

## **CARE receives funding from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve access to health care for the Palestinian people**

Many communities in the West Bank do not receive the minimum standards for basic health services, nor do they have access to essential quality health services for preventative health care, antenatal and postnatal care, health awareness, or curative services for chronic and infectious diseases. This lack of access to health care is mainly due to the Israeli checkpoints, the separation wall, and the proximity to settlements, all creating obstacles for movement for communities across the West Bank.



CARE International in the West Bank and Gaza has received funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany to implement the “Humanitarian aid for vulnerable Palestinian communities with access to basic primary health care in the occupied Palestinian Territory”. The project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2009, and will be implemented until the 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 2010.

The overall goal of the project is to provide improved access to quality health care to vulnerable community members of the West Bank and improve the capacity to reduce maternal and child death rates in the region. CARE is implementing this project in coordination with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and the Union of Health Work Committees (HWC).

The project is being implemented through mobile health teams who visit targeted communities weekly, providing both preventive and curative health care services. These services include: general practice, women’s health care, basic lab services, and health awareness for the community. Health education focuses on topics of women and child health, non communication diseases, pregnancy and breastfeeding, and nutrition. Martha Myers, the country director for CARE West Bank and Gaza says, “MOFA Germany funding has been critical to assuring that people with poor or no access to medical care receive the services they need”.

The project targets 41 hard-hit communities and neighborhoods of Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Tulkarem Districts. The total number of beneficiaries is approximately 28,000 representing almost 70% of the population of the targeted communities (40,000).



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