



MA'AN Development Center

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End of Developing Cultivation styles & Ensuring sustainability of the Agricultural Sector Project



As part of MA'AN's development policy of supporting Palestinian farmers in their resilience by providing them with assistance and services, a one year project entitled 'Developing Cultivation Styles and Ensuring Sustainability of the Agricultural Sector', has successfully ended. The project was funded by the NGOs Development Centre (NDC) with 250,000 Euros. The project was implemented in order to support farmers in Dair AlBalah and Al Maghazai in Gaza Strip. Farmers in Gaza Strip have suffered heavy losses due to the imposed siege and closure as well as the devastation caused by last year's war on Gaza Strip which resulted in grave losses in land products due to the inability to export agriculture produce and land destruction due to the chemicals used during the war.

The project activities included the reclamation of 561 dunums through land leveling, ploughing, installing irrigation networks and supplying olive oil and citrus seedlings to farmers. The project as a form of assistance and support to the farmers created 258 job opportunities for laborers for 5,700 working days. Beneficiaries included a total of 167 farmers. In addition, other activities included the intercropping of 160 dunums of 45 targeted farmers by providing them with irrigation networks and seedlings this has further created 98 job opportunities for 2247 working days.

MA'AN Concludes 'Rapid Support to Livelihoods and Social Services in Gaza and Advanced Planning for Early Recovery' Project-UNDP/PAPP



MA'AN in Gaza Strip has completed an emergency support Project for the 'Rapid Support to livelihoods and Social Services and Advanced Planning for Early Recovery'. The project was funded by the United Arab Emirates through the United Nations Development Program UNDP/PAPP program with a total value of \$167,000. It was implemented for 10 months targeting farmers within the Deir AlBalah and AlMasdar areas.

In accordance with MA'AN's development strategy and vision, the project aimed at supporting and improving the situation of Palestinian farmers in light of the deteriorating economic situation and difficulties they are exposed to at the hands of the Israeli occupation. As part of MA'AN's policy in achieving sustainable development, the project provided agricultural support to farmers and strengthened their capacities in order to consolidate their steadfastness against the Israeli occupation. The project activities included the rehabilitation of 2,100 dunums of agricultural land comprising of 700 dunums of olive trees and 1,400 dunums of citrus trees. In addition, support was provided to farmers in spraying pesticides, pruning trees, ploughing and land leveling. The project served 110 farmers and directly benefitted 201 beneficiaries. Furthermore, 838 job opportunities and 8,455 working days were created as part of the project's support to the farming community in Gaza Strip.

SUPPORTING JORDAN VALLEY BEDOUIN'S RIGHT TO EXIST WITH DIGNITY

MA'AN & Save the Children UK (SCUK) complete: The Prevention and Protection Project: A Programmatic Response to Forced Displacement in the oPt

MA'AN and SCUK recently completed a 314,000 Euros project funded by ECHO. The project, completed in November of 2009, aimed at supporting and protecting families living under the threat of forced displacement.

It was implemented in two of the most vulnerable areas in the oPt; the Jordan Valley in the West Bank and the Buffer Zone area in northern Gaza Strip. Both areas have been subject to severe Israeli displacement measures that include home demolitions, community eviction orders, confiscation of land, building restrictions, restricted access to water, electricity, health and education services, settler and military attacks, military incursions, land and agricultural destruction and arrests. The project has benefited a total of 7,170 beneficiaries comprising children, farmers, women and communities living within the targeted areas. In the Jordan Valley seven communities including Bardala, Ein Al Baida, Fasayel, Jiftlik, Al-Auja, Al-Hadediya, and Ibzeiq were targeted while in Gaza Strip six communities in Beit Lahya; Al-Siafa, Atatra, Salateen, Al-A'amal, Alshaima'a, and Fad'ous were targeted. Targeted areas were selected on the basis of the dire living conditions and their susceptibility to forced displacement.

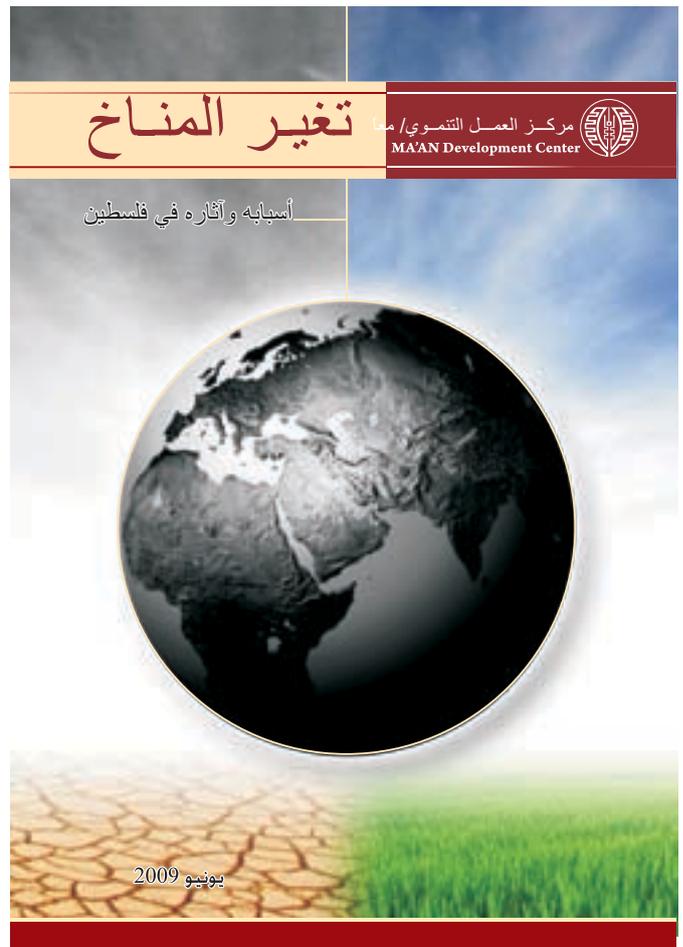
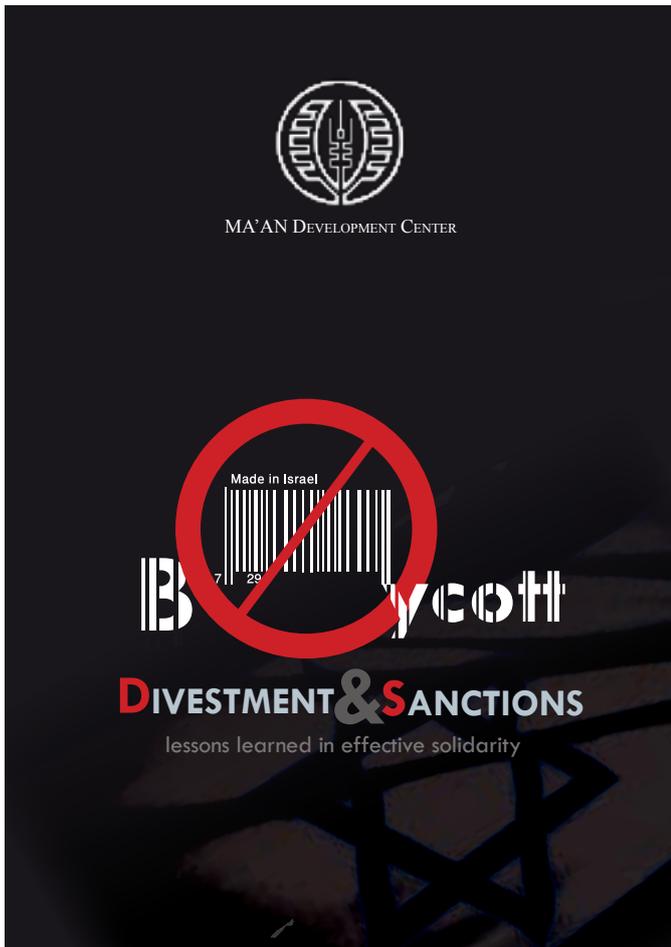
In order to help affected communities maintain their presence on their land and in their homes, community support and rehabilitation, community protection measures, emergency response and research were implemented as the project activities. MA'AN has successfully implemented the community support and rehabilitation activities. In the Jordan Valley activities included the rehabilitation and refurbishment of 4 Kindergartens (KGs) in 4 communities and the establishment of two play areas in two Bedouin communities. The KGs' facilities were upgraded, play areas were installed and educational and recreational kits were provided. The four KGs and the play areas are expected to contribute to the healthy development of children living in these communities. In order to improve the living conditions of these communities, twenty-nine houses subject to eviction orders were renovated and supplied with 26 water tanks to guarantee regular access to clean drinking water. In addition, the rehabili-

tation of a PHC clinic in Bardala -a marginalized area that has restricted access to health services- witnessed an increase in patients' numbers. The clinic started receiving 40 patients on Sundays when the laboratory is open and between 15-20 patients per day. Furthermore, 182 educational and recreational kits for children were distributed in both Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The children were selected from communities and villages where the project was operational. In Gaza Strip, as part of community support to

farmers affected by the buffer zone; the leveling of six dunums of agricultural land, the serving of 890 dunums of orchards belonging to 209 farmers, and the employment of 60 skilled laborers and 195 unskilled laborers comprised the project activities. In addition, in order to allow farmers access to their land, the rehabilitation of 5 Kms of agricultural roads in Beit Lahya was completed. Finally, 71 farmers were selected for training and awareness sessions on farming and agriculture. Further, as part of the project, SCUK carried out the community protection measures that included; establishing Community Protection Committees; conducting trainings on rights, laws related to displacement, reporting mechanisms and emergency response skills, provided legal support to those facing house demolitions, land confiscation, and other kinds of displacement. Finally MA'AN, together with SCUK, were responsible for providing emergency responses by distributing emergency assistance supplies, conducting home visits and assessments following displacement events, conduct follow-up visits to meet the needs, assess the impact and monitor displaced families and communities. Last year, following the flood MA'AN was quick to respond to affected areas by providing them with drinking water, food baskets, tents and beds. Furthermore, as part of the project SUCK conducted a research paper on displacement impacts on victims and host communities, a briefing paper on forced displacement in the oPt, a leaflet on findings at the end of the intervention and a fact sheet on communities living at risk in the buffer zone in Gaza.



New Publications



Abstracts

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: Lessons Learned in Effective Solidarity

As part of our advocacy efforts, a new English publication entitled “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS): Lessons Learned in Effective Solidarity” has been recently released. The publication aims to promote and increase awareness on the BDS against Israel campaign locally, regionally and internationally. By drawing on the South African experience, the report outlines successful lessons of BDS to be adopted globally by individuals, companies and governments. It maps out the history of BDS in Palestine, current efforts and challenges facing the BDS movement. It further aims to inform civil society of how to better harness grassroots in order to influence the private sector and governments. The publication identifies clear goals and recommendations and sets out a working framework towards a more successful BDS campaign.

Climate Change: Causes and Effects in Palestine

As part of a series of publications, funded by OPEC through the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, a new study in Arabic was published on Climate Change and its causes and effects on Palestine. The study seeks to raise awareness on climate change in Palestine by shedding light on climate change, globalization and climate change, the impact of the Israeli occupation on environment and natural resources in Palestine, the causes and dangers of climate change in Palestine, the impact of the 2008 Israeli war on Gaza Strip and the violations of international law during the war. It further develops strategies in combating climate change and illustrates through examples the effects of climate change in Palestine. Finally, the study sets recommendations in combating climate change in Palestine.

MA'AN and the Norwegian Representative Office Support An Enduring Struggle for Existence in Humsa

As we reached Abu Riyad and his family, the old man was thrilled to host us for we were the first visitors at his new renovated houses. In support of Abu Riyad's struggle to exist in Humsa, an isolated barren area that has no proper access by road in the Jordan Valle, the Norwegian Representative Office and MA'AN Development Centre renovated 4 houses that were demolished by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF). As Abu Riyad was showing us his new renovated houses he told us that, "such projects [house renovations in areas C] are sincere for this is what is needed as means of sustainability for my family to resist and challenge the forced displacement we are subjected to".

Although born in Tamoun, Abu Riyad has been living in Humsa with his eight sons for the last twenty five years. His family had owned land there for generations. Due to Humsa's strategic location, lying on a hilltop overlooking the Hamra checkpoint, the Israeli Civil Administration sought to confiscate Abu Riyad's land in order to build a watch tower. Consequently, Humsa's location became a source of continuous threat of forced displacement to Abu Riyad and his family. His family's 8 houses were demolished twice by the IOF.

In the second Intifada in 2001, Israel tightened its measures against Palestinians living in area "C". The IOF wanted to evict Abu Riyad and his family from Humsa so they demolished their eight cement houses. Abu Riyad, in defiance reconstructed his houses that were dismally demolished once again in 2007. According to Abu Riyad, Anwar -the head of the Israeli District Coordinating Office (DCO) within the Jordan Valley- offered him a million dollars to evacuate the area. He says with great pride, "But I rejected the offer". However, his refusal subjected him and his sons to death and arrest threats by the head of the DCO. Notwithstanding, he still manages to smile hopefully. Abu Riyad says in an assuring tone, "our existence prevents the Israeli Administration from declaring these areas as military zones". With the help of MA'AN and the Norwegians, Abu Riyad was able to renovate his houses. Only this time the houses were built of wood because it would be easier to reconstruct them should the IOF demolish them once again. These wooden houses are usually covered with plastic during winter in order to prevent the rain from leaking inside. Abu Riyad smiles again after telling us his story and states "we ask God for patience".

Hamada, one of Abu Riyad's sons, invited us over to his new renovated house, where he had the walls painted with nice drawings. Due to his son's health condition (Hayel suffers from severe heart problems) Hamada had moved to Tubas after his

house was demolished in 2007 in order to protect his son from any health risks. He returned to Humsa in July 2009 to settle in one of the new renovated houses. For Hamada, living in Humsa is more convenient due to the lack of job opportunities in Tubas. Humsa is only two kilometers away from the Jiftlik village, a bigger village in the Jordan Valley. He travels to Jiftlik everyday looking for a job that would help him earn 50-60 NIS/day. The day we were visiting, Hamada had gone earlier in the morning to seek work but he was unsuccessful. He was upset that he had spent transportation costs in



One of Abu Riyad's demolished houses.

vain. Despite the dire living conditions in Humsa, Hamada is adamant that living there is better than living anywhere else. "It is our land, we cannot just leave it", he said. He was pleased that he now has a house in Humsa.

After the Oslo Accords, Palestinian Bedouins living in area "C" in the Jordan Valley fell out of the scope of economic and civil rights for they became neither served by the Palestinian Authority nor the Israeli Civil Administration. They live in dire living conditions. They have no access to water or electricity or education, health and transportation services. The Israeli Civil Administration prevents the Palestinian local inhabitants living in areas "C" from constructing houses or building extra floors for expansion. Any construction activities, whether cement, tin, plastic or wooden are forbidden and illegal as long a construction permit was not issued by the IOF. Permits are usually hard to obtain.

As we were leaving, Abu Riyad and his family waved at us reminding us not to forget about them as more needs to be done for them and other families in the Jordan Valley. It is the responsibility of Palestinian civil society organizations and international organizations to support the Palestinian Bedouins in the area by providing them with services. These efforts will consolidate the Bedouins in their struggle for existence in the Jordan Valley.

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Highlights from MA'AN's Environment and Development Prospects Magazine

Tens of Israeli trucks illegally dump hazardous waste in the West Bank

According to Israeli reports, tens of Israeli trucks illegally dump hazardous waste in lands and roadsides in the West Bank causing environmental and health damages in the Palestinian territories. Israeli soldiers at the Qalandya, Rantees and Ni'leen checkpoints have been facilitating the entrance of Israeli trucks to dump hazardous material into the Palestinian territories without enforcing any regulation measures. This is a breach of international law. Under international law it is illegal for an occupying force to bury its waste in the lands of the occupied.

Private Israeli companies, specialized in waste removal, explain the reason why the Israeli occupation chooses to dump their waste in the occupied territories of the West Bank. Waste from Israeli settlements, Tel Aviv and areas close to Palestinian villages, is usually dumped and buried in the Negev desert in the south. However, the cost of dumping and burying waste in the Negev is very expensive compared to the West Bank. Israelis find it cheaper to get rid of their

waste in the Palestinian territories because the cost of one load of waste removal, dumping and burial in the Negev is equivalent to the cost of 15 loads in the Palestinian territories. An Israeli load of waste in the Negev costs more than 2000 shekels whereas in the Palestinian territories a load costs 180 shekels. Furthermore, Israeli companies that dump waste in the Palestinian territories are not subject to any environmental standards thus the waste is usually left unburied causing more environmental damage and health risks, especially to the children that tend to play in the open areas where the waste is dumped. Doctors from villages, where Israeli waste is being dumped, reported an increase in respiratory diseases amongst the inhabitants.

The untreated hazardous waste that is being dumped in the West Bank is polluting Palestinian lands and groundwater. This will have a long term effect on the drinking water and agriculture.

MA'AN finishes the First Training Phase of 70 Fresh Graduates in Agricultural Engineering

As part of MA'AN's capacity building programme, MA'AN finished the first training phase of fresh graduates in agricultural engineering in Gaza Strip. This project is funded by OPEC through the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. It aims at bridging the gap between theory and practice in agricul-

tural engineering. The project is expected to help engaging engineers in the labor market by providing them with skills in management, evaluation, reports writing, action plans and trainings on agriculture and organic agriculture.



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