



**Brief Summary Report of Women Reborn Phase II Project
July 2011 – June 2012**

The last 12 months of activity were very productive and satisfying. Introducing the project into two new villages: Ein El Sahala and Jisser Al Zarka, turned out to be an outstanding success, and had a significant impact on the women and their social surrounding. At the same time, our activity in Fureidis continued, thanks to the growing financial support of the local municipality and of the participants themselves. All of the above happened thanks to the profound commitment of the local coordinators Dina Yahya and Watfa Amash with the visionary director Ibtisam Mahameed.

Beginnings of projects are tough, as we learned in our first year of activity in Fueidis, some four years ago.

In Ein El Sahala, Ibtisam joined Dina Yahya, the local coordinator, in her door to door visits, until they succeeded in recruiting a group of women. The group has made impressive progress. At the beginning they were hesitant, dependent, and refused to join activities which took place in the afternoon, claiming that they must be at home when their husbands are back from work. However, following the ongoing activity, the group of women visited for the first time in their lives a café (women only) in a nearby village. This is quite a dramatic issue because in the Arab society only men sit in cafés. The group has also decided to visit the *Women Reborn* empowerment group in Jisser Al Zarka (about 30km away), at 5:00 PM in the afternoon. The visit ended on the beautiful local beach, all watching together the sunset, with the Jewish partners of the project as well ...



SHIN's members on the beach. from left: Yonat Klar, Sarin Angel, Esther Hertzog, Tsipi Glickman



The groups of Ein El Sahala, Jissr Al Zarka and Shin's members, on Fishermen's beach, Jissr Al Zarka, 16 May 2012



SHIN - The Israeli Movement for Equal Representation of Women

Currently the graduates of the Ein El Sahala Empowerment group are running various courses for the village women (pilates exercise, Hebrew). They are responsible for the outreach of new participants and teachers, for finding the site, collecting the fees etc. They are guided biweekly by their tutor, Abeer Ganaeem.

In Jisser Al Zarka, recruiting took longer than we expected, but the local coordinator, Watfa Amash, was determined, and gathered a heterogeneous group that started the first phase of the empowerment class in September. Nevertheless, their progress was impressive, and as of today, the graduates of the Empowerment course of Jisser Al Zarka are running community projects with the biweekly guidance of their tutor, Hunaida Assaf.

The community projects are headed by:

An education team:

- The village women are offered Hebrew, Arabic and Mathematics classes, which are carried out in cooperation with the local high school principal. Teachers from the school do the teaching voluntarily.

Health team:

- Lectures on Women's and family's health care are carried out with the cooperation of the health department in the village. The first lecture will be carried out on July 6th by a nurse, Manal, a graduate of the empowerment course.

Community well being:

- Educational activities for children will be provided by Watfa (the project's coordinator), and Hamda, a kindergarten teacher, graduate of the empowerment course
- Open art gallery and guided tours will be organized by a local artist, Munira, a graduate of the empowerment course.

International Women's Day 2012

Ein El Sahala. Celebrating the day in Ein El Sahala was a unique event, as it happened for the first time in this village. It was planned and organized by the *Women Reborn* participants, and turned out to be a big success. Over 80 women attended the event. They heard a lecture about Women's status in the Arab society and enjoyed a satirical performance about early marriage. The mayor of Ein El-Sahla hosted the event and seemed to be very excited. The event was funded by the local municipality.



**International Women's Day in Ein El Sahla.
(Shin's local coordinator Dina Yahya standing 1st
from right)**



Jisser Al Zarka. The participants of the *Women Reborn* project in Jisser Al Zarka planned and organized the event for International Women's Day. It was also very successful. Almost 100 women attended a show that was performed by the *Nazareth Ensemble Theatre*. A local young man volunteered to keep the young children busy at a nearby place, while their mothers could enjoy the show. The event costs were covered partly by tickets that were sold for a minimal price of 10 NIS and partly by *Women Reborn*.

Fureidis. The event that was organized in Fureidis by local participants of *Women Reborn* projects was also a conspicuous success. More than 230 women attended. Refreshments were made by women from the baking course. The women set up an exhibit in the hall which presented the impressive products of the fashion design and the glass painting courses.

The mayor was unable to attend since he was hospitalized. His wife represented him and talked about women's status in Arab society. Prof. Esther Hertzog talked about the strong commitment of SHIN association to the *Women Reborn* project. Ibtisam Mahameed described the activities that were carried out and the plans for the future. She encouraged the graduates with examples about the widening options for past graduates, in terms of higher education, employment and self fulfillment.

International Women's Day in Fureidis



Participant of the fashion design course with her designs

Sarin Angel from SHIN (in grey) with participant of the bakery course, in front of her self-made cookies and cakes