

AEES - Winter Newsletter 2020

COVID – 19 second wave is strongly hitting the Palestinian health, social and economic systems. This pandemic is challenging the daily life of every Palestinian family. Educational sector is also harshly affected by Corona Virus. With global tendency to divert to e-learning, Palestinian infrastructure was not well equipped to catch up with this approach. Not all schools or families have the luxury of internet connection, or computer devices or smart phones.

The Arab Evangelical Episcopal School (AEES) could be a bit more fortunate. Most of the families at the school do have internet access, although not all of them have enough computer devices in their houses to cover their children' needs. For that we designed our on-line teaching schedule in times where not all students in the family have classes at the same time.

The consequences of the pandemic, closures, and lock down were also sweeping on the financial cluster of the Palestinian community as well as on the world. Many families lost their business and sources of income. Public and government organizations, in addition to NGOs and the private sector were not able to pay full salaries. Many organizations didn't have enough resources to pay at all. Others paid 40 to 60% of the employees' salaries throughout the first and second wave of COVID – 19 pandemic.

The cessation of security coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority hindered the payroll of taxes due for Palestinians by Israel. For more than eight months Israel kept millions and millions of US Dollars of the Palestinian money in Israel. This, in turn, left the Palestinian budget in a great deficit.

Due to COVID – 19 and to the stopping of security coordination, AEES was not able to collect around 70% of the students' tuitions. Now in the aftermath of the American elections, and with the resumption of security coordination between the parties, and the Israeli intention of paying the Palestinian the taxes money to PNA, AEES hopes that families will pay the fees of their children when and if the Israeli government returns the money.

Now; we are under lock down in the weekends, and we are expected to be totally closed in the coming 2 weeks, for the Corona cases have increased dramatically in the last month, and our medical system will not be able to bear these numbers.

From the Holly Land, we keep our fingers crossed and we send our friends around the world our prayers and sincere wishes in the forthcoming Christmas season.



