opportunities for Palestinian women, USAID considers gender in the design and implementation of all its programs. One of the aims of USAID assistance is to promote gender equality and the advancement of women in the West Bank and Gaza. USAID supports women's aspirations and well-being through its programs in education, health and humanitarian assistance, democracy and governance, private enterprise, and water and infrastructure.

During the past two years, USAID programs have benefited Palestinian girls and women in various ways:

- Approximately 4,600 girls were educated in schools built, renovated or otherwise assisted by USAID.
- Nearly 2,800 female scholars received academic training and fellowship opportunities through USAID programs.
- Currently, 22 Palestinian women work as engineers in the Infrastructure Needs Program designing and constructing roads, water systems, and schools in the West Bank. This constitutes 20% of all the engineers working in the program.
- Over 388,000 women have benefited from USAID's health assistance activities, including prenatal care, maternal and child care, and mammography checks.
- 200 female journalists were trained and gained improved reporting skills through a USAID funded media program.



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- 22,000 young women were trained and empowered through the Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program, RUWWAD.
- Nearly 2,900 Palestinian women received micro-loans through a USAID program.

Videos on USAID assistance to women:

- A video on Al Iraq Girls' School in Nablus, built by USAID:

<http://www.youtube.com/usaidwbg#p/u/3/xYBaIpEGYto>

- A video on USAID assistance projects benefiting women:

http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/Video_Women.html

Success stories:

- Tubas Girls' School a Healthier Place for Students:

http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/success_oct2009a.html

- Al Rihyyeh Girls' School:

http://www.usaid.gov/wbg/success_dec1_2009.html

USAID WBG Women's Month Celebration in March 2010

- On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8 and Palestinian Mothers' Day on March 21, USAID West Bank and Gaza will launch a month of events and PR activities highlighting USAID assistance benefiting Palestinian women and Palestinian women's achievements. All USAID programs consider gender in the design and implementation of the programs. Therefore, practically all USAID assistance benefits women and girls in the West Bank and Gaza.
- During the week of March 8, the Mission will launch a campaign celebrating the women's month in the West Bank. The launch event will take place at the Qalqiliya Girls' School built by USAID in 2009. The launch will announce the activities of the month, highlight the U.S. Government contributions to the Palestinian women and girls and announce a drawing competition for girls titled: "When I grow up, I dream to be..." The best drawings will be exhibited in the end of March during the completion ceremony in Ramallah celebrating Palestinian women's achievements.

The program for the month:

1. **March 10:** A launch event of the Palestinian Women's month at Qalqiliya Girls' School. Launch of the drawing competition for girls.
2. **During the month of March:** Community events in USAID funded projects, including an inauguration of Aqraba Women's Center in the Nablus Governorate and a women's health day at the Sabastuya Village Health Clinic, assisted through USAID's Flagship Project.
3. **Media and website campaign:** Women's video testimonials and success stories will be featured in Palestinian newspapers, on the USAID Mission website, and internet sites.
4. **March 26: A completion ceremony celebrating Palestinian women.** A festive event in Ramallah will feature respected Palestinian women, USAID beneficiaries, cultural performances by Palestinian female artists, and women artisans. In addition, USAID work supporting Palestinian women will be presented through video testimonials and photo presentations. The winners of the girls' drawing competition will receive prizes and the best works will be exhibited.