



Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA



MA'AN Development Center

**“
I know you might say
this is very small, but it
means a lot to me...”**

Case Studies of Resilience and Livelihood Building Among Vulnerable Palestinian Farmers and Women

Union Aid Abroad -APHEDA and MA'AN Development Center

*Australia-Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement Phase II, supported by AusAID
occupied Palestinian territories*



Introduction

WHY AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture is the backbone of social and economic development in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). Agriculture offers the greatest potential for generating **employment** for Palestinian youth, providing **sustainable incomes**, and improving **local food security**.

Following the second Intifada and the subsequent loss of jobs in Israel, many Palestinians have returned to the agricultural sector as a primary source of income. The sector itself supplies 11-20 percent of the national economy and 15 percent of the formal workforce; it is estimated that 35 percent of working women formally hold employment in the agricultural sector alone.¹

Despite these facts, agriculture remains one of the most underfunded sectors by international donors and least prioritized in development initiatives. It received one percent of funding disbursements to the oPt from 2005 to 2007, and then dropped significantly after 2007. Funding in this time period was almost entirely used for land reclamation, while food crop production received no funding.²

AMENCA II remains one of the only programs specifically investing in holistic approaches to food security and increasing resilience among vulnerable Palestinian households.

1- Palestinian National Authority Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture Sector Strategy: A Shared Vision (2011-2013). (July 2010). Page 17.

2- Palestinian National Authority Ministry of Agriculture. The Palestinian Agricultural Sector Strategic Objectives and priority interventions (General Guidelines). (April 2009). Page 5.

APHEDA / MA'AN strategy in AMENCA II

Our agriculture-food security strategy embodies our organisations' philosophy, which seeks to maintain a unified national program in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Through a dual household and community level approach, the project identifies food insecure households, especially those of vulnerable women, that are in need of urgent support. It then provides agricultural inputs and training to quickly lift household food production and incomes.

Our strength is rooted in our ability to comprehensively tackle core issues of food security including **local access** and **technical capacities**. These elements strike at the heart of local development challenges - honing the skills and resources needed for households to build resilience to external shocks and eventually take ownership of their livelihoods.

Alongside household level interventions, we also work to build the capacities of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in order to improve **community-level self-reliance**, allowing villages to manage and implement projects well after AMENCA II has concluded. In providing critical support for community-level infrastructure, CBOs also maintain the growth of village and regional networks - serving to sustain and connect local households.

As reflected in this strategy, APHEDA and MA'AN are deeply invested in the core of the AMENCA II program - ensuring tangible improvements in food security and income, while also laying the foundations for a more robust, sustainable agricultural sector on the local level.

Case Studies: West Bank

Through a dual strategy of working to improve household livelihoods as well as strengthening community organisations in the Al-Kafriyat region, the project has increased the incomes and food production of both male and female farmers who are more empowered, resilient, and confident for the future. Access to local agricultural inputs, community markets, and increased capacity for improved long-term household food production is strengthened through coherent, sustainable, and responsive Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

Challenge



Al-Kafriyat, a region of seven Palestinian villages, sits atop the hills of the Tulkarem district in the northern West Bank. The land here is largely agricultural; in Arabic, the word *Tulkarem* translates to 'plentiful mountain,' and as is common in many rural Palestinian communities, olive trees cover the region's landscape. While the scenery throughout Al-Kafriyat is undeniably picturesque, alongside the winding village roads and countless olive trees are households and tight-knit communities that suffer a profound sense of social and economic insecurity and vulnerability.

Before the project, a dire economic situation existed in the region. The Separation Wall cuts off the villages of Al-Kafriyat from some of the richest agricultural land in the West Bank. The loss of jobs in Israel due to enclosure forced many workers to return to agriculture with no technical skills. Unemployment was high, more than quadrupling to 25 percent from 2003-2008; almost 80 percent of households in the projects' sites live on less than AUD \$658 per month, below the Absolute Poverty Line for a six person household.¹ More than 70 percent of the surveyed

1- APHEDA-MA'AN baseline survey, (October 2008).

population felt that if their economic situation did not change within a year, they would exhaust their coping strategies. More than one third said they already had, and more than 40 percent were buying food on credit.

Alongside the constant challenge of earning enough income at the household level, there are also community-wide issues. Focus groups in Al-Kafriyat revealed weak CBO structures, with an inability to identify the needs of constituencies, raise adequate funds, or implement projects. Baseline reports reveal that internal fighting in the West Bank during June 2007 led most CBOs in the area to lose external funding, forcing many to the verge of shutting down.

Women suffer the most amongst these marginalized communities, as they are historically excluded from local development because of a lack of access to needed resources and lack of support from already weak community networks. UN Women notes that Palestinian women's participation in the labour force is one of the lowest in the world.² Women are further restricted with job options due to social expectations as wives and mothers.

Intervention

In light of these challenges, in 2009, APHEDA-MA'AN and the community identified the need to reduce vulnerability and build the resilience of households whilst also strengthening community institutions. These elements seek to improve livelihoods and self-reliance by empowering households and communities with the tools and resources needed to take ownership of their own development. The project works with rural women, poor farmers (men

2- UN Women, "Palestinian Women's Participation in the Labor Market Challenges and Required Interventions A Quantitative and Qualitative Study of Women's Participation in the Labor Market," Economic Studies Series, Prepared by Dr. Luay Shabaneh and Jawad Al Saleh, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, (December 2009), Page 17.

and women), and CBOs to guarantee household food consumption as well as surplus produce to be sold locally, thereby increasing food security for both the participant and the community.

Results



West Bank-Al-Kafriyat, Kufr Sur village: Raja Hamid a woman beneficiary for greenhouses stands near her tomato plants with her husband, Abdulfattah Hamid (Abo Ahmad). May 2012.

Raja Hamid (Kuf Sur village) works in her small greenhouse each morning, taking care of any and all needs for her vegetables each season. She lives with her husband, Abo Ahmad, who has no steady income, and their two children. In recent years, her family lost their entire source of income, 1.2 hectares of agricultural land, including 250 olive trees, due to the construction of the Separation Wall. Since receiving her greenhouse, Raja's harvests supply her family with vegetables year-round. She also trades vegetables with other family greenhouses in the village, and sells her surplus locally. Raja explains, **"the greenhouse came in a time when we were struggling to buy one."** It "does not cover all the expenses of the house, but it helps a lot... in several seasons, it covers the expenses of the household in terms of the production of vegetables." Raja's vegetables also allow her neighbours to improve their nutrition through lowering the price of vegetables locally, "we sell the vegetables for a lower price than the market...this gives us an advantage. We sell better quality tomatoes, for example, for less money." Furthermore, Raja Hamid makes pickles from their cucumbers and cheese from their sheep, which they sell and distribute in the community.

In 2011, Raja produced 890 kilograms (kg) of various vegetables (tomatoes, beans, cucumbers),

of which her family consumed and gifted 194 kg. Her greenhouse ultimately contributed an extra AUD \$550 to her total income yearly. Whilst Raja still faces many challenges, her greenhouse is helping her to pull her family out of poverty and is making significant contributions to her family's food security situation by providing them with sustainable, local coping mechanisms.

Increased resilience on the household and community levels also enhances women's sense of ownership of production. Jeehan Islamel Tobeh and Samah Mohammad Ammen are two, in a group of nine women, who own three beekeeping units each in Kufr Jammal Village. Honey is collected two to three times per year. The women eventually split each of their units in half to double production and pooled the units together in one location to run the units more efficiently.

Lower production in the first season was due to the trial-error nature of the learning process. Jeehan for example, produced enough for consumption and raised AUD \$395 in surplus. After consultation and additional technical support from agricultural engineers, Jeehan is optimistic for the next harvest in a few months. Jeehan says, "I used to ask MA'AN's field engineer, or other experienced farmers in the village about the beehives. Now I have the experience and I do not expect that I will be asking about these issues or how to deal with the bees and the beehives." Moreover, income varied, with some women producing more than others. Samah Mohammad Ammen produced a total of 15 kg of honey worth AUD \$395, used two kg for consumption, and gained a net AUD \$342. Saeda Greesi of Kufr Abboush village produced 40 kg of honey worth AUD \$737, with AUD \$645 in cash from production, representing a 25 percent increase in income from women's average monthly income in baseline data.

Alongside the farmer to farmer extension work provided through the APHEDA-MA'AN training, the women work with each other to achieve improved results, purchase specialised books for beekeeping, and experiment with different techniques for managing the units. In addition to trading their honey for needed household products, Samah says they are looking for "other sources of income," which "may include selling the developed parts of beehives, or we may raise queen bees...so it is not only about honey,



West Bank-Al-Kafriyat, Kufr Jammal village: Ms. Jeehan Islamel Tobeh, a woman beekeeping beneficiary stands near her beehives. May 2012

there are many things we may utilise for income.” In discussing the value of the bees in their lives, Jeehan explains, **“no one else at the house knows about them [bees] like me. I look after something that is mine...My husband goes to the thyme field and I go to my bees.”** She continues, “I make all the decisions in this project. I used to buy five to six kg of honey each year, now I do not need to buy any honey because I produce it.” Samah continues, “I have a role in my life and in my household.”

Community level resilience is also improved through support of CBOs, which provide agricultural assistance to farmers as well as local food production initiatives. The Kufr Abboush Agricultural Cooperative was established in 2010 through AMENCA II after village farmers expressed a need to improve the marketability of their olive oil. A lack of consistent quality was a main concern prior to the project. Twenty-two farming families (over half of the village) now belong to the cooperative. Producing more than 150 tons of olive oil annually - the highest village production between the Tulkarem and Qalqilya districts - olive farming is the centre of livelihood in Kufr Abboush. Salman Busnaq, head of the cooperative, says that its work ultimately “affects the entire village directly or indirectly.”

“Many habits in farming have been changed,” which Salman explains has also increased farmers’ income by expanding marketing potential of the oil. Group/family harvesting, mechanical methods of pest control, as well as extra virgin processing and storage techniques are among the many types

of training that benefit farmers. He notes that the enhancement of the olive oil value chain through AMENCA II is paying off as “the farmers in the society [cooperative] produced more than 10 tons of extra virgin and organic olive oil last year,” and the olive oil “has become distinguished.” Before the project, farmers produced no extra virgin olive oil in Kufr Abboush. Increased quality has ultimately helped farmers to market their oil. Salman says that many residents in the village have family connections in the Gulf, and are opening market channels outside of the oPt: “I have sold 50 gallons in Saudi Arabia. I send the lab test report with the oil, so all of it was sold immediately...meanwhile, other oil that does not have the lab reports is not totally sold.” One gallon of this olive oil sells for AUD \$139. Salman notes, “our best accomplishment is pressing extra virgin olive oil that suites international markets, we did not know how to achieve this before [AMENCA II].” With higher prices, farmers have the confidence to invest in their land and infrastructure.

The cooperative is also taking important steps to enhance food and input needs of this farming village through local solutions. The cooperative expanded to include what Salman describes as an “agricultural shop” in the village. Here, farmers throughout the community have access to organic agricultural inputs for cheaper than market value. Not only are these products less expensive and higher quality, farmers also avoid transportation costs previously needed to travel to the main city, Tulkarem. For example, one kilogram of pea seeds costs AUD \$3.40, not including the cost of transportation (around AUD \$20). In the cooperative’s shop, seeds cost AUD \$2.60, with no major transportation costs. The cooperative has also completed the 3rd cycle of its poultry farm, which supports the village with access to less expensive, higher quality organic meat. Residents of Kufr Abboush buy around 10-15 chickens per month and the lower cost from the local poultry farm saves consumers around AUD \$0.79 per kilogram. Increased local food production lowers prices, provides local employment, and lessens reliance on transportation out of the village, which could be cut off at any time by checkpoints. Outside of AMENCA II, the cooperative is also partnering with four other agricultural cooperatives in both the Tulkarem and neighbouring Qalqilya districts to establish a shared composting site, which will provide compost for farmers in both districts.

Conclusion

The unpredictable nature of life in the occupied Palestinian territories underlies the need for both household and community level resilience to improve basic livelihoods. This is especially true in Al-Kafriyat where communities have struggled to adapt to the confiscation of land and the closure of access to Israeli labour markets. The dual approach of household assistance and community support has been validated through results as women in the project have increased their income by around 25 percent. Average increase in income for both men and women is around 41 percent. More importantly, households have also been able to create trusting community networks and improve broader nutrition and food security. Further, CBOs that were needed, but formally non-existent, are now delivering services and implementing their own projects outside of AMENCA. Agricultural cooperatives are meeting the needs of farming communities by providing local agricultural inputs for farmers, improving income through various market channels, and producing food for local households.



West Bank

— : The Wall

— : The Green Line

Case Studies: Gaza Strip

By working to enhance local food production at the household and community levels in the Gaza Strip, the APHEDA-MA'AN project has improved food security and boosted incomes. This has directly resulted in increased resilience, especially for vulnerable female-headed households.

Challenge



Abasan al-Kabera is a border region in the Khan Younis district in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). Encompassing almost 4,500 acres of land, agriculture is a main source of livelihood for its 25,000 residents. Abasan's history dates back thousands of years, and during the Roman era it was a vital trading hub between Egypt and the Levant. Today, a long running economic blockade has cut off virtually all trade opportunities for local communities. Subject to repeated incursions and violent confrontation, the destruction and confiscation of land has invariably devastated this farming community's economy and overall security. Operation Cast Lead destroyed 150 hectares (Ha) alone.

The lack of access to resources and agricultural inputs has entrenched entire communities and households in cycles of deep poverty.¹ At the beginning of the project, it was estimated that 46 percent of agricultural land was unusable, either destroyed in Operation Cast Lead or in the closed 'buffer zone' of the border. Unemployment levels reached almost 60 percent in 2008.

1- According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics Press Release (June 10, 2012), the poverty and deep poverty line (two adults and three children) stood at NIS2,293 (USD637) and NIS1,832 (USD509) respectively.

While it is estimated that some 85 percent of target households suffer from difficult living conditions, around 10 percent of households experience severe difficulties and most are in 'food stress,' spending more than 80 percent of their incomes on food. More than two thirds of Abasan's residents own less than 0.2 Ha of land, with a quarter owning no agricultural land at all. With limited resources and in a volatile context, enhancing local food production at both the household and community level is especially important to achieving food security.

Women in particular face isolation from opportunities as they lack access to an already decrepit labour market, sparse agricultural resources, and suffer social stigmas related to their increased visibility in social and economic spheres. In the oPt, men's participation in the labour force is four times that of women, while women's daily wages are 16 percent lower than men's.² Women headed households on average produce just over half of their male equivalents and many consequently rely on charity. In Abasan, where food security and income are already comparatively lower than the rest of the oPt, women's vulnerability is even more acute.

The Gaza Strip also has a long history of strong community institutions and organisations that promote local solutions to local issues, including agricultural support. Within the context of Gazan society, close community networks and regional ties play an extremely important role in local development. However, external restraints and a lack of resources caused many Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to close down or reduce their work within the community, thus removing a vital safety net for poor households.

Intervention

Beginning in 2009, project activities, although modest compared to the scale of the crisis in Gaza, provide communities with the capacities to regain some control

2- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Labor Force Survey Results First Quarter (January-March 2012), (May 16).

over their own food security rather than relying on food aid. APHEDA-MA'AN works directly with vulnerable households, especially female-headed households, to boost their own food production, which in turn increases community food security. This self-reliance enables households to strengthen community networks, a sense of shared resources, and opens local markets for income and food access.

The project also makes investments in agricultural infrastructure including rehabilitating war-damaged and marginal land to increase the amount of land available for agriculture in the longer term. Finally, the project works to strengthen the capacity of CBOs to address community-level food security issues and to contribute to the sustainability of the activities in the future.

Results

Ibtihal Amin Qdeh is a wife, mother of six children, and breadwinner for her family. Her eldest child is seven years old; two suffer from severe epilepsy and one has heart disease. Compounded with medical expenses for three children, her house is located only two km from the border with Israel and is subject to regular bombardments. She explains, “my husband used to have a barber shop, but it was destroyed by Israeli artillery, leaving us with no steady source of income.” She continues, “any savings from my husband’s previous job went towards food purchases and medical treatment, which are not available in the government hospitals.” Her husband now has temporary employment in a brick factory where he is paid AUD \$5 for each 12am-6am shift. Prior to the project, the Qdeh family was not producing enough food to sell at the market and their diet was extremely limited.

After the rehabilitation of her greenhouse, including the provision of a water tank and citrus trees, Ibtihal produces enough to improve her family’s food secure and maintains a steady source of income. After one year of production using intercropping techniques she learned through AMENCA training, Ibtihal has cut her vegetable bill in half, spending AUD \$26 instead of AUD \$53 each week. In addition to the AUD \$27 she saves in the cost of vegetables, Ibtihal sells AUD \$26 worth of vegetables (20 kg) in the local market. She also cements her social support network by gifting vegetables to less fortunate relatives and neighbours. Nahed Samir Qdeh is Ibtihal’s neighbour and benefits from the APHEDA-MA'AN greenhouse

rehabilitation. Nahed grows cucumbers and the two exchange their vegetables as needed. **The creation of small scale food networks between households is vital to improving community resilience.**



Zakiyeh Ibrahim Mohamad Abu Omra and her son: Animal Husbandry beneficiary, Abasan al-Kabera village, Gaza.

The project has also assisted female-headed households to move from charity to self-reliance and empowerment. Zakiyeh Ibrahim Mohamad Abu Omra is a divorced mother of five children. She lives in a severely dilapidated home and has temporary work during the wheat-harvesting season, receiving only about AUD \$5 a day. Given these circumstances, Zakiyah was forced to live on charity from relatives. She explains “my brothers and sisters do their best to help, but they have families of their own that they need to support. My daughters cry sometimes when my brother brings his daughters’ old clothes for them to wear,” she continues in tears “my daughters say we want to wear new clothes one day.” Unable to provide sufficient income or even food for her family has created a clear feeling of helplessness and disempowerment, even within her children.

Zakiyeh received her rabbit unit (two cages, six females, and two males as well as two bags of fodder) in 2009 and humbly explains that “the activity...has meant a lot to our lives. I took care of it from the first moment.” She says that the guidance from MA'AN trainers “helped a lot,” allowing her to better manage the units. Zakiyeh now sells two pairs of young rabbits for a total of AUD \$53 in the market every week (AUD \$212 per month), earning almost double the AUD \$109 average household income per month in Gaza reported in baseline data. Her devotion to maintaining the activity is apparent.

Zakiyeh says, “I worry about the rabbits as much as I worry about my children...**I know you might say this is very small, but it means a lot to me.**” Previously reliant on gifts and support from her family, Zakiyeh has managed to take ownership of at least some part of her life – earning income to buy needed food for herself and five children. Zakiyeh is also now an active part of her community, participates in local trading networks, and has contributed to the food security of Abasan. Zakiyeh trades rabbits for tomatoes and pepper as needed with her relatives as well. She also traded a rabbit for new jeans and trousers for her daughter from a neighbour who sells clothes.

Another head of household, Fatmeh Ahmad Hamdan Abu Draz, must provide for a family of nine. Her husband recently died of cancer, leaving almost AUD \$2000 of debt from medical expenses. Despite the fact that one of her daughters had finished university studies and could potentially find employment to take the family out of poverty, she could not receive her diploma because of overdue tuition fees. **Fatmeh’s family found itself caught in a poverty trap.** After the rehabilitation of her greenhouse (including a water irrigation network and organic fertiliser), Fatmeh now has a reliable source of income and a household supply of produce, mostly tomatoes, eight months of the year. She says, **“if it wasn’t for the plastic house, we would have never been able to recover from debt.”** Her son continues, “it was a successful season... we started harvesting the fruit in the greenhouse in November 2011.” Fatmeh also managed to pay what was left of her daughter’s debt and she now has a university diploma. They hope she will find a job to help support both herself and the family. The project approach of targeting households to boost food production has broken a poverty trap and set the family on a positive course, able to withstand the challenges that lie ahead.

The APHEDA-MA’AN project recognises that while reducing vulnerability and increasing local food security on the household level are essential, they are not in themselves sufficient to build strong and resilient communities. The household level approach is complemented by capacity building of CBOs that ensure a long term and sustainable approach in the future. When the project finishes, these CBOs continue working with at-risk households, providing technical, agricultural, and social support.

One such CBO is the Abasan Rural Association for Agricultural Development. The association was registered in 2006 and seeks to support farmers in all agricultural and social affairs. The association serves as a vital support system to local farmers who supply the entirety of the Gaza Strip with tomato harvests, a central fruit in the Palestinian diet. Ibrahim Abu Ismael, manager of the association, says “if we [Abasan’s farmers] stop planting, all of the Gaza Strip will suffer.” He continues to explain that **women play a particularly important role in this association, as they are the “main producers of vegetables” in the region.** Given the importance of agriculture to household and community livelihood, **Ibrahim sees the association’s role as “assisting farmers to stay on their land” and “connecting farmers with agricultural science”** in order to increase the quality and productivity of their harvests.

The project began working with the association in 2009 and has provided significant coaching to improve organisational and financial systems, which have paid dividends for the community. APHEDA-MA’AN provided a grant to purchase a mobile pump for spraying organic pesticides. Citrus farmers in the area now benefit from a cheaper service. The association’s cost-efficient, environmentally conscious practices are now generating income to fund other projects. In 2012, the association distributed agricultural tools to 20 farmers and also trained them in olive harvesting techniques, which is vital source of livelihood in the region. The association has also switched farmers from traditional, less efficient irrigation networks to modern systems. Further, the association brought farmers together to support the creation of an alternative irrigation network after their water supply became over salinated and unfit for local agricultural needs. Farmers now have a shared pipeline, connected to a local well, which supplies fresh water irrigation at an even lower price (AUD \$0.4 per m²) than before the project (AUD \$0.5 per m²). This supply of fresh water also allows farmers to plant a larger variety of seeds to more easily diversify local food production.

This association now has a demonstrated ability to manage projects, and are a trusted partner of many international organisations in the Gaza Strip, able to deliver both development and emergency relief projects.

Conclusion

The extreme instability and socioeconomic insecurity in which Abasan's residents live requires both household and community level resilience. This approach, which stresses support and training for vulnerable rural women, ensures that increased livelihood is achieved through self-sufficiency. This self-sufficiency is based in local food production and income generation. In fact, women beneficiaries saw a 28 percent increase in average monthly income from before the project. AMENCAII has also laid the foundations for future sustainable increases in food production through land rehabilitation. **It is estimated that the project alone has increased the amount of accessible land in Khan Yunis by more than 120 Ha, a seven percent increase in total agricultural land.**

This approach is complimented by strengthening CBOs to deliver access to agricultural services and support. Given the unpredictable nature of life in the Gaza Strip, these strong community institutions stand ready to work with communities well after the project has concluded.



Gaza

: 500 Meter Israeli declared "No Go Zone"

: High Risk Zone

AMENCA2 Activities to date: Rural Livelihoods & Food Security Through Capacity Development Years 1-4

Activity	West Bank # of Units	West Bank # of Beneficiaries	Gaza # of Units	Gaza # of Beneficiaries	WB & GS Total (units)	WB & GS Total (Beneficiaries)
Land Rehab (Dunams)	594	187	555	176	1149	363
Green House	75	75	183	183	258	258
Green House Maintenance			83	83	83	83
Home Garden	60	60	80	80	140	140
Animal Husbandry (Beehives)	429	143			429	143
Animal Husbandry (Rabbit Unit)			100	100	100	100
Animal Husbandry (Hens Unit)			115	115	115	115
Cisterns (new)	165	165			165	165
Cistern (Rehab)	35	35			35	35
Water Ponds (200 Cubic Meter)	1	28			1	28
Water Reservoir (4500 Cubic Meter)	1	300			1	300
Seasonal Corps			609	291	609	291
Agricultural Roads (KM)	3	400			3	400
Olive Campaigns	2	563	1	126	3	689
Land Ploughing (Dunums)	330	58			330	58
CBO Grants	19	5	15	7	34	12

Main Achievements of AMENCA2 Project In WB and GS (Y1-Y4):

- Project Activities have increased agricultural land in the project areas by 8.7% in WB and by 4.6% in Gaza.
- Activities of the project have reached 3475 (889 Females) of Direct Beneficiaries across West Bank and Gaza in Years 1-4.
- Beneficiaries have reported 29.6% increase in agricultural production in the WB and 363.3 % in Gaza.
- Beneficiaries have reported 21.5% increase in income generated by programs activities in WB and 25.3% in Gaza.
- 7098 working days were created for 1898 workers through the activities of land rehabilitation and cistern construction.
- With the help of the projects activities, 1481 households are utilizing Permaculture(organic and mechanical pest control) techniques. 82% of farmers use Permaculture techniques in project's area in WB and 60.7% in Gaza.
- With the help of the projects activities, 1176 households are using improved water techniques (33% of farmers in WB project area and 72.9% in Gaza's).
- 716 income-generating opportunities have been generated for women through this project so far.
- Women's representation in local and national organization in projects areas has reached 45.7% in WB and 38.2% in Gaza.
- 20 women received financial assistance to start their own businesses.
- 80 CBO staff received 421 hours of training.
- 1245 farmers participated in 27 environmental workshops.
- 100% of local CBOs in project areas have been successfully implementing programs in their communities.
- The construction of Kur Reservoir provided an entire village with drinking and irrigation water, reducing water cost by 75% (80 NIS to 20 NIS).



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