



Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA



MA'AN Development Center

AMENCA2:

Results & Achievements

Rural Livelihoods & Food Security Through Capacity Development *Years 1-6 (2009-2015)*

*Union Aid Abroad -APHEDA and MA'AN Development Center
Australia-Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement Phase II,
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Component 1:

1.1 Reducing Vulnerability

This component focuses on reducing vulnerability and improving food security for vulnerable households in ten villages in the Governorates of Tulkarem and Khan Younis. The main activities of this component are land rehabilitation, greenhouses, seasonal crops, cisterns and ponds, and animal husbandry units.

1.2 Household Level Activities

1.2.1 Land Rehabilitation

Land rehabilitation involves the removal of rocks, the levelling of land and the building of stone terraces, which combat erosion by slowing rainwater flows. The aim of land rehabilitation is to increase the area of arable land for a farmer, and improve the land's productivity.

The project has rehabilitated **1,708 dunums** for 576 families over six years. In the West Bank, 916 dunums were rehabilitated, and another 792 dunums were rehabilitated in the Gaza Strip. In the Khan Younis cluster, land rehabilitation in the last year of the project also involved soil treatment and decontamination to prepare the land for planting after it was shelled during the war.

Seedling distribution and planting is included in land rehabilitation. Most farmers choose to plant their land with olive saplings, but almond and citrus saplings are also popular. Trees planted in 2009-10, the first year of the project, have now begun producing fruit annually. It is estimated that the olive trees planted under the project produced an average of NIS 368 (about AU\$120) per dunum in the Tulkarem cluster.



Nahia Abdel Rahman in her greenhouse, Tulkarem cluster

1.2.2 Greenhouse Productivity

A backyard greenhouse is a simple and relatively low-cost way for a household to improve its dietary diversity and food security. The project supported 190 farmers with new greenhouses of different sizes between 42m² and 225m². The project also provided maintenance to existing greenhouses for 479 farmers in both clusters.

Farmer Fadi Ismael in his 90m² greenhouse in the village of Shoufeh in the Tulkarem Cluster.





A woman in Khan Younis cluster tending to her sheep pen unit.

1.2.3 Animal Husbandry

The project supports animal husbandry activities as a way to help women generate income. Women can sell the surplus produce or trade produce “in-kind” with neighbours, increasing household dietary diversity. The project provides both physical inputs and skills training to ensure that women can manage their units successfully.

Over six years, the project has distributed 429 beehives, 100 rabbit units, 115 hen units, 123 sheep units and 62 chicken

units through the integrated home garden activity. All of the animal husbandry beneficiaries were women.

The project also provided support to beneficiaries with existing livestock and animals. The project provided 154 people with production inputs and disease control inputs (for example, CheckMite Strips to deal with the bee pest *Varroa*). In Y6, the project provided maintenance and repair for 80 hen units affected by the war on Gaza, and veterinary support for 60 hen units and 107 sheep units.

1.2.4 Water Interventions

Villages in Tulkarem and Khan Younis districts face interconnected, structural challenges of occupation that restrict basic access to water resources.

APHEDA-MA’AN’s activities such as irrigation networks, maintenance to reservoirs and ground wells have improved access to a sustainable local, cheaper, and more efficient water resources that allow farmers to increase production for household consumption and sale in the community markets in the longer term.

Increasing the storage and supply of water will be essential for the long-term future of Palestinian agriculture, and the Ministry of Agriculture’s 2014-16 Strategy identifies improved water harvesting and storage as one of the top priorities for the agriculture sector.

The project helped enhance rainwater harvesting by constructing 328 new cisterns and rehabilitating 61 others in the Tulkarem cluster, increasing the annual water harvesting capacity in this cluster by 22,575m³.



A farmer harvesting water from his cistern in Tulkarem cluster

In the Khan Younis cluster, the project integrated water tanks and irrigation networks with other activities such as land rehabilitation, greenhouses, and integrated home gardens. Additionally the project built 26 new water ponds and rehabilitated 76 others.

Jamal Subuh Photo from Y4 Case Study reflecting the pond



1.2.5 Agricultural Workshops

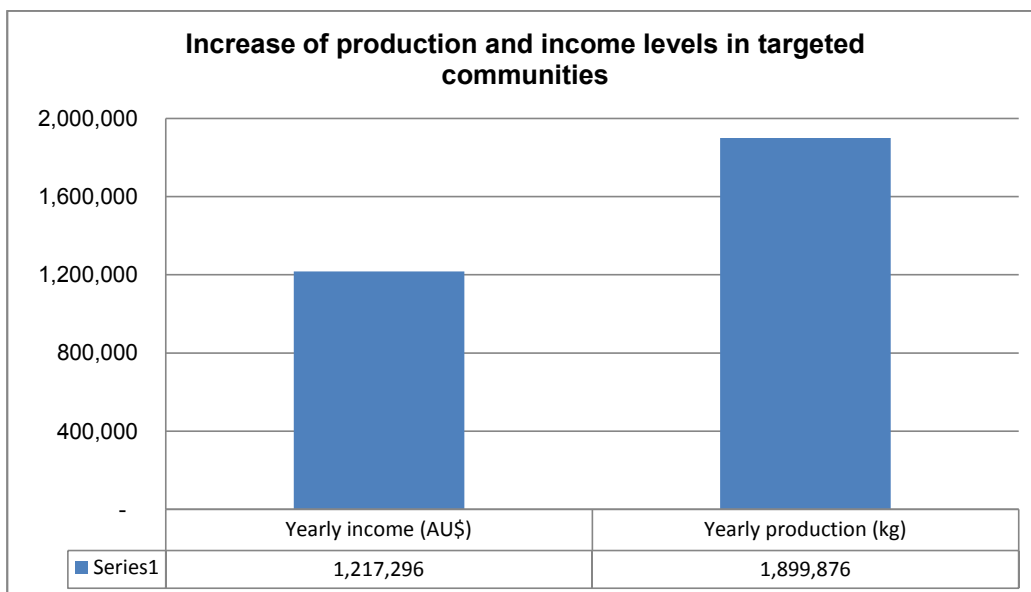
Throughout the project, agricultural workshops have been held to complement the provision of physical assets. The workshops help farmers to increase their knowledge and improve their abilities to adopt best agricultural practices. A total of 3,206 participants (1,580 women and 902 men) have participated in 103 workshops.



Hands-on training for women members of beehive cooperatives in Tulkarem Cluster

1.2.6 The APHEDA-MA'AN project's contribution to increased food production and income in households

Beneficiaries have reported an average increase of 547kg in production annually compared to baseline levels in the Tulkarem cluster (a 54 per cent increase). In Khan Younis cluster, there was 3,656kg increase in production from the project baseline (a 389 per cent increase).



1.2.7 Women's Involvement

The project aimed to engage women in the project both as project participants and as decision-makers in its procedures. Women participated actively in the local Village Support Committees (VSCs), taking part in the application and beneficiary selection process. Women beneficiaries received about 47 per cent of the activities implemented under the program.

“What makes me successful is my desire not to be dependent; whenever I produce I feel I have done something good for my family.”



Summary of APHEDA-MA'AN AMENCA2 Activities and Beneficiaries at the Household Level (Y1-Y6)

Activity (by unit)	Number of Units (WB)	Number of BNF (WB)	Number of Units (GS)	Number of BNF (GS)	Total (Units)	Total (BNF)
Increasing cultivated land						
Land Rehabilitation (Dunums)	916	288	792	290	1708	578
Land Ploughing (Dunums)	330	58			330	58
Seasonal Corps (Dunums)			2,257	421	2,257	421
Increasing household production						
Green House (42m ²)			80	80	80	80
Green House (63m ²)			72	72	72	72
Green House (90m ²)	85	85			85	85
Green House Maintenance (90m ²)	75	75			75	75
Green House (225 m ²)			33	33	33	33
Home Garden (400 m ²)	59	59			59	59
Green House Seedlings (Dunums)			324	324	324	324
Green House Maintenance (Dunums)			250	250	250	250
Increasing the Level of Animal Production						
Beehive Units	429	143			429	143
Maintenance for Beehive Units	237	154			237	154
Rabbit Units			100	100	100	100
Hen Units			115	115	115	115
Hen Units Maintenance and Repair			80	80	80	80
Veterinary Support to Hen Units			60	60	60	60
Sheep Units			123	123	123	123
Sheep Pen Maintenance	86	50	63	63	149	113
Veterinary Support to Sheep Units			107	107	107	107
Integrated Home Gardens (42m ² green house and a 21m ² hen pen)			62	62	62	62
Improving access to water resources						
Cisterns (New), 70-80 m ³	238	238			238	238
Cistern (Rehab), 70-80 m ³	61	61			61	61
Water Ponds (200m ³)			26	26		
Water Ponds Maintenance			76	76	76	76
Encouraging good agricultural practices						
Olive Farmer Tools (unit)			62	62	62	62
Agricultural Workshops (number of workshops)	44	1,443	51	1,763	95	3,206

1.3 Community-Level Activities

While helping households to increase their food security, the project has also supported local communities and groups of farmers with infrastructure to increase the capacity of the agriculture sector.

1.3.1 Agricultural Roads

Over six years, the APHEDA-MA'AN project has rehabilitated 7.8km of agricultural roads in al-Kafriyat, improving farmers' access to 3,900 dunums of agricultural land. The roads reduce farmers' labour time & costs in transporting equipment and produce. Prior to the roads, farmers reported accumulating produce such as olives over a long period to transport at once, resulting in poor quality oil that could only be sold at around 60 per cent of market value.

The roads also enable farmers to plough their land more frequently, reducing the use of chemicals to kill weeds, and to irrigate more often, increasing the productivity of existing crops and allowing diversification from drought-tolerant trees to more water-reliant crops.

Rehabilitation of

7.8km **AGRICULTURAL ROADS**

Roads are crucial for farmers to tend their crops and transport equipment and produce quickly during harvest time

The project made it possible » for 255 Families

Accessing » 3900 Dunams of Land

6 Villages

1.3 KM » Kufr Abboush	1.7 KM » Kufr Zeibad	800 M » Kufr Sur
1.2 KM » Kufr Sur	1 KM » Kur	800 M » Shoufeh
1 KM » Kufr Jammal		





Road before rehabilitation



Road after rehabilitation

Value for Money

The project’s investment was approximately AU\$48.24 per dunum, and the monetary value of the increase of production per dunum is estimated at \$361. For every \$1 invested in agricultural roads, there is an estimated \$7.5 increase in gross income.¹

Another measure of this increased productivity is in local land prices. In the vulnerable village of Shoufeh, circled on all sides by Israeli settlements, farmers reported an increase in the value of land newly accessible through the roads from approximately AU\$3,610 per dunum to AU\$9,025-\$10,830.

1.3.2: Irrigation Pipelines

The APHEDA-MA’AN project worked with participants to improve water access and quality in the short term while laying the foundation for local water systems and water sovereignty for the future.

The project enabled 141 farmers to better irrigate **1,055 dunums** through the rehabilitation or installation of **3,440m** of irrigation pipelines.

In the Khan Younis cluster, the project repaired **13,800m** of pipelines, serving 92 farmers and supply water for **591.5 dunums** of agricultural land.



Village	Length (m)	Dunums served
Kufr Jammal	2,890	865
Shoufeh	550	190
Total	3,440	1,055

1) This figure has been updated using investment data from Y5 and Y6. The Y5 ASR reported that for every AU\$1 invested in agricultural roads, there was an AU\$9 increase in gross income, using Y4 investment data.

1.3.3 Water reservoirs

I: Kur Reservoir

The project rehabilitated a 4,500m³ reservoir in the village of Kur in the Tulkarem cluster. The rehabilitation has reduced the cost of water for irrigation by more than 75 per cent.

Jalal Jayousi, a farmer from Kur, said, “My sheep drink one cubic metre of water a day... the water for the sheep used to cost me NIS20 a day. Now it costs me NIS3 only.¹ That is a substantial saving.”



Construction inside the Kur reservoir



Animals drinking from the reservoir after rehabilitation

II: Collection Pond

The project built a 200m³ water collection pond in Kufr Jammal in the Tulkarem cluster to support a group of 27 farmers to better manage the irrigation of their crops. Before the pond was built, irrigation times were unpredictable and farmers sometimes had to wait days for access to water. The pond has improved the timing and frequency of water access for these farmers, improving their productivity and the quality of their produce.



Before the intervention:

“The timing of irrigation was unpredictable...sometimes my plants would wait days without water”.

After the intervention:

“The pond has made us feel more secure, it made our work easier”.

Moqbil Salhab, Kufr Jammal village

III: Repairs to Elevated Water Reservoirs

In the Khan Younis cluster, five elevated water tanks (three in Al-Fukhari and two in Abasan) partially damaged by Israeli shelling during the 2014 war have been repaired. **The five tanks supply water to approximately 1,330 farmers and 5,600 dunums of land.** Al-Fukhari is totally dependent on only six elevated water tanks for irrigation, so the repair of these three tanks has had a significant impact on the capacity of farmers to irrigate their lands.



1.3.4 Rehabilitation of Ground Water Wells

The project rehabilitated 12 ground wells to enhance the capacity of these wells and allows farmers to better irrigate their crops.

In Khan Younis cluster, the project rehabilitated 11 wells serving 501 farmers allowing them to better irrigate 1,450 dunums. In the Tulkarem cluster, the project rehabilitated one well serving 49 farmers, allowing them to more efficiently irrigate 424 dunums.

1.3.5 Activities at Schools

The project installed an educational greenhouse at one school in the Tulkarem cluster, and rehabilitated and/or constructed three cisterns in the Tulkarem cluster to cultivate 6 dunums of land. These activities served 457 students.

A greenhouse in the village of Kufr Zeibad



1.3.6 Olive Campaign



The project conducted three olive campaigns in both the Khan Younis and Tulkarem clusters to encourage sound agricultural practices in olive harvesting, with the participation of 691 people.

1.3.7 Land ploughing

The project helped enhance the productivity of land that is not easily accessed by farmers. About 300 dunums of land located behind the Barrier Wall was ploughed for 58 farmers. Farmers usually would need a permit to access their land. Ploughing the land collectively through the project enabled these farmers to plough and grow their land in a timely fashion.

Summary of APHEDA-MA'AN AMENCA2 Activities and Beneficiaries at the Community Level (Y1-Y6)

Activity	Cluster	Interventions	Beneficiaries	Dunums served
Agricultural Roads (7.m) km	Tulkarem	6	255	3900
Pipelines (3.4) km	Tulkarem	4	141	1055
Land Ploughing	Tulkarem	1	58	300
Olive Campaigns	Tulkarem	3	698	
Kur Reservoir	Tulkarem	1	58	
Collection Pond	Tulkarem	1	27	
Ground Well Rehab	Tulkarem	1	49	424
School Intervention (3 Cisterns & 1 GH)	Tulkarem	3	457	
Water wells maintenance	Khan Younis	11	501	1450
Elevated Water Tanks Repair	Khan Younis	5	1330	5600
Water Pipeline Installation (13.8 km)	Khan Younis	1	92	592
Olive Campaigns	Khan Younis	1	126	
Total		38	3,792	13,321



1.4 MA'AN Permaculture Centre: Beit Qad

The Beit Qad Permaculture farm was established in 2013 on four acres of land in the far north of the West Bank. Its goal is the sustainable production of food without chemical herbicides, pesticides or fertilisers. The farm builds on existing knowledge by modifying and improving farming methods already popular in the West Bank: for example, an on-site greenhouse has been retrofitted with a rainwater catchment system to improve water conservation.



The farm serves as a learning centre for environmentally-friendly and sustainable agricultural techniques. Since 2013, 964 people (442 women, or 46 per cent) have participated in training workshops at Beit Qad in topics ranging from beekeeping to permaculture to organic pesticides, aquaculture and hydroponics.

The farm is also used to test, develop and demonstrate new and innovative strategies in sustainable farming and to teach successful practices to others, including:

- **Aquaponics systems**, which recycle water between aquaculture and hydroponics systems to conserve water and fertilise crops cheaply.
- **Rainwater harvesting** via guttering and **rainwater storage** in water ponds that are used for fish cultivation during winter, as an example of low technology, low-input water management systems that may be replicated by farmers with ponds across the West Bank.
- **Raised garden beds** to extend the planting season, reduce the compaction of soil, and reduce weeds and the need for herbicides.

Beit Qad

is showing Palestinian farmers new and more efficient ways to grow traditional crops. It is also piloting techniques to grow and market for non-traditional food. One of the successes has been the production and promotion of kale as an attractive and healthy new food in the Palestinian diet.



Component 2: Capacity building for CBOs

Capacity building for community-based organisations (CBOs) is the second component of the project. Activities under this component have helped build the capacity of grassroots organisations to serve their communities and encourage women's participation in decision-making in their communities. The three major activities within this component are grants, training, and civic debates.



Maha Abu Zaida is a teacher and a member of the General Assembly of Kufr Zeibad Club, a CBO benefiting from the program. She says her membership in the Club has improved its communication with young people in the village: **“As a member in the club, I can better communicate with youth and encourage their talents”**

2.1. CBO Grants

A CBO grants program has helped CBOs to provide the best services to their communities. A total of 25 grants have been issued to CBOs in the Gaza Strip, with a value of US\$179,441.



50
grants
for 11 CBOs

In the West Bank, another 25 grants valued at US\$141,700 were issued to CBOs. Grants include a range of community services projects including establishing a women's gym, sheep production farms, community veterinary services, and a small kindergarten. The grants process is a way to build CBOs' experience in applying for small grants with guidance from the project.

2.2 CBO Training

CBO staff were trained in skills in administration, finance, strategic planning, management and communication. 280 people (171 women and 109 men) completed 522 hours of training in the Tulkarem cluster. In the Khan Younis cluster, 372 people (145 women and 227 men) completed 368 hours of training.



2.3 Civic Debates

As part of its efforts to improve levels of participation of women and young people in community development, the project supported CBOs to run a series of civic debates on relevant social issues and topics. A total of 2,112 participants attended 33 civic debates across both clusters.



In the Khan Younis cluster, 1,398 participants (including 590 women and 808 men)

participated in civic debates on topics such as discussions about the role of municipalities in helping people to get rid of remnants of war and suspicious objects, and wastewater treatment systems in the local area. Another 672 people (including 240 women and 432 men) attended debates in the Tulkarem cluster on topics like environmental protection and gender awareness.

Component 3: Childhood Recovery

The “Childhood Recovery in the Gaza Strip” project was an additional component added to the MA’AN/APHEDA AMENCA2 project in response to the November 2012 Israeli military activity, “Operation Defensive Pillar.” A rapid psychological assessment completed by UNICEF shortly after hostilities ceased showed that children had been exposed to high levels of violence (e.g. 83 per cent of children surveyed reported damage to or destruction of the family home). All reported at least one emotional or physical symptom compared to the period just prior to the hostilities, with 53 per cent reporting six to seven symptoms, and 27 per cent reporting eight symptoms (UNICEF: 2012). The provision of psychosocial support to children was ranked first in the list of priorities for the humanitarian response (“Gaza Initial Rapid Assessment”, OCHA: 2012).



This component was designed to address the adverse impact of this military violence on hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children through ensuring the availability of child-safe and child-friendly recreational spaces and through building the capacities of 16 CBOs. The activities have enabled CBOs to provide direct emergency interventions in their communities, and build their capacities to deliver child-friendly best practice psychosocial support.



3.1 Rehabilitating Playgrounds

Many playgrounds or children's play facilities in Gaza are privately owned and require an entrance fee, which makes them virtually inaccessible to poor families. There is a chronic shortage of safe, publicly-available children's play areas in Gaza, and also a lack of space in existing playgrounds for active, safe and creative play.

To address this problem, the project rehabilitated four playgrounds in the Gaza Strip between 15 January and 15 March 2014. The four playgrounds are in safe and accessible localities across the entire Gaza Strip:

Al-Bassah (central Gaza Strip), Al-Sadaqa (Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip), Al-Eskan Al-Abyad (Rafah, far south Gaza Strip), and Al-Twam (Jabalia, northern Gaza Strip). Additional rehabilitation was completed for the playgrounds under the Early Recovery 2 project in 2014-15.



3.2 Outdoor Activities

As a corollary to completing the playground rehabilitation, MA'AN supported 16 CBOs in Gaza to run 47 excursions or "Fun Days" in the playgrounds for 6,300 children (3,300 girls, 3,000 boys), including 68 children with disabilities and their caregivers. The project provided CBOs with guidelines for arranging and managing outdoor activities, and equipment and materials to create fun and engaging activities for children. CBOs can also use the playgrounds as potential project resources when applying for emergency PSS funding grants.

3.3 CBO Training and Support

The project supported 16 family centre CBOs to provide psychosocial services (PSS) to their communities across Gaza's five governorates. 64 CBO staff (4 per CBO) completed 25 hours of training in child rights and child protection delivered by professional trainers in PSS support and child protection. Training topics included the design of activities for traumatised children, facilitation skills, and safety and emergency measures during children's activities.

The project complemented two existing community psychosocial projects that MA'AN was implementing with the support of UNICEF and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).



4. Early Recovery I

4.1 Main Activities

The APHEDA-MA'AN Early Recovery Project in Gaza was designed to respond to the crisis situation in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli military operation 'Operation Protective Edge' in July-August 2014. The operation killed 2,205 Palestinians, including at least 1,483 civilians, with approximately 18,000 housing units damaged and 108,000 Palestinians left homeless.² The project focused on five key areas: food packages for displaced people; repair and replacement of damaged AMENCA2 food production assets; reconstruction for CBOs; repairing damage to MA'AN Gaza buildings; and continuing psychosocial support for children. 4,329 people benefited from this project, with another 11,966 people estimated to have indirectly benefited.

The project distributed food packages to 488 families from the three villages in Khuza'a targeted under AMENCA2. A total of 355 dunums of agricultural land were rehabilitated for 103 farmers, including eight women. The project has repaired and replaced damaged food production assets, including 75 large greenhouses (1,000m²), 15 small greenhouses (225m²) and 75 home gardens. Another 19 integrated home gardens, which contain both a unit for agriculture and one for animal husbandry, have been repaired for 19 women. MA'AN has supported 17 farmers, including one woman, with mature olive and citrus trees to replace trees killed. A total of 49 water ponds built through the AMENCA2 program have been repaired, providing water for 49 farmers.

The project has repaired assets to premises and income-generating assets (such as beehives) for CBOs. MA'AN has also repaired damage to the MA'AN Gaza office and reconstructed a Field Station that was destroyed.

The Early Recovery project has continued APHEDA-MA'AN's work supporting psychosocial support interventions through the rehabilitation of four AMENCA2-supported playgrounds damaged during the assault. The project also funded 16 CBOs to hold 30 excursion days for children, with an estimated 3,411 children attending, including 92 children with a disability or special needs. The "fun days" involved social activities for children such as contests to carry water, face-painting, sack races, puppet shows, dancing and tug of war. These supervised excursion days provide children in Gaza a rare opportunity to participate in safe outdoor play activities at no cost to their parents.

2) UN OCHA: Facts and Figures, <http://www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010361>, accessed 25 April 2015.

Achievements under Early Recovery 1

Activity	Target	Description	Direct Beneficiaries			
			Men	Women	Children	Total
Food Packages to Displaced Families	300	The project has distributed food vouchers to 488 families. Each participating family received two vouchers (value AU\$130 each) over ten days. All recipients are from the three villages targeted by the project, but they have not necessarily benefited from previous AMENCA interventions.				488
Sheep Replacement	154		77			77
Fodder for Sheep	30,800					
Maintenance of GHs ((1,000m ²	60	The project repaired 75 commercial-scale (1,000 m ²) greenhouses.	68	7		75
Fruiting olive and citrus tree replacement	50	53 dunums of land were planted with 3-year old olive trees. Some farmers chose not to replace their trees; these farmers were supported to plant vegetables.	16	1		17
Land Rehabilitation	218	355 dunums of land were rehabilitated for 103 people (95 men and 8 women). Farmers received a number of additional services as required, including land levelling, fertiliser distribution, ploughing, soil treatment, secondary network irrigation and seedlings.	95	8		103
Intercropping	54	The project supported intercropping techniques for 57.8 dunums.				
Maintenance of Small (Scale GHs (225 m ²	15	15 small-scale greenhouses (225 m ²) were repaired.	15			15
Maintenance of Integrated Household Garden	16	19 integrated home gardens damaged were repaired.		19		19
Maintenance of Household Garden	43	75 home gardens were repaired for 75 women, and 47 water tanks were installed to replace destroyed tanks or tanks damaged beyond repair.		75		75
Maintenance of Water Ponds	31	49 water ponds were repaired for 49 farmers.	47	2		49
CBOs recovery and repairs of premises and productive assets	4	Repairs to five CBO premises and equipment have been completed. Eight income-generating grants issued to CBOs earlier in the project have been repaired, including handicraft activities, beehives, a veterinary unit, water tanks, egg-layer chicken farms, a sheep farm, a seedling nursery and an organic greenhouse.	183	71		254
Maintenance of MAHAN Gaza office	1	Repairs have been completed.				
Maintenance of field office, Khuza'a	1	Construction of the replacement field station in Khuza'a has been completed.				10
Playground Rehabilitation	4	Four playgrounds (Jabalia, Rafah, Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis) have been repaired.				1,725
Children Fun Days	30	30 children's fun days were completed through 16 CBOs during November and December 2014. The fun days involved social activities for children such as contests to carry water, face-painting, sack races, puppet shows, dancing and tug of war. More than 3,411 children attended, including 92 children with a disability or special needs.			3,411	3,411
TOTAL			501	183	3,411	6,318



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