

## **Tamer Institute for community Education**

### Reading promotion as a tool for the young educative and cultural development in Palestine

*By Samar Qutob, Published on Mediakitab's official website*

#### **Community Libraries Network**

Most of Tamers programs and activities are held in the premises of our children Resource Centre in Ramallah and some 70 children libraries all over the West Bank and Gaza; schools, youth clubs, and women centres are also considered and targeted in some of our projects.

Our Partnership with the community libraries goes back to 1996 when the Palestinian Ministry of Culture supported the founding of those libraries to cover most cities, villages and refugee camps in Palestine. Since that date, Tamer have consciously chosen to focus on and invest in those libraries by constantly provide them with quality children books and enhance the capacities of the people working in those libraries.

In the past two years, Tamer found out that time is right to bring all associate libraries in a cooperative and coordinative network that would assist the libraries and librarians to exchange knowledge, worries, hopes and dreams, as well as resources and tools. Tamer's children libraries network have done the infrastructural steps needed for the new body; a comprehensive field studies and need assessment for the libraries and librarians was followed by comprehensive meetings and trainings for the staff and volunteers working in the libraries.

Libraries within the network are currently engaged in regular monthly book discussions that are held with the libraries' young members, parents, and educators. Book discussions are done with close monitoring and guidance of some children books writers, scholars and experts from the circle of friends and associates of Tamer.

Many librarians have also been trained in electronic libraries' programs to help facilitate their work and to bring them to be ready to join an electronic network in the future; the dream to launch a libraries' electronic network needs much preparation and facilitation to bring it to life.

To wrap up, it's well clear to us that none of our projects could have been successfully implemented without the support of the following national and international partners: Anna Lindh Foundation, Belgian Technical Cooperation-Jerusalem, Book Aid International UK, British Council, CC NGO/EFA, Consulate General of Belgium in Jerusalem, Diakonia – Sweden , Frankfurt Book Fair, French Consulate, French Cultural Centre, Goethe Institute, GTZ, Heinrich Böll Foundation, IBBY, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Norwegian Peoples Aid – NPA, PNGO, Save the Children UK, SIDA, UNESCO, and UNICEF.

At the end, allow me on behalf of Tamer to express our high regards to the Mediakitab project and our sincere willingness and desire to take part in this promising project that would extend the spectrum of cultural awareness and cultural exchange between all participating members.

