

Initial Rapid assessment
Damages of the Cultural Sector (Cultural Centers) in the G.S.

The cultural sector particularly the work of the cultural centers and NGO's have been facing various challenges since the wining of Hamas in the 2006 parliamentary election which resulted in boycotting the Hamas-lead government and imposing political and economic sanctions on the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people in general and negatively affected the programmes of cultural institutions in the Gaza Strip in Particular. The suspension of fund have paralyzed the function of cultural activities, in addition, as Hamas took control on Gaza new challenges have emerged to further hinder the practice of cultural activities, where music , theatre , folklore dancing and other cultural activities have been threatened by the practice of authority by some fundamentalist groups in Gaza.

Cultural organizations in the Gaza Strip have been substantially affected by the recent Israeli military operation on Gaza Strip on December 27 2008.

According to the rapid assessment that the General Union of Cultural Centers have conducted after the ceasefire, seven organizations have been either totally or partially damaged by the Israeli attacks. The assessment also indicates that many other NGO's and CSO's which have cultural programmes and provide cultural support for the community have been attacked as well but was not surveyed because it was assessed with other sectors as they are either muti-sectoral organizations or categorized with other sectors.

The damaged cultural organizations:

Source of Information: the General Union of Cultural Centers- Gaza.

#	Organization	Level of damage (Partial – Total)	Estimated damage cost USD (as estimated by the organizations)
1.	The Palestinian Red Crescent Society (Cinema, Theatre , Gallery , Music)	Total	1000,000
2.	Al-Fokhari Association for Development and Culture.	Total	100,000
3.	Al-Maghazi Cultural Center,	Partial	30,000
4.	Al-Karmel Cultural Association	Partial	11,200
5.	General union of Cultural Centers	Partial	5000
6.	Al-Taghreed Associaton for Culture, Development and Reconstruction,	Partial	80,000
7.	Many other Organizations that work on the cultural sector but have been categorized and assessed with other sectors.		
8.	Total estimated damages costs		USD 1,226,200