2011 ANNUAL REPORT





www.dci-palestine.org

Defence For Children International - Palestine Section
Arab Bank PLC
Ramallah – Al–Balad Branch
Palestine

9490-658067-0/570 for bank transfers in NIS **9490-658067-0/510** for bank transfers in USD **9490-658067-0/593** for bank transfers in EURO

Swift code: ARABPS 22090

Contents

- 5 Acknowledgements
- 6 Introduction
- 9 Key Achievements of the Administrative and Legal Affairs Programme
- 13 Protection And Community Mobilisation Programme
- 13 Executive Summary
- 14 Community Mobilisation Unit
- 19 Child Justice Unit
- 29 Accountability and Legal Work Programme
- 29 Executive Summary
- 30 Monitoring and Documentation Unit
- 34 Legal Unit
- 37 Advocacy Unit
- 45 Financial Report

ANNUAL REPORT



Acknowledgements

DCI-Palestine would like to express its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all those who have believed in our work and contributed to it throughout the year. Without your support, we would not have been able to work effectively towards our vision of a Palestinian community fit for all children.

- Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO and KerkinActie)
 Netherlands
- NGO Development Centre (NDC)
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED) Germany
- Save the Children Sweden
- Save the Children UK
- Stichting Kinderpostzegels Nederlands (SKN) Netherlands
- Oxfam Italy
- ARCI Cultura e Sviluppo Italy
- Mundubat Spain
- Broederlijk Delen Belgium
- United Nation Development Programme -UNDP
- European Union

We extend special thanks to the committed staff, interns, volunteers, and all dedicated people who have served as members of the Board of Directors and General Assembly, as well as to all our partner organisations.

Institutional Objectives

- Improve the accountability of duty-bearers under both the Palestinian Authority and Israeli jurisdictions.
- Improve the protective environment for children at the Palestinian Authority level.



Dear colleagues, partners, supporters, and friends,

The conclusion of any year is an opportunity to reflect on progress made, challenges faced, obstacles overcome, and improvements yet to be undertaken. That said, 2011 has been a particularly important year for us at Defence for Children International - Palestine Section (DCI-Palestine): it marks our twentieth anniversary as an organisation.

DCI-Palestine held a simple celebration to mark this milestone and to commemorate the community we have become: both those who initiated our work and those who continue to carry it out. The many distinguished guests in attendance were a testimony to the esteem in which DCI-Palestine is held, both on local and international levels. This celebration was also an opportunity for our current staff to reflect upon the development of the organisation itself, its central causes, and its trajectory into the future.

Today, DCI-Palestine is a strong, well-established organisation with deep roots in broader society, especially in the life of its children. Within Palestine, it is recognised as one of the primary defenders of children's rights in particular and human rights in general. This is due in large part to our collaborations and solidarity with other organisations, we strive to be a strong networker, bringing diverse NGOs and CBOs together to work for the best interest of our community and its children, as well as our balanced relations with and access to government structures and ministries. Our impact is strengthened further by our work on the international stage, both through our links with the international DCI movement and through our wide base of supporters, partners and donors.

In this way, DCI-Palestine is truly part of the social movement within Palestine. Rather than remaining a classical organisation, we are committed to participating in progressive efforts toward equality and social change. We are also committed to working holistically: the three pillars of our work are documenting, defending and mobilising. Through this integral approach, we have avoided falling into the traps of isolation and narrow thinking; we have avoided, in other words, limitations of focus that would have forbidden us from seeing the forest for the trees.

One example of this approach can be found in our visits to the various governorates of the West Bank in order to more fully understand their contexts and their needs. We held workshops in which various organisations from a given governorate met to discuss these needs and gather resources to implement relevant plans. DCI-Palestine has a multifaceted role in this process: not only to facilitate and coordinate, but also to lobby and advocate the Palestinian Authority in order to secure more attention and funding for these communities in the ways that they themselves have determined to be the most urgent and the most effective.



These principles and practices have guided our work in 2011, and they will certainly lead us into 2012. This year, we have eliminated any activities and projects that don't directly connect with, and fortify, our visions and objectives. Such consolidation is a bold and important step toward making our work both more efficient and more effective. Indeed, we intend to keep DCI-Palestine simultaneously small in size and great in impact.

We have focused both on internal capacity-building and staff redeployment, as we believe that renewing the skills of our staff and giving them the opportunity to learn and engage in many different ways (rather than replacing personnel) is key to renewing the organisation itself. We are also carrying out international trainings for our staff in multiple fields: advanced understanding of the CRC; advanced understanding of juvenile justice systems; to mention a few. Such trainings directly benefit our staff, of course, but they also enhance our skills as a key provider of capacity-building for other professionals, both within the government and civil society, in the field of children's rights. We intend to expand these services to professionals on regional and international levels, as we believe that we have much to offer in these contexts.

In the year to come, and beyond, DCI-Palestine will continue to nurture the various kinds of working relationships that constitute our networks and our "family." For one thing, we will continue to diversify our sources of funding. In January 2012, we will launch our campaign to secure 1,000 new supporters every year: this refers to moral and professional as well as financial support. Our supporters will be able to help with our campaigns in diverse ways: writing letters; responding to our appeals; participating in proposed activities; and so on. They will also have the chance to support us financially, even with small amounts of money, either at regular intervals or all at once. As part of this initiative, we produced a new brochure and a short informational film to highlight our work and its impact.

Additionally, we will maintain and strengthen our relations with academia, working with individuals and institutions to build up literature on children's rights in our country. Many important seeds were sown in the Ninth National Children's Conference, which took place this year at Al-Najah University in Nablus, Palestine. In this conference academics and practitioners participated in presentations that linked theory with practice. Within this context, DCI-Palestine is producing a magazine (to be published in the early months of 2012) that will serve as a tool to connect academics with actors in field of child rights.

DCI-Palestine, together with the DCI International Secretariat in Geneva, has also initiated new regional work that we will continue to strengthen in 2012. In December, we held a regional workshop in which we invited a number of child rights organisations from various Arab countries: Egypt; Jordan; Bahrain; Yemen; Tunisia; Iraq; and Libya, to create DCI sections, as well as to work with us on juvenile justice issues at the regional level.

Finally, we will continue to develop an organisation led by our most important target group: children. The role of the newly established DCI-Palestine's Children's Council will be strengthened, sharpened, and expanded, such that it becomes a major tool in planning, monitoring and implementing our work at large. The child representatives' role in our board of directors will continue to be respected and further empowered, putting children themselves even more directly at the heart of DCI-Palestine's life and work.

As always, we are immensely grateful for your support, and we invite you to continue working and growing with us in 2012.

Sincerely, **Rifat Odeh Kassis**General Director, DCI-PS





Key Achievements of the Administrative and Legal Affairs Programme

Staff Meetings

In 2011, DCI-Palestine worked hard to implement the slogan established in 2010: "Learning Organisation." This principle ensures the staff's right to learn; it defines knowledge not only as the skills and capabilities necessary to perform their duties, but also as the development of skills and capacities in general. We seek to develop the staff's capacities so that they may actively participate in the decision-making process and hold responsibilities.

In order to make these principles a reality, DCI-Palestine conducted four staff meetings throughout 2011 in its Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah offices. Each meeting included a field visit to local partner organisations to tackle specific topics and issues. The focus of these four meetings was DCI-Palestine's role at national, regional and international levels, including the challenges and obstacles it faces as an organisation. These meetings offered an opportunity to expand the staff's knowledge about the context the organisation is working in and provided a platform for them to reach a unified organisational vision, mission, and philosophy.

These meetings also served as a platform for anticipating the future of human rights organisations in general and DCI-Palestine in particular by focusing on the external and internal challenges (financial, professional, administrative, and so on) and acquiring the tools and mechanisms to overcome them by developing a unified perspective and culture among the staff.

These meetings had the following important results:

- 1. DCI-Palestine's employees became more involved and active in the collective leadership and decision-making process.
- 2. DCI-Palestine's activities are consolidated through increasing the quality of work while simultaneously reducing costs.
- 3. DCI-Palestine's staff more fully understands the importance of the organisation's role at the national and regional levels, as well as the need to expand our experience at the Arab regional level.

Human Resource and Capacity-Building Unit

This unit seeks to develop strategies and tools in order to better utilise all available financial and human resources within DCI-Palestine. This includes investing in the

staff and developing their skills and capacities and thereby contributing to the full realisation of DCI's overall goals and objectives. In 2011, in order to achieve this mission, the unit conducted a job analysis of the different positions within DCI. This needs analysis worked by comparing the skills and capacities required for each position with the actual skills and capacities of each individual in that position. Accordingly, several capacity-building areas were identified and a comprehensive internal capacity-building plan was established. Many capacity-building courses and activities were conducted with DCI-Palestine staff such as English and Arabic language courses; documentation and monitoring skills; debriefing sessions; and video and photography skills, among others.

Another tool used to develop the capacities of DCI-Palestine staff is the annual staff appraisal. Each staff member is appraised by his/her supervisor and together they develop recommendations to improve his/her performance in the future.

At the administrative level, this year witnessed the successful fulfilment of administrative regulations and procedures previously adopted by the board of directors. The requisition forms and procedures were implemented. In addition, other forms related to these administrative activities were updated. Other policies and systems were developed to coordinate internal issues for the programmes and for the organisation in general. The unit also supervised the regularity of internal meetings to guarantee democratic management at all levels.

DCI-Palestine's Role in the Palestinian Human Rights Council

DCI-Palestine believes that, in order to achieve a just civil society under the rule of law, the efforts of civil society organisations must be united: thus, the Council was established to confront and challenge any governmental policies that contradict the law, as well as to advocate and lobby for human rights and all related human rights issues. Throughout 2011, the Council issued many statements to international bodies and agencies regarding Israeli violations of human rights (mainly children's rights) in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT). Working and communicating with international agencies and national authorities as a single council has a stronger impact than working as individual organisations, as evidenced by the various meetings successfully conducted in 2011 with the Ministry of the Interior, the chairperson of the Intelligence Department, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and the European Parliament Mission.

Media Unit

In the last quarter of 2011, DCI-Palestine established a Media Unit to raise community awareness regarding the situation of Palestinian children. The unit seeks to highlight child rights violations through the media, working with local and national media outlets. Furthermore, the unit works to educate the public about children's rights as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other relevant treaties. Finally, the unit advocates for these rights with the relevant decision-makers, stakeholders and duty bearers, as well as highlighting some of the inspiring success stories from DCI-Palestine's work and the children's own stories.

The Media Unit has accomplished the following:

- All DCI-Palestine's activities for the last quarter of 2011 received media coverage. Activity reports were published, as were news articles, updates, and statements; it also conducted various radio and TV shows.
- It developed a branding policy for DCI-Palestine publications with respect to the use of DCI-Palestine's logo and setting a list of standards and criteria for our publications.
- It directly reflected DCI-Palestine's policy regarding active child participation by involving children in several media activities.
- It coordinated and networked with many media institutions to implement joint activities in 2012.





Protection And Community Mobilisation Programme

Executive Summary

The Protection and Community Mobilisation Programme plays a key role in implementing DCI-Palestine's strategy by transforming the monitoring, capacity-building and advocacy initiatives into reality at the national level. The programme, conducted through the Child Justice Unit, monitors the policies, laws, strategies and directives of child rights enforcers, and is a partner in many of the national technical committees responsible for drafting modern laws, such as the Juvenile Justice Draft Law. The programme is also a member of many child protection networks and coalitions that are legal specialists. Furthermore, the programme builds the capacity of relevant partners such as police officers, probation officers, prosecutors, lawyers, and members of the Child Protection Network (CPN) to form a vision in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC is one of the global references on which we rely in determining our identity, both as an institution and as a programme.

In 2011, through the Community Mobilisation Unit, the programme built the capacity of various members of the Palestinian Network for Children's Rights (PNCR) to achieve greater consistency and effectiveness in their plans, projects and activities with children and the broader community across Palestine. Activating child protection networks within grassroots and local institutions, founding the DCI-Palestine Children's Council, and facilitating child participation are just some of the ways in which this was implemented. Child participation was facilitated by encouraging children to express their priorities and needs through their own research and initiatives that reflected their experiences and perspectives on many of the issues affecting their lives. One successful step towards community mobilisation was the academic partnership established with An-Najah National University in holding the Ninth National Children's Conference. This event shed light on eight topics affecting children and their rights within an academic and professional context and through child-led human rights initiatives.

During 2011, too, the programme made a significant systematic step towards realising the goal of an Arab human rights network based on a common vision of child rights and child justice. To do so, the programme worked in partnership with various human rights institutions across the Arab world. Through this network, participants shared their knowledge and expertise, explaining their roles in researching and advocating for children's issues and offering their visions for juvenile justice in the

Arab world. The participants also worked to establish regional focus campaigns that lobby decision-makers to improve the lives of children, while constantly advocating for a world fit for children.

Community Mobilisation Unit

The basicidea of the Community Mobilisation Unit is to accommodate the partnership, coordination, development and exchange of expertise with the PNCR and grassroots institutions, combined with the real and effective participation of children through the DCI-Palestine Children's Council. Launched in 2011, the council consists of an elected secretariat and a general assembly, utilising the expertise of children from a wide range of backgrounds. The unit strives to continue developing the capacity of PNCR member institutions while promoting child participation as a principle of action. We believe that this principle leads to the creation of an environment defined by full respect for child rights. Furthermore, the principle of child participation promotes the values of justice and equality and encourages opportunities and responsibility within these institutions. Building on the accomplishments of previous years, these goals can be achieved by strengthening the role of the child-protection teams, as well as expanding the role of children in information-gathering. Child participation is likewise enhanced by engaging children in policy-making, planning, evaluation, follow-up and implementation.

The unit makes use of the information gathered by the Child Justice Unit. Hence, on the basis of its monitoring activities, it conducts interventions for children in conflict with the law and child victims of community violence. These interventions, which include legal representation, consultations, inspection visits, empowerment and capacity-building, served as indicators for developing national campaigns targeting children and Palestinian society overall. The National Campaign to Protect Children from Domestic Violence relied on the work of the Child Justice Unit. In addition, a variety of activities and advocacy strategies were developed to promote and protect children's rights on the Palestinian level, based on the information gathered by the Child Justice Unit.





Achievements:

The unit set five results as its objectives, summarised as follows:

Result 1

Active child participation in planning, monitoring and evaluating is improved

All activities listed below contributed directly and indirectly to enabling PNCR institutions to take a leading role in advocating children's issues, as well as in enhancing participation in planning, implementing and follow-up. PNCR institutions led the planning and implementation of the National Campaign to Protect Children from Domestic Violence in terms of training, field activities, workshops, community education, formation of the advisory committee, and the activation of child participation.

Key achievements under this result:

- Three workshops were held to plan for the activities of the PNCR; 22 PNCR institutions participated. Following these, another three workshops were held throughout the West Bank, with the participation of the 52 elected members of the general assembly of the DCI-Palestine Children's Council. In these workshops, child participation was adopted as a key principle. A defined plan was produced for the activities to be implemented during the year towards achieving this goal. The workshops also resulted in a clear plan of objectives and activities for the year 2011 and a corresponding distribution of tasks and roles. In addition, a plan was drawn up in order to launch a national campaign to protect children from domestic violence. Finally, it was agreed to commemorate all national events such as Palestinian Child Day, World Children's Day, World Day against Torture and the International Day for Human Rights.
- Six training workshops were held to enhance children's awareness on the issue of domestic violence and neglect. These sessions were attended by 119 children and adults from the DCI-Palestine Children's Council and the PNCR. The workshops saw the children expressing their rights through art and drawing and directly engaged them in planning for Palestinian Child Day, as well as for the launch of the campaign against domestic violence and neglect. This helped PNCR enhance its role in marking events related to child rights and to interact with the local communities in order to do so. The workshops also raised awareness among child members of the DCI-Palestine Children's Council, which helped them to act and think about child rights approaches.

• Based on evidence gathered from a broad range of stakeholders on cases of child rights violation, a National Campaign on the Protection of Children was launched. The campaign was launched in collaboration with 50 NGOs and various government institutions as well as with the participation of children. The campaign provided children with the opportunity to participate in planning and implementation. As many as 78 children participated in this campaign, called "Knock on the Door," in all West Bank districts, bearing leaflets, brochures, and stickers designed to raise community awareness. The campaign enabled the unit, the DCI-Palestine Children's Council and the PNCR to play a leading role in shedding light on cases of violence and neglect and their impact on child rights, as well as strengthening DCI-Palestine's role in supporting Palestinian society. As part of the campaign, 13 workshops with parents were held on these issues to raise their awareness on their children's rights.

Nine members of the DCI-Palestine Children's Council secretariat were elected by the 52 members of its general assembly. DCI-Palestine provided the children with opportunities for networking, communication, meetings and trainings in order to foster empowerment, knowledge and skills. The children participated in a training session on child rights and the child-to-child approach. The elections strengthened children's democratic values, among other principles such as responsibility, innovation and creativity, putting children, DCI-Palestine and the PNCR on the right track in ensuring genuine child participation based on values of justice, equality and democracy. Three members of DCI-Palestine Children's Council attended a board meeting in which they discussed and approved the 2012 action plans and budgets.

To activate children's participation in planning and implementation, the children launched four initiatives of their own on the topics of physical violence, protection for children in conflict, protecting children in conflict with the law, and ethical and professional codes of conduct within PNCR institutions. The children then presented these four initiatives at the Ninth National Children's Conference in Nablus in cooperation with An-Najah National University.

As PNCR and DCI-Palestine seek to become the reference point for children's rights in Palestine, they both contributed to a study by researchers from the World Bank on the protection mechanisms used in Palestine by coordinating 12 interviews with PNCR members, the local community, children from the DCI-Palestine Children's Council, and child protection teams, as well as with parents, local leaders and prominent figures. 50 people participated in total. The primary theme of these interviews was child participation. The DCI-Palestine Children's Council and the child protection team within the PNCR were used as a role model in this research.



Result 2

Palestinian Network for Children's Rights and CBOs are more active in advocating for children's rights and child-participation

Multiple special events for children were commemorated, such as the Palestinian Child Day, Universal Children's Day and Palestinian Prisoners' Day. In addition, several meetings and workshops were held that contributed to raising community awareness about child rights and the right to protection from violence and neglect. There was broad community participation and feedback from PNCR institutions and grassroots organisations about the feasibility and relevance of these activities. Such activities enabled PNCR institutions to continue addressing issues of child rights and to take the initiative in commemorating such events.

In coordination with the PNCR institutions and with the participation of children, DCI-Palestine took the lead in commemorating the special national and international events related to child rights. Such events included Palestinian Children's Day, Universal Children's Day and the Palestinian Prisoner's Day, as well as celebrating DCI-Palestine's 20th anniversary by organising a number of activities, including: awareness-raising workshops, trainings, and recreational trips for children. All of these activities kept DCI-Palestine and the PNCR institutions at the forefront of child rights issues, thereby setting a model for other institutions, including government institutions.

As many as 400 children and adults (100 adults from the PNCR and 300 children) participated in marking Palestinian Children's Day. In addition, around 550 participants took part in awareness-raising workshops about domestic violence and child protection as part of a range of activities marking Universal Children's Day. Additionally, around 450 children of prisoners participated in a solidarity trip for prisoners, while about 800 family members of prisoners took part in marches and sit-ins to mark Palestinian Prisoner's Day.

Result 3

Increased awareness among children and the wider community regarding children's rights in a conflict under international law

Various activities were carried out as part of the project "Protection of Children in Armed Conflict," which contributed to raising awareness about the rights of children in this situation. A training manual on the protection of children in armed conflict was published. This manual was a result of the efforts of many civil and governmental institutions that participated in two training workshops on this issue. The activities also resulted in "The Trap," a theatrical event with 20 nationwide performances, which raised community awareness on the issue of child recruitment by Israeli security services. The play was attended by around 4,000 participants and received positive reviews from local organisations and prominent figures. After each performance, the participants engaged in discussions and gave their own recommendations on how to protect children. As follow-up, 10 workshops were organised on this issue, in which 428 people participated.

Children were positively affected by the project activities and they interacted substantively by launching their own initiative, using the training manual and the performance itself. The initiative focused on raising further awareness about the recruitment of children by Israeli security services. This enhanced and enriched their participation and provided appropriate material on the theme of protection and advocacy for the Ninth Children's National Conference.

Result 4

The relations among the Manara Network Partners are more strategic and active in exchanging experience regarding child rights advocacy

The Arab Regional Network for Children's Rights is a cooperative project between Yemen, Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, and Jordan aimed at engaging children in conducting research on their lives, realities, priorities and needs. Once the children's research was completed, it was crucial to analyse the results and recommendations and to train children and their institutions on how to use these results and the conclusions. In addition, it was necessary to develop an applicable action plan to shed light on the needs of children in each participating country. To achieve this

result, meetings were held with 26 child researchers, between 14-17 years old. Relevant activities included:

- Four trainings on how to describe the results, analyse other responses, draft the
 executive summary, and empower the participants, both in presenting it to their
 peers and adults for recommendation and in presenting it to relevant decisionmakers.
- 13 regional workshops were organised by young researchers to discuss the study and to compile the recommendations to be gathered and then to be included in the study. 200 people participated in these workshops, children among them.
- Participation in a training in Amman with regional partners on the subject of child-led data collection. In this training, the results of the regional studies conducted by children from Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen and Palestine were presented in a six-day workshop.
- Presentation of the children's study to 400 participants in the Ninth National Children's Conference in Nablus.
- A training on the use of animation techniques to present the research findings in a creative, unconventional way and in the children's own language.
- The design of promotional material, such as stickers, brochures, and a CD on the theme of protecting children from school violence.
- Two training days for children and adults about advocacy skills needed to transform the research results into tools for change.

Child Justice Unit

The Child Justice Unit seeks to protect the rights of child victims of community violence and neglect and the rights of children in conflict with the law at the Palestinian Authority level. In addition, it advocates for the development of a fair system that governs children in conflict with the law and child victims of violence according to international standards of juvenile justice. To fulfil this mission, the Child Justice Unit monitors and documents violations against these children, in addition to providing legal representation; it also provides legal consultation for the children, their families, and child protection networks and various institutions working in child protection. The unit likewise monitors the status of child victims of violence and children in conflict with the law, and monitors the legal system they pass through in order to assess whether it complies with international standards in providing a fair system for children in conflict with the law.

With the goal of having a fair and integrated system for children in conflict with the law and child victims of violence, the unit follows up on the legislations and policies of ministries and institutions working in child protection by participating in meetings that discuss laws related to children, such as the Juvenile Draft Law.

Achievements

The unit set six results as its objectives, summarised as follows:

Result 1

Juvenile centres, prisons, police stations and protection centres are monitored to assess whether they comply with international standards



Conducting field visits as follows:

- 5 visits to police detention centres
- 4 visits to reform and rehabilitation centres
- 10 visits to juvenile care and rehabilitation centres
- 5 visits to protection centres

Visits to detention centres, rehabilitation centres, and protection centres for child victims of community violence were carried out with the purpose of monitoring the reality of children in conflict with the law; these visits have improved their living conditions inside these institutions.

Result 2

Violations of children's rights in conflict with the law and child victims of violence and neglect are reported to stakeholders and used as an advocacy tool





Sending reports and letters to relevant authorities on violations against children in conflict with the law and child victims of community violence, neglect and political violence.

22 letters were sent to various governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the police, etc., to report cases of child victims of community violence and neglect and cases of children in conflict with the law in order to allow those children to enjoy their rights and put an end to the violations against them.



These letters briefed relevant stakeholders on these issues, thereby pressuring them to honour their responsibilities in accordance with Child Law.

Result 3

The capacity of DCI stakeholders regarding international standards of children's rights and juvenile justice is strengthened



Training course on international standards of juvenile justice targeting prosecutors.

- A training on child rights, child protection and international standards of juvenile justice was organised with 15 prosecutors. Prosecutors are an integral part of the system governing children in conflict with the law, and therefore must be fully aware of the international standards of juvenile justice, especially in the absence of a specialised juvenile prosecutor's office. Training prosecutors is an important step towards enhancing juvenile justice and the overall system, because trained prosecutors are becoming more sensitive to child rights and juvenile justice.
- A training on international standards of child rights and juvenile justice was held for lawyers. As many as 28 lawyers and two juvenile police officers were trained on child rights and juvenile justice. In addition, lawyers participating in the training took part in a workshop targeting probation officers. The training raised lawyers' awareness on child rights and international standards of juvenile justice, in addition to components of the system governing children in conflict with the law, the role of probation officers, and their contribution to the juvenile justice. Furthermore, the participation of juvenile police officers gave lawyers an opportunity to learn about the experience of the police in juvenile justice, and helped raise their awareness on how to deal with cases of children in conflict with the law.
- A workshop was organised for probation officers in order to shed light on the importance of their role in juvenile justice; other parties in the juvenile justice system were also invited to attend. This activity aimed to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding among probation officers of their role in the juvenile justice system. Moreover, this activity afforded such professionals the opportunity to address the issues they face which prevent them from effectively carrying out their roles. It is hoped that such a step will improve their performance and strengthen the system protecting children in conflict with the law.



Workshops in juvenile rehabilitation and detention centres.

Eight workshops were organised in these centres.

Organising workshops in rehabilitation and reform centres for children in conflict with the law and the police is an important step in building the capacities of workers and for educating children about their rights. The social contract agreed upon during these workshops engaged children in making policies and setting up regulations for these centres. This enhanced the application of the concept of child participation in decision-making.



Legal consultation for protection networks.

As many as 48 legal consultations were provided to child protection networks throughout the West Bank.

Providing legal consultations on child rights to protection networks is a pivotal service that significantly contributes to raising awareness among and building the capacities of child protection networks, enabling partners to defend and uphold protection standards for child victims of community violence and neglect.



Case conferences as needed.

Four case conferences were held with the CPN for child victims of community violence and neglect.

Case conferences are held for urgent cases whenever a collective decision is needed to protect the best interests of the child. Since DCI-Palestine specialises in such issues, our participation in those meetings is very important and contributes to building the capacity of PNCR members on child protection and child rights, thus enhancing partners' roles and providing protection for children victims of violence.



Participation in meetings to discuss laws related to child rights.

The unit participated in six meetings concerning the Palestinian Penal Draft Code, the Personal Status Draft Law, and the Family Protection from Violence Draft Law. Participation in drafting child laws is an important aspect requiring a legal human rights opinion that takes into account the children's rights and their best interests, as well as other crucial considerations. Our participation in this field is highly important and contributes to building the capacity of partner members in the committees responsible for drafting these laws.



Efforts to draft a juvenile law.

In 2010 a decision was made by the cabinet to establish a National Committee for Juvenile Justice and DCI-Palestine was chosen to join this committee. The unit was involved in 14 meetings and workshops of the Committee, in addition to writing comments on the Juvenile Justice Draft Law, which was submitted to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Building an integrated system of juvenile justice requires a special law for children that observes established international standards of juvenile justice, child rights and child protection. Therefore, as an institution active in child rights, DCI-Palestine participated in drafting the law based on its practical experience in working with children in conflict with the law and also on the international standards of juvenile justice.

Result 4

The attitudes and methodology used in courts regarding the cases of children in conflict with the law is influenced to respect children's rights, to prioritise the child's best interests, to use imprisonment as a last resort, and to use the shortest period principles



Legal representation for children in conflict with the law.

The overall strategy of the juvenile justice unit is to monitor the situation of children in conflict with the law within the judicial system in order to assess if their fair trial rights are being respected. It does so through the legal representation of cases of children in conflict with the law in the Palestinian courts. Therefore, in 2011, as many as 44 new cases were represented, five cases from last year were transferred, and 18 cases were closed. The charges included: theft, abuse, sexual assault, rape and attempted murder.

Our legal representation process works with children in conflict with the law from the moment they enter the judicial system until they are released. It includes monitoring and documenting of the gaps in the system that governs these children in accordance with international standards of juvenile justice, and attempts to apply these standards to the relevant stakeholders (including the police, prosecutors and judges) even after the children are released. Discussing these principles and using them as arguments helped to establish them within the system, and thus to build the capacities of these parties in the field of juvenile justice.



Legal advice and follow-up of child victims of violence and children in conflict with the law and their families.

In 2011, as many as 59 legal consultations were provided for child victims of community violence and neglect and children in conflict with the law and their families.

The provision of legal advice to children and their families raised awareness within those families on the rights of these children, thus helping to secure their support in

facilitating their re-integration into and acceptance by society.



Meetings with judges, prosecutors and probation officers.

As many as 55 meetings were held with judges, prosecutors and probation officers in order to urge them to adopt the principle of the best interest of the child as well as other international standards of juvenile justice.

Meetings with judges and prosecutors were held as they are the key players in the judicial system governing children in conflict with the law. These meetings endeavoured to uphold and push for the implementation of international principles of juvenile justice to promote the concept that children in conflict with the law are victims of community violence and negligence, not merely criminals.



Referrals to other services.

In 2011, 24 cases were referred to other services (psychological, social and rehabilitative).

Many children in conflict with the law need counselling services. Therefore, they are referred to those services to finish building the system that governs them, and to prepare counselling institutions to work with these children in accordance with child rights. Referring children to other services enables them access to multiple integrated services and guaranteed protection. This activity also contributed to the codification of fundamental rights of children in conflict with the law and the adoption of the principle that they are victims, not delinquents.



Requests for release on bail.

In 2011, as many as 40 requests for release on bail were submitted; all 40 resulted in release.

Requests for release on bail are part of legal representation for children in conflict with the law, which aims to monitor all violations against children in conflict with the law and tries to establish an important principle of juvenile justice: detention as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.



Report each closed case based on a table of indicators.

Six reports on children in conflict with the law were submitted based on a table of indicators, clarifying whether the system followed in all stages of the proceedings and was consistent with international standards of juvenile justice. Ten case studies were written up.

The table of indicators developed by DCI-Palestine includes the international principles of juvenile justice as a framework to compare theory and practice. Once the case is closed, an analysis can be made to clarify the degree of compliance with these principles during the various stages of the judicial system. This provides the opportunity to address these shortcomings with partners in order to build their capacities in the area where the violation took place. Consequently, violations against children in conflict with the law that take place during and before trial are monitored and documented.



Analysis of the table of indicators and results are referred to the Community Mobilisation Unit and shared with partners.

The same rationale previously stated in Activity 6 applies here.

Result 5 **Providing psychosocial support in the Nablus governorate**

- 1. 38 individual consultations were given to children in conflict with the law and child victims of community violence and neglect.
- 2. Eight group consultations were given during awareness meetings.
- 3. 12 consultations were provided for families of child victims of community violence and neglect and children in conflict with the law.
- 4. 11 meetings were held about physical, psychological, and sexual abuse and neglect, and on mechanisms to deal with children's behaviour.
- 5. 13 coordination meetings were held with the probation officer and child protection advisor.
- 6. Five cases were referred to other institutions providing therapeutic and treatment services.

Psychological counselling was provided to children in conflict with the law and child victims of community violence and neglect and their families. These aimed to raise mothers' awareness about abuse and violence and the need to be aware of these issues when dealing with their children. Joint coordination with the probation officer and the Ministry of Social Affairs helped foster better understanding and led to the conclusion that children in conflict with the law are mainly victims of community violence and neglect and that, therefore, working with them should be based on such a conclusion. In addition, it is important to hold meetings on child rights and child protection if we want to build an integrated juvenile justice system of a preventive and remedial nature.

The cases that have been followed up on and provided with legal consultation include:

Child victims of physical violence

- 27 cases of domestic violence
- 4 cases of violence in schools
- 2 cases of violence in the street
- 4 cases of police violence

Child victims of psychological violence

- 24 cases of domestic violence
- 2 cases of violence in schools
- 1 cases of violence in the street
- 2 cases of police violence

Child victims of sexual violence

- 3 cases of domestic violence
- 4 cases of violence in schools
- 22 cases of sexual violence in the street

Child victims of neglect

- 34 cases of domestic neglect
- 6 cases in the school
- 3 cases of health neglect
- 4 cases outside the family
- 1 case of police neglect

Violation of the right to education

- 22 school cases
- 8 cases outside the school

Children at risk of delinquency

- 19 cases of children at risk of delinquency
- 15 child victims of child labour and economic exploitation
- 3 children with disabilities
- 4 children of victims of political detention





Accountability and Legal Work Programme

Executive Summary

DCI-Palestine's Accountability Programme strives to hold the perpetrators of child rights violations to account for their actions. The Programme consists of three units: the Legal Unit, the Documentation Unit and the Advocacy Unit.

The Accountability Programme focuses on raising awareness of Palestinian child rights violations occurring as a result of the military occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory and the related conflict. By raising awareness of these violations and advocating for adherence by all parties to the conflict (and particularly Israel as the occupying power) to their obligations under international law to protect and provide special care for Palestinian children, we are ultimately striving to ensure that these violations are stopped and that perpetrators are held to account. The methodology of the programme consists in gathering first-hand documentation on child rights violations (with a focus on fatalities, injuries, torture/abuse in detention and recruitment); disseminating this information among the international community; and conducting evidence-based advocacy targeting selected third parties, such as States Parties to various human rights and humanitarian law treaties, relevant United Nations agencies and European Union institutions - i.e. secondary duty-bearers of Palestinian children's rights - in order to urge them to improve child rights protection and accountability mechanisms and work towards holding the perpetrators to account.

DCI-Palestine however, does not merely aim at documenting and researching Israeli violations of Palestinian child rights as an end in itself. Our research is aimed at better informing our lobbying and advocacy work, both on a local and international level.

The impact of the Accountability Programme has been bringing the cause of Palestinian children to the international community's attention. DCI-Palestine statistics and information on child fatalities and injuries, settler violence, torture/ill-treatment in detention and recruitment were a credible resource for many actors concerned with the situation of Palestinian children in the OPT.

DCI-Palestine succeeded in raising the issue of Palestinian child rights violations in many arenas, including in various reports. For example, the issue of settler violence and child detainees has been raised in the Irish Parliament. The issue of child detainees has been debated in UK Parliament and raised with the Special Rapporteur with respect to the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, and the UK's largest teachers' union condemned the mistreatment of Palestinian child prisoners.

Furthermore, the Israeli military authorities have introduced some modifications to its military orders in order to restore its image as a result of the international community's criticism of these practices. Raising the age of majority in the military court system from 16 to 18 years and notifying the child's parents that the child has been arrested, as well as informing the child that he/she has the right to consult with a lawyer, were among the modifications to the military orders that occurred during the reporting period.

Despite these achievements, the situation facing Palestinian children in the OPT has not changed. Palestinian children in the OPT still find their rights being violated at the hands of the Israeli authorities. The international community became more aware of these Israeli violations of Palestinian children's rights, but this awareness has not translated to concrete actions against the perpetrators. There is, then, a great deal of work ahead in order to transform the legal principles into practical measures.

Monitoring and Documentation Unit

Result 1: Monitoring and documenting conflict-related violations of Palestinian children's rights (four violation areas are prioritised: killing/maiming, detention/torture, settler/soldier violence, and recruitment)

Strategy of the unit and main achievements

The strategy of the Monitoring and Documentation Unit (MDU) depends on gathering and assessing information. It consists of systematically and consistently collecting information on child rights violations. The role of the MDU is to record and process the information and to verify the accuracy of the collected information. This information is passed on to the Advocacy Unit, where they identify strategies to address these violations.

The evidence collected by the MDU is the outcome of a rigorous investigation process. The fieldworkers interview the victims of human rights violations and/or eyewitnesses to collect affidavits to record the incident and to establish that this incident is a child rights violation.

During the reporting period, the MDU monitored cases of killing and maiming, detention and torture, recruitment, and settler and soldier violence by means of the media, networking, field work and prison visits. Then the unit systematically documented these cases once their investigations had verified the information.



The MDU investigated the following incidents during the reporting period:

- 31 child fatalities, including 16 cases by the Israeli security agencies. One of these children was participating in combat activities when he was killed, 4 cases were the result of weapons misuse, and 11 cases were the result of neglect.
- - 178 child injuries; among them, 146 cases by the Israeli security agencies and settlers and 32 cases as a result of weapons misuse.
- 7 home demolitions.
- 2 attacks on schools.
- 70 children were ill-treated and tortured.
- - 28 affidavits were collected from children in police stations and reformatory schools across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Other child rights violations were documented, which involved getting affidavits as well as conducting interviews to fulfil the needs of the Advocacy Unit.

Child fatalities by month since the beginning of the Intifada (September 2000-the end of 2011)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	35	45	11	94
2001	3	3	8	12	9	5	8	8	12	6	9	15	98
2002	3	9	35	36	15	10	13	10	12	19	16	14	192
2003	11	12	18	14	17	8	1	6	7	15	9	12	130
2004	6	3	15	14	36	8	13	9	25	21	6	6	162
2005	20	4	2	3	2	1	6	6	3	4	1	0	52
2006	3	3	5	6	2	9	40	14	10	5	24	3	124
2007	4	1	5	2	9	10	2	8	4	2	3	0	50
2008	6	10	22	21	4	4	2	1	2	0	0	40	112
2009	301	4	1	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	315
2010	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	8
2011	2	0	4	2	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	15

Child fatalities by age since the beginning of the Intifada (September 2000-the end of 2011)

Year	0 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 15	16 - 17	Total
2000	4	9	34	47	94
2001	13	21	31	33	98
2002	50	33	62	47	192
2003	16	22	47	45	130
2004	13	29	58	62	162
2005	2	10	19	21	52
2006	26	12	40	46	124
2007	3	8	17	22	50
2008	22	13	38	39	112
2009	93	63	83	76	315
2010	0	0	3	5	8
2011	2	3	6	4	15



The above tables do not include children killed while participating in combat activities. One child was killed while participating in combat activities during the reporting period.

Evidence review

During the reporting period, 433 files were reviewed to ensure consistency of data. Among these files were 256 files on fatalities, injuries, ill-treatment, adequate standards of living and the right to education. In addition to this, 25 files for children who were maimed during the "Operation Cast Lead" (OCL) were reviewed, the purpose of which was to see the long-term effect of being maimed on their health, social, educational and psychological status.

Uploading data to the database

During the reporting period 280 violation reports were uploaded to the database. The process also involved archiving the files in hard copy files and verifying the information on the database with the hard copy files.

Maintaining the database

The necessary developments to the database were carried out. The ill-treatment database has been finalised. The input and the output pages were modified according to the needs of the Advocacy Unit.

Procedural manual and photos booklet

DCI-Palestine also produced a procedural manual for the field workers and lawyers in order to guide them on how to gather information about child rights violations while guaranteeing the child's best interest during interviews with children. The manual includes a section on interviewing children and how to deal with them during the interview.

Legal Unit

Result 2

Represent and defend Palestinian child detainees before the Israeli military courts and filing complaints on their behalf to the Israeli authorities (Israeli discriminatory laws/practices are exposed)

The most notable development in the Israeli military court system during the reporting period was the raising of the age of majority in the military court system from 16 to 18 years.

On 27 September 2011, the Israeli military commander in the occupied West Bank issued Military Order 1676, raising the age of majority in the military courts from 16 to 18 years. The new military order also includes a provision for the notification of a child's parents that the child has been arrested and informing the child that he/she has the right to consult with a lawyer, although the order does not state precisely when this consultation should occur.

This development is meaningless if the juvenile military courts continue to ignore the basic requirements of a fair trial and general principles of juvenile justice. Despite the creation of the juvenile military courts and the raising of the age of majority during the last years, the Israeli military system still presents multiple shortcomings.

Credible reports of ill-treatment of children during arrest, transfer and interrogation continue to be received. In some cases this treatment may amount to torture. No effective action appears to have been taken to remedy this situation. Effective measures to prevent ill-treatment during interrogation, such as the audio-visual recording of all interrogations, have still not been introduced.

Moreover, the military court system does not respect the safeguards enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) related to the imprisonment or detention of children. According to the CRC, imprisonment or detention of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. In the military court system, children continue to be denied bail in around 90 percent of cases and the overwhelming majority of children continue to receive custodial sentences.

Representing children before the military courts enables DCI-Palestine to monitor the conformity of the military court system, as well as the Israeli military orders that

were issued during the last period, with international laws. Moreover, it enables DCI-Palestine to confront violations committed by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian child prisoners. Using the legal procedures in the military court system allows DCI-Palestine to expose the shortfalls in the system and to clarify the gaps between this system and international juvenile justice standards. The rejection of appeals against the extension of detention, and detention until the end of the legal procedures, provides evidence for the assertion that Israel does not apply the CRC standard stipulating that detention should only be a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

Legal aid services

DCI-Palestine received 125 new files to defend before the military courts during 2011, in addition to 34 files that were pending from 2010. The total number of files followed by DCI-Palestine during 2011 is 159.

This reporting period witnessed a sharp increase in the number of children arrested from EastJerusalem. This upsurge has impacted the work of the legal unit, as the number of cases received by the legal unit from East Jerusalem has dramatically increased.

DCI-Palestine and Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association appointed a lawyer to defend children before the Israeli courts in Jerusalem. During the reporting period the lawyer dealt with 194 cases of children from Jerusalem; of these files, 19 were closed.

DCI-Palestine lawyers represented children in 587 court hearings in the military courts during 2011. These court hearings included detention-extension hearing appeals against court rulings or detention-extension decisions.

Key Achievements of the Legal Unit in 2011

- Receiving 125 new files to represent before the military courts.
- Closing 111 files before the military courts.
- Arranging for and accompanying 32 delegations to the military court as court observers.
- Receiving 194 new files to represent before the civil court in Jerusalem.
- Closing 19 files before the civil court in Jerusalem.
- Conducting 89 visits to prisons and detention centres.
- Visiting 189 children in prisons and detention centres.
- 136 questionnaires on torture were collected to monitor and document cases of torture and ill-treatment in Israeli prisons and detention centres.
- 136 sworn affidavits were collected from child prisoners who have been victims of torture and ill-treatment by the Israeli authorities.

Success stories

-M.Z., from Bethlehem, born on 22 January 1997, was arrested on 11 September 2011 and a list of charges of attempting to kill a soldier was made against him. In the extension of detention session, his defence lawyer requested a release on bail but the court refused, claiming that the charge was a serious one and that M.Z. should be kept in custody until the end of the proceedings. It is worth noting that similar cases were closed with sentences ranging from 20 to 36 months with plea bargains. M.Z. was detained in Ofek Hasharon prison for criminal detainees. He was attacked by those detainees. He was burned with cigarettes, tied to his bed while sleeping and beaten all over body. Once DCI-Palestine heard about this situation, an official letter was sent to the prison administration, requesting that M.Z. be transferred to another prison and be detained with security prisoners, but the request was refused. The defence lawyer filed an appeal against the extension of detention, and a session to examine the appeal request was convened on 1 November. M.Z was brought to the courtroom and his hands had visible marks of cigarette burns and ropes. The lawyer explained M.Z.'s circumstances, the prosecutor's initial evidence against him (which did not require an attempted murder indictment), and his harsh detention conditions. The judge then decided to release him on bail. The bail was paid the following day and M.Z. was released. M.Z.'s case was closed on 14 December after paying a fine of 5,000 shekels.

- R.A., born on 4 January 1995, was arrested on 13 November 2011, and a list of charges of manufacturing and attempting to throw Molotov cocktails was made against him. It is worth noting that similar cases were closed with sentences ranging from 8 to 12 months with plea bargains. In the extension of detention session, the defence lawyer requested a release on bail and explained to the court R.A.'s detention conditions and that there was no risk involved in releasing him. The judge was convinced and ruled that R.A. should be released on bail, but the prosecutor appealed. An appeal session convened on 28 November, and the judge approved the release on the condition that an alternative must be presented: detaining R.A. in Dar Al Amal, for example. The lawyer refused this suggestion on the grounds that DCl-Palestine could not play the role of the occupation forces. DCl-Palestine presented an alternative proposal that YMCA rehabilitation programme would follow up R.A.'s psychological state. The court accepted the proposal and R.A. was released on bail.

Advocacy Unit

Strategy of the unit and main achievements

The Advocacy Unit carries out evidence-based advocacy on Palestinian child rights violations occurring as a result of the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territory. The unit advocates for compliance with international human rights/child rights standards by all parties to the conflict (particularly Israel as the occupying power) and works to improve accountability for perpetrators of child rights violations. The unit focuses on four types of child rights violations: detention and torture/ill-treatment; fatalities and injuries; settler/soldier violence; and child recruitment. It targets duty bearers, namely Israel, as well as secondary duty-bearers at the international level, asking them to pressure parties into changing the policies and practices that are harmful to Palestinian children.

Main outcomes under each result (related to the Advocacy Unit)

Result 3

By the end of 2011, violations of the right to liberty (including arbitrary detention and torture) and of the right to life (including killing and maiming, recruitment and settler violence) against Palestinian children are exposed and challenged

During the reporting period, the Unit produced the following advocacy materials:

Reports to UN

- In Their Own Words: A report on the situation facing Palestinian children
 detained in the Israeli military court system (January 2011) Submitted to:
 the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading
 treatment or punishment; the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of
 judges and lawyers; and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
- In Their Own Words: A report on the situation facing Palestinian children
 detained in occupied East Jerusalem (February 2011) Submitted to: the UN
 Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
 or punishment; the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and
 lawyers; and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
- In Their Own Words: A report on the situation facing Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military court system (July 2011) – Submitted to: the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

- or punishment; the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
- In Their Own Words: A report on the situation facing Palestinian children detained in occupied **East Jerusalem (September 2011)** Submitted to: the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
- Report submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee NGO Progress Report -Follow-up to the Concluding Observations (Israel) (August 2011).
- The use of solitary confinement on Palestinian children held in Israeli detention (December 2011) - Submitted to: the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Reports to EU

 Submission related to conditions faced by Palestinian child detainees held in Israeli interrogation and detention facilities and prisons - Submitted to: EU Parliament's Sub-Committee on Human Rights

Urgent Appeals

- Urgent Appeal (UA 6/11) Children of Beit Ummar: On 14 December 2011, DCI-Palestine issued an urgent appeal for the children of Beit Ummar. Between January 2009, and 14 December 2011, DCI-Palestine documented 24 cases of children from Beit Ummar who were arrested on suspicion of throwing stones. According to the United Nations, a total of 43 children were arrested from Beit Ummar in 2010, rising to 27 children arrested in the first two months of 2011. Reports of ill-treatment and/or torture are commonplace. DCI issued an urgent appeal for these children.
- Urgent Appeal (UA 5/11) Prisoner exchange: Release of Palestinian children:
 On 2 November 2011 DCI-Palestine issued an urgent appeal for the release of
 all Palestinian children in Israeli military detention under the prisoner exchange
 programme. As part of the prisoner exchange deal, the Israeli authorities
 published a list of 477 prisoners, including 27 women, to be released in the first
 stage on 18 October in exchange for captured Israeli soldier Gilhad Shalit. The
 list did not include any children.
- Urgent Appeal (UA 4/11) Children of Azzun: On 26 July 2011, DCI-Palestine issued an urgent appeal for the children of Azzun. Between January 2009 and July 2011 DCI-Palestine documented 40 cases of children from Azzun village who were detained by Israeli forces, mostly on suspicion of throwing stones. It should be noted that these cases only represent a small sample of the total number of cases involving the arrest of children from Azzun. Reports of ill-treatment and/or torture are commonplace.

- Urgent Appeal (UA 3/11) Settler Violence: On 24 August DCI-Palestine issued an updated urgent appeal for children victims of settler violence. Between 13 January 2011 and 19 July 2011, DCI-Palestine has documented 20 cases of children affected by settler violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including one fatality. The nature of the violence reported by the children includes being shot at, beaten, pelted with stones and sprayed with gas.
- Urgent Appeal (UA 2/11) Children of Silwan: On 16 February 2011, DCI-Palestine issued an updated urgent appeal for children arrested in Silwan. In 2010, reports of a sharp increase in the number of children being arrested from Silwan and East Jerusalem have been recorded. According to Israel Police figures, between November 2009 and October 2010, the Jerusalem District opened 1,267 criminal files against Palestinian children living in East Jerusalem who were accused of throwing stones. During the same period, the Israeli NGO B'Tselem reports that 81 children from Silwan have been arrested or detained for questioning, mostly on suspicion of stone-throwing. In the four months between 18 October 2010 and 1 February 2011, DCI-Palestine investigated 31 cases from Silwan and collected 25 sworn affidavits, 22 of which were taken from children. DCI issued an urgent appeal for these children.
- Urgent Appeal (UA 1/11) Administrative detention: On 4 January 2011 DCI-Palestine issued an urgent appeal for Imad al-Ashhab (17), who had been held for over 10 months without charge or trial in administrative detention. He has since been released.
- Updated Urgent Appeal (UA 4/10) Children of the Gravel: On 14 December 2011, DCI-Palestine issued an updated urgent appeal for children shot while collecting building materials or working near the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel. Between 26 March 2010 and 13 December 2011, DCI-Palestine has documented 29 cases of children shot whilst collecting building material or working near the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel. In the cases documented by DCI-Palestine, the children report being shot while working between 30 and 800 metres from the border fence.

Case studies – Voices from the Occupation

- 16 case studies on child injuries
- 11 case studies on child fatalities
- 18 case studies on settler violence against Palestinian children
- 8 case studies on settler/soldier violence against Palestinian children
- 52 case studies on ill-treatment/torture of Palestinian child detainees

Bulletins

- 12 Detention Bulletins
- 11 Violations Bulletins

1612 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

6 spreadsheets containing data on ill-treatment and/or torture of child detainees, and on child recruitment, were sent to UNICEF as part of the 1612 Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.

Media Coverage

Throughout the year, DCI-Palestine's data was quoted in multiple articles published in media outlets of widespread circulation such as *The Australian, The Guardian, The Independent, ABC Australia* and *The National*. Interviews were also given for Palestinian, Mexican and Iranian media, among others.

Briefings

During the reporting period, multiple briefings were organised for diplomats, journalists, international human rights organisations and the general public. In addition, DCI-Palestine arranged visits to the military courts for members of the UK and Dutch parliaments, UK lawyers, diplomats, UN officials and activists.

Advocacy Trips

- Two advocacy trips to the United Kingdom
- Two advocacy trips to the US
- Advocacy trip to Italy
- Advocacy trip to Sweden
- Advocacy trip to the Netherlands

Other Reports

- "Voices from East Jerusalem: The Situation facing Palestinian Children": On 12 November 2011, DCI-Palestine released a new report: Voices from East Jerusalem, The Situation facing Palestinian Children. The report addresses the impact of Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem, through administrative and legal measures aimed at limiting the population growth and development of the Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, while actively encouraging the influx of Israeli settlers into the occupied territory. Through the voices of 15 children and three mothers, the report sheds some light on the day-to-day hardships they face living under prolonged military occupation, focusing on three main issues: house demolitions, settler violence, and arrest/detention.
- Country Profile of the Occupied Palestinian Territory: The Country Profile is
 a rigorous and exhaustive report on the status of the implementation of the
 Convention and aims to be a resource for identifying commendable practices
 implemented by the State, civil society and the international community in
 addressing these issues.
- Recruitment and use of children in the OPT: The report covers an eight-year period between 2004 and 2011 and identifies three circumstances in which children are particularly vulnerable to recruitment by both parties to the conflict:



human shields; informants; and child soldiers. Recruitment and involvement in armed conflict can take many forms, ranging from direct involvement in fighting to subsidiary roles, such as acting as informants, scouts, cooks and porters. In the context of the military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, both Israel and Palestinian armed groups have violated the prohibition.

Other activities

- Video: Voices from East Jerusalem: To accompany the report "Voices from East Jerusalem: The Situation Facing Palestinian Children."
- Social media
- In 2011, the unit launched DCI-Palestine's facebook page and twitter account.

Main Outcomes

 Issue of child detainees raised in the January 2011 report by Richard Falk, Special Representative to the Territories Occupied by Israel in 1967

The January 2011 report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories condemns the targeting of children who collect building material near the Gaza border with Israel and highlights the ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian child detainees. The report recommends that Palestinian children should not be prosecuted before Israeli military courts and detained inside Israel.

2. Issue of settler violence against Palestinian children raised in the Irish Parliament

Settler violence was also the subject of a series of questions in the Irish Parliament on 20 January 2011. The relevant Minister stated that "the allegation of Israeli military collusion in some of these attacks is a matter of grave concern." He added, "Israel has a legal obligation under international law to protect Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories. This report and reports from other NGOs suggests there is instead a culture of impunity, with the authorities failing to hold settlers accountable for their actions under Israeli law."

3. Children shot near the border in Gaza raised by MP with Israeli Embassy in the UK

Based on DCI-Palestine's Urgent Appeal (4/10), MEP Keith Taylor (Green Party – UK) wrote to the Israeli Ambassador to the UK Ran Curiel on 7 February 2011 in response to the shooting of 24 unarmed Palestinian children in Gaza between 26 March 2010 and 18 January 2011. The children were shot while working close to the border with Israel, mostly employed collecting building gravel to be used in the manufacture of concrete, which is in desperately short supply due to the Israeli blockade of the territory. "I find it totally abhorrent and inexcusable," said Taylor, 'that children and adult civilians, who are doing nothing more than trying to survive and to support

their families, are being targeted and injured by Israeli soldiers. You will be aware that the targeting of civilians is absolutely prohibited under international law, regardless of circumstances."

4. Issue of child detainees raised by the Palestinian parliamentary group in its March 2011 report entitled *Under Occupation*.

The report highlights widespread detention of Palestinian children. It shows that approximately 700 Palestinian children are prosecuted every year in such courts and that, at the end of January 2011, 222 Palestinian children were being held in Israeli jails.

5. Issue of child detainees raised in the EU Parliament by Irish MP.

Speaking at a Hearing on Palestinian Prisoners by the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights on 15 March 2011, Proinsias De Rossa MEP called for the immediate release of Palestinian minors currently held in Israeli prisons, some as young as 12 years of age.

6. The UK's largest teachers' union condemns mistreatment of Palestinian child prisoners.

On 23 April 2011, the National Union of Teachers (NUT), Britain's largest teachers' union (with over 250,000 members), passed a motion at its annual conference in support of Palestinian child and women prisoners. The motion condemns the mistreatment of children in Israeli detention and calls on the union's Executive to "incorporate this cause into the international work of the union at every opportunity."

7. Lord Dubs raises concerns for Palestinian child detainees in UK Parliament.

Following a visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territory in April 2011, Lord Dubs raised the issue of Palestinian child detainees in the UK Parliament on 4 May.

8. Situation of Palestinian child prisoners tackled in a UK Parliamentary report.

In June 2011, DCI-Palestine briefed a British Parliamentary delegation and took the members of the delegation to the military court. Upon their return to the UK, CAABU and Medical Aid for Palestinians issued a report, which highlights the situation of Palestinian child prisoners and their ill-treatment at the hands of the Israeli authorities. The report also highlights the issue of discrimination and the fact that there are two legal systems operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, one for Israelis and one for Palestinians.

9. New Military Order (1676) raising the age of majority in the military courts from 16 to 18 years.

Following two joint letters by ACRI, Yesh Din and DCI-Palestine, the Israeli military commander in the occupied West Bank issued Military Order 1676 (27 September 2011), raising the age of majority in the military courts from 16 to 18 years. The new military order also includes a provision for the notification of a child's parents that the child has been arrested and for informing the child that he/she has the right to consult with a lawyer.

10. Impact of DCI-Palestine's Urgent Appeal demanding the release of all Palestinian child prisoners as part of the prisoner exchange deal between Hamas and the Israeli government.

On 17 October 2011, DCI-Palestine issued an urgent appeal demanding the release of all Palestinian child prisoners as part of the prisoner exchange deal between Hamas and the Israeli government. DCI-Palestine's appeal was followed by statements from UNICEF, Irish Labour MEP Proinsias De Rossa, President of the European Parliament's Palestine Delegation (DPLC), and Britain's National Union of Teachers (NUT). On 18 October 2011, an Early Day Motion was tabled in the UK House of Commons supporting the call to release all Palestinian child prisoners. The motion has been signed by 71 members of the House of Commons.

11. Issue of Palestinian child prisoners debated in UK parliament.

On 17 November 2011, DCI-Palestine briefed British MP Richard Burden on the issue of Palestinian child prisoners and took him to visit ex-child detainees at the YMCA in Beit Sahour. On 28 November 2011, the MP raised the issue of Palestinian children prosecuted in Israeli military courts in a debate on the Middle East in the UK Parliament. On 22 December, an article on the issue was published in *The Huffington Post*.

12. Article on situation of Palestinian child prisoners published in The Australian.

On 26 November, *The Australian*, Australia's leading newspaper, published a five-page article about the situation of Palestinian child prisoners, their ill-treatment at the hands of the Israeli authorities and their prosecution in military courts, based on information provided by DCI-Palestine. Many Australians reacted to the article by writing letters to the Australian government, demanding that it take action. On 17 December 2011, *The Australian* published another article according to which "Australia will raise concerns with Israel about its juvenile military court system, which has been accused of jailing and torturing Palestinian children as young as 12. Following a report in The Weekend Australian Magazine three weeks ago, Foreign

Minister Kevin Rudd has instructed Australian diplomats to visit the juvenile military court. The diplomats have been told to report to Mr. Rudd on the conditions they find at the Ofer military prison. According to a statement from Mr. Rudd's office, he has also instructed Australian officials to initiate a meeting with Israeli authorities to raise concerns about the system under which Palestinian children are tried."

Financial Report



P.O. Box 1373
7th Floor,
PADICO House Bidg. - Al-Masyoun
Ramallah-Palestine
Tel: +972 22421011
Fax: +972 22422324

www.ey.com

Independent Auditors' Report to the General Assembly of Defence for Children International - Palestine Section

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Defence For Children International - Palestine Section (DCI/PS), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2011, and the statement of activities and changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate for the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of DCI/PS as at December 31, 2011 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

March 15, 2012 Ramallah, Palestine

Ernot + young

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL - PALESTINE SECTION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2011

Assets	Notes	2011 U.S. \$	2010 U.S. \$
Non-current Assets			
Property and equipment	3	277,389	283,451
Current Assets			
Contributions receivable	4	565,695	1,547,393
Other current assets	5	10,273	15,781
Cash and cash equivalents	6	674,027	518,491
		1,249,995	2,081,665
Total Assets		1,527,384	2,365,116
Net Assets and Liabilities			
Net Assets			
Unrestricted net assets		85,711	78,690
Sustainability reserve	7	111,267	60,557
Total Net Assets		196,978	139,247
Non-current Liabilities			
Term loan	8	26,868	41,238
Provision for employees' indemnity	9	369,686	269,933
Deferred revenues	10	151,287	122,719
		547,841	433,890
Current liabilities			
Current portion of term loan	8	14,370	13,207
Accounts payable	11	63,289	55,829
Temporarily restricted contributions	12	704,906	1,722,943
		782,565	1,791,979
Total Liabilities		1,330,406	2,225,869
Total Net Assets and Liabilities		1,527,384	2,365,116



DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL - PALESTINE SECTION

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2011

	Notes	2011 U.S. \$	2010 U.S. \$
Revenues			
Temporarily restricted contributions released from			
restriction	12	1,276,510	1,131,549
Unrestricted contributions		26,399	23,574
Deferred revenues recognized	10	19,551	17,146
Currency exchange gain		10,712	-
Other revenues		35,341	44,483
		1,368,513	1,216,752
Expenses			
Administrative and Core-Program Costs	13	564,016	552,901
Projects expenses	13	709,791	575,241
Depreciation of property and equipment	3	34,272	35,302
Finance costs		2,703	3,407
Currency exchange loss			10,549
Other expenses		-	7,500
·		1,310,782	1,184,900
Increase in net assets		57,731	31,852
Net assets, beginning of year		139,247	107,395
Net assets, end of year		196,978	139,247

DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL - PALESTINE SECTION

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2011

		2011	2010
	Note	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Operating activities: Increase in net assets		57,731	31,852
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		34,272	35,302
Finance costs		2,703	3,407
Gain from sale of fixed assets		(4,305)	-
Deferred revenues recognized		(19,551)	(17,146)
Provision for employees' indemnity		140,925	79,539
		211,775	132,954
Contributions receivable		981,698	(130,378)
Other current assets		5,508	1,488
Deferred revenues		48,119	22,345
Temporarily restricted contributions		(1,018,037)	239,821
Accounts payable		7,460	(64,085)
Employees' indemnity paid		(41,172)	(48,982)
Net cash from operating activities		195,351	153,163
Investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment		(34,912)	(10,203)
Disposal of Property and equipment		11,007	
Net cash used in investing activities		(23,905)	(10,203)
Financing activities			
Settlement of term loan		(13,207)	(12,142)
Finance costs paid		(2,703)	(3,407)
Net cash used in financing activities Increase in cash and cash equivalents		(15,910) 155,536	(15,549) 127,411
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		518,491	391,080
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	6	674,027	518,491