



**West Bank and Gaza**

**NETHAM**

**Rule of Law Program**

**Justice and Enforcement**

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**NOTE: USAID and the USAID-funded Netham project forthwith will exclusively use the English term High Judicial Council (HJC) instead of the previously preferred term, Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) in order to conform to the English translation used by the other members of the Justice Sector Working Group. For the record, HJC and SJC are one and the same. The original term is in Arabic and can be translated either as High Judicial Council or Supreme Judicial Council.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In a major project achievement, this quarter Netham celebrated the completion of activities supporting enhancing civic education in Palestinian schools. Netham along with the Minister of Education and Higher Education Ms. Lamees Al Alami hosted the Civic Education close-out ceremony at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah on February 11, 2010. Guests included the USAID Administrator's Special Assistant for the Middle East, Mr. George Laudato, USAID Mission Director Dr. Howard Sumka, Chief Justice Farid Al Jallad, and officials representing judicial, legal, and education sectors as well as the donor community, civil society organizations and the media.

During the event Netham screened a 15-minute presentation on the Civic Education program achievements which was followed by an opening speech by the Minister of Education and Higher Education who stressed the importance of this initiative in enhancing civic education programs. The USAID Middle East Assistant concluded the speeches and addressed the positive role that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is playing in strengthening modern democratic concepts through enhancing civic education programs offered in Palestinian Schools. During the event Netham distributed the newly developed "Review and Evaluation Report" and the "Civic Education Reference Manual."



Netham kicked off the quarter by facilitating a visit to the Bethlehem Courthouse for a USAID delegation that included Arnold Haiman, Acting General Consul for USAID; Howard Sumka, USAID Mission Director, and other USAID officials. The delegation took part in a tour of the courthouse which was partly renovated with USAID support (first floor of the building) including the Notary Public, Civil Judgment, and Notification Departments. The delegation then participated in a roundtable discussion on USAID assistance to the judiciary through Netham's Rule

of Law Project, including challenges facing the Palestinian Judicial System, and a discussion followed on further USAID assistance to the judiciary



During the quarter Netham also supported the High Judicial Council (HJC) in an inauguration ceremony for the opening of the newly renovated HJC Judicial Media Center which took place on January 27, 2010. The renovation which was



conducted by Netham included demolishing rooms and enlarging space as well as supplying equipment and signage. A ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted by Chief Justice Farid Al-Jallad and USAID Mission Director Howard Sumka and was attended by Netham's COTR, HJC High Court judges as well as the media. In his opening speech the Chief Justice thanked the USAID Netham Rule of Law project and stressed the importance of establishing the Judicial Media Center which will allow the media to more accessibly cover the judiciary and bring transparency and accountability of courts proceedings and judgments. The USAID Mission Director spoke of the assistance that USAID is providing to Palestinians and stressed the importance of establishing an independent Palestinian state through achieving three pillars including a strong economic sector, security, and rule of law.

Following this High Judicial Council event the USAID Mission Director and COTR visited Netham's Office and provided Certificates of Appreciation to Netham staff that worked with counterparts on developing the Justice Sector Strategy. Netham provided support to the Justice Sector National Team for Development of the Justice Sector Strategy in formulating the Justice Sector Strategy for the years 2011-2013. The plan includes relevant activities and policies to be implemented by the Justice Sector. In addition Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the Chief of Party and the Project Team as a whole.



In HJC training news, this quarter Netham completed Phase III of the Capacity Building Training for court staff during FY 2010. High Judicial Council court administrative staff and Chief Diwan (Court Administrator) clerks as well as one HJC judge took part in nine capacity building training sessions. Training topics included unified procedures in courts, theoretical and practical training on management skills, planning and the concept of quality assurance and activating the roles and procedures of the Court Administration Department (CAD).



Also this quarter Netham facilitated the travel of 7 High Judicial Council (HJC) judges including the Head of the Palestinian Judicial Institute to the Judicial Institute of Jordan. The training assisted the HJC judges in reviewing mediation cases at the Conciliation and First Instance Courts. The two-week training course which took place from January 24 - February 4, 2010 will assist in building the judges' capacities to serve as settlement judges in pilot courts.

Additionally on March 19, 2010 Netham supported the travel of another 7 judges to Amman, Jordan to begin a two-week "Training of Trainers" program on Civil Case Management Training which also took place at the Jordanian Judicial Institute. The training was conducted by two Jordanian judges who addressed civil case management, civil procedures, notification procedures and management techniques. The Palestinian Chief Justice, the Head of the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI), the Head of the CAD, and Netham's Chief of Party traveled to Amman, Jordan to participate in the graduation ceremony for seven Palestinian



judges who completed the training and received graduation certificates.

On March 18, 2010 Netham supported the inauguration of the renovated Qalqilia Courthouse. The Chief Justice, USAID Mission Director, Attorney General, Minister of Justice and Qalqilia Governor all took part in the event which was also attended by court staff and judges, members of security services and the public. A presentation was prepared by Netham for the High Judicial Council which highlighted the progress and the improvements made in all West Bank courts. Netham assisted in renovating and upgrading the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification Departments as well as the Central Archiving area in the Qalqilia Courthouse.



In other HJC news, this quarter Netham procured uniforms for the Notification Department staff. The uniforms consist of a jacket, shirt and pants which have the HJC logo stitched on to them.

In addition the HJC's newsletter QADAOUNA "Our Judiciary" which was prepared with assistance from Netham was printed in both Arabic and English and delivered to the HJC for distribution. This third edition of QADAOUNA includes various success stories as well as achievements for the HJC in the last quarter.

This quarter the HJC Decision Booklet was published. This booklet was designed with Netham's assistance and contains court decisions and regulations developed by the HJC which will ease access for judges and court staff when needing to refer to decisions.



The published Notification Procedures Manuals for the CAD were finalized this quarter. They were delivered to the CAD for distribution to all notification processors in the West Bank. The manual includes unified procedures for distributing notifications to the public as well as unifying the process for filing delivered notices.

In a significant shift in judicial training, this quarter the Chief Justice and the Director of the PJI began cooperation and coordination of training programs held at the PJI. This shift will allow the Director of the PJI to track and monitor all training allowing for more transparency and efficiency in the use of the renovated institute. Furthermore, Netham installed the final version of the continuous training software program into the server at the Palestinian Judicial Institute. Netham developed the software application to track registration and continuing education for applicants and students taking PJI courses.



In its continued support to the Ministry of Justice, Netham this quarter conducted a number of capacity building trainings. MOJ lawyers took part in financial impact analysis training and two training sessions on legislative drafting..

Netham also completed upgrades to the National Justice Record System (NJRS) this quarter and continued to provide interns to assist in confirming data and archiving the applications for the non-conviction certificates using the system. NJRS is a central database system at the MOJ developed with Netham assistance to serve as a central repository of information on court judgments against

individuals. The NJRS is used by the Palestinian Authority to issue certificates of non-conviction (often a required document for employment, visa applications, ID cards, etc.) to individuals. The electronic database has cut the time required to issue a certificate of non-conviction (assuming there are no complicating factors) from weeks to hours which greatly increases customer satisfaction.

In Netham grantee activities, the Civil Society Organization SHAMS has successfully completed all activity agreements this quarter. The SHAMS goal was to open dialogue between youth and decision makers in Qalqilia. The project also trained college students to get them better acquainted with the court system through conducting field visits and engaging in debates with decision makers.



Al Hares, another grantee, successfully completed implementing four initiatives in Bethlehem's' Hussan and Nahaleen villages. The initiatives focused on traffic issues and traffic laws, mural paintings on rule of law issues and street clean-up actions. Al Hares conducted a close-out conference on March 6, 2010 which was attended by 150 participants including the Head of the Ministry of Education in the Bethlehem District, Al Hares Director and students from the Bethlehem area.

The grantee Palestinian Commission for Human Development (CHD) completed implementing 20 awareness workshops. The workshops raised awareness of rule of law issues to 618 youth in the Gaza Strip and focused on topics including attitudes towards Rule of Law, violence against women, quota and political participation, family law and inheritance.



And finally, the grantee the National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL) completed implementing the four daily corners titled: promoting tolerance, family dialogue, recreation (conveying law through art) and supporting education which gave the participating children a place to express feelings and thoughts regarding rule of law and family issues. NSDL conducted a final celebration on the beach of Gaza ending all project activities.



In Legal Education news, the Al-Quds University Strategic Plan for the law school in both Arabic and English language was completed this quarter. The five-year strategic plan is the first in the history of the law school and was drafted with Netham assistance. This strategic plan aims to assist the university in promoting the law school and meeting the highest academic standards.

In project staffing issues, Yazan Hamadani, Administrative Assistant and Liana Miqdadi, Accounting Assistant resigned from their positions this quarter. In addition Sally Fleschner, Senior Technical Advisor for Ministry of Justice completed her contractual obligation this quarter and departed the country. Meanwhile, project intern Hani Keishi was hired as the Administrative Assistant.



Finally, this quarter a visit to the field office was conducted by DPK Director, William Davis; ARD President, Jan Auman (DPK is a division of ARD) and Tetra Tech's Vice President, Ron Chu (Tetra Tech is the parent company of ARD). The DPK/ARD/Tetra Tech delegation met with Netham project staff, USAID, and participated in project events.

## COMPONENT 1: PROFESSIONALIZE THE FORMAL JUSTICE SECTOR THROUGH TARGETED ASSISTANCE TO JUSTICE SECTOR INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER BODIES

### MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed the Phase III Training Plan for Court Administrators and staff
- Completed the upgrading of the National Justice Record System
- Conducted Customer Satisfaction Survey at the Ramallah Notification Department
- Completed Palestinian Judicial Institute's Training Track Software System
- Renovated and Upgraded Qalqilia Courthouse
- Completed Training of 14 Judges in Jordan
- Completed Justice Sector Strategy (draft) 2011-2013

### ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

This section provides updates, progress, and challenges of the key project activities set forth in Netham's work plan.

#### SUPPORTING JUSTICE SECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING 2011-2013

Last quarter Netham began to assist in the development of the 2011-2013 Justice Sector Strategic Plan which is a follow-up to the 2008-2010 Justice Sector Plan previously developed with Netham assistance. The strategic plan was overseen by a National Justice Sector Planning team consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney General's Office, Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations, the High Judicial Council, the Ministry of Planning, and the Institute of Law at the Birzeit University as well as the International Center for Human Rights. Guidelines to develop the plan were provided by the Ministry of Planning and will include justice sector policies and strategic goals. A group of 5 Netham staff supported the process after a consultant who was contracted for this purpose was unable to complete the work and are in the process of assisting to finalize the Justice Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2013. The plan includes the following approved goals: guaranteeing respect for human rights, basic freedoms and Rule of Law, securing just and fair trials, strengthening justice sector institutions, and stabilizing the legal system. Netham also assisted in preparing the annexes to the strategy required by the Ministry of Planning that includes the policy briefs, objectives and other relevant information.

In assisting to develop the Justice Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2013, Netham held a series of meetings with stakeholders to brainstorm objectives and goals. Netham also participated in a workshop organized by the Legal Center at Bir-Zeit University to address mechanisms of incorporating feedback received from civil society organizations on the Justice Sector Strategic Plan. Participants included a number of civil society representatives and the National Justice Sector Strategy team. Participants submitted observations and feedback to Netham and the National Justice Sector Strategy team. In addition the final version of the plan was completed in Arabic and was circulated by the National Justice Sector team to the various stakeholders and donors for feedback and comments. The feedback was approved by the sector team and incorporated into the final draft plan. Currently Netham is finalizing the Justice Sector Strategic Plan as well as translating the plan into English. Once the National Justice Sector team approves

and finalizes all the content of the plan it will be submitted to the Ministry of Planning for approval.

It is worth noting that the USAID Mission Director and Netham's COTR visited Netham's office on January 27, 2010 and awarded Certificates of Appreciation to five Netham staff that worked with justice sector counterparts in producing the Justice Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

## **SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE (PJI)**

### **Developing the PJI's Financial and Administrative Capacities**

In a significant shift in judicial training, a new spirit of cooperation and coordination was created between the High Judicial Council and the PJI. This quarter the Chief Justice agreed that all training conducted at the PJI will be coordinated by the PJI Director. This shift will allow the Director to be more involved in tracking and following up on all training programs conducted at the Palestinian Judicial Institute. In addition it will allow the continuing education program for judges to become more effective under the PJI Director and will expand the program to encompass the judiciary's needs according to the judicial career plan.

Also during the quarter, Netham continued to provide assistance to the PJI where two project consultants are placed to provide administrative and financial support to the Institute. The consultants coordinated and attended a meeting with the PJI Director and the newly appointed Deputy Minister of Justice. The consultants also assisted in coordinating and preparing for training taking place at the institute including sessions conducted by Netham for HJC court staff. It is worth noting that Netham last quarter developed and installed the software application which will track registration and continuing education for applicants and students taking PJI courses. The system was tested this quarter minor improvements were completed. Currently the PJI training tracking system is fully functional.

## **ENGAGE AND BUILD CAPACITY OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

### **Strengthen Technical Capacity at MOJ**

A major highlight for this quarter is the appointment of the new Deputy Minister of Justice. A meeting was conducted with the Deputy to introduce Netham's Rule of Law Project and to discuss all the work that has been achieved at the Ministry of Justice since project inception. The Deputy noted that he was impressed with the capacity building training that Netham has conducted and is very interested in being involved in future activities.

Netham continued to support the MOJ by assisting in the development of an agenda for a three-day retreat for MOJ key personnel. The purpose of the retreat is to introduce the new Deputy Minister and give him an opportunity to work with the heads of departments and to discuss needs and the strategic plan, in addition to developing an action plan for future activities and programs.

To further strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Justice Netham assisted the Minister's Office in preparing its 2009 Summary Report for the Ministry of Planning. Netham also assisted the MOJ in preparing its comments on the governance and human rights portion of the Annual Progress Report for the three year EU/Palestinian Authority Action Plan that was originally adopted in 2005 as part of the European Neighborhood Policy, based on the European Neighborhood Agreement.

Netham also held a number of capacity building trainings for MOJ staff this quarter.

The following is a brief overview of the MOJ training that took place this quarter.

**Financial Impact Analysis Training:** 16 Ministry of Justice lawyers took part in financial impact assessments on legislative policy and draft legislation training on January 28, 2010. An international regulatory expert led the two-day training workshop for Ministry of Justice lawyers. The workshop included an introduction to the objectives and strategies of financial impact assessment as well cost/benefit analysis of different legislative policies, the cost of implementation and enforcement and aspects of using legislation as a source of revenues. Laws from different fields were selected as examples including the policy for a Mediation Law that the Ministry is considering.

**Consultations in Legislative Drafting:** 15 Ministry of Justice lawyers took part in draft legislation training on February 17, 2010. The training was co-chaired with the head of the Arbitration Department and covered general theory on consultations for government institutions, identifying stakeholders, the manner of holding consultations and how to deal with comments on draft legislation.

**Legislative Training:** 16 Ministry of Justice lawyers took part in a five-day training workshop on drafting legislation. The training which began on February 21, 2010 was launched with opening remarks by the new Deputy Minister of Justice. The training addressed the structure, style, organization and rules of drafting laws as well as subsidiary regulations. There was a practical portion of the training that identified deficiencies in legislative drafting and how to avoid such deficiencies. The training also addressed the legislative policy for a Mediation Law that the Ministry of Justice working group drafted. The training ended with the Minister hosting a small ceremony acknowledging those who participated in the training program.

Also this quarter 8 MOJ IT staff working in the National Justice Record Department received extensive training on the use of the upgraded National Justice Record System. In addition MOJ IT staff trained National Justice Record employees on how to master the system.

A total of 55 MOJ participants took part in all training sessions conducted by Netham this quarter (an individual may be counted more than once if he/she participates in more than one training session).

**MOJ Working Group Workshops on Alternative Dispute Resolution:** Last quarter Netham along with 7 MOJ staff members including lawyers took part in four-session working group workshops. The aim of the workshops was to develop a legislative policy for a Palestinian Mediation Law. As a follow-up this quarter, Netham and the MOJ working group finalized the legislative policy for the Mediation Law. The Ministry's working group identified stakeholders that include the Chief Justice, HJC Judicial Training Unit, members of the Shari'a Court, the President of the Bar Association, Businessmen's Association, Association of Engineers and Architects, Civil Society Organizations, Ministry of Social Affairs and the director of Diwan Fatwah as well as Council of Ministers and a representative of the President's Office. The stakeholders received the policy and provided feedback that was included in the final version of the legislative policy. The policy was submitted to the Minister for approval.

## ENHANCE MOJ PUBLIC SERVICES

### **Assist in Developing the National Justice Records System (NJRS) at the MOJ**

In continuing support to the National Justice Records Office, Netham-supported interns placed at the NJRS continued confirming data and archiving the applications for the non-conviction

certificates. A total of 4,014 non-conviction certificates were issued this quarter by the Ramallah and Nablus offices. In addition, Netham interns checked and archived the 4,014 applications. A total of 1,962 judgment briefs were reviewed out of which 120 were identified as traffic cases.

Out of 95 cases, 88 judgment briefs have been entered into the system this quarter. It is worth noting the data entry process was suspended for one month to transfer data into the upgraded National Justice Record System. The interns assisted the department in entering civil data files to the citizens' file in the system. Interns also continued to follow-up on details regarding the persons who have been convicted before the military courts, and those released following a general exoneration order by the President to be used for verification purposes once an application is processed.

This quarter on the IT level, the National Justice Record System upgrade that began last quarter was completed the server at the Nablus National Justice Record office was linked to the main server at the Ramallah National Justice Record office. In addition the Hebron National Justice Record office received IT equipment and networking capabilities. Currently Netham is in the process of connecting the Hebron office to the main server in Ramallah's office. With the connection of Nablus and Hebron to the main server in Ramallah citizens will no longer have to travel to Ramallah to obtain non-conviction certificates, allowing for improved and easier access to required documents. The elimination of the need to travel is especially significant for citizens given the inherent difficulties and time delays associated with travel through the various checkpoints currently operating in the West Bank.

### **Develop a Comprehensive Document Management System (DMS) at the MOJ-**

Last quarter, Netham contracted Media iTech Solutions (MIT) to begin implementing the Document Management System application at the Ministry of Justice. The DMS is a system that will be used to automate workflow between the various MOJ departments including complaints, endorsements, translation licensing, and arbitration licensing. It will also be used for internal administration, including correspondence and assignment orders of the Minister of Justice. This system will reduce, and eventually eliminate, unnecessary personnel practices for storing, retrieving, and circulating information within the Ministry, leading to more efficient internal information systems.

MIT was unable to complete the installation and customization of the DMS application this quarter due to delays, bugs and other internal issues at MIT. Netham has been working closely with MIT to revise timelines and work through the technical issues with the work-to-date and is cautiously optimistic that the work will be completed in accordance with the terms of reference of the contract. However, if MIT does not meet the revised deadlines then Netham will have to terminate the contract and consider alternatives to complete the DMS application, if possible.

## **ENGAGE AND BUILD CAPACITY OF THE HIGH JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND COURTS**

### **Follow On Survey to the Perception of the Palestinian Judiciary Baseline Survey**

Last year Netham supported the judiciary's first comprehensive perceptions survey that included five key target groups-- judges, lawyers, court staff, court users, and the public. The report included baseline results, findings and recommendations, and highlighted perceived weaknesses and strengths in the performance of the HJC. It also offered statistics and analysis to assist in improving the HJC. This quarter Alpha International for Research, Polling and Informatics was selected to carry out a follow on survey to gauge information regarding the perception of the HJC. The follow on survey will examine public trust and confidence in the court system,

satisfaction with court services, job satisfaction of court staff and judges and improvements in knowledge of court system. A vetting eligibility request was submitted to USAID and approval was granted to work with Alpha.

To begin implementation of the survey, a work plan was developed and a final design of the questionnaires was conducted. To date work conducted in this regard includes reviewing and formatting the questionnaires to facilitate the data collection process, the coding for data entry, and reviewing the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) data files of the pre-surveys. SPSS is a computer program commonly used for statistical analysis of surveys. The result of the SPSS from the pre-survey of the Perception of the Palestinian Judiciary Baseline that was conducted in 2008 is being used as the baseline for the post-survey currently being conducted this quarter. The SPSS data will assist in comparing the results from the pre & post surveys. In addition Alpha trained data collectors on the designed surveys to conduct the surveys accurately. Netham has identified and completed surveying the following sample groups: 1,010 members of the general public in 100 locations throughout the West Bank including Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin, Tubas, Salfit, Tulkarem, Qalqilia, and Jericho; 124 court staff; 345 court users and 107 judges. Currently all the data is being compiled and it is expected that a final report with all of its findings will be completed early next quarter.

#### ASSIST THE HJC IN ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT (PID)

This quarter, Netham supported the inauguration ceremony for the opening of the newly renovated HJC Juridical Media Center at the Public Information Department which took place on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2010. The ceremony included a ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by Chief Justice Farid Al-Jallad and USAID Mission Director Howard Sumka and was attended by Netham's COTR, HJC High Judges as well as the media. In his opening speech the Chief Justice thanked USAID Netham Rule of Law Project for the assistance provided to the High Judicial Council departments and courts. He also stressed the importance of establishing the Judicial Media Center which will allow the media to cover the judiciary and provide better transparency and accountability of the judiciary. USAID Mission Director spoke of the assistance that USAID is providing to Palestinians and stressed the importance of establishing an independent Palestinian state through achieving three pillars including a strong economic sector, security, and rule of law. The USAID Mission Director also highlighted the importance of establishing a Judicial Media Center to convey judicial information to the public and ensure transparency. The press conference room will allow the HJC to invite the media to cover HJC news and help increase public access to information about the courts.

The upgrade and renovation efforts included demolishing a bathroom and expanding the room to a larger size. Netham provided the Judicial Media Center with sofas, seats, LCD TV and a satellite system. The High Judicial Council contributed computer tables and chairs

#### ASSISTING THE HJC'S MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT **Translating and Designing HJC Newsletter**

This quarter, Netham assisted the HJC in printing, designing and translation of the Arabic and English version of the quarterly judicial newsletter QADAOUNA issue # 3 and printed 1000 copies which were provided to the HJC Media Department and where distributed to the public and official institutions in addition to the media and donor community. In addition Netham assisted the HJC in completing the Arabic version of the quarterly newsletter issue # 4 and is working on translating the newsletter into English. Netham has assisted in developing all of the

QADAOUNA newsletters published to date. QADAOUNA newsletter includes articles and stories that are developed by HJC staff and as well as judges.

## ASSIST IN INITIATING THE COURT ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (CAD)

### **Strengthen CAD Capacity**

To assist the HJC's Court Administration Department, a Netham-supported intern continued to provide technical assistance to the CAD through capacity-building efforts. The intern assisted in preparing for the customer service satisfaction survey for the Notification Departments which aims to promote improvements in public services including effectiveness and quality of services at the department. The intern also assisted the CAD team in archiving all correspondence and communications to and from the CAD and in writing official letters to the High Judicial Council and courts.

Netham continued to hold regular meetings with the CAD team at the HJC. This quarter several issues were discussed including regional training on civil case management and land settlement, the HJC 2009 Annual Report, the Qalqilia Courthouse inauguration ceremony, CAD 2010 Action Plan and conducting workshops for 27 Chief Diwan (Court Administrator) Clerks. In addition an overview of current projects being implemented were discussed including the court administration guidelines, motorcycle training for court processors, and assistance to the Planning Unit.

### **Assisting the CAD in Developing Court Administration Guideline Manual**

As part of project activities to support the High Judicial Council and strengthening the capacity of the Court Administration Department Netham conducted a workshop that was held on March 11-13, 2010 at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah addressing "Activating the Roles and Procedures of the Court Administration Department." The Chief Justice kicked off this three-day training workshop along with Netham's USAID COTR, Netham's Chief of Party, and the CAD Director.

The workshop served as a forum to discuss the newly developed Court Administration Guideline Manual which was developed with Netham's assistance. The guide addresses administrative practices with the goal to decrease the time involved in the litigation process while also increasing the public's confidence in the Judiciary.

The workshop also allowed Netham to receive feedback on the contents of the manual which includes guidelines that aim to improve the quality of performance of the courts by activating the Court Administration at the HJC, introducing the Court Administration concept, and defining the role of the Chiefs of Diwan (Court Administrators) and their relations to the Head of the Court Administration Department and Chief Judges. Attendees of the workshop included 27 Chief Diwan Clerks and one judge as well as CAD staff. The workshop was facilitated by Netham Project staff with support from a consultant with extensive experience in court administration.

### **Assist Court Administration Department to Develop the 2010 Work Plan**

Upon the request of the Head of the Court Administration Department Netham began this quarter to assist in preparing the CAD's 2010 Action Plan. Netham began reviewing all the related documents including the 2009 Action Plan and other materials to develop a comprehensive action plan to be implemented at the High Judicial Council. Netham completed a first draft of the 2010 Action Plan and submitted the plan to the Head of the CAD for review. Once approval is received the CAD will begin to implement the 2010 Action Plan.

## **Support Development of HJC Administration Systems**

This quarter Netham held a meeting with the CAD team to review the implementation plan for the HJC administrative procedural manual which was designed with Netham's assistance early this year. Netham and the CAD agreed that the evaluation form needed for the evaluation process must be amended. The evaluation form will assist in evaluating the performance of the HJC and court staff which will enable the HJC to improve its services.

In addition there is an urgent need to activate the Archiving and Correspondence Division at the HJC. The Archiving and Correspondence Division is a division that holds files which will be organized, classified and labeled for CAD use. Furthermore Netham along with the CAD team began “on the job-training” for two staff members from the Court Administration Department who will activate the Archiving and Correspondence Division. The Archiving and Correspondence Division as well as the training and implementation of the administrative procedural manual will be completed next quarter. The administrative system procedures will help the HJC’s Court Administration Department to become more transparent and efficient, and improve the level of services that are provided to the public.

## **Assisting the CAD in preparing for the HJC's Fifth Annual Report**

Last quarter the Head of the Court Administration Department requested Netham to assist in preparing the HJC's Fifth (2009) Annual Report. Netham this quarter submitted a draft of the report which included statistical information, accurate case judgments, the number of incoming and outgoing files of the Notary Public and Civil Judgment Departments, and the financial revenues and expenditures for the HJC for 2009 as well as achievements accomplished in HJC departments during the year. Netham submitted the draft report to the Head of the Court Administration Department for comments and feedback. Once a final version of the report is completed and approved Netham will print the report and submit it to the HJC for distribution.

This report is an annual publication that the HJC issues to the public to provide highlights on the developments of the judiciary and HJC achievements. Netham assisted in producing and printing the HJC’s Third and Fourth Annual Reports as well.

## **Court Processors Motorcycle Training**

This quarter the Samara Driving School, the vendor contracted by Netham, began training notification court processors on the theoretical and practical approach to motorcycle driving. 38 court processors from the Jenin, Salfeet, Ramallah, Qalqilia, Nablus, Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron courts were selected to take part in the training. To date 22 processors have completed the course and have received motorcycle licenses. About 10 processors have passed the theoretical exam and will soon take the practical exam while 6 processors are still receiving theoretical training. It is expected that the training will be completed early next quarter. The training was conducted due to the fact that the HJC is in the process of purchasing motorcycles for the Notifications Department which will assist in facilitating the notification delivery process in the West Bank. The motorcycles will aid in the speedy delivery of court notifications. This activity falls under the work plan of improving the Notifications Department and training for court processors.

## **HJC Regulations Booklet**

This quarter an HJC decision and regulations booklet was designed and printed with Netham assistance that includes court decisions and regulations developed by the HJC which will ease

access to judges and court staff to these decisions. In addition, the booklet will assist in reducing the time needed in locating decisions that have already been issued. Netham received 1,000 published copies of the booklet and submitted to the CAD for distribution.

## **SUPPORT IMPROVED CASE MANAGEMENT IN THE COURTS**

### **Unified HJC Court Fee Schedule**

Early this year, Netham began assisting the Court Administration Department in the development of a unified fees schedule for all West Bank Courts. The unified schedule will address the inconsistent application of court fees that has been a longstanding problem in the Palestinian judiciary. The unified fee schedule will enable HJC staff working at the courts to identify the cost of each case filed, creating consistency and accuracy in regards to the cost of filing a case. The final draft that was submitted to the Chief Justice has yet to receive approval because plans are under way to amend the fee laws that already exist. With the laws changing regarding the court fees Netham has postponed this activity until further notice.

### **Qalqilia Court Renovation**

As part of work plan activities to renovate and upgrade most court sites in the West Bank, Netham this quarter completed renovation work at the Qalqilia Courthouse. The Qalqilia Court upgrades included renovation of the Notary Public, Civil Judgment and Notification Departments, the Clerk Offices at the First Instance and Conciliation Courts as well as the central archiving area. Renovation work included painting, carpentry and electrical works. In addition Netham assisted in installing a queuing system along with screens and printer as well as providing shelves and signage.

Netham also supported the inauguration ceremony of the renovated Qalqilia Courthouse which was held on March 18, 2010 with the attendance of over 250 officials. The Chief Justice, USAID Mission Director, Attorney General, Minister of Justice and Qalqilya Governor all took part in the event and conducted opening remarks before guests which included court staff and judges, members of security services and the public. The speakers commended the improvements in judiciary that have taken place recently and called for continued cooperation and coordination between all justice sector institutions which was noted as being at an all time high. A presentation was prepared by Netham for the High Judicial Council which highlighted the progress and the improvements made in all West Bank courts. This event was covered extensively on Wattan and Palestine TV, as well as the local Palestinian newspapers, and news agencies.

### **Upgrading the HJC Building**

Following USAID approval of the High Judicial Council request to assist in installing a heavy duty canopy at the entrance of the HJC headquarters, Netham selected a vendor to conduct this work. The canopy will assist in protecting the public from the rain as they await security checks at the entrance of the court. In addition Netham installed a security camera for the Chief Justice's Office and the High Court. The security system will help monitor the grounds making the area more secure. The activity falls under Netham's work plan to provide better services for the public at the HJC.

### **Improving the Filing System in Courts**

This quarter Netham-supported interns continued to assist in improving the case filing systems and upgrading case files in the Bethlehem, Qalqilia and Ramallah Conciliation Court. In Bethlehem interns completed the changing of external covers and labeling of 600 cases. In Ramallah interns reviewed 230 juvenile case judgments and in the Qalqilia First Instance and Conciliation Courts interns arranged 2,400 files according to serial number. These activities are part of establishing the new filing system in all West Bank Courts and updating all cases in the

computer system to increase the efficiency of the courts and provide better justice services to the public.

In addition Netham recruited seven additional interns to assist the HJC in improving the filing system, upgrading case files, and supporting Notary Public and Civil Judgment Departments. After receiving USAID approval the interns began working in several HJC courts.

### **Phase III Training Plan for Court Administrators**

During the past years Netham has implemented and completed the Phase I and Phase II Training Plan for Court Administrators and this quarter Netham concluded Phase III of the Training Plan. Netham along with the HJC Court Administration Department team worked on developing the training plans which aims to strengthen court administrators' skills in management, planning, and quality assurance as well as enhancing communication skills to improve performance. The training also assisted in teaching court administrators how to deal more professionally with the public and taught new unified procedures to have a more efficient management of court cases and processes.

The Phase III Training Plan included training on Uniform Notification Procedures, Monitoring and Evaluation Skills, Communication and Customer Relations Skills, Personnel Management, and Unified Procedures for HJC court staff. The training targeted participants throughout the West Bank and assisted in increasing the capacity of staff in the First Instance and Conciliation Courts, Notary Public, Civil Judgment, and Notification Departments.

The Chief Justice launched the first session of the Phase III Training Plan for Court Administrators at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah. In his opening speech the Chief Justice reiterated the importance of processing cases in front of the courts to decrease litigation time which will lead to an increase in public confidence in the Palestinian Judiciary. The Chief Justice also thanked USAID and Netham for its continued support to the HJC and its institutions which is strengthening rule of law in Palestine.

The Nine Part Phase III Training Plan began last quarter and concluded this quarter. The first session which took place on December 12, 2009 targeted 45 Notification processors and aimed to increase the processors' ability to communicate with the courts' internal and external customers, thus enhancing its services to the public. The second training session was conducted on December 19, 2009 and targeted 44 Notifications processors. The third, fourth and fifth sessions were held on January 9, 16, 23, 2010 at the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) and focused on practical training of the unified procedures in courts. The training targeted 96 employees from the First instance, Conciliation Courts as well as Notary Public and Civil Judgment officers from across the West Bank. The sixth and seventh training sessions were held on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) and focused on theoretical and practical training on management skills, planning and the concept of quality assurance which targeted 70 Chief Clerks, Notary Public and Civil Judgment officers from all the West Bank. The eighth and ninth training sessions were held on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the Grand Park Hotel and focused the training of notification court processors on unified procedures at the Notification Department. The training targeted 90 Notification processors from the courts all over the West Bank.

149 individual HJC staff participated in the Phase III Training Plan while 256 HJC participants (double counting may occur) took part in trainings this quarter.

## SUPPORT SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR JUDGES

### **Supporting Civil Case Management Training**

This quarter 7 High Judicial Council judges traveled to Amman, Jordan on March 19, 2010 to begin a two-week "Training of Trainers" program on Civil Case Management Training which took place at the Jordanian Judicial Institute. The training was conducted by two Jordanian judges who addressed civil case management, civil procedures, notification procedures and management techniques. General topics covered during the training also included case flow management principles- methods of early intervention and control, legal issues affecting timely disposition of cases, drafting final judgments and case study examples. The participants were welcomed by the Jordanian Minister of Justice who assured them of the Kingdom's commitment in assisting the Palestinian Judiciary. This training aims to provide necessary training that will enable the judges to improve efficiency, increase capacity, reduce case backlog and reduce case adjudication time in an effort to render quality justice in a timely manner without delays for litigants. It is expected that the 7 judges will return to the Palestinian courts and conduct the Civil Case Management training for a number of judges next quarter.

The Civil Case Management Training ended with Netham's Chief of Party traveling to Amman, Jordan to participate in the graduation ceremony for the seven Palestinian judges who completed the two-week training session on Civil Case Management at the Jordanian Judicial Institute. The seven First Instance Judges received graduation certificates and took part in the graduation ceremony that was also attended by the Palestinian Chief Justice, the Director of the Palestinian Judicial Institute and the Head of the Court Administration Department. During the ceremony the Palestinian judges expressed their gratitude and thanked the Jordanian Judicial Institute and USAID for all the support and effort provided to conduct a successful training program and they requested the continuation of this remarkable program.

Also during the visit Netham's COP and the Director of the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) met with the Director of the Jordanian Judicial Institute to discuss assistance that the JIJ can provide to the Palestinian judiciary. During the meeting the PJI Director thanked Netham and the JIJ for the support that has been provided to train Palestinian judges and for enhancing their ability to serve effectively on the bench.

Netham's COP and the PJI Director later met with the seven judges taking part in the training to receive their feedback on the training. The judges were committed to the training and expressed their respect for the quality of trainers and training management. The judges stressed that the training has strengthened their legal knowledge and expertise, while exposing them to new dimensions of critical thinking.

7 individual HJC judges took part in this training.

### **Settlement Case Management Training for Judges**

This quarter at the request of the High Judicial Council, Netham assisted in organizing and implementing Mediation Settlement Training for seven additional Palestinian judges, including the Director of the Palestinian Judicial Institute who took part in the first week's theoretical training. The training will assist the HJC in reviewing mediation cases at the Conciliation and First Instance Court. The two-week training course which took place in Amman on January 24-February 4, 2010 was developed in coordination with the HJC and the Jordan Judicial Institute. The aim of the training is to prepare the seven judges on settlement case principles and

management. The training focused on a set of theoretical and practical exercises that enabled judges to settle cases in the presence of a settlement judge instead of using court litigation channels and procedures. Through the introduction of settlement courts in Palestine it is expected that the number of court cases will decrease and the disposition rate of pending cases will increase making the court process less congested and more efficient in dealing with cases that need to be presented in a court setting.

The theoretical training began for both Jordanian and Palestinian Judges at Hyatt Hotel in Amman and focused on enhancing the skills of judges to become effective settlement judges. The training was facilitated by a regional expert in mediation and settlement issues. The training included definition of settlement in legal, social, and scientific perspectives as well as conducting role playing and exercises using settlements and mediations cases. The second part of the training addressed practical skills. The Palestinian judges visited the courts in Jordan and observed case management procedures in front of settlement judges. Palestinian judges also had the opportunity to act as settlement judges under the supervision of a Jordanian Settlement Judge to receive firsthand experience in settlement and mediation cases.

The two-week training ended with a ceremony in which the Head of the Jordanian Judicial Institute, Judge Mansour Al Hadeedi, thanked the delegation and expressed willingness to always assist Palestinian Judges in training and enhancing their skills. Judge Mansour also stressed the importance of continued coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian authorities to identify and plan training needs. At the conclusion of the training, the judges received training certificates. The Palestinian judges for their part praised the training efforts and their instructors for providing a very informative and productive training session.

The training supports Netham's work plan efforts to strengthen the justice sector, assist the development of the judiciary, and support the development of improved case management by building the capacity of judges to effectively and efficiently manage cases.

This training is the fifth regional training that the Netham has sponsored since 2008.

7 individual HJC judges took part in this training.

In total, 15 individual judges were trained this quarter. In addition to training programs in Jordan, one judge took part in training held March 11-13, 2010 addressing "Activating the Roles and Procedures of the Court Administration Department."

## **IMPROVE JUDICIAL NOTIFICATIONS**

### **Support Implementation of Automated Notification Management System (NMS)**

To distribute and track the status of each notification delivered by court processors to persons that need to attend a court hearing Netham supported the development of the Notification Management System (NMS) for the Notification Department. In this regard Netham delivered the final Notifications Management System application to the HJC IT Department as well as delivering the source code, user manual and programmer's manual. A final overview of the application was given to the HJC IT team. The HJC received and signed off on the final delivery of the items. In addition the 20 Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) which are needed to register the notifications on the NMS application have been tested and are ready to be used while delivering notices. Notification processors from Nablus, Ramallah and Jenin have received training on the use of the NMS and the PDA's.

### **Developing a Notification Department Uniform Procedures Manual**

This quarter Netham along with the Court Administration Department completed the Notification Unified Procedural Manual for the Notification Department. After several drafts were completed a final version was approved and published. Netham delivered the Notification Procedures Manual to the Court Administration Department for distribution to all notification processors in the West Bank. The manual will include unified procedures for distributing notifications to the public as well as unifying the procedure of filing the delivered notices. This will enable better tracking of those receiving a notice from the Notification Department as well as improving case management at the department.

### **Notification Department Unified Uniform**

This quarter Netham received Notification Department staff uniforms from the contracted vendor and provided the uniforms to the HJC for distribution. The HJC was able to supply 80 West Bank Notification staff with uniforms that consist of a jacket, shirt and trousers which have the HJC logo stitched on to them. This activity supports Netham's work plan which focuses on supporting identification tools for Notification Department processors who deliver court notifications. Supplying Notification officers with uniforms will also contribute to an image of professionalism, improve citizen cooperation, and ensure safety and protection for the officers when delivering notifications to the public.

### **Support Development of Pilot Notification Departments**

This quarter Netham-supported interns continued the implementation of the Notification Pilot Program in the Ramallah, Jenin, and Nablus Courts. The pilot program's goal is to improve the processing, timely delivery, and accuracy of notifications which began early this year by providing Netham supported interns to assist in upgrading and improving the processing of the notifications. In Ramallah interns entered 4,052 returned notices into the new Notification Management Software (NMS) and distributed 8,824 notifications to notification officers. In Nablus interns entered 1,655 returned notices into the new Notification Management Software (NMS) and distributed 15,088 notifications to the notification officers. In the Jenin Notification Department, interns entered 3,574 returned notices and distributed 6,032 notifications to the notification officers. It is expected that work will begin next quarter at the Bethlehem Notification Department. The result of the pilot program in the Notification Department has included a more timely notifications process and improved judicial case management.

In addition, Netham this quarter conducted a customer satisfaction survey which indicated that those surveyed are very much satisfied with the services provided at the Ramallah Notification Department after the completion of upgrades. The Ramallah Notification Department was renovated and upgraded early this year. The renovation work included providing finishing work and equipment for many areas and installing a new Notification Management System software to better assign and track the delivery of notices as well as providing the department with Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) to assist in controlling and accelerating the notification process by enabling processors to input data in the field. The results showed that 56% of the 107 surveyed were "moderately satisfied" or "highly satisfied." Prior to the upgrades and renovation only 9% of those surveyed were "moderately satisfied" or "highly satisfied." The goal of renovating and upgrading of the Notification Department was to provide better tools and an improved work environment which would enhance the technical and professional capacities of employees to improve the quality of customer service provided. Netham was able to meet its goals as seen in the satisfaction of those surveyed this quarter.

### **Customer Service Satisfaction Survey at Notification Departments**

In order to assess public satisfaction of the services provided at the Notification Departments Netham began conducting satisfaction surveys at the Ramallah, Nablus and Bethlehem Notification Departments. This quarter Netham hired a consultant who met with the Notification Department heads to provide an overview on how to fill the questionnaires, conduct analysis, and generate reports. The questionnaires were administered to 400 public users who visited the Notification Departments. The results of the survey were entered into a database which is currently being analyzed. It is expected that a comprehensive report of the results will be completed early next quarter. The survey will be replicated by trained officers in other Notification Departments and in coordination with the CAD.

### **SUPPORT AND BUILD CAPACITY OF THE NOTARY PUBLIC**

#### **Improve File Archiving**

Assisting in Notary Public Department filing and archiving is a capacity building activity that aims to improve processes and procedures in Notary Public Departments to increase access and services for the public. In this regard Netham-supported interns continued to provide data entry and filing assistance to Notary Public Departments. Interns entered 3,588 documents in Hebron, 1,910 in Ramallah, 12,462 in Jenin, 3,977 documents in Bethlehem, 10,012 documents in Qalqilia, 2,370 documents in Tubas, 4,950 documents in Salfeet, 6,200 documents in Jericho, and 688 documents in Dora into the Al-Mizan software. These nearly 50,000 documents in total are primarily from 2000 to 2010. Entering the notarization documents in Al-Mizan will allow for improved efficiency and increased capacity as well as reduce case backlog.

### **STRENGTHEN THE CIVIL JUDGMENT DEPARTMENT**

#### **The Anti-Corruption Mechanism at the Civil Judgment Units**

Netham piloted a program early this year to help identify accumulated financial deposits at the Civil Judgment Department in Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin. In the Civil Judgment Departments each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars in civil fines are paid at West Bank courts by litigants and deposited into bank accounts administered by the Civil Judgment Departments. These deposits have been made in custody cases, in losses by companies in civil suits or a number of other cases; however, these departments often lack the necessary tools to monitor and administer the deposits, which can compromise transparency, cause delays in processing and leave thousands of dollars unaccounted for. To tackle this pressing issue and encourage greater transparency, Netham provided technical assistance to the Civil Judgment Departments, which has helped to reshape the system and identify a budget surplus at the departments.

Due to the overwhelming success of this activity Netham was tasked to work with the HJC to begin identifying the accumulated financial deposits by reviewing the judgments of civil and criminal case files in Bethlehem and Hebron Civil Judgment Departments. In addition, procedures were put in place to help with identifying the financial deposits being made which included a database for recording the amounts of deposits in each case file, allocating the bank account balances of each department, entering the information on the database by well-trained Netham supported interns, perform auditing, conducting financial reconciliations, and analyzing the results. These procedures which were concluded this quarter have revealed a surplus of approximately \$45,000 in Bethlehem and Hebron that can be transferred to the public treasury. Netham is very committed to working with the Civil Judgment Department and has agreed to replicate this activity in the West Bank towns of Tulkarem and Qalqilia. It is expected that early next quarter the Netham supported intern will begin work there.

### **Improve File Archiving at Civil Judgment Departments**

This quarter in Ramallah, Netham interns labeled files in the Civil Judgment Department using the new filing system. In the Qalqilia Civil Judgment Department, Netham interns labeled 1,446 files using the new filing system, and registered 592 cases into Al-Mizan software. In Salfeet Civil Judgment Department, Netham interns labeled 700 files using the new filing system, in Dora Civil Judgment Department, Netham interns labeled 1151 files using the new filing system. In addition Netham interns in the Bethlehem Civil Judgment Department interns reviewed 5,820 financial deposits files, and in the Hebron Civil Judgment Department interns reviewed 15,482 financial deposit files. These activities are part of establishing the new filing system in all West Bank Civil Judgment Departments and updating all cases in the computer system to strengthen the efficiency of the Civil Judgment Departments and provide better justice services to the public.

## COMPONENT 2: SUPPORT PUBLIC OUTREACH, NETWORKING, AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT ON RULE OF LAW ISSUES

### MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Grantee SHAM's Human Rights and Democratic Participation Centre completes implementation of grant agreement activities.
- National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL) grantee in Gaza conducts a final celebration ending its rule of law project implementation plan.
- The Civic Education Initiative is completed and close-out ceremony conducted.
- The Al Quds University five-year Strategic Plan is printed in both Arabic and English and distributed.

### SUPPORT GRANTS PROGRAM

#### Grants Phase II (West Bank & Gaza)

In Phase II of Netham's grants program, over \$450,000 was awarded to civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote activities addressing rule of law and judicial awareness/education, as well as encouraging public oversight of the judiciary in both the West Bank and Gaza.

The following West Bank Civil Society Organizations signed grant agreements with Netham:

- AMIN Internews,
- Human Rights and Democratic Participation Centre "SHAMS",
- Young Artist Forum Ramallah (YAF),
- Arab Thought Forum Jerusalem (ATF), and
- Al-Hares Association for Democracy & Media Bethlehem.

Gaza CSO's include:

- Palestinian Commission for Human Development (CHD),
- Center for Women's Legal Research and Consulting (CWLRC),
- The Palestinian Commission for Refugees (PCR), and
- National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL).

**The following is a brief summary on grants activities this quarter:**

#### **Young Artist Forum (YAF)**

The grant to YAF "*Conveying Law through Art*" is an eight-month (October 2009-May 2010) project, valued at \$52,184, that enhances concepts of the rule of law and public oversight and focuses on the right to a fair trial, equality and accountability before the law. The grant targets children ages 12-15 in four areas in Ramallah including Al-Jalazoun Refugee Camp, Abu Shkheidem, Jifna and Qarawa Bani Zeid villages.

This quarter YAF completed the second phase of the project activities which included 80 hours of drama workshops, 104 hours of art workshops and 28 hours of educational sessions. Those taking part in the project activities gained knowledge and awareness of promoting the concepts of rule of law, human rights and child rights. In the art workshops, children painted on wooden murals and completed canvas paintings using different tools and colors. The workshops focused on concepts

of cooperation and violence including direct, indirect, verbal and physical violence. At the end of the workshops, a questionnaire was distributed to the children that measured satisfaction. The questionnaire results showed that the children are very satisfied with the workshops and have gained skills in problem solving and have learned how to express their emotions verbally.

In addition, YAF conducted three field visits to various human right organizations. The visits were conducted to Al Haq, Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) and Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights. The purpose of the visits was to familiarize the children with the organization's work and to give them the opportunity to ask questions regarding children's rights. The major issues discussed during the visit included the right to live in a healthy environment as well as focusing on children's right to be protected from violence and abuse.

The Al Haq visit included 11 children from the Al-Jalazoun Refugee Camp, while 8 children from the Jifna village visited the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) and 14 children from the Qarawa Bani Zeid village visited Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights.

In addition, YAF is preparing for a rule of law media campaign that will include an exhibition, of brochures, posters and newsletters. The rule of law media campaign will be conducted next quarter.

Due to serious findings in the supporting documentations presented for the tranche payment, Netham suspended the YAF's grant until the issue was further investigated. Netham sent YAF an official notice of suspension. As a follow-up to the suspension, YAF responded with clarifications on issues raised in the notice. Netham held a financial orientation and training session for the YAF team to ensure that YAF fully comprehends USAID financial and compliance procedures. Since these steps were taken, Netham has found YAF's responses and improvements made to internal systems satisfactory and the organization took concrete steps to address financial and administrative concerns. Netham was able to resolve all outstanding issues and YAF has resumed implementing its activities.

### **"SHAMS" Human Rights and Democratic Participation Centre**

**Shams's** *"Youth for the Rule of Law"* was a four-month (October 2009-February 2010) project, valued at \$33,910, which opened a dialogue between youth and decision makers in Qalqilia. The project trained college students to get them better acquainted with the court system through conducting field visits and engaging them in debates with decision makers.

During the quarter SHAMS completed project implementation and submitted the final report. SHAMS successfully conducted four workshops in Qalqilia, Habla, Jayyous and Azzoun which are in the Qalqilia governorate. The workshops were titled "The Judicial System in Palestine Reality and Aspiration," "Relationship between Citizen and Judiciary," "Obstacles of the Judicial System" and "Role of Youth in Supporting Rule of Law." Over 200 participants took part in the workshops where the attendees articulated the need for developing the judicial system and for improving the relationship between the citizens and the judiciary.

### **Al Hares Association for Democracy and Media**

**Al Hares's** *"Improve the culture of the law among school students in two villages in the Bethlehem Governorate"* was a 5.5 month (October 2009-March 2010) project, valued at \$43,975 targeted 80 school students in the villages of Husan and Nahaleen located in the Bethlehem area so as to improve the culture of respect for rule of the law among school students. The project included training school students on concepts of rule of law, conducting field visits to judicial

institutions and launching four initiatives by the school students. In addition a conference was held at the end of the grant to present lessons learned.

This quarter Al Hares completed 16 workshops with 80 school students aged 14-15 in the Bethlehem area on rule of law awareness. The training workshops covered many subjects including law and ethics, student rights, communications skills and methods of conflict resolution. It is worth noting the workshops were also attended by school administrations and members of school parents' council as well as parents of the students.

Al Hares organized four field visits to the Bethlehem Courthouse for the 80 school students. The aim of the visits was to have youth explore the court facilities and its work. This familiarized the youth on how the court system works and operates. Al Hares ended its project activities by conducting a close-out conference in Bethlehem on March 6, 2010. The conference introduced the four student initiatives and lessons learned during the project. The initiatives focused on traffic issues and traffic laws, mural paintings on rule of law issues and street clean-up actions. The conference was attended by 150 participants including the Head of the Ministry of Education in the Bethlehem District, Al Hares Director and students from the Bethlehem area. During the opening speech the MOE representative stressed the importance of using all the skills and knowledge on rule of law learned from Al Hares as life lessons and expressed that these new skills will enable the students to become model citizens in Palestine. Al Hares then presented two plaques and thanked Netham for all its contributions. Al Hares also thanked the Ministry of Education for their efforts. The conference ended with the distribution of certificates of appreciation for the 80 students who participated in Al Hares activities.

### **Amin Internews**

**Amin's** "*Judiciary System in Palestinian Media: Towards Specialized Palestinian Law & Court Reporting*" was a six-month (October 2009-March 2010) project, valued at \$75,000, and built on a grant implemented during phase I of the Netham Grant Program. The project assisted in the creation of better cooperation between local media and judicial institutions and created a group of reporters who are specialized in covering the judiciary. The project increased public awareness of rule of law and the judicial system in Palestine.

This quarter AMIN concluded recording 12 episodes of the radio drama program "Court Proceeding" or "Rufia't Al Jalsa" in Arabic. The duration of each episode is 30 minutes. The episodes were aired on Ajyal Radio Station in Palestine. The episodes focused on a variety of issues facing Palestinians including the Insurance Law, medical flaws, the judiciary, honor killings, alimony, and military courts among other topics.

Also this quarter Amin completed recording 20 TV episodes of "Street Talks" or "Al-share' Bihki." The program covers critical issues and topics facing Palestinian citizens. The duration of the episode is 51 minutes. AMIN has begun broadcasting the episodes which will continue until April, 2010 on Wattan TV.

In addition, the first "Judiciary News" bulletin was broadcast on Ma'an Radio News Network through the program "Hadeeth Al-Watan." AMIN interns have also published numerous articles and reports, following are the links to these articles and reports:

- <http://alquds.com/node/242352>
- <http://alquds.com/node/242414>
- <http://alquds.com/node/242228>

- <http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=267052>
- <http://maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=268581>
- <http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=268598>
- <http://www.alayyam.ps/znews/site/template/article.aspx?did=135323&date=3/9/2010>

Finally this quarter Amin is currently working on conducting a conference titled "Towards a Palestinian Media that is Specialized in Covering the Affairs of the Judiciary and the Courts." The conference will be conducted on April 5, 2010 at the Best Eastern Hotel in Ramallah. Attendees will include West Bank reporters and will include keynote speakers including the Chief Justice, the Minister of Justice, Netham's Chief of Party and the Director of Amin.

#### **Arab Thought Forum (ATF)**

ATF's "*Principle of Separation of Powers and the Structure of State in Palestine*" is a seven-month (November 2009-June 2010) project, valued at \$73,350 that aims at organizing a conference to promote the concept of "Separation of Authorities" in a future, independent Palestinian state and factors that influence the independence of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. In addition, the grant aims to protect the integrity of these institutions and secure the confidence of the public in upholding the rule of law in Palestine.

This quarter ATF continued to prepare for the conference that will focus on "Separation of Powers" and will be held April on 15-16, 2010 in Jericho at the Intercontinental Hotel.

The agenda will include an opening session, three sessions addressing separation of powers: Elements and Functions, and Specific Framework in addition to separation of powers in the Palestinian case, and the last session will address the Impact of separation of powers on Rule of Law and Human Rights. The conference will include around 200 participants.

#### **National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL)**

NSDL's "*Educating school students on rule of law through non formal activities grant*" was a 6-month (October 2009-March 2010) project, valued at \$54,890 that educated approximately 160 male and female school students ages 9-12 on the culture of rule of law through conducting non-formal activities and contributing in spreading the culture and concept of rule of law among school students.

This quarter NSDL successfully conducted 8 awareness workshops targeting children and parents on rule of law awareness, children's rights and teaching civic education based on the principle of the rule of law. In addition NSDL completed implementing the four corners in which children participated in on a weekly basis. The four corners targeted 160 children in both Khan Younis and Rafah areas in Gaza, and ran three times a week. In each location NSDL facilitators ran three hour activities in four corners titled: promoting tolerance, family dialogue, recreation (conveying law through art) and supporting education. The goal of the corners was to give the children a place to express feelings and thoughts regarding rule of law and family issues.

The two centers received a theatrical group that performed a play focusing on tolerance and rule of law. The performance was very interactive and the children were actively engaged. Also during the quarter NSDL organized an open day for all participants. Children in both areas participated in the open day which was conducted on the beach in Gaza and included activities where they performed different sketches and dabkah (Palestinian folklorique) dances. Children were involved in games and competitions on rule of law issues which were organized by NSDL

activators and coordinators during the open day. NSDL has also printed and distributed 500 copies of the project's calendar and 500 copies of NSDL newsletter.

Towards the end of the quarter NSDL held a final celebration and was attended by NSDL board members and staff as well as Civil Society Organization representatives and hundreds of children and their families in Rafah. During the opening speech of the celebration one of the participants of the program thanked NSDL and USAID and praised its role in promoting rule of law and human rights in Rafah and Khan Younis. In the celebration, many activities were conducted including a musical and theater performances which won the admiration of the audience. At the end of the celebration, attendees were invited to the art exhibition in which all art and drawings created by children were displayed.

### **Palestinian Commission for Human Development (CHD)**

**CHD's** "*Enhance Rule of Law among Youth*" was a six-month (October 2009-March 2010) project, valued at \$29,808 that enhanced the culture of rule of law among university students in Gaza and contributed to promoting a better understanding of the importance of rule of law.

This quarter CHD completed implementing 20 awareness workshops. The workshops aimed to bring rule of law awareness to youth in the Gaza Strip. Each workshop was facilitated and conducted by a trained youth volunteer who took part in five workshops conducted last quarter on attitudes towards Rule of Law, violence against women, quota and political participation, family law and inheritance.

Additionally, three focus group meetings were conducted and attended by human rights experts and professionals who highlighted the issue rule of law. The experts also assisted in designing and developing the training manual that was produced by CHD titled "Rule of Law, Citizenships and Democracy Manual." Netham has reviewed and approved the manual. Three workshops were held and youth were trained on the best ways to use the training manual for promoting rule of law to youth.

And finally this quarter CHD printed and distributed 1000 copies of its 2010 calendar as well as 1000 copies the rule of law training manual.

### **The Palestinian Commission for Refugees (PCR)**

**PCR's** "*Enhancing Behavioral Change and Attitudes of the Public towards the Rule of Law and Enforcement*" is a seven-month (October 2009- April 2010) project, valued at \$37,054 that uses a multi-approach modality in enhancing behavioral change and attitudes of the public towards the rule of law and its enforcement, and particularly in relation to women's issues.

This quarter 19 workshops were successfully conducted screening the documentary that was produced by PCR last quarter addressing custody issues and a first-hand account of custody issues based on the story of a young mother in Gaza. Five lawyers who received 30 hours training through PCR last quarter conducted the workshops that targeted 635 citizens. In each workshop the lawyers screened the documentary to the attendees and a general discussion was followed regarding why Ola (the main figure in the documentary) did not ask about her right to Nafaqa (alimony); custody conditions for both the mother and the father, the legal custody age for both girls and boys and the possibility of extending this age were all discussed. Discussions focused on custody in the four Islamic schools laws, international laws, and domestic law. The aim of the workshops was to present legal options in regard to custody and women's rights in Palestine. It became very clear that using the audio-visual media in raising women's issues has a greater impact and influence over the publics' understanding.

Also this quarter PCR printed and distributed 1000 copies of its 2010 calendar and 1000 copies of the project's brochure. Materials printed are being distributed for workshop attendees and Civil Society Organizations in Gaza Strip.

### **Center for Women's Legal Research and Consulting - Gaza (CWLRC)**

CWLRC's "*Legal Protection of Vulnerable Women in the Gaza Strip*" is an eight-month project that began October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, valued at \$46,985 that contributes to the legal protection of vulnerable women in the Gaza Strip through promoting community education and awareness on family law.

This quarter CWLRC implemented 43 awareness workshops out of 50 targeting 1,800 citizens. Trained lawyers facilitated discussions which aimed to increase community awareness on women's legal status, women's rights in light of the current Palestinian domestic law and the international agreements mainly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Additionally, CWLRC produced two legal publications on family law and international agreements. CWLRC also completed research papers on early marriage, divorce, the role of NGOs in supporting women, women in the labor force and women's legal education. Results of this research will be presented during the final conference which will be held next quarter.

### **Raise Awareness of Rule of Law Issues with Ministry of Education Programs**

#### **Closeout Ceremony of the Civic Education Program**

This quarter Netham wrapped up the Civic Education Program by preparing and conducting a closing ceremony. In addition to completing two of the program's major publications including *The Review and Evaluation Report*, and *the Civic Education Reference Manual*. Both publications will be used in the schools by the teachers as a guide to assist in teaching civic education in the classrooms for grade 1-9 in West Bank schools.

On February 11, 2010 Netham along with the Minister of Education and Higher Education Ms. Lamees Al Alami hosted the Civic Education closeout ceremony at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah. Guests included the USAID Administrator's Special Assistant for the Middle East Mr. George Laudato, USAID Mission Director Dr. Howard Sumka, Chief Justice Farid Al Jallad, and officials representing judicial, legal, and education sectors as well as the donor community, civil society organizations and media agencies.

Netham screened a 15-minute presentation on the program's achievements which was followed by speeches starting with the Minister of Education and Higher Education who stressed the importance of this initiative in enhancing civic education programs and building the capacity of teachers.. The Minister thanked all those who contributed to the success of this initiative especially MOE staff, Netham Project and USAID. The Chief Justice in his speech stressed the importance of respecting rule of law and the positive impact it leaves on Palestinian society. He added that the High Judicial Council believes in the importance of enhancing civic education which enhances the citizen's knowledge of their rights and obligations.. USAID Administrator's Special Assistant for the Middle East, Mr. George Laudato (visiting from Washington, D.C.) spoke of the positive role the Ministry of Education and Higher Education is playing in spreading and strengthening modern democratic concepts through enhancing civic education programs

offered in Palestinian Schools, and added that the US government will continue to support the Palestinian government, and considered civic education a key to the success of the state as it enables citizens to play an active role in the society.

At the end of the ceremony training certificates were awarded to 43 teachers who took part in the "Training of Trainers" session and appreciation certificates for five MOE trainers who co-trained during the training of trainer's course. In addition four MOE departments who worked closely with Netham in implementing the Civic Education Initiative were awarded laptops to enable them to continue their efforts in enhancing civic education. The ceremony concluded with the Minister of Education and Higher Education presenting a plaque of appreciation to USAID.

## **Provide Needed Assistance to Law Schools**

### **Law School Strategic Plan**

This quarter Netham received the Strategic Plan for the law school in both Arabic and English language. The five-year strategic plan which is the first in the history of the law school was drafted with Netham assistance. This strategic plan aims to assist the university in promoting the legal education at Al Quds University until it meets the highest standards. The Dean of the law school also intends to distribute the strategic plan to all the universities that were visited in the United States during the study tour that took place in October 2009 through USAID and the State Department.

### **Enhancing Law School Curriculum**

Last quarter Netham supported the development of Al Quds University Legal Information Technology and Legal Writing. The aims of these courses are to enhance and increase the skills and knowledge of the law students and to introduce new courses to give students more options and opportunities in choosing legal education courses. Netham continued to assist Al Quds University to improve the curriculum development by implementing the following activities this quarter:

#### ***Legal Writing Course***

Last quarter Netham contracted a consultant to co-teach this course for the fall semester. During the quarter the fall semester ended and a request by the Dean of the Law school was given for Netham to continue to teach the course. After receiving approval, Netham contracted a consultant to co-teach the Legal Writing course for the 2010 spring semester. An AQU professor is teaching the class jointly with a Netham consultant applying the methodologies learned during the study tour to the US. The spring semester has a total of 21 students enrolled.

#### ***Legal Information Technology Course***

Netham also contracted a consultant to teach the Legal Information Technology course. An AQU professor is teaching the class jointly with a Netham consultant applying the methodologies learned during the study tour to the US. Two sections of the spring semester course were opened to students with 77 attending.

## **Netham Newsletter**

This quarter Netham's newsletter was completed. Netham received the English and Arabic version of its fifth edition newsletter. The newsletter highlight's the achievements and assistance Netham has provided for the Justice Sector as well as the Legal Education Program and the Civic Education Initiative. Netham's newsletter was distributed to project counterparts and their institutions including civil society organizations and will also be distributed at project events.

## PROJECT ADMINISTRATION: QUARTERLY PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

### NETHAM STAFFING

In project administration updates Yazan Hamadani, Administrative Assistant and Liana Miqdadi, Accounting Assistant resigned from their positions at Netham. In addition Sally Fleschner, Senior Technical Advisor for Ministry of Justice completed her contractual obligation and repatriated to the United States. And finally Hani Keishi, a project intern was hired to become the Administrative Assistant for Netham.

### PLANNED ACTIVITIES: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

#### COMPONENT 1

##### **Engage and Build Capacity of the Ministry of Justice**

- Continue to provide support to the Palestinian Judicial Institute.
- Continue to support the data entry process into the National Justice Record System.
- Assist in finalizing the Justice Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

##### **Engage and Build Capacity of the High Judicial Council and Courts**

- Conduct Notary Public Satisfaction Survey in Qalqilia.
- Support the production of the fourth quarterly HJC Newsletter Qadaona.
- Support the 3rd Palestinian Justice Day.
- Support the 3rd Annual Palestine Judicial Conference.
- Support the 1st Court Administration Department Conference.
- Assist in the development and implementation of Quality Assurance Procedures.
- Assist the CAD in activating the Chief of Diwan (Court Administrators) role in the Palestinian courts.
- Continue to provide interns to assist in case management in all West Bank courts.
- Conduct follow on survey on the Perceptions of the Judicial Authority.
- Support new judges training in Amman Jordan.
- Continue to implement the new Notification Management System in West Bank Notification Departments.
- Identify accumulated financial deposits at Tulkarem and Qalqilia Civil Judgment Departments.
- Conduct customer service satisfaction survey at the Notification Department.
- Renovate the Court Administration Department.
- Continue to assist in preparing HJC Fifth Annual Report 2009.

#### COMPONENT 2

##### **Support Public Outreach, Networking, and Citizen Engagement on Rule of Law Issues**

- Continue implementation of ongoing grants agreements with Civil Society Organizations in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Co-teach the Legal Technology and Legal Writing course at Al Quds University.