

Project Situation

We would like to start this report thanking you for the grant that has been given to our entity. Nevertheless, we have been facing some problems in achieving the goals of the project. Therefore, we are writing you seeking advice and recommendations.

We have partnered with the YMCA East Jerusalem to accomplish the project. Two Outreach officers were recruited on a part time job basis and an action plan was set. Our target was to reach the amount of 25 active communities under our website by the end of the project. We defined an active community as one that has at least 50 members and exchange a certain amount of messages per month, upload a number of albums or videos on their site and make a beneficial usage of our services.

The first step of the action plan was to approach the communities and explain to them our services and the goals of the site. These communities were afterwards invited to a workshop to configure a community and receive an explanation of how to use it.

In the first two months of the project, nearly 50 communities were contacted in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour. They all received an explanation about Wusul, some brochures to distribute and an invitation to our workshop. Most of the communities were excited about the idea and expressed interest in joining.

To our surprise, only a couple of communities attended our first workshop. We contacted them back and they gave us all sorts of excuses about why they couldn't come to the workshop. We held some brainstorming sessions with the outreach officers and gathered some reasons about why we are not succeeding in achieving our goals. Here are some of the reasons:

- Most of the local churches, clubs and religious institutions are run by elderly people. They don't understand the benefits of the internet and why they should reach out to people on the network.
- The people who behind the clubs and organizations are mostly volunteers. They don't have extra time to dedicate to setup and manage a virtual community.
- Christians in Palestine are now less than 1%. Most of them are afraid on appearing on a purely Christian website since they believe that this might be seen by their neighbor Muslims or Jews as discrimination. Some Christian communities were against the idea of having a "Middle East Christian Website" with a clear slogan of "Gathering Middle East Christians". They thought that it would become a clear target of attacks by people belonging to other religions living in the Middle East.

Due to the exposed reasons, we decided to put the project on hold on the 1st of March, 2008. Since then we have been holding intensive meetings to decide whether we will be able to achieve the aim of the project in the estimated timeframe. We have decided to raise our concerns to you since we have doubts that the goals of the project will be achieved.

Financial situation

This is the current financial situation of the project:

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Grant received	\$8,896.05		
Expenditures			
Employees			
2*400*6months	\$4,800.00	\$1,600.00	\$3,200.00
Workshops			
2*\$500	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Brochures	\$500.00	\$978.69	-\$478.69
Presents for youth			
\$20*25person	\$500.00		\$500.00
Total Expenditures	\$6,800.00	\$2,578.69	\$4,221.31
Overhead 8%	\$544.00	\$206.30	\$337.70
Total Expenditures	\$7,344.00	\$2,784.99	\$4,559.01
Net Operating Surplus(Deficit)	\$1,552.05	-\$2,784.99	-\$4,559.01

Based on the presented budget, we have so far spent the amount of \$2,785.00 from the grant that you have generously contributed to our project.

Due to our concerns mentioned above, we propose to use the rest of the grant in other activities that our website is offering:

- Establishing a small media office.
- Hiring news reporters to feed the website with news related to Middle East Christians, videos of religious feasts such as Easter from the Holy Sepulcher and Christmas from Bethlehem.
- Reaching out Christians in the Middle East through promoting Wusul in similar websites.

Please advise if this is acceptable and how we should proceed.

Sincerely,

Wusul Founders

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