

Final Report/ Completion Report

(Culture of Tolerance and Accepting One another Project- Phase II)

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1- Introduction:

In continuity to the previous collaboration between “Shams” and the Danish Representative Office and the previous successes achieved during the implementation of Tolerance & Accepting One Another- Phase I, the Project of "Culture of Tolerance and Accepting One Another" for the year 2008 comes to be a step in the way of completing the previous work. Making social change requires time and accumulated and double efforts. The project started from where the last project ended to continue working and getting benefits from previous successes and building on them, in order to promote understanding, dialogue and tolerance among young people and to strengthen the European partnership with the countries of the Mediterranean as a key objective of the project.

Moreover, it aimed, through the implementation of the various activities and events, to promote mutual understanding and cultural dialogue among young people through image and expressing a future common vision by activating cultural dialogue, expanding and diversifying participation in this dialogue to include the official parties, private sector and representatives of non-governmental bodies. This will give the dialogue a comprehensive approach of the visions and goals of interested youth and will create a public opinion on topics of tolerance and accepting the other through organizing a group of events and activities targeting young men and women and university and college students in the different locations of the West Bank.

Various events and activities have been implemented to serve the objectives of the project and support their achievement. Workshops implemented in different areas across the West Bank have discussed different topics regarding the culture of tolerance and accepting the other. The center of “Shams” implemented many events and activities such as running summer camps in Salfit and Jerusalem governorates, conducting cultural contests among university students across the West Bank, presenting different documentaries in different locations of the West Bank, holding meetings with Danish guests as well as holding a number of TV interviews. Brochures were also printed and distributed such as (folded, stickers and posters), and the media coverage was distinctive in quality and quantity that covered the whole West Bank. It included various media such as TV stations, radio stations, newspapers and blogs.

This report contains a description of the implemented activities in the project with charts clarifying the number of these activities and the places of their implementation. It also contains an explanation of the indicators noticed through the implementation of these activities, participants’ reactions and media coverage of events and activities. This final report will, moreover, demonstrate the following up and assessment of implemented activities, success stories occurred during the implementation of the project, obstacles faced, achievements and recommendations.

2- The Implemented Activities:

2.1 Workshops:

Workshops and educational meetings are considered very important tools to reach the biggest number of young people and the rest of society members.

155 workshops were held on topics regarding the culture of tolerance and accepting one another. Male and female Palestinian specialists and academics among those who participated in the previous project have presented papers on these topics, in addition to a new group of specialists. They clearly contributed to strengthening the concepts to be delivered. They also raised many discussions and dialogues on different topics concerning the culture of tolerance and accepting one another, the Danish political system, the EU and its institutions, the cartoon crisis, Muslims in Denmark, the Danish foreign policy towards Palestinians, human rights and religious thought, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of religion and belief, the impact of social upbringing in the Palestinian society on seeing the other: Europeans as a model, the phenomena of fanaticism and extremism in religion and politics and other important issues.

The discussion of these topics has contributed to creating a state of dialogue and discussion within society about the above mentioned topics, especially among the targeted groups. The discussion and dialogue sessions conducted during workshops were transmitted to universities, institutions and various youth centers and institutions, which substantially contributed to disseminate these concepts. The wide geographic area covered by the workshops has also clearly contributed to disseminating this discussion and dialogue within society.

The real success of reaching new remote and marginalized areas has played a role in delivering these concepts to marginalized groups and remote areas that lack many services where no activity of civil society institutions. This confirms the success achieved by the project in the first phase and the continuity and development of this success in the second phase in terms of quantity and the wide geographic area covered. The number of male and female participants in the workshops reached 5789 in the different governorates. It was obvious that 15 extra workshops have been implemented as a result of youth and education institutions' will in implementing more workshops, leading to exceed the required number of workshops agreed.

The participants' reactions, discussions and dialogues in the workshops have opened a broader horizon to think, search and communicate with "Shams", and search on the Kingdom of Denmark and the willing to have more information about it. Raising a state of debate is healthy and useful to start changing some negative concepts and impressions towards West, Denmark and Europeans, in order to reach a degree of conviction that dialogue is the basis for understanding among different peoples. Workshops began to form a state of dialogue in preparation to come out of the state of chaos, fanaticism and prior convictions.

Table indicates the number of participants in different workshops

No#	Workshops	No# of workshops	Attendees
1-	Workshops (Palestinians)	155	3467
2-	Workshops (Danish guests)	111	2322
	Total	266	5789

Different Recommendations resulted from these workshops:

- 1- The dialogue between peoples and opening channels of communications between them can clearly support convergence between these peoples and contribute to understand the needs and justifications of each other.
- 2- Cooperation between peoples and different nations clearly contribute to the progress of human beings.
- 3- Freedom of expression is a guaranteed right to everybody without prejudice to other religions and their symbols.
- 4- Developing the culture of accepting one another, dialogue and cooperation among people.
- 5- Adding Human Rights and Democracy course to curricula, teaching it and conducting training courses about it.
- 6- Adopting dialogue as a way of conflict resolution between peoples and avoiding violence.
- 7- Connecting education and awareness to aids and assistance in order to develop the situation and support marginalized and deprived categories.
- 8- The necessity of cultural exchange between Palestinian and European youth groups.
- 9- Creating a framework that allows pluralism, tolerance and accepting one another. Everyone has the right in expressing his/her opinion and must respect the beliefs of others and not to suppress them.
- 10- The need to educate parents about the concepts of tolerance and accepting one another to be reflected positively on the concepts they teach to their children.
- 11- The importance of communication and cooperation among different peoples and societies and the exchange of experiences and knowledge that clearly supports the dissemination of the concepts and culture of tolerance and accepting the other.
- 12- Developing the curricula in a way that devotes the culture of dialogue and accepting the other, but taking into account the cultural and religious structure of the societies.
- 13- Developing Arab and Muslim media speech so that the West can identify the Arab Islamic civilization.
- 14- Emphasizing the importance of the role that intellectuals can play within Arab and Islamic societies as a bridge for dialogue between East and West.
- 15- The need to exchange visits, to know each other and to hold conferences between Palestinian and western youth, in order to exchange experiences and communication between different cultures.
- 16- The importance of the continuity in holding meetings and workshops to discuss topics of tolerance and accepting the other due to the importance of their impact on the participants and the society.
- 17- The investment of the Danish- Palestinian and European relations in order to support the rights of the Palestinian people in freedom and independence.

Table shows the division of workshops according to geographical area:

No#	Region	No# of required meetings	No# of implemented meetings	The remaining meeting	No# of extra meetings
1-	Jerusalem	12	13	0	1
2-	Jenin	16	18	0	2
3-	Tubas	8	8	0	0
4-	Tulkarm	16	16	0	0
5-	Nablus	19	20	0	1

6-	Qalqelya	8	8	0	0
7-	Salfit	8	8	0	0
8-	Ramallah	14	16	0	2
9-	Jericho	9	17	0	8
10-	Bethlehem	15	15	0	0
11-	Hebron	15	16	0	1
	Total	140	155	0	15

A. Summer camps:

14 summer camps were implemented in Salfit, Jerusalem and Ramallah governorates where a number of children and youth participated in educational and entertainment events that serve the objectives of the project and contribute to promoting the language of dialogue between children and youth to understand the others and to introduce them to other cultures. These events had a great impact on a large segment which has not been targeted in the project other activities. The project starts to emphasize the concepts of tolerance and accepting the other in an early stage of childhood to have a positive impact on them. Starting the identification of other cultures and other peoples contributes to preparing the child to be open and accept the other.

Table shows the summer events of the project.

The division of summer camps according to geographical areas.

No#	Region	The number of summer camps required	The number of summer camps implemented
1-	Salfit	0	10
2-	Jerusalem	0	2
3-	Ramallah	0	2
	Total		14

B- Cultural contests:

Cultural contests have basically targeted the youth of Palestinian universities and academic institutions. These contests focused on tolerance and accepting the other, culture and dialogue among civilizations, the Kingdom of Denmark and the EU. Students of Palestinian universities and academic institutions have participated in these contests and each team was composed of 3 persons and each team represents one university or institute provided that the number of participated universities in the contest should be 3 minimum.

Cultural contests were organized under the supervision of “Shams” team and they were characterized by an atmosphere of competition and exchange of information. These contests relied on questions within the framework of above mentioned topics and themes, which contributed to creating the incentive among the participated teams to search for those topics and expand their information in addition to increasing the information of the attendees on such issues.

First contest: Ramallah governorate.

Participated universities: Berzeit University, Al-Quds Open University and Al-Quds University.

Second contest: Tubas governorate.

Participated universities: Al-Quds Open University, Arab American University-Jenin and An-Najah University.

Third contest: Tulkarm governorate.

Participated universities: Berzeit University, Al-Quds Open University and Khadouri University.

Fourth contest: Bethlehem governorate.

Participated universities: Bethlehem University, Palestine Ahlia University College and Bethlehem College of the Bible.

Fifth contest: Qalqilya governorate.

Participated universities: College of Islamic Call, Al-Quds Open University and An-Najah University.

The identification of information on these themes greatly contributes to better identification and understanding of cultures. The goal of the contest was not the contest itself although it is a good issue, but it was the identification of other peoples and other systems, identification of Denmark, EU, the governance systems and the minorities living there, the coexistence between these minorities, freedom of expression within these Western societies as an important right especially inside the Danish system, the identification of the dialogue concepts and its importance and the identification of tolerance and its meaning.

Table shows the division of cultural contests according to geographical areas:

No#	Region	The number of contests completed
1-	Ramallah	1
2-	Tubas	1
3-	Tulkarm	1
4-	Bethlehem	1
5-	Qalqilya	1
	Total	5

C- Film screenings:

A set of various 27 films have been presented. After the presentation, a discussion used to be opened about the films and their topics, taking into account the participants' viewpoints towards the film, its subject and its importance. There were useful discussions after the film presentations about tolerance, peace, human, rights, women, child, the importance of cooperation among peoples and communication and dialogue, identifying other cultures, exchange of experiences and the cultures' dialogue.

One of the films presented, which strongly raised a debate among audience was **Rachel...the conscience of U.S:** who was 23 years old, **“death twice.... To the owners of conscience...”**, which tells the story of Rachel Curie who came from **her quiet home in the cold Seattle** in the United States of America to the burning Rafah in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. Rachel came to join the International Solidarity Movement founded by male and female young people eager to witness the occupation crimes, those who feel the humanitarian responsibility towards others- Palestinians. Within weeks of Rachel's stay in Palestine, she witnessed and recorded her testimony with certainty in her movies. Rachel made her testimony with voice tones brimful of confidence, honesty and anger for

the killing of children, house demolition, destruction of water wells and full Israeli control over the economy. All these actions, in her point of view, are an organized Israeli methodology to destroy the ability of Palestinians to survive.

The presentation of this film and other films that conveyed realistic stories and have had a great impact on the audience to emphasize the importance of dialogue as a basis of understanding among peoples and the importance of dialogue, communication, exchange of experiences and identification among various peoples, not to prejudge peoples and nations and to deal with the world in open-minded away from fanaticism and introversion.

Table shows the number of presented films during the implementation of the project:

No#	Region	No# of required films	No# of implemented films
1-	Jenin	0	2
2-	Qalqilya	0	2
3-	Nablus	0	5
4-	Salfit	0	3
5-	Tubas	0	2
6-	Bethlehem	0	3
7-	Hebron	0	1
8-	Jericho	0	1
9-	Jerusalem	0	6
10-	Tulkarm	0	2
	Total	0	27

Table shows the number of events and attendees:

No#	Activity	No# of activities	Attendees
1-	Cultural contests	5	169
2-	Film screenings	27	888
3-	Summer camps	14	889
	Total		1946

2.2 Visits of Danish guests:

111 visits were organized across West Bank governorates (11 governorates), where a series of workshops has been held to be introduced to the guests and their experience in coexistence in the Kingdom of Denmark, the Danish government, the Danish foreign policy, programs and projects funded by Denmark to support the Palestinian people, relations between Arab communities in Denmark and the situation of the Palestinian community in Denmark. The Danish guest used to respond to the questions raised by participants about Denmark, freedom of expression and the cartoon crisis.

It was obvious that these visits have contributed to changing a lot of wrong and negative information about Denmark and raising a live example of coexistence between communities in Denmark which lead to start accepting Denmark somehow and to open channels of dialogue between Danish guests and citizens.

Table shows the number of Danish visits divided according to geographical areas.

No#	Region	Danish visits
1-	Jerusalem	5
2-	Jenin	28
3-	Tubas	12
4-	Tulkarm	7
5-	Nablus	17
6-	Qalqilya	4
7-	Salfit	9
8-	Ramallah	7
9-	Jericho	7
10-	Bethlehem	6
11-	Hebron	9
	Total	111

3- The second cartoon crisis (2008):

Unfortunately, at the beginning of the implementation of the project, the cartoon crisis emerged again when most of Danish newspapers published the cartoons as a result of the threatening against the artist who drew the cartoons. “Shams” lost all its excuses after the publication of the cartoons by the most Danish newspapers, because “Shams” had just one excuse about the depictions that is the depictions have been published by an extremist small newspaper belonging to the right-wing and this newspaper does not represent neither the Danish people nor the Danish government.

The publication of the cartoons by the most Danish newspapers has had an extreme negative impact on Muslims around the world because they considered the cartoons, this time, representing the Danish people and the government's point of view. This kind of action gave Islamic extremists the sign to provoke Muslims' emotions and create a negative Palestinian opinion towards the Danish people and the Danish government. At the same time, “Shams” was responsible for working on calming down the Palestinian street using peaceful ways and dialogue and not to follow the extremists to announce Jihad against the Danish people and government. Therefore, “Shams” has set a strategic action plan based on a number of important points as follow:

- 1- Clarifying the background of this crisis again.
- 2- Forming an advocate public opinion to solve the crisis in peaceful ways and not to follow the extremists and inciters.
- 3- Clarifying the importance of freedom of opinion and expression in the Danish society.
- 4- Clarifying the real reason for the abstaining of the Danish government to apologize.
- 5- Clarifying the cultural background that led to the emergence of these cartoons, especially the Arab and Islamic communities' behaviors which helped and justified the emergence of these cartoons.

Based on the strategic plan of “Shams” center; the center was targeted six levels:

- 1- The center itself.
- 2- Volunteers.
- 3- Local-based community and local society institutions.
- 4- Clergies.
- 5- Use of media.
- 6- Government level.

1- “Shams” center:

The center convened meetings with Board of Trustees, Advisory Committee and young volunteers to establish an advisory committee to make proposals on the mechanisms to get out of this crisis with less loss at the level of the Danish-Palestinian relations. The executive body of Shams was assigned to hold more educational workshops across the West Bank. A total of 32 meetings were held (10 Palestinian meetings, 22 Danish meetings by Dr. Fathi El-Abed) in February.

2- Young volunteers divided into two groups:

1- Primary and secondary school students where the volunteers held open discussion sessions to clarify the background of the cartoon crisis and the importance of freedom of opinion and expression in the Danish culture.

2- University students: the volunteers of “Shams”, who are already students at the Palestinian universities, have held discussion sessions with students as well as individual meetings with student blocs with no exception. They held such sessions to clarify the reason behind the cartoon and the importance of freedom of opinion in the Danish culture calling for the student blocs to express their displeasure towards the cartoons peacefully. Therefore, Palestinian universities did not witness till now any kind of protest actions using violence, but many students become attuned to the necessity to resolve this crisis using peaceful ways and identifying Islam and the prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) in a way to clarify the forgiveness of Islam, love and appreciation of all human beings.

3- Local-based community institutions and the local community.

According to the importance of youth and women organizations in rural communities, “Shams” center held most of the project activities in cooperation with these organizations that become completely aware of the background of the emergence of this crisis and the necessity of solving it through peaceful ways. These youth and women’s organizations become one of the most importance advocates to resolve the cartoon crisis peacefully. They have also started working on refuting the views of extremists and their calls for declaring war on the Danish people and the Danish government.

4- Clergies/ Religious men.

The “Shams” center held an interview with Sheik Khamis Aiyda, undersecretary of the Ministry of Waqf (religious affairs who is responsible for 4000 guides, speakers and preachers, whereas “Shams” center clarified the background of the emergence of the cartoon crisis and the role of clergies in fueling the crisis without paying any attention to the serious consequences that affected the Danish relations. The “Shams” center has requested not to use mosques by extremists who call for violent actions that greatly affect Islam and Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) . At the end of the meeting, both parties agreed on keeping in touch with Sheik Khamis who expressed his approval to travel to Denmark and meet with Muslim religious men and to work with them on setting plans to get out of this crisis in peaceful and civilized ways expressing the forgiveness of Islam and Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him).

Meeting with youth leadership of “Liberation Party”:

Europe considered the Liberation Party as one of the effective parties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to its importance in formulating the Islamic thought and the spread of its members all over the world. The “Shams” center took the initiative of setting up a meeting with the youth leadership of the Party, whereas they discussed the cartoon crisis and its repercussions on the Islamic-European relations. The “Shams” Center has clarified the reason behind the emergence of cartoons, especially the actions of the extremist Islamic groups in the West who want to live in the West and to fight against it.

The “Shams” center has clarified the importance of freedom of opinion and expression and the cultural privacy in the Kingdom of Denmark. It has also clarified that the role of Liberation Party, as a party existed in most of the countries of Europe, in adopting peaceful ways and to use dialogue in solving the cartoon crisis. Both parties have agreed on communication and consultancy. The youth leadership of the Liberation Party informed “Shams” Center that they will submit these suggestions to the leaders of the party. Finally, “Shams” Center has requested the Liberation Party to issue a statement indicating “its respect for the freedom of expression, asking its supporters in the European-Arab world to acknowledge dialogue and freedom of opinion through using peaceful ways. The leaders of the Party have pledged to study this matter.

5- The Use of Media:

From the first moment, the “Shams” center established a media committee to monitor what is published in the media about the issue of the cartoons and its consequences due to its persuasion of the role of media in the formation of public opinion. Therefore, “Shams” center has published some news about the project activities, the cartoons itself and the reasons behind using violence in expressing opinion. Then, some news started to appear about the cartoons in newspapers; especially that the representative of Denmark to the Palestinian Authority did not meet with Beit Hanina Club due to Israeli pressure he faced. Based on this, “Shams” center held several activities as follow:

- 1- Publishing a number of press releases in the three main Palestinian daily newspapers concentrating on the importance of freedom of expression and opinion in the Danish culture.
- 2- Broadcasting TV interviews, especially after Al-Aqsa TV station presented a “Children Show” which incited on the killing of the Danish people.

The TV interviews have discussed the following points:

- 1- The background of the emergence of the current and previous cartoons crisis.
- 2- The importance of freedom of opinion and expression in the Danish culture.
- 3- The role of Arab and Islamic communities as a bridge for existence and tolerance with the West.
- 4- The importance of promoting the culture of tolerance and dialogue within the Palestinian society.
- 5- The Danish assistance to the Palestinian people.

6- The government:

Center for Human Rights and Democratic Participation “Shams” convened two meetings as follow:

The first meeting was held with the mayor of Ramallah governorate, Dr. Said Abu Ali.
The second meeting was held with mayor of Tubas governorate, Dr. Sami Musalam.

During the two meetings, “Shams” center briefed the two mayors on the situation and the activities of “Shams” and the partnership between the Center itself and the Danish Embassy, besides the assistance provided by the Danish government to the Palestinian people.

3- Publications:

11500 copies of (folded brochures, sticker and poster) were printed. **5000** folded brochures were printed and distributed talking about information on the Kingdom of Denmark, the projects funded by the Danish Representative Office in Palestine, Arab and Muslim communities in Denmark, coexistence, education and the Palestinians in Denmark. Other **5000** stickers with the logo of the Danish Representative Office were also printed, in addition to **1500** posters supporting the dialogue as a basis of understanding between peoples.

These Publications have significantly contributed to introducing the participants directly, during the activities, to the Kingdom of Denmark. This sort of publications is usually circulated between many people rather than those who participate in the activities, so they have widely and substantially contributed to introducing wide sectors of the society to the Kingdom of Denmark, the projects it provides, information about it and the communities living there including the Palestinian minority and its institutions. The sticker and the poster have clearly supported the concept of dialogue as a basis of understanding between peoples. The logo has contributed to supporting the activities that are calling for dialogue. These posters have contributed to confirming the concepts rose within different project activities and also contributed to changing some misunderstood concepts that some people have.

Table shows the number and sort of brochures

No#	Sort	No# of copies
1-	Folded brochures	5000
2-	Colored labels (stickers)	5000
3-	Posters	1500
	Total	11500

5- Media coverage:

- TV stations:

30 television interviews held with the Danish guests about tolerance, accepting the other, the Danish assistance to Palestinians, Palestinian and Arab communities in Denmark, the Danish political system, civilizations dialogue, cultures dialogue and the Palestinian – Danish relations.

There was a distinctive coverage in terms of quality and quantity, including all means of media such as TV stations, radio stations, newspapers and Internet websites. Thirty television meetings held with the Danish guests by PBC and local TV stations in different locations across the West Bank which reached the whole Palestinian territories, parts of Israel, the Gaza Strip and Jordan.

- News reports and interviews:

5 press releases were done on project activities and broadcasted through Al-Jazeera TV Satellite, Ramattan, Palestine TV station and some local TV stations.

These reports have covered some workshops and other activities. They included a set of interviews in which discussed important issues such as the activities of the project, the importance of cooperation between peoples, expressing great thanks to the Danish Representative Office in Palestine for supporting this project and for its support to the Palestinian people through a group of various Danish funded projects and programs.

- Radio stations:

5 interviews held with local radio stations.

- Newspapers:

176 press releases were published in three local newspapers (Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam & Al-Hayat AL-Jadeeda).

- Internet:

At least 60 press releases were published on different websites.

The distinctive media coverage of the various project activities such as workshops, film screenings, cultural contests, summer camps and visits have all clearly contributed to the support of project activities, their promotion and their identification. The comprehensiveness, quality and quantity of the huge volume of press news have also contributed to promoting the ideas discussed that the project intended to promote among wide groups of citizens. The previous concepts, information and ideas related to the relation with the West, especially with the Kingdom of Denmark and the support of dialogue concepts were supported by project activities.

The role of different kinds and forms of media represents a huge campaign of the activities implemented through the project and it was a good transformer of the ideas suggested within the activities. It was also a supporter for the achievement of the project objectives and their wide publication. The diversity and intensity of media targeting the widest available category in the society through working with TV and radio stations, newspapers and internet have contributed to explaining the role played by the Kingdom of Denmark, the projects and programs it provides to the Palestinian people, Arab and Muslim communities and their role in Denmark and the coexistence inside the Kingdom of Denmark. The impact of this media coverage on the society was very clear in terms of clarifying these concepts and removing the ambiguity of other concepts. We don't claim that the picture became bright in the society or that all these concepts were conveyed sufficiently, but we say that things became better than before. Many concepts were clarified, but there is much work and effort to be done to educate and raise the awareness of the people towards supporting and promoting the culture of dialogue and accepting the other.

Table shows the number of media activities

No#	Media outlet	No# of activities
1-	TV station	30 television interviews
2-	TV station	5 news reports
3-	Radio station	5 interviews

4-	Newspaper	176 press releases
5-	Internet	60 reports
	Total	276

6- Indicators:

The distinctive success achieved through the implementation of the various activities and events of the project was clear as follows:

1. The number of workshops implemented was **155** workshops with **15** extra which exceeded the required number agreed (**140**). This is an indicator of success of the workshops achieved and their influence within society.
2. The number of male and female participants in the project activities reached **7735**. The required number of participants agreed in the convention does not exceed **1600** participants.
3. The wide geographic area covered by the workshops across the West Bank Governorates.
4. Reaching new poor and marginalized areas that were not reached in the previous project.
5. Dialogues and discussions were taking place in workshops and conveyed to the society, universities and instituts.
6. Commitment to timetable set for the implementation of activities and increasing the number of implemented activities more than the agreed in the project.
7. The outstanding media coverage, including various media such as (television, radio, newspapers and internet.)
 - **TV stations:** **5** press releases accomplished about the project activities and broadcasted on Al-Jazeera TV Satellite, Ramattan, Palestine TV station and some local TV stations.
 - **Radio stations:** **5** interviews held with local radio stations.
 - **Newspapers:** Publishing **176** press releases in three local newspapers (Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam & Al-Hayat AL-Jadeeda).
8. the implementation of additional activities of the project:
 - the implementation of 14 summer camps: targeting groups of children and youth through a set of entertainment and educational events.
 - The presentation of 24 films: there was a discussion about the films presented.
 - 5 press releases were done on the project activities on Palestine TV and other local TV stations.
 - Printing on T-shirts and making some pins.
9. The various project activities contributed clearly in creating a state of dialogue away from chaos and fanaticism.
10. The various activities helped creating a kind of acceptance to Denmark within the society by opening channels of dialogue and identification of Denmark and its role in supporting the Palestinian people.

7- Evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation of the project were conducted through the establishing a team of assessors from the Board of “Shams” center, General Director, staff and volunteers of “Shams”. Evaluation was based on taking notes from participants during the

implementation of the activities. Evaluation was conducted for developing amending and avoiding mistakes in the upcoming projects after the completion of the current activities.

8- Obstacles:

The implementation of various activities of the project due to its privacy, discussion of different issues and topics, the number of activities, the number of participants in the events and the wide geographic area covered by the project have encountered several difficulties, the most prominent of which are:

1. The Israeli occupation and its practices such as siege, closures and incursions, where barriers impeded movement between different governorates and between towns and villages. These practices have adversely affected the implementation of project activities.
2. The presence of extremist and fanatic parties within the society that reject the culture of dialogue and refuse to accept one another.
3. Lack of conceptual clarity on the culture of tolerance and accepting the other within the society and the rejection of these concepts due to the practices of some western countries.
4. There was a clear and big extremism among the citizens due to cartoon crisis. The coordinators of SHAMS have faced different harassments by the citizens over the implementation of activities and their coordination.
5. People were clearly linking between education and assistance. It was clear in their remarks to the staff during the implementation of the activities by asking for certain assistance within an institution, medical assistance or food assistance.
6. The emergence of some emergency activities that were not part of the project and its budget which created great difficulty to be implemented.

9- Success Stories:

The completion of the project activities in the quality and quantity was one of the most prominent success stories:

1. The attendance of 7735 male and female participants to the project activities is considered an achievement, whereas the identified number in the project was 1700 participants. Through the implementation of activities, it was noticed that there is an increase of the participants in those activities which was directly reflected on participation.
2. The implementation of 155 workshops in the West Bank which exceeded the required number (140).
3. The successes achieved in the implementation of workshops led to the request by youth institutions and centers to hold more workshops due to the interaction resulted from the previous workshops.
4. The implementation of two extra activities within the project. Those activities were film screenings and summer camps, in addition to 5 press reports on the project.
5. The distinctive media coverage in terms of quality and quantity included various media such as (TV stations, radio stations, newspapers and internet). (5) Press reports broadcasted on Palestine TV station and some local TV stations which affected the citizens positively. The media coverage reached most parts of the West Bank, parts of Israel, the Gaza Strip and Jordan. The good media coverage and its impact on the

citizens have encouraged them to pay visits to SHAMS center requesting more information about the Royal Kingdom of Denmark.

6. Commitment to the timetable of the activities and the implementation of extra activities.
7. Reaching new poor and marginalized areas which have not been reached in the implementation of the previous project.
8. In one of the workshops held in the city of Nablus about the cartoon crisis and after the intervention of the professor who presented the work sheet, a religious guy in the early twenties stood up and said: “you came here to bleach the image of Denmark which cursed our prophet Mohammed. We do not accept, in any case, any one to curse our prophet.” This young man continued in his way of fanaticism and there was a state of tension inside the workshop. However, with time passing and the clarification of the objective of the meeting and what we mean of the freedom of expression, he started to calm down, to accept the idea and to discuss with others. Finally, his comment was “we are with freedom of expression but away from offending religions. He also requested to stop offending religious symbols through issuing a code of conduct among the various countries.” We assume that our activities started with a state of tension and ended with a state of dialogue. What happened in this workshop was an example of many cases occurred during other workshops which we encountered during our work.
9. We faced problems in coordinating and implementing the workshops and activities. Coordinators and lecturers have faced much criticism and suspect due to the Danish stand towards the cartoon crisis. But the belief of “Shams” staff in the importance of the message they hold made them face difficulties and humiliations, in order to achieve the success of events and activities for serving the objectives of the project.
10. Workshops were the beginning of launching discussions and debates within society and different academic institutions by lecturers and workshops. One of the reasons behind the success of workshops and the big number of participants, which reached 5665 participants, was dialogues resulted from these workshops within institutions and society between supporter and opponent, skeptical and convinced. As we mentioned above, it is just a start to create a state of dialogue to change prior concepts and convictions of the other and to identify the other in a better way apart from prior convictions and misconceptions.
11. Attracting a group of academics and specialists to present work sheets during workshops has contributed to upgrading the level of workshops and its development and helped to create a state of dialogue on the topics of workshops.
12. Printing a set of T-shirts and colored pins which clearly contributed to make these activities more distinctive. These T-shirts and colored pins had the name of Denmark and dialogue, including the logo of “Solidarity... Friendship... Dialogue” and the Palestinian and Danish flags.
13. There was a state of integrity between the project of tolerance and accepting the other and the project of bridging the gap such as education, awareness and assistance, which was positively affected on both projects and their activities whereas each of them supported the other.

Table shows the number of activities implemented and the number of attendees:

No#	Activities	No# of activities	No# of attendees
1-	Workshops	155	3467
2-	Cultural contests	5	169

3-	Film screenings	27	888
4-	Summer camps	14	889
5-	Visits of Danish guests	111	2322
6-	- Media:		
	- TV stations	30	
	- News reports and interviews with media	5	
	- Radio stations	5	
	- Press	176	
	- Internet	60	
7-	Brochures:		
	- Posters	1500	
	- Brochures	5000	
	- Colored labels (stickers)	5000	
	Total of attendees		7735

Observations and impressions:

- 1- The response of citizens in the targeted villages by this project was better than the ones we reached previously, and they expressed their acceptance to the assistance provided by Denmark.
- 2- The effective participation by old ladies has greatly enriched the discussions.
- 3- People do not know about Denmark, but it produces dairies.
- 4- There were Questions and protests due to the underestimation of the Danish government towards the cartoons.
- 5- People do not have any idea that religion and State are separated in the Danish law.
- 6- People do not know about the assistance provided by the Danish government.
- 7- The brochures published and discussed various topics about the Kingdom of Denmark answered many questions asked by citizens.
- 8- Some participants were not convinced in what Denmark provides to the Palestinian people. They considered Denmark as an enemy, but after their participation in debates and discussions they started wondering "how can we visit Denmark?"
- 9- It must be noticed that the picture of uncertainty about Denmark was changed due to activities and events conducted by the "Shams" center.
- 10- Some villages have requested conducting meetings and workshops similar to the ones conducted in their neighbor villages.
- 11- We have received many phone calls from some citizens regarding the TV interviews due to their good impact on the citizens.