

Analytical country reports containing in-depth analyses of findings will be published subsequently. Findings will be used for awareness-raising and advocacy. A series of policy roundtables will be organized involving students, parents, teachers, education officials, civil society activists and community organizations. During these meetings, key issues and prevalent trends identified by the survey findings will be diagnosed, analyzed and discussed. Ways and means of rectifying these problems and implications for priority interventions and policy changes will be discussed. Building on the results of the pilot, an expert team set up by UEF is working on refining and consolidating the construct and content validity of the School Environment Toolkit.

### **Elham Palestine**

An extensive national consultative process has been undertaken in Palestine to ensure the authentic customization and adaptation of Elham to the Palestinian setting. Several meetings with students, parents, teachers, school administrators, IT and media stakeholders and civil society were conducted. The consultations aimed at:

- a. Disseminating the Elham culture and values.
- b. Soliciting the input, insights and views of the key stakeholders on the nature of the desired reform in the learning environment of Palestinian children within and outside the school system.
- c. The design features of the nomination and selection processes for Elham Palestine to ensure maximum outreach to marginalized groups and individuals.
- d. The form of recognition and showcasing that would use the exemplary models and their stories and lessons learned as source of learning and inspiration and the respective roles of all sectors in this context.
- e. The most effective way of using Elham exemplary models as change agents and how they may influence existing policies and practices within the education and health systems.

This extensive consultative process culminated in the national consultation on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The final design of Elham Palestine will be completed, building on the valuable learning and insights gained through this participatory process. Elham Palestine will hopefully be launched later this summer.

### **The Learning for Well-being Forum**

The first Learning for Well-Being forum will be organized by UEF and its global and local partners in Palestine during 2008.



### **Voice of Children Middle East Pilot - Palestine**

After completing the design of its program of activities, the Universal Education Foundation made a strategic decision regarding its approach. It was to start adapting and implementing its programs at country level. Palestine and Wales were chosen to be the first two pilot countries. We will present below a brief account of the Palestine Pilot:

#### **Localization and positioning:**

The preparatory phase in Palestine involved intensive work aiming at the proper positioning of **Education by All for the Well-Being of Children - Palestine** which would generate the interest and enthusiasm of key stakeholders, secure maximum multi-sectoral buy-in, establish synergy with similar endeavors already underway, secure long-term sustainability and generate the most profound impact. These efforts which involved the public and private sectors and civil society took different forms, resulting in official letters of intent or Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministries of Education, of Health and of Information, the Palestinian Informational Technology Association, the Welfare Association and the United Nations Relief and Work Agency.

#### **Partnering with government**

An official letter from the Minister of Education confirmed his belief in UEF's vision and purpose and confirmed commitment to working with UEF in every possible way to facilitate integrating UEF's programs in the Ministry's plans and strategies to the extent practicable. The Minister also received UEF's board during its Fall meeting (November 2006) held in Ramallah. During the meeting attended by senior officials of the Ministry, the Minister reaffirmed their readiness and commitment to collaborate with UEF in a spirit of mutuality and good faith.

On the management and coordination level: The Minister of Education nominated a person as the official focal point. This person has been engaged systematically at all levels of planning, organization, public outreach and partnership building with the other sectors in Palestine. The Ministry of Health also nominated an official who is becoming increasingly involved in the actual work of UEF.

On the program level:

- The Ministry of Education officials were involved in the preliminary discussions and gave significant input on the issues the survey needed to focus on. They shared their own experience from the Child Friendly School Survey and other studies about the school environment in Palestine. They were involved at every level of planning and consultation in the design of the School Environment Survey. The ministry also facilitated the implementation of the national survey and the preliminary findings were presented and discussed with the director generals of the Ministry.
- Several director generals from both the Ministries of Education and Health were engaged in an extensive planning process for Elham Palestine. This process provided an opportunity for all to understand the goals and objectives of Elham and its design features and to make substantial contribution to adapting it to the Palestinian context. This co-creative process was in itself a most inspiring learning experience. The consultative process culminated with the Elham National Consultation and Public Launch which took place on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The conference program included plenary addresses by the Ministers of Education, Health and Media.
- The Ministries of Education and Health have made commitments to facilitate the implementation of Elham and to maximize its outreach to marginalized areas in Palestine by using their channels and leveraging their resources and networks. They also committed to contributing effectively to the nomination, selection, showcasing and dissemination of Elham nominees and success stories. They also expressed their readiness to integrate the lessons learned in the work of relevant government units, using them as change agents.

### **Partnering with Civil Society**

The Foundation was engaged in extensive discussions with the Welfare Association, the largest Foundation in Palestine. Discussions culminated in a letter of intent in which the Welfare subscribes to the vision and purpose of UEF and commits to work in a spirit of partnership towards building Education by All Palestine and contribute effectively to the adaptation and implementation of all UEF's programs in Palestine. In particular, they aspire to identify through Elham exemplary models that for which they may support scaling up or rolling out through their education sector program.

The Welfare also expressed keen interest in contributing to the global movement towards Education by All for the well being of children. They have nominated a program representative who contributed to the planning and design of Elham Palestine.

UEF also engaged with the Teacher Creativity Center, a Palestinian non-governmental organization active in promoting educational reform with emphasis on civic education including citizenship and democracy as well as extensive teacher training interventions.

Discussion with the Palestinian Network of NGOs which is an umbrella organization of several hundred NGOs on prospects of cooperation especially in terms of out reach and dissemination resulted in a mutual intent to collaborate and will be pursued towards a formal collaborative agreement.

### **Partnership with the Private sector**

Discussion with the Palestinian Association of IT companies has resulted in a collaborative agreement in which PITA contributes to all UEF's program activities in Palestine. Discussions with leading business groups are underway to secure local ownership and co-financing.

### **Program activities**

#### ***The Voice of Children:***

The Voice of Children pilot was carried out in Palestine during 2006. The school environment toolkit was developed and pilot tested through a national survey that included over 1600 tenth grade students. Similar national surveys were also implemented in Lebanon and Jordan. The preliminary cross-country statistical report has been published and is available on the Foundation's website.