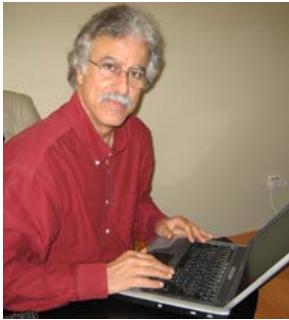


## Summary Report

### **Elham Palestine Inspirational Program: A Locus of Multi-Sector Partnerships**

**Ramallah - March 1, 2008**

Secretary-General of the Universal Education Foundation (UEF), Dr. Marwan Awartani, announced the completion of the first stage of receiving preliminary nomination applications for “Elham Palestine Inspirational Program 2007–2008,” noting that the level of participation has exceeded expectations. This success has come as part of the commitment and teamwork of the Elham partners.



UEF plans to hold a press conference soon to announce the achievements of the first stage. The culmination of the program will be celebrated at a national conference in November 2008 with the participation of official, academic and education figures to announce the outcomes to celebrate the selected laureates.

Dr. Awartani reports, “The huge number of applications the Program’s administration received from government, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), private schools and female and male teachers reflects to a large extent the need for fostering and adopting creative initiatives in their regions.”

Dr. Awartani discussed the philosophy of Elham Palestine, which aims to encourage, promote, disseminate and celebrate innovative initiatives serving children’s well-being in their learning environments and to use these as inspirational exemplary models. Dr. Awartani added, “We believe that there are creative persons working in their fields to extract and make explicit the insights gained and lessons learned from each endeavor. What we are doing is discovering these initiatives, fostering and showcasing them on local, regional, and international levels.”

He noted that the Program’s administration deemed that the nominations this year will take place at the school level through two groups. The first group includes all teachers, counselors and full-time school principals in all Palestinian schools and in all classes and majors. The second group includes all government, private and UNRWA schools. A school can nominate itself if its administration and teaching staff believe their school has achieved real progress in the detailed points of the Program. A school can nominate itself through a school principal and two teachers.

Mr. Basri Saleh, Deputy Assistant of Planning & Development Affairs at the **Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOEHE)**, believes that the implementation of the Elham Program in Palestine represents a critical step, recognizing and reward teachers who use creative initiatives and efforts to provide a healthy educational environment in schools. He noted that this Program is strengthened by the partnerships between the participating institutions in the Program. Mr. Saleh confirmed that the MOEHE is interested in supporting such initiatives, as the Ministry is a strong supporter of the development of the education sector through the creation of an integrated system that supports teachers and various components of education. He stressed the Ministry’s full willingness to help support the implementation of this



qualitative Program. He noted that the MOEHE, a major partner in the Program, provided the facilities and other necessities to ensure success of the Program.



Director General of Primary Health Care & Public Health at the **Ministry of Health**, Dr. As'ad Rimlawi, confirmed the Ministry's dedication to supporting the implementation of the Program. In speaking about Elham, he discussed the Program's goals of enhancing children's capabilities and self-awareness, taking into account the care of public and environmental health in schools through a holistic approach. These aims are in concert with the objective of intertwining good health and good education. Dr. Rimlawi noted that the partnership between the institutions in charge of implementing the Program raised a group of issues that had not been given enough attention in schools, clearly manifesting the need for partnership and integration of roles in a manner that contributes to the development of our schools, students and teachers in the fields of education and health.

Ms. Rola Sirhan, from **The Palestine Investment Fund's** (PIF) Public Relations Department, confirmed that PIF's participation in supporting the Program is rooted in PIF's social responsibility through supporting strategic and sensitive sectors, including the education sector, in the Palestinian society. She explained that PIF's role in the Program is to provide financial and moral support for the educational initiatives. PIF's expectations from the Program are to obtain creative initiatives that can be showcased and further developed.



Coordinator of the Education Program at the **Welfare Association**, Ms. Inas Marjiyeh noted that the Association has given special attention to the education sector in the Palestinian territory, and has supported a number of projects that have aimed at enhancing the quality of education over the past decade. The Association is a partner in the Program's Consultant Committee and its goals align with the Program's goals to discover and document exemplary initiatives in schools. Ms. Marjiyeh noted that the Welfare Association plays a leading role in funding and supporting the development of education in Palestine.



Deputy Chief of the Education Program and the Director of School Education at the **UNRWA** in the West Bank, Mr. Waheed Jubran confirmed that one of the most important goals that the Program aims to achieve is improving the school environment and developing all educational aspects in schools. There is great harmony between the goals and policies of Elham and UNRWA. Mr. Jubran noted that UNRWA views the Program with great enthusiasm, as it contributed directly to the achievement of partnerships between various participating institutions, all of which have a common goal of creating a better environment for education through the integration of the various sectors. This solidarity helps to motivate education staff, students and various contributors to the educational process to achieve their goals, enable and motivate teachers to master their work and be creative, and to encourage them to participate in the nomination process.