

Basic Information

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Strategic Review and Outlook

Main results achieved and implementation performance of the project/programme

This report covers all CFTA's interventions towards its strategic goals during the period January to December 2012. In 2012 CFTA finalized its 3 year strategic plan (2012-14) as well as the associated capacity building plan which was discussed and approved by all stakeholders. All interventions that took place in 2012 contributed directly to the five main strategic goals within the plan. One of the main accumulative results of the first year of the plan was the increase of 35% of the direct target group of CFTA. The biggest increase was witnessed and reported at the Community Cultural Center which reached over 40% of the anticipated target group in whom more than 45% are female. The Women's Health Center reached more than 12% of the anticipated direct target group while the three children centers reached more than 13% of the direct target group. The increasing number of CFTA's target groups comes as a result to the quality of services provided by CFTA, the opportunity given to the community to engage and participate as well as the lack of other similar interventions in the area.

Given the fact that CFTA had fewer resources than anticipated in 2012, CFTA also managed to expand its outreach to the donor community and open new windows for future work with new donors and partners such as GIZ, the French Government (AFD), the EU, MDM and CordAid. Other donors also committed to increase their contribution to CFTA as needed subject to available funds. This can be attributed to the transparency and accountability of CFTA and the strong commitment from the community towards the organization which strengthened CFTA both locally and internationally. At the organizational level CFTA has begun working on its internal strengths and weaknesses and has also set baselines to measure achievements at every component of both the strategic and the capacity building plans.

In November, following the Israeli attack on Gaza Strip, CFTA was closed for one week and in the two months which followed the closure of the association, activities had to be switched to support emergency activities. This affected the ongoing implementation plan as when all centers reopened their activities had to include providing immediate humanitarian assistance as well as intensive debriefing and psychological support for the different target groups. Added to

that in December, the floods and rain obliged CFTA to intervene in providing emergency assistance to 37 families, which was done in cooperation with MAP (UK).

Despite the internal and external challenges faced in 2012, CFTA managed to expand its outreach which exceeded the anticipated number set as a baseline for 2012 to reach over 24% extra at the women empowerment component, 15% within the educational and recreational component, 25% increase in the youth outreach, 5 extra schools and 10 new CBOs who are now members of Wessal network, which is managed and coordinated by CFTA.

Main results achieved and implementation performance of the project/programme

During 2012, CFTA's work resulted in the following main achievements:

- The abilities and talents of disadvantaged children, adolescents, women, youth and other groups were both developed and reinforced.
- Women were empowered as self advocates for their rights on issues of gender equality.
- Increased empowerment and engagement by youth to actively participate in civil society.
- Sensitisation within the local community on issues surrounding the needs and rights of children, adolescents, youth, women and other marginalised groups.

Main steering implications for next period of interventions

The capacity building component related to the development of CFTA is one of the main components that will take place in the coming two years. One major element of the capacity building component is the MIS which will be an added value for the organization as it will set the foundation for connecting all programs together, enhance the data analyses about CFTA and further improve the overall quality of the services provided. The health service provision will continue in cooperation with the Red Crescent Society and the MMIS system at the WHC will be connected to the main CFTA MIS.

CFTA will as well continue its partnership with 10 government schools and will increase the number of students it supports to reach one thousand. The program will include the schools that are targeted by the children and teenager's centers.

Advocacy and mobilization activities will continue and more work will be implemented with local CBOs through Wessel Network and with the youth groups through the peer to peer support groups. Cultural activities will also be carried as well as the psychosocial support interventions.

The increasing number of community members requesting CFTA's services and membership is anticipated to be one of the challenges faced by CFTA especially with the limited resources that are already assigned for the planned services. This will be addressed through more referrals and local networking.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Short description of the project/programme and its intervention strategy

Over the period of this report CFTA worked on the following key interventions throughout its five different centres in order to contribute to the achievement of its strategic objectives:

Health services: Comprehensive reproductive health, prevention and protection, nutrition, sexual health, legal services, specialized medical services and counselling. **Education and pedagogy services:** Summer camps, after school (active-learning) training, material development, exhibitions and leadership trainings. **Advocacy, awareness and community mobilization:** Campaigns, women and family legal assistance and counselling programs. **Cultural activities:** A cultural festival, creative meetings, Al Hakawati, etc. **Psychosocial support services:** Cultural and recreational activities, trips, theatre, psychodrama and summer camps. **Training and capacity building:** Mentoring for other community-based organizations, development of a MMIS at the women's health centre and other staff training as per needs.

CFTA's work is based on using full participatory approach and empowerment of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. All services are designed to react to the target population's needs and strengths which are assist in partnership with the community. The direct target group of CFTA is engaged at all levels of planning, implementation and evaluation of CFTA's strategies and implementations.

Update of the stakeholder analysis

CFTA continues to work directly with its existing target group, including children, teenagers, youth and women with a special focus on marginalised and underprivileged groups in the Gaza Strip. Over the last year, higher numbers of people have been able to access the services provided and CFTA has cooperated with several partners and networks that include CBOs, NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, regional partners and international governments. The forms of cooperation include financial support, mutual provision of services and joint advocacy efforts. At the national level in particular, CFTA has managed to strengthen its network with the Ministries, including signing an MOU with the Ministry of Education, implementing joint activities with the Ministry of Health, partnering with the Ministry of Social Affairs on emergency interventions following the war on the Gaza Strip in November in order to avoid duplication and reach most vulnerable groups, as well as cooperating with the Ministry of Women and Ministry of Higher Education. These developments reflect a positive cooperation with a larger number of stakeholders, sharing responsibility for addressing the needs of the target groups, and demonstrate the credibility of CFTA's work.

Evolution of the context (in particular political risks and opportunities)

Over the last year, the Gaza Strip witnessed several Israeli violent attacks which culminated in a major offensive in November. The closure and further restrictions on movements resulted in greater dependency on the tunnels which impacted the quality of goods and supplies coming to the Gaza Strip, especially medical supplies and equipment. The tunnel trade forced many young children and adults to work in an unsafe environment that not only exposed them to military

attacks but also involved drug use and black markets. Since the ceasefire in November, certain restrictions were supposed to be eased but this has yet to materialize on the ground.

Furthermore, the political unrest in Egypt resulted in more restrictions on the tunnels, specifically on the petrol trade which directly affected the problem of electricity cuts in Gaza. As a result, the daily electricity hour cuts reached more than 8 hours per day.

The Palestinian political division left the Gaza Strip with a deterioration of human rights and increase in poverty rates. Moreover, the de facto government took initiatives to seize more control over the daily life of Gazans. For example more restrictions on freedom of expression were imposed especially on young people and particular NGOs. Additionally, conservatism is on the rise which directly impacts CFTA's interventions especially at the youth and women level. Despite the above, the close cooperation between CFTA and the ministries, along with the positive results of the monitoring and auditing procedures of the ministry of interior to CFTA put the organization in a better and stronger position than other NGOs working in Gaza. As CFTA meets all regulations and laws, and because of its transparent and accountable system, CFTA is stronger among other stakeholders and its work is appreciated and valued. One indicator for that is the fact that CFTA implemented unconventional activities such as a cultural festival, one study day on the freedom of expression among youth as well as the successful campaign to protect women against violence at the different facilities of the ministry of health in Gaza Strip. CFTA implemented all other activities with coordination and collaboration with the related ministries while other NGOs in Gaza were stopped from doing that. Having said all of the above, by no means are the regulations and procedures taken by the local authorities acceptable, however, it is important to mention that being accountable, transparent and fully legal makes the organization stronger in obtaining its rights with less challenges.

Chapter 2: Outcomes achieved for 2012

Description of achievement 2012 of outcome indicators measured against baseline and target values (if available) and reflecting quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the achievement

At its different centres, CFTA has provided direct services to 240 children, 120 teenagers and 950 women. Due to its community participatory approach, by the end of 2012, CFTA had 80 leaders from among the children and teenagers (55% are female) who are in charge of the children centres. Added to that, 20 young women who enrolled at CFTA as victims of violence are now agents of change, working on advocacy initiatives and peer support. 120 youths are leading 6 different initiatives at the Community Cultural Center working with a wider group of 600 other youths on community initiatives.

As a key outcome, children, adolescents, youth and women are actively engaged and more aware of their rights to promote that human rights should be respected at the community level. More peer groups have been set up where support is given to other members of the community, for example the number of volunteers raising awareness among women on early

protection of breast cancer has significantly increased. The number of active peer groups reached 160 against the anticipated target of 60 women planned for 2012.

The abilities and talents of disadvantaged children, adolescents, women, and youth targeted by CFTA have been developed and reinforced through the different services and interventions provided at all centres. Today, teenagers, children and youth are producing their own radio productions, films, animations and plays without a need for external experts to train them or do the production for them. CFTA has an online radio now instead of producing and buying air online.

The cultural atmosphere and youth participation - especially for females - in the cultural scene is revived. CFTA anticipated 40 young females to be engaged in the cultural activities however the number reached 140 by the end of 2012. Added to that, the cultural events implemented in Khan Younis reached 12 different events instead of 3 planned events with an increase of 60% in audiences.

The quality of education and educational achievements of students enrolled at CFTA has enhanced by 31% over 2012 through the support given to 5 government schools. The improvement in their achievement rates helped reduce the gap created as result of the limitations in quality and resources at government schools compared to the UNRWA schools performance rates.

The support of the emergency relief provided by CFTA to 1,200 families of poor socio-economic status in the Gaza Strip was able to lessen their financial burden and prevent them entering a deeper spiral into poverty.

Through the different training courses and good practices used by the staff of CFTA, the team is more empowered and qualified to offer their services to the target groups. The feedback and satisfaction reports from the community and the management show better results and indicators in comparison to previous years. The quick response to the emergency intervention and the quality of service provision within a time limit and minimum resources is a great achievement that was recognized in a certification of appreciation from MoSA.

Having an accountable and transparent system in hand not only strengthens CFTA at the level of dealing with local authorities but also with its target groups. This is seen clearly when the target groups at the children and youth centers started to take part in the strategic planning, the budgeting, the participatory indicators and producing financial reports for their activities. It was also seen through the close and thorough work with the Ministry of Education who in previous years were skeptical about the work of CFTA given their very conservative values and approach.

The close communication, sharing information and taking feedback from partners on board, thus making them real and active stakeholders, has made CFTA more meaningful as a community organization that is respected and supported even by some conservatives.

Critical and transparent assessment of outcome achievement or assessment of likelihood to achieve the outcomes in the current phase if the outcome is not yet documentable

With the exception of the capacity building component, all expected outcomes are on target for being achieved as planned. For the capacity building component, it was deferred to 2013 due to the delay in funding. This will be brought back on track as per the capacity building plan which is revised and approved by all stakeholders.

Overall however, despite the restricting environment and limitation on resources, CFTA has been able to create significant impact on the ground and increase its target groups, as described above.

If feasible, present information on direct and indirect, positive and negative and unintended effects of the intervention

When CFTA started the recording studio at the Community Cultural Center it was not in the plan to develop it to be a Radio station. However, the enthusiasm and good production of the several programs recorded and produced by women, young men and children and the fact that the local FM Radios aired it several times, created a demand. The target groups decided to go ahead and establish the radio with available resources and simple software online. For an NGO to have a Radio in the Gaza Strip, several implications and challenges were faced with the local authorities; the radio is one means of freedom of expression which is a sensitive area especially if it is presenting issues related to youth, women and different forms of advocacy and modern culture. CFTA is in an open discussion with the Media Office at the Prime Minister's office and negotiations are in place with Ministry of Culture to permit the Radio to run for certain hours without jeopardizing its contents and aim.

There were positive results from the campaign implemented by Wessal Network and led by CFTA against the violence women experience in the gynecology department at Shifa hospital. As a result of the campaign, the Ministry of Health requested CFTA to implement psychological support program and training for health providers on best behaviors with clients. CFTA is requested to take part of the monitoring of the satisfaction of the clients at the different Ministry of Health facilities in the Gaza Strip. The implication of this intervention is that it is an added load of work to the action plan especially when the Ministry requested from CFTA to do it all over the Gaza Strip; added to that the financial implication as it has to be fitted within the current available resources. However, these results are good contributions to CFTA's main goals which strengthen its role and position within the society.

Information on progress of the implementation of SDC transversal themes gender, governance and Human Rights based on the monitoring results

As illustrated above, CFTA's work strongly complements and even goes beyond the thematic areas of the SDC in addressing issues of gender, governance, democracy and representation using a rights-based approach.

Illustration of the perspectives of involved stakeholders in the form of testimonies and/or other illustrations of main results and outcomes achieved

Ahmed Waleed Mahmoud Tabash, aged 18 years old from Khan Younis - Today Ahmed is the General Leader of Bunat Il Ghad Center and acquired the VIP passport. Ahmed started with CFTA at the age 11 when he became a member of Shruq Wal Amal Center. After two years, at the age of 13, Ahmed was one of the members of Bunat Il Ghad. Ahmed was a shy child and all his focus was on his study. He had very little of a social life and did not participate in public events when he first joined the centre. "When I joint Bnuat Il Ghad at the age of 13, I was very shy and spent all my time at the art and hand craft section; I liked it and liked the educator Eyad. I learned several techniques of recycling and producing art work and I made flowers from garbage which my friends and family liked." At the summer camp, Ahmed was encouraged to lead the group of the art work. He joined the leader skills development training and successfully managed to lead his group of 15 other teenagers. His successful leadership skills and the feedback from his peer group and educator was an indicator of success; he was nominated to be the general leader of the following summer camp. He was creative and smart enough to run the summer camp successfully.

The leadership skills gained by Ahmed facilitated his moving among the different sections of the center and allowed him the opportunity to have an influence on them. He has positive input on the policy and philosophy of the center which the center adopted as Ahmed used his own experience to give great feedback to CFTA. "I always loved Radio; I had a small editing program on my computer which I used to edit some songs, so I suggested that we have a Radio online for the center. It was great that the center responded and from recycling materials we initiated a small studio. In the beginning I was scared to use the sound mixer as it has too many buttons, colors and lines. Today I use it like my mobile phone; I know every millimeter of it and can fix it if it goes wrong. I feel the mixer is part of me. Radio production is my passion now; I have already produced reports, spots and even written songs and broadcasted them online. I have a YouTube channel which I update on a regular basis, especially after I learned how to do film editing as well."

"I feel the center changed my attitude towards life, I learned skills that helped me develop my academic abilities at school and my overall grade this semester was 95%."

Chapter 3: Outputs and Performance according to Yearly Plan of Operation 2012

Summary of output delivery (tangible products such as goods and services) based on a comparison with the planned outputs, and its contribution to outcomes

Health services:

The year 2012 accomplished almost all its planned activities and reached more than the expected target group by 24%. The project continued and ensured providing full access to the various RH treatment and prevention services, giving priority to the marginalized, vulnerable and at risk populations. The project provided the provision of Reproductive Health (RH) treatment services through the existing clinics, laboratory testing, family planning, anti-natal and post natal services; pharmaceutical services; development of MMIS; training for clinic staff; detection and primary care of gynecological problems; ultrasound examination; detection of

breast and cervical cancer; advice and treatment for menopausal women; preventive programme on reproductive tract infections, including sexually transmitted diseases, through a pap smear; dermatology clinical treatment; nutrition supplements and dissemination of information; early detection of psychosocial problems; physiotherapy, fitness, psycho-somatic related postural behaviors problems, Yoga and relaxation sessions, post and ante-natal courses. The project increased accessibility of counseling services and reproductive and sexual health information, individual and group support sessions for women undergoing breast cancer treatment; legal counseling for women and married couples; court representations for women seeking personal rights; dissemination of information via the media, awareness raising for adolescents especially HIV & AIDS and safe sex behavior; referral and follow up activity groups sessions; psychodrama; drama therapy, leadership skills development, debriefing and recreational activities; greater awareness among populations of RH via campaigns and self empowerment workshops; home visits networking; woman to woman program; reduced acceptability of GBV in targeted communities; special training for journalists, religious leaders, artists on cross-cutting issues related to gender based violence; conducting a 16 day campaign with a focus on GBV; and, specific recreational and awareness raising activities for men on gender roles.

Education and pedagogy services:

A comprehensive educational support project was implemented in 5 different governmental schools at the level of Khan Younis which achieved 30.6% progress in the academic achievements of 760 children at both the five schools and the two CFTA centers at Shruq Wal Amal and Al Nowwar Center. Added to that, the intervention enhanced the cooperation with the Ministry of Education who requested from CFTA to expand the targeted schools and increase the number of students enrolled in the project. Furthermore, CFTA provided a training course for 20 teachers from the five partner schools on different methods and strategies in working with students who have educational challenges. The training was followed with long term coaching which was provided by CFTA educators.

Advocacy, awareness and community mobilization:

Child led campaigns were implemented in the Gaza Strip to protect children working in tunnels, which resulted in enhancing and strengthening the local authorities monitoring systems at the tunnels and preventing underage children from working there.

CFTA also coordinated and implemented a 16 day campaign with more than 60 NOGs in the Gaza Strip to protect women from domestic violence. CFTA also worked on protecting women receiving health services at the Ministry of Health facilities in the Gaza Strip.

The campaigns were implementing by using the following mediums:

- Producing, distributing and displaying materials about GBV, youth right to freedom of expression and protecting children with effective images/messages (including information about where to get help) at the CFTA and off-site (schools, shops, meeting places, hairdressers), where feasible, there have been film screenings.
- 50000 SMS's were disseminated among the community of the Gaza Strip spreading awareness combating GBV. The messages included short and straight forward messages which were spread among the community Gaza Strip.

- 26 different Radio programs were produced and broadcasted among 50,000 individuals in the Gaza Strip. Each radio program lasted for 45 minutes and included a report and Q&A. The radio broadcasts were aired twice a day, once live and with a repeat in the evening.
- 900 brochures and posters were distributed from old copies and materials produced by other NGOs and organizations combating GBV.
- 8 different banners were launched on a popular websites (Maan and Dunya Al Watan) targeting more than 150,000 viewers. The banner carried a clear message related to GBV, child rights and youth rights to participate.
- 4 different blogs/Facebook pages were created by three different groups of children, youth, women and school teachers debating and discussing issues of concerns.
- 12 journalists from the Gaza Strip attended a 2 day workshop with CFTA in order to raise their sensitivity towards rights of vulnerable groups and better representation of women in the local media.

Cultural activities:

During the reporting period CFTA implemented the following:

- A 3 day cultural festival in cooperation with 12 NGOs in the Gaza Strip. The festival included theater performances, Dabkeh, music and singing, photography and art exhibitions, illustrations of old villages and traditional Bedouin dances and folkloric music. The festival was attended by 7,000 community members as well as 22 school trips which included more than 1,000 students from the Gaza Strip.
- Youth at the Community Cultural Center produced 3 different plays which were seen by 5,000 individuals.
- A creativity festival (creative artists on the road festival) which included art work of 120 children. The festival lasted for three days and was attended by 3,500 children from all over Khan Younis and Rafah areas.
- 'Khan Younis's Got Talent' festival was organized by Bunat il Ghad over a period of 4 months, in which the teenagers organized a competition for the best talent in sport, music, art, imitation and mathematics. More than 500 people participated and the different shows were seen by more than 7,000 people from the community.
- 3 different painting exhibitions were organized for young female artists from the Gaza Strip.
- 4 different photography exhibitions were organized by the Community Cultural Center for children and youth in which one of the exhibitions was exhibited in Al Sharja, the USA, Japan and London for three days and were seen by more than 10,000 people.

Psychosocial support services:

Psychosocial support interventions were implemented at all CFTA's centers targeting more than 1,200 individuals. During the reported period CFTA implemented individual and group counseling for children, women and youth by using drama as therapy programs, expressive art, referrals and recreational activities. The psychosocial interventions led to an increase in number of outreach target groups following the November attack on the Gaza Strip.

In 2012, a total of 910 children, adolescents, women and youth received counseling and support from the socio-psychological counselors in the different centers (704 at Al Bureij, 86 at Bunat Il Ghad 120 at both Al Shruq Wal aml and Al Nowwar Centers).

Marginalized people who live in distant areas/borders areas (Abbassan, Khuza'a, Al Batn El Sameen areas, Juhr El Deik, Al Moghraga, East of Al Bureij, Wadi Gaza) received regular psychosocial interventions which were implemented following the attack on Gaza in their localities, as it's very difficult for them to reach the centre.

76 recreational activities were implemented as part of the psychological support interventions with the children; 12 trips for women and 4 for young people. The recreational support activities are a very important component in the psychological interventions, especially during heightened Israeli aggression as well as in exam periods, in order to release the stress of people.

Expressive art using creative writing and photography was implemented with 36 victimized young women from the Gaza Strip which resulted in providing the psychological support needed as well as empowering them to become advocates for their issues. The different products of the expressive art sessions were selected to be used in the different awareness campaigns by the victims themselves.

Training and capacity building:

A Medical Management Information System (MMIS) was installed at the WHC to facilitate data sharing and to connect the different sections of the WHC in order to have better management, facilitate internal and external referrals, produce better indicators and statistics of the WHC in order to provide better medical reports and services to clients. The MMIS consists of a main server that is compatible with the current systems of the WHC. The MMIS will be connected to CFTA's main MIS which will be installed in 2013 in order to have a standard shared system that contributes to CFTA's flow of information. Also, the WHC organized a 3-day workshop on safe motherhood in conflict situations. The training was held in November and was attended by 14 staff members of the WHC including the psychologists, social workers, male counselors, nurses, midwives, field workers, laboratory technicians, pharmacists and the data entry staff.

CFTA organized advanced training for its educators and 20 other teachers from the schools partners in how to support school students who have educational difficulties and challenges during the school year with a holistic approach that takes into consideration the social, psychological and abilities of each student. In support of this initiative, a manual was produced.

CFTA produced 5,000 copies of a mapping study about the impact of the Israeli violence against women that will be used in a regional campaign in 2013 and potentially submitted to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights.

CFTA produced 5,000 copies of a tool kit on advocacy tools used by children in cooperation with its Lebanese partner.

CFTA organized three different training workshops for 25 community leaders on women's rights and how to advocate at the community level. Also, an advocacy training workshop was given to

victimized women on how to use social and community media which was applied with practical experience.

Implementation constraints and ways to overcome them

Unfortunately, there has been very little improvement in the situation of the Gaza Strip which has resulted in increased needs for people while the services are still limited. This has impacted the CFTA's work and increased the demands from the community for more services by more people. However, the limited resources have prevented CFTA from responding to this need as much as it would like to. Added to that, CFTA witnessed major challenges regarding funding in 2012 which were not secured up until the last month of the year.

Eventual changes to main assumptions

The main assumptions are still valid and the security related assumptions are stressed more, especially after the last attack on the Gaza Strip in November 2012.

Chapter 4: Finances and Management

Percentage of budget spent vs. planned per outcome

The percentage of the total actual expenditure is 92.18% of the total is due to the delay in signing the agreement with SDC.

Comments on budget deviations respectively over/under spending, and outlook for the rest of the phase

As the some of the fund was not secured until the end of 2012, CFTA took a decision to execute all activities planned for 2012 with minimum financial expenditures. As a result to that, some deviations were encouraged which are clearly stated in the financial audited report.

The under spent is noted in the capacity building, the youth & culture and health components which are transferred to 2013.

Appraisal on how efficiently inputs were converted into outputs

Wherever possible, steps are taken to create a value for money on outputs. For instance, many items are bought in bulk to ensure economies of scale. Additionally, the establishment of the CFTA studio in 2012 brought about significant savings in expenditure for broadcasting for awareness raising activities. Also, now that a cadre of trainers has had their capacity raised, there is no longer a need to bring in external professionals for the various advocacy-related workshops. CFTA constantly looks towards making efficient use of its inputs in a sustainable way as the above examples demonstrate.

Reference to activities and brief explanations if there were major differences between the executed and the planned activities

All activities are implemented as planned in 2012. Though the financial resources were limited during the year, CFTA insure full access of services and participation to all target groups and provided the services with good quality and as expected.

Human Resources including Diversity Management and issues on the organization level that affected the management of the project/programme

There is 62 staff (38 female & 35 male) some of them are on projects.

In 2012, both the Doctor and the Nurse from the WHC took maternity leave and they were replaced by two volunteers.

Chapter 5: Lessons Learnt

Good practice and innovations working with key partners, beneficiaries, interagency collaboration, but also obstacles and difficulties

2012 witnessed great cooperation and enhanced partnerships at the local and regional level. At the level of local partnership, CFTA is the leading partner of “Improving the reproductive health (RH) status of marginalized people in the Gaza Strip and empowering them to make better RH and well-being choices,” an EU funded project which is being implemented with the Red Crescent Society for Gaza Strip and directly contributes to the Health National Plan prepared for the Gaza Strip and to the MDGs set by the UN agencies.

At the regional level, CFTA successfully implemented a regional child-led advocacy in both Gaza and Lebanon to protect children in conflict. The partnership started three years ago and was led by Christian Aid and funded by the EU. In summer 2012, 5 children and three educators from CFTA had an exchange visit with the Lebanese partner as well as another visit at the management level between the two partners. As an outcome of these meetings, CFTA is now in the process of finalizing a new project which will include not only partners from Lebanon but also one local partner from Jerusalem which will be the first exposure for CFTA in the West Bank after 20 years. The concept of this potential partnership has been accepted by AFD.

In 2012, CFTA signed a MoU with the Ministry of Education to help support the academic achievement of 760 students and advance the technical skills of 20 teachers at 5 schools partners in Khan Younis. CFTA also implemented several mutual activities with MoH which focused on enhancing the referral system, provide technical assistance to health providers at the Ministry and protection of women at the several clinics. CFTA also continued its cooperation with MoW and MoHE and cooperated with 10 different universities in Gaza to implement several interventions.

The work of Wessal Network (40 CBOs members) and its different coalitions continued to provide collective work in 2012 and together with CFTA implemented three different advocacy interventions. Close cooperation and coordination with the municipalities, human rights organizations and UNRWA is taking place on daily basis and is considered essential to help support the target groups of CFTA.

All the achievements mentioned above would not have been possible without the participatory approach CFTA is using with all target groups and the close communication and respect of all feedback and recommendations that are coming from them. Accountability and transparency is as well the key for any success at the community level, especially with NGOs in the Gaza Strip who suffer the challenge of the increasing demands from the community against the backdrop of limited resources.

If available, important findings from reviews and self evaluations

An external evaluator was hired by CFTA to conduct a full evaluation of the *“Improving the Quality of Education for School Children in Gaza”*. The evaluator used a participatory approach which included the carrying out of several focus group discussions and meetings with all project stakeholders (.

The following are the main findings of the evaluation:

- (1) Provide meals or refreshments to students enrolled in remedial classes at the schools;
- (2) Expand the outreach to other vulnerable and most neglected schools in the Gaza Strip;
- (3) Design a centralized monitoring and follow up system which can show results and academic achievements of students enrolled in remedial classes;
- (4) Provide school teachers with ongoing and advanced training on active learning;
- (5) Start up of project should coincide with the start-up of the school year (September) to increase the effectiveness of remedial classes and the efficient monitoring and follow up of academic achievements of students;
- (6) Involve student’s families and engage them in understanding and supporting the education approach, methodologies and processes applied in the schools from the start of each project.

An External Evaluation by an International was implemented to evaluate the ***Protecting of Children in Conflict Project***. the final version will be ready for dissemination on the 1, May 2013. Also an external evaluator was hired to evaluate the CFTA’s health interventions and partnerships. The final evaluation document will be ready for dissemination on the 15, May 2013