

Summary Report

Official Launching of Elham Palestine

Ramallah, Palestine
Dec 11, 2007

“Elham Palestine”, the inspirational program, was launched on December 11, 2007 at a meeting with the representatives of the education directorates of the Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOEHE) and UNRWA from the West Bank and Gaza. This meeting was held on the premises of the MOEHE.

The Universal Education Foundation (UEF) officially launched Elham after several months of meetings, consultations, and signing cooperation agreements with the core partners including the MOEHE, the Ministry of Health (MOH), UNRWA, and the Palestine Investment Fund (PIF). UEF is also working in a cross-sectoral approach with the Welfare Association, the Palestinian IT Association (PITA), the Teachers Creativity Center, and other organizations.

The meeting started with a welcoming message by Mr. Basri Saleh, Director General for Public and International Relation at MOEHE. Mr. Saleh emphasized the importance of this program, as it is a direct cooperation between the MOEHE and UEF towards changing our concept and understanding of childhood, including the need to pay more attention and listen to our children. He added that this is an opportunity to reveal



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inspirational initiatives that no one has previously considered, in tandem with the direct ministry’s development policy towards improving schools. Further, Mr. Saleh expressed the importance of each person’s role in this program, where each individual has a responsibility and commitment to his/her part to ensure that Elham is understood by all teachers, counselors, principals and schools.

On his part, Dr. Marwan Awartani, Secretary General of UEF, expressed his pride in making Elham an exemplary model for the world, where partners from different sectors have worked together for the well-being of children and youth. This initiative, which started in Palestine, will bring focus to inspiring initiatives, despite the hardships that teachers, students and schools face. He emphasized that this initiative was not adopted from abroad, but rather is a model that emerged from a national and international consultative approach that assured Palestinian individuality. In the future, this developmental model will be showcased nationally and internationally.



***Delegated representatives from the UNRWA and
MOEHE education directorates.***

The Elham working team presented the details of Elham, explaining the program process, concepts, and detailed objectives. The themes and categories eligible for nomination for Elham 2007-2008 were explained in detail. Further, the website for Elham (www.elham.ps) was presented and key features, such as the ability for electronic nominations and further details, were noted. These website efforts aim to ensure accessibility for any interested persons from the target groups.

The participants were appreciative of the Elham Palestine program and agreed that there is a need for such an initiative. A discussion about the process and methods for 07-08 in each district were discussed. Attendants agreed on a first step of holding meetings with the directors and school principals and distributing nomination kits. Commitment, accuracy, and transparency were also emphasized.

After this official launch, meetings will be held in the various districts with school principals, teachers, counselors and parents' school councils, and discussions with other stakeholders will take place accordingly.