



ILO's Training on Photography with Palestinian Women in oPt 2011

The joint programme under the UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement fund (MDG-F) on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the occupied Palestinian territory" brought together six UN agencies (the UNDP, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNRWA and ILO) to work jointly with relevant ministries of the PA, effective partners from civil society and the private sector on the promotion of Palestinian women's social, economic and political empowerment through three main outcomes:

- 1) Reducing gender-based violence and all forms of violence against women;
- 2) Increasing the representation of women and women's issues in decision-making bodies;
- 3) Advancing equal opportunities for women's economic participation, especially women survivors of gender-based violence.

The ILO took the lead for achieving programme outcome three "advancing equal opportunities for women's economic participation, especially women survivors of gender-based violence". One of the outputs under this outcome focused on women in TVET. A situation and institutional assessment on "Women in TVET: A Needs Assessment and a Labor Market Study in Opt" was conducted in 2009 to identify key skills areas of growth and demand with select TVET centres. Based on the skills areas identified, modules were developed, training of trainers workshops were followed by training courses in specific areas. This output was closely coordinated with UN Women and UNRWA.

Photography Course



The choice of photography as a training subject for young women in oPt was based on the findings of the ILO's situation and institutional assessment which looked into new professions and training opportunities for women. Photography was identified as a new profession for women corresponding to a clear market need based on interviews and meetings with the private sector in the West Bank.

Based on follow up consultative meetings with ILO constituents and other national stakeholders, ILO, GIZ and UNRWA signed a MoU in December 2010 to conduct a skills development training course on "Women's Gainful Employment Through Skills in Photography". The aim of the training course was to provide young women with employable skills in photography as well as life skills and other key workplace skills for employment.

Four trainers (2 national and 2 international) were selected and appointed to implement the course, and 17 trainees of young refugee and non refugee (vulnerable and survivor of GBV) women were targeted in the course. The women trainees were selected based on UNRWA vulnerability criteria. Refugee girls whose families are registered as Special Hardship Cases or have been accepted into the Social Safety Net program were given priority. ILO also referred some women to the training from a women's shelter for victims of gender based violence.

The course was officially launched on January 11, 2011 with GIZ, ILO and UNRWA Directors and Representatives as well as staff from line ministries (Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Labour), private sector representatives, the trainees and other TVET actors.

Course Description

The duration of the photography course is 240 hours and includes:

Technical skills: Portrait, landscape, wedding ceremony and food photography and related computer skills such as editing and videography.

Life skills: taking initiative, problem solving, team work, dealing with internal aggression, integrated into the program.

Workplace skills: Technical English, computer literacy and basic administrative skills, such as book keeping.

The teaching methodology relies on group work, projects, role plays and field research in which the trainees are confronted with simulation and practical tasks. The 240 hours of tuition corresponds to the requirement of the Ministry of Education which should allow for the course to be certified as a professional diploma.

A first exhibition of photography course for the 17 young women was conducted on June 20th, at UNRWA-Ramallah Women Training Center where all the young women trainees participated and presented their graduation projects. A graduation ceremony by UNRWA took place on July 2nd, 2011.



Next steps:

- In the context of the TVET campaign, the ILO will track the graduates reflecting their stories of progress in the campaign materials.
- The young women graduates who are interested in starting their own businesses will be referred to the ILO-UNRWA initiative on women enterprise development
- A meeting will be conducted with UNRWA and GIZ to discuss the follow up actions with the young graduates, and the possibility of implementing the course at UNRWA for another 20 trainees subject to the availability of funds.

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