**Lifelong Learning in Palestine: Building in LL under Conditions of Closure and Siege**

**Islamic University of Gaza**

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The Gaza Strip is a densely populated area with limited natural resources. It has 27 higher education institutions. Gaza has fought for the survival of learning under the brutal conditions of siege and closure. It needs at least 200 new schools in order to accommodate the growing number of children in Gaza. Lifelong learning is present in Gaza and is part of Palestine as a learning society.

Learning is present in a range of institutions: family and kindergarten, NGO projects, schools, universities, civil societies, unions, religious institutions and local government. Learning takes place across a range of population: children learning with parents and grandparents, and NGO experts teaching Human Rights seminars and conflict transformation. These conditions have developed a new form of education which breaks all the barriers that the Israeli imposes on Gaza.

The qualities and strengths of Gaza as a learning Society includes:

* leadership qualities in Gaza as a Learning Society (Dignity, Pride, Tenacity, Hope, Generosity of spirit, Faith, Confidence, Determination to build peace through justice, Competence, Excitement, Delight, Joy, Smart tactics, and Professionalism);
* Several cultural centers and institutions such as (Iwan, IUG Oral History Centre, Al-Muthaf, Irada, Art and Craft Village, Biet Alsmod, Alnur Center, Ibdaa “);
* Interventions programs to foster new businesses and skills by IUG, PNGO and the Women Graduate’s Society.