

## **Profile: Nablus, Palestine - We Are the Future Centre**

Location:	Nablus, Palestine
Partners:	City of Nablus, Glocal Forum, Quincy Jones Listen Up Foundation, World Bank Institute
Donors:	Bank of Netherlands Partnership Programme (BNPP), World Bank
Theme:	Youth Empowerment; Sustainable Urbanization

Following the Glocalization Conference in Rome in 2004, six cities were selected for the innovative We Are the Future (WAF) programme, including Nablus, in the West Bank under Palestinian Authority.

The Nablus WAF has the specific objectives of job creation and reduction of unemployment rates, building employment-related capacities of youth, promotion of children's rights awareness, learning through sports, arts, IT, nutrition and health, and entertaining children and youth through a friendly and interactive atmosphere in the centre.

Youth from the community have been trained as leaders in each of the five main sectors – Arts, Sports, Nutrition/Agriculture, Information Technology, and Health – and have become leaders for peer-to-peer youth programming and youth-to-child programming at the Centre.

The Centre has developed partnership relationships, beyond the original launch through Glocal Forum, with FIFA for the Sports sector, Microsoft and the City of Geneva for IT sector, Reggio Emilia in Italy and the FAO for Agriculture, and Barcelona City for Capacity Building trainings.



The Agriculture sector in particular has been vibrant, and the WAF Centre has seen success in using urban agriculture undertakings to combine education, job creation and income generation for the centre through sales of sought-after commodities such as onions, often hard to come by due to ongoing sanctions and blockades affecting the area.

The WAF concept is a pioneer in youth-to-child programming, seen as vital to the reconstruction of post-conflict societies, and the Centre, with their trained youth leaders, has offered innovative trainings and programmes to the children of the Nablus community. Hundreds of children aged 4-6 have benefited from 3-month youth-led programming in a variety of the Centre's sectors, and this will be expanded to up to 4000 youth pending the allocation of funds in 2008.

Nablus municipality, through the Nablus WAF Centre, has been an active participant in the Youth Parliament events held annually in different selected cities. One male and one female youth from Nalbus were able to participate in the Rome, Washington, DC and Ankara conferences to date.

The challenges of the Nablus WAF Centre are slightly different than those of their sister centers, as the region is still highly unstable and suffers routine military incursions that affect the Centre programming. The Centre staffs are hopeful, however, and are actively planning for the expansion of their much-needed services throughout the municipality.