

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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About us

The Rural Women's Development Society (RWDS) is a Palestinian non-governmental organization working in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Its dates back to 1987 (first intifada), when it began as a women's group within the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC). In 2001, RWDS became a separate entity, independently registered with the Palestinian Interior ministry under registration number: RA-287-C.

RWDS has a strong and respected presence among rural communities, with over 3,000 female members that form a network of 56 women's clubs. It is this unique structure, geographic broad expansion of large number of dedicated volunteers who distinguish RWDS from other Palestinian women's organizations.

We enhance the rights of rural women by fostering empowering and supportive bodies within their local communities. This is achieved through clubs, which highlight women's invaluable contribution to Palestinian society, by designing innovative projects on the topics of economic empowerment, political and social participation, and the prevention of violence.

We use education and community participation, as well as mobilization, skill-building, and advocacy as tools to develop women into strong, committed members and enable them as leaders within the rural community.



Vision Mission & VALUE



VISION

Equality between women and men, boys and girls in rural area in accordance with the Palestinian Declaration of Independence as well as international conventions and standards.

VALUES

The work of RWDS is governed by values that it seeks to embody in its daily practices and strategic work, as well as through the behavior of its leadership, management and employees including:

-Justice and work for the most vulnerable individuals.

MISSION

To grow a feminist movement led by Palestinian women who are capable of advocating and advancing the women's social, economic and political rights, especially in rural areas.

- Equality
- Participation
- Transparency
- Volunteering
- Credibility
- Empowerment and non-bargaining

Strategic Objectives

RWDS' 2019-2023 strategic objectives are as follows:

- Enhancing the level of justice and equality between men and women and reducing violence against women and girls in Palestinian Society.

- Improve the society's performance and efficiency, as well as raise the level of its representation and influence at the national, regional and international levels.

- Promoting economic justice for women and girls in Palestinian rural areas

Community mobilization, lobbying and advocacy are essential parts of the methods RWDS adopts in its work towards achieving its goals. In addition, the association is committed to working not only with women and girls, but also with boys and men, as well as decision makers at the local and international levels.



Board of Directors

Randa Abed Rabo / Zain
CHAIRWOMEN

Hilda Issa
TREASURER

Laila Khashan
VICE PRESIDENT
(GAZA STRIP)

Khawla Dasoqi
MEMBER

Lubna Matar
MEMBER

Salwa Bannoura
MEMBER

Fathia Abu Amra
MEMBER

Suheila Abu Amra
MEMBER

Ms. Warda Shabat
SUPERVISORY
MEMBER

Ms. Samia AL Tel
SUPERVISORY
MEMBER

Our members

RWDS seeks to expand its partnerships in organizations and local communities that work to serve community members. These include:



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK
RÉSEAU EURO-MÉDITERRANÉEN DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
الشبكة الأوروبية - المتوسطية لحقوق الإنسان



مركز نواهل لتمكين النساء
Women's Empowerment Center Tawasol



منتدى المنظمات الأهلية الفلسطينية لمناهضة العنف ضد المرأة
Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic
Violence Against Women (Al Muntada)



الحداد الغرف التجارية الصناعية الزراعية الفلسطينية
Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture



الائتلاف التربوي الفلسطيني
Palestinian Education Coalition

تجمع المؤسسات
التنموية النسوية
بيت لحم

Women's Empowerment Centers
Bethlehem Governorate



The Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO)



ائتلاف سيداو - فلسطين
CEDAW Palestine



منتدى
النوع الاجتماعي
والحكم المحلي- فلسطين

Gender Forum in Local Governance



Arab Women's Network Roa'a



Ma'an News Agency



Euro-Med Feminist initiative IFE-EFI

Speech of the Chairman of the Board of Directors



All words will be weak in the presence of the Palestinian blood that has been shed, but we must continue with everything we can to support Gaza and its people, and to Palestine in our faith that this blood will not be in vain.

Firstly, with hearts overwhelmed by pain, we mourn our martyrs in the beloved Gaza Strip, and all martyrs of Palestine, whose blood irrigated our homeland. They are the glory of our Nation and the crown to our heads; they are the ones who preserve honor. And we pray for healing for the wounded and freedom for the detainees. With their struggle and sacrifices, we will go on and be victorious, God willing, to build a tomorrow in which freedom and justice shall shine.

Palestine bids farewell to the year 2023 in the shadows of brutal war that have been striking our people in the beloved Gaza for three months and is still continuing without respite or mercy, with a list of thousands of martyrs, and destruction "is comparable, if not higher than the levels of destruction inflicted on German Cities during World War II" (1939-1945), according to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell. Innocent people are killed every minute, most of them children and women. A year burdened with blood, destruction and Israeli violations, in full view of the world and sometimes with the support of major Powers.

While the West Bank continues to bleed as a result of Israeli violations of killing, arrest, displacement, colonization, and the plundering of lands and wealth, which have not stopped and are constantly increasing throughout the West Bank governorates; it was difficult to draw clear lines as there is no specific time perspective for the end of the war and developments of the political situation in the West Bank, and the entire country. Since we are still in the recovery phase from the Corona pandemic, the association and its staff did not hesitate from the first day to set priorities and an action plan for ways to provide support to our people in Gaza, and I continued day and night trying to provide the minimum number of interventions in light of all the restrictions, siege and difficulty in communicating with the association's staff in Gaza

Speech of the Chairman of the Board of Directors

However, the association, as usual, and with the excellence of its staff who, despite all circumstances, did not fail to take the initiative, take risks, and prioritize providing help in all ways by opening clubs to be a refuge for many; and providing as much food and necessities, as possible, in coordination with the effective parties, in addition to the efforts made by the association's management in the relationship with the funders, and as a result of the credibility of the association through its work in the past years, it was one of the organizations that obtained the approval of the funders to provide support to our people in Gaza, especially women members of women's clubs and their families, in addition to patients coming from Gaza for treatment and those in the West Bank, and the association is heading to draw the outlines of the 2024 plan with different scenarios in an attempt to respond to expectations and build perceptions of what can be provided if the war continues. And even if it ends, it's a very difficult process, but we always challenge the difficulties and overcome obstacles with our faith and confidence that the next is better.

In conclusion, on behalf of myself and the board of directors of the association, I extend my gratitude to the staff of the association in Gaza for their perseverance and hard work and their challenge to all circumstances to provide help and support despite their personal suffering, their situation and the displacement of their families, but they did not stop, but gave us hope and motivation. We do not forget the administrative staff of the Association who also did not hesitate to replace all efforts through relationship with funders, despite the pain, the duty calls for solidarity, work and finding ways, each in his own way and ability, to contribute to the support of Gaza and Palestine, and it is not limited to us, but many foreign friends residing in Palestine and abroad.

We are confident that with you and the steadfastness of our people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank against the brutal aggression, 2024 will be the year of freedom and victory.

**Chairman of the BOD
Randa Abedrabo / Zain**

Speech of the General Director of the Association



Finally, the year 2023 left, leaving behind a large amount of sadness for the loss of loved ones that we did not imagine their departure, this year left wounds that bleed and are difficult to heal, so we do not know where to start talking, after the end of three lean years in which the Corona virus hit the entire world and killed millions, and caused an economic depression that humanity has not yet recovered from its effects.

Palestinian political and economic conditions worsened in a worse way than the previous ones, due to the Zionist occupation, which does not tire of practicing killing, stealing land, arrest, destruction and displacement, until the beginning of October, in which the occupation unleashed its madness and barbarism in killing our people in Gaza and the West Bank, with more than half of the martyrs are children and women (the number of martyrs reached about 22,349, including 21,822 in the Gaza Strip who were killed in the Israeli aggression since October 7, in addition to about 7,000 missing, and 527 martyrs in the West Bank, including 318 after October 7). In front of the eyes and ears of the world, we cannot ignore the extent of the world's sympathy and solidarity with us from the Arab and foreign peoples, but it is regrettable that the position of governments and political systems ranges from timid condemnation of the occupation to major condemnation from countries that are counted on the fingers of one hand, and between open support and providing all kinds of support to the Zionist enemy.

This ongoing war has left a total destruction of land, stone and people, unprecedented in the current era in terms of the size and quantity of the bombs dropped on this small geographical piece of land filled with people and construction.

We in the Rural Women Development Association continue to work day and night, to help our people in Gaza and within the available possibilities, we try to help our women in Gaza who have lost everything except hope for a better tomorrow, we helped Gaza patients and their companions who came for treatment in the West Bank and were stranded because of the war, we helped financially, psychologically and in kind

Speech of the General Director of the Association

but this assistance is a drop in the sea of the required needs, even our colleagues in the Gaza Strip worked under the bombing and destruction to provide a helping hand to families, our work became more difficult and more dangerous as a result of the crazy war, we opened the doors of women's clubs in the Gaza Strip as shelters for displaced families who were stranded due to displacement, and put all the capabilities of the clubs at their disposal, from food that had been manufactured by women's cooperatives, or the use of water from the well in the club, or the use of available electricity through solar cells that were previously installed in the clubs, We learned from this war lessons about the importance of equipping women's clubs in the West Bank and Gaza with everything that is strategic and what serves us in difficult circumstances. It is impossible to quantify or assess the effects and destruction caused by this war, which is still at its peak until now and may expand and continue for a longer period of time.

The Beit Lahia Club was completely destroyed, four other clubs were partially destroyed, and the Manara Club in Khan Younis and the Swarha Club in Gaza remained to serve and shelter the afflicted according to their capacity.

We will continue to work to help families in the hope that this war will end, which has left a lot of poverty and increased the number and burden of women who head families, increased the number of wounded and disabled people, increased the need for everything and therefore the effort required will increase in the short and medium term at least.

In the end, we will remain an integral part of this people and this wounded country, and we will remain servants of our people, and the RWDA will remain with all its capabilities subject to our people and our women, with the support of our board of directors, our general body and our employees, and with the commendable support of our partners who did not abandon us in the time of adversity.

**General Director of the Association
Haneen Abu Fares**

Our Locations



Our Projects



RWDS represented by its Board of Directors and its entire administrative, executive and voluntary staff, expresses immense gratitude and appreciation to all supporters and financiers for their material and moral contribution to the success and development in various locations of the Palestinian rural areas, and for their direct support and advocacy for rural women in particular.

The following are the projects that the Society implemented during the year 2022, part of them is still ongoing, and they are as follows:



Danish Ministry of Exterior Affairs

1/2021-12/2023

Project: Better Support and Increase of Legal Rights for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence in Palestine

The project is implemented in partnership with the Danish Danner Foundation

Project objective:

- Reducing and preventing domestic violence in six sites in Hebron and Bethlehem by targeting women, men and students.(both sexes)
- Adoption of Family Protection Law from Violence to protect the surviving women from domestic violence.

Implementation areas: Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

Women:

- RWDS targeted 180 women and mothers to participate in awareness workshops in six locations (30 women and mothers in each location).
- RWDS targeted 180 women to form support groups in six locations (30 women in each location).
- RWDS targeted 240 women in six individual counseling sites.

Men:
• RWDS targeted 210 men who participated in awareness workshops and meetings through the Pope's methodology.

Male and female students:

• RWDS targeted 960 male and female students targeted in workshops distributed in 12 schools (6 in Hebron, 6 in Bethlehem), both male and female, targeting each of the ninth and tenth grades at a rate of (80 students from each school).



Danish Ministry of Exterior Affairs

1/2021-12/2023



Project Achievements:

- Group and individual counseling exercises by social workers are provided to 140 women exposed to domestic violence and knowledge is provided to women on existing referral systems.
- 180 trained women have gained knowledge and tools on how to handle domestic violence and contribute to promoting a safer environment that rejects domestic violence norms and practices.
- 30 male social workers trained in the Baba method used the approach to support fathers in the 6 targeted areas.
- 90 fathers participate in groups session program hosted and facilitated by RWDS with the purpose of continuing the Baba method, deescalating domestic conflicts and violence and offering alternative methods and perspectives on tools for conflicts resolution.
- 120 fathers participate in dialogue meetings on upbringing, domestic conflicts and violence.
- 300 trained school students are able to express domestic violence norms and practices through creative initiatives such as drama, art, music, etc. which are presented in an open day at the schools.
- 1.6 open days are organized in the targeted schools to present students understanding of VAW.
- Support groups of 20 mothers and 20 students are created to enhance family communication and discussion about VAW.
- The Ministry of Higher Education has endorsed RWDS' activities at schools. Extra curricula material and tools are developed by RWDS and MoE addressing domestic violence and gender roles within families, schools and communities.





European Union

9/2019-10/2023

Project: Sustainable networks for the innovation of pioneering agricultural products in the Mediterranean.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Andalusian Union of Cities and Provinces - Andalusia-Spain as the main beneficiary, and other partners: (SLOW) Food Foundation for Biodiversity - Tuscany Region Italy, American University of Beirut - Lebanon, University of Sfax - Tunisia, Gozo Development Agency - Gozo Regional Committee - Malta, Women for Cultural Development (Namaa) - Jordan.

Project objective:

Encourage the use of environmentally and socially sustainable production and production methods and spread them throughout the Mediterranean region and support networks, groups, consortia and value chains.

And sub-goals:

- A study on agricultural biodiversity in the targeted areas
- Two training courses on the slow food approach and best practices
- MedSNAIL is an alliance between small producers, publishing authorities and businesses to promote good, clean and fair food
- Participation of 90 small and medium-sized companies in pioneering projects for the sustainable food value chain

- Establishing 6 slow food centers to provide consulting services to small and medium-sized agro-food industries
- Establishing 6 farmers markets
- Establishment of the "Euro-Mediterranean Chef" Alliance

Areas of implementation: agricultural areas in the governorate of Jenin.

European Union 9/2019-10/2023

Target group:

1. small-scale producers and farmers of agri-food
2. public and local authorities
3. young university and institute graduates.

Project Achievements:

- A Territorialisation matrix of participants was approved from those concerned with transferring the experiences, concepts and methodology of the Slow Food Foundation to the project implementation areas, especially in the areas of Jenin Governorate, as it includes the food ecosystem framework with the participation of 27 producers and local leaders of the project from the areas of Jenin Governorate. In addition to establishing a group of local leaders with the participation of 26 individuals. A group of chefs was also established in the governorate with the participation of 14 individuals. They in turn contributed to the follow-up and implementation of activities and pilot projects for the project.
- A coalition of food producers, chefs, and agricultural food production cooperatives was formed in Jenin Governorate, with the participation of more than 30 public and local bodies, producers, chefs, and experts in the field of agriculture from private and national institutions.
- A number of local events were implemented for the project in Jenin Governorate, the most prominent of which was organizing workshops and educational activities during local events entitled "Home Economics Market – Nabe' AL Khayrat Market,"
- As part of participating in external activities and events for the project, two prominent events were participated the first event was held in March 2023, entitled "Women's Shopping Bazaar," and was organized by the Jenin Municipality at the Cultural Center for the Palestinian Child. Another workshop was participated in at the National Center for Agricultural Research in Jenin, Palestine.





European Union 9/2019-10/2023

- As part of the activities to define a participatory production protocol between producers in the areas of Jenin Governorate, a participatory protocol for agricultural food production in Jenin Governorate was formed and approved by the participants and beneficiaries of the project activities.
- 1A Mediterranean-wide network document was established and adopted at the level of partners of the project and at the level of actors within the implementation areas of the project, with the participation of 21 producers and local leaders of the project.
- The MedSNAIL Project Legacy Document was created and approved with the participation of over 15 local project producers and leaders which addresses lessons learned and recommendations for sustainability in the project's impact.
- sub-grants were provided to the project by the Rural Women's Development Society to individuals from areas of Jenin Governorate, aiming to strengthen value chains in agriculture and food by meeting production needs. This included purchasing equipment to support agricultural and food production, enhancing marketing efforts, developing packaging and product identification (branding) materials, and purchasing materials to support production.
- The Rural Women's Development Society organized the successful participation of seven local women's associations and cooperatives in the Jenin Shopping Festival, where they displayed more than 13 agricultural and food products to 90,000 visitors. This engagement created vital marketing channels and stakeholder communication opportunities and supported the principles of slow food and sustainable agriculture in Jenin. The event contributed to selecting suitable locations, expanding local markets and attracting more consumers, and resulted in impressive sales, which increased the associations' enthusiasm to participate in the future.





EU

10/2020-9/2023

Project

Enhance steadfastness and Economic Growth in Gaza Strip in the Agricultural Sector

The project is implemented in partnership with Agricultural Development Association "Agricultural Relief" - Job Creation Program - Action against Hunger International

project objectives:

It aims at improving the livelihoods of youth and farmers in the Gaza Strip by enhancing their opportunities to access the market, and in particular to enhance productive activities in Gaza by shifting towards market approach and sustainable job opportunities. Its implementation period is scheduled to continue for the next three years.

Implementation areas:

Gaza Strip

Target group:

Women's Productive Units and the Palestinian and Women Entrepreneurs Platform

Project Achievements:

- Establishing a platform for entrepreneurs, small business owners and cooperatives, which includes forty-four members.
- Providing technical support to the members and providing them with some equipment and tools necessary for production.





AECID

5/2023-4/2027

Project:

Toward a green agriculture in Palestine : Development of inclusive and sustainable models contributing to rural economic growth

The project is implemented in partnership with PARC & FPS

Project Objective:

Contribute to sustainable agricultural development and inclusive economic opportunities through the transition to a green economy in the West Bank

Implementation areas:

Meithalun, Anza, Birqin, Deir Abu Deef, Jalboun, Faqqu'a, Al-Jalameh, Deir Gazaleh, Kufr Dan, Beit Qad, Arabouneh, Aroura, Mazare Nobani, Qarawet Bani Zaid

Target Groups:

women, youth, and cooperatives.

Project Achievements:

- Developing baseline survey
- Logistic support for 3 cooperatives in west bank
- Supplying and installation of solar panels for two cooperatives.





Global Ministries Churches

6/2023-5/2024

Project

Enhanced production capacities of women production groups and increased job opportunities for young males and females within Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates.

Project objective:

Enhance the livelihood of women and young females through increased production capacities, expanded marketing channels and increasing Job opportunities for youth within Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates.

Implementation areas:

Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

Target group:

Owners of small projects and productive cooperatives.

Project Achievements:

- Two training courses are being conducted for twenty participants on enhancing participants' understanding of popular platforms used in product promotion.
- Providing 16 small enterprises with the most basic needs of raw materials.
- Hiring a young specialist in marketing and a young specialist in accounting to follow up on the production cooperatives.

- It implements 12 Marketing Days in partnership with various institutions in Bethlehem and signs agreements with them to support the Marketing Days and the NAB'a Al-Khairat market.



The Feminist Peace Organization

7/2022-12/2023



Project:

Increasing the social inclusion and civic participation of young men, women and women survivors of violence in rural areas within the Hebron and Bethlehem governorates.

Project objective:

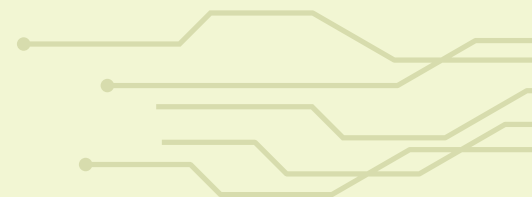
- Establish innovative and sustainable community mechanisms and initiatives led by youth (female and male) to work towards achieving gender balance and justice in rural areas in Palestine.
- Creating an enabling environment in the targeted communities to support gender equality, women's and youth rights, and participation in civic life.
- Pressure on political decision makers to contribute to changing policies and laws that impede gender equality, women's and youth rights, and participation in decision-making processes.

Implementation areas:

Bethlehem Governorate "Nahhalin and Beit Fajar"
Hebron Governorate "Halhul, Tarqumiya, As-Samu'

Target group:

- Young men and women from the project's targeted locations
- Women survivors of violence
- Media and journalism students and graduates.



The Feminist Peace Organization

7/2022-12/2023



Project Achievements:

1. implement 4 initiatives focused on combating electronic extortion among women and girls, especially divorced women.
2. Creating a Mural painting in Halhoul
3. Presenting theatrical performances in Nahalin and Tarqumia to raise awareness about electronic extortion
4. Held ten awareness sessions, which focused on women's rights related to child custody, legal procedures for divorce, stress relief, and women's social and political empowerment.
5. Preparing 5 policy papers related to the incoming legal provisions that affect the entity, identity, status, rights and dignity of women.



The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) 3/2022 – 8/2023



Project:

Enhancing the Production and Marketing Capacities of Rural Women and Increasing Job Opportunities for Youth in the north of the West Bank, Implemented by: Rural Women's Development Society "RWDS", Supported by: (GIZ).

Project objective:

Enhancing the productive and marketing capabilities of rural women and increasing job opportunities for young people in the northern West Bank

Sub- Goals:

- Improving the productive & marketing capacities of women's associations in the northern governorates
- Providing beneficiary associations with various production requirements
- Providing temporary job opportunities and training for 20 university students in the targeted governorates

Implementation areas:

In the northern governorates of the West Bank, specifically in 5 governorates: (Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilya, and Salfit).

Target group: (800) beneficiaries belonging to 20 women's associations and cooperatives + 20 trainees and university students

Project Achievements:

- Providing training and temporary work opportunities for 20 young students.
- Providing production supplies for the beneficiary associations and a package of training and capacity building.
- Organized a marketing bazaar for beneficiary associations from five governorates for three days in Tulkarm governorate.
- Supported the grape festival in Jenin city.





The World Bank

3/2022-4/2023



Project

To enhance the economic situation of young males and females from the West Bank especially those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

This project is part of the Cash for Work project executed by the Palestinian Employment Fund in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labor, funded by the World Bank.

It aims to provide 3940 temporary job opportunities for the unemployed in the West Bank for a duration of 6 months through 19 non-governmental organizations. Half of these opportunities are designated for women, and 20% are allocated for individuals from families receiving financial support from the Ministry of Social Development.

Implementation areas:

Rural areas and cities in the West Bank.

Target group:

143 person who had been affected by the Corona pandemic

Project objective: The project designed to respond to the call objective by providing job opportunities for a group of youth affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, improve their economic situation, and provide them with practical experience that facilitate their access to future job opportunities





The World Bank 3/2022-4/2023



Sub-Objectives:

- To improve the economic situation of a group of educated youth affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing them with temporary job opportunities. Key Performance Indicator (KPI): 134 educated, unemployed youth will get a part-time job for 6 months with a financial return of \$413 per month.
- To enhance youth practical experience by providing them the space to put the theory they acquired at universities into practice through the support they will offer to RWDS women clubs, offices, and partner organizations. KPI: The practical experience of 134 youth will increase in several fields, and eventually expand their employment opportunities.
- To activate and enhance the services of 40 targeted women clubs of RWDS in general and in light of COVID-19 pandemic. KPI: 40 women clubs will be activated by the work the young beneficiaries will provide to enhance their management performance, expand their marketing channels, and provide better services to the targeted communities.

Project Achievements:

- Employment of 134 young men and women affected by the corona pandemic for 6 months.
- More than 20 training courses, workshops and media coverage of the project were held.
- Follow up and improve the system of complaints and suggestions, where during the implementation of the project, and develop a competent page on the website of the Rural Women's Development Society. Also, both public safety and occupational health procedures were improved within the framework of an emergency from fires or earthquakes in the frameworks of the association and the incubators



Manos Unidas

1/2023-12/2023



Project

Improve access to water resources and expand knowledge about environmental sustainability for the most vulnerable households at Al-Dhahiriya village.

Project objective:

To increase access to water supplies, and expand knowledge about green economy, hygiene and environmental health among the most vulnerable households at Al-Dhahiriya village

Implementation areas:

Al-Dhahiriya, south of Hebron.

Target group:

The project specifically aims to assist 150 women or families residing in Ad-dahiryah village, with a particular focus on marginalized women and those who serve as the breadwinners for their families. These women often face significant challenges resulting from water crises. By targeting this vulnerable group, the project aims to provide them with support and assistance to alleviate the difficulties they encounter due to water scarcity.





Manos Unidas

1/2023-12/2023

Project Achievements:

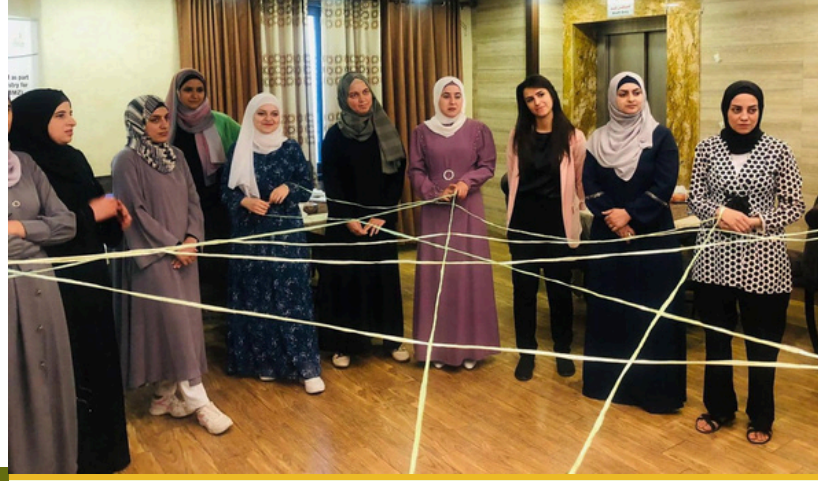
- The project was able to benefit 174 families instead of 150 families, through good financial management of the project budget.
- The collaboration between RWDS, Ad-dahiryah municipality, and the targeted groups was highly commendable throughout the planning, implementation, control, and follow-up stages of the project. This strong cooperation resulted in a seamless, timely, and successful execution of the project activities across all phases.
- The impact of the project on the beneficiaries' lives extends well beyond the expected benefits of reduced time spent collecting water and improved health conditions.
- This project implements sustainable practices by offering families additional storage space for water, whether through rainwater collection or collecting clear water from municipal pipelines. This promotes responsible water usage, reduces wastage, and contributes to long-term environmental sustainability



**GLOBAL FUND FOR
WOMEN**
Champions for Equality.

Global Fund for Women

7/2022- 6/2023



Project

To defy social violence against women

Project objective:

To work on increasing the awareness of women, youth and clergy in 6 rural areas.

Areas of implementation:

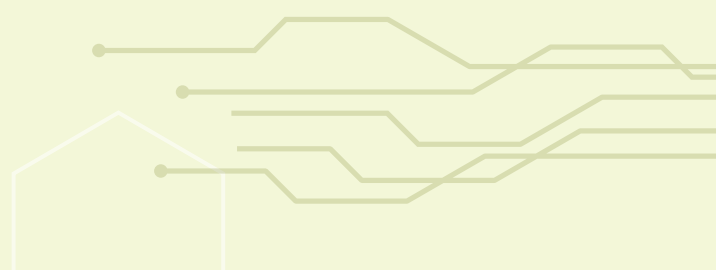
West Bank.

The target group:

Women, male and female students from schools, clergymen, preachers, and members of local councils.

Project Achievements:

- Implementing awareness workshops for groups of men and women in Ramallah and Bethlehem area for approximately 60 people on intervention mechanisms in times of crises.
- Conducting several advocacy campaigns throughout the year in partnership with the Forum for Non-Governmental Organizations to Combat Violence against Women Al-Muntada to lobby on the enforcement and approval of the Family Protection Law. Among the activities throughout the year that were implemented several demonstrations and protests in front of the Palestinian Council, media campaigns via social media and radio, in-addition to holding several meetings with Decision makers on this issue.





European Union



European Union 10/2022-3/2023

Project:
rug and string

Implementation by Rural Women's Development Society in partnership with the Palestinian Vision Foundation

Project objective:

Preserving the Palestinian heritage and marketing heritage products continuously at the local and national levels.

Areas of implementation:

Al-Samu' town.

The target group:

15 women and girls from the town of AlSamu' who want to learn how to make the Samu'i municipal rug and other ancient traditional crafts and have the ability to transfer what they learned to others.

Project Achievements:

- Training of 15 women in the field of traditional carpets.
- Training of 15 women in the field of recycling old heritage pieces into new pieces with different designs that can be used and sold.
- Raising women's awareness of the importance of preserving heritage and folk heritage and the need to pass it on to future generations.
- Created an exhibition to market heritage products and pieces made by women.





Spanish cooperation

11/2022 -4/2024

Project

Enhancing the status of Palestinian women as holders of rights and influential in decisions taken at all levels by calling for the adoption of laws and policies that support women's rights and gender equality in Palestine

Project objective:

- Establish innovative approaches and community structured mechanisms to influence change in the judicial frameworks that hinder gender equality and women civic engagement in the West Bank and Gaza.
- To Improve women, access to economic resources with focus on land and finance in Palestine

Expected Results:

- Network of young lawyers and journalists is established in the targeted areas to promote gender equality and lobby and advocate for change in the judicial framework and practices that hinder women's public engagement.
- Women participation in public spheres is increased by enhancing laws and demanding the enforcement of the 30% quota of women representation in local authority elections and the legislative council in Palestine.
-

- Policies and laws about women inheritance and access to land and credit are influenced through lobbying and advocacy initiatives led by young lawyers and journalists in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Women's knowledge about their inheritance rights and access to land and credit is increased in the targeted areas of the West Bank and Gaza





Spanish cooperation 11/2022 -4/2024

The target group:
Ladies and girls

Areas of implementation:

Ramallah: Yabroud, Qarawat Bani Zaid, Mazra' al-Nubani, and Arura.

Gaza Strip: Beit Lahiya, Khirbet Al-Adas, Al-Sawarha, and Wadi Al-Salqa.

Project Achievements:

- 20 lawyers "10 in WB and 10 in Gaza" and 20 journalists "10 in WB and 10 in Gaza" attended legal and media trainings
- Innovative initiatives about gender equality and women inclusion in public life to increase public awareness and to be used for lobbying and advocacy.
- 10 lawyers and 9 Journalists were employed in WB and Gaza
- A policy paper and a position paper we done in Gaza
- 3 policy papers were done in WB
- four workshops on women rights focusing on the laws that govern women in the Gaza
- advocacy meetings with decision makers such as the General Secretaries of Political Parties, Members of the PLO, Human right organizations, etc.)
- Prepare 3 MOUs to be signed with Bank of Palestine, Al Quds Bank and National Bank.





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4/2020-3/2023



Project

FAIR for ALL- Trade and sustainable value chains

Areas of implementation:

West Bank and Gaza Strip

The target group:

rural women and members of women cooperative, CSOs, small-scale farmers and youth

Project objective:

Contribute to more inclusive and sustainable trade and value chains in OPT and create an enabling environment that respects women and men small-scale producers and their rights, protects the environment and supports youth economic empowerment.

Sub.- Objectives:

- Empowered women/young entrepreneurs and strengthened CSOs are aware of rights and economic opportunities.
- Strengthened CSOs, women producers and young entrepreneurs have co- created alternatives to current business practices with private - and public sector actors.
- Strengthened civil society collects evidence of rights abuses and supports communities in seeking redress.
- Strengthened civil society works in people-led coalitions that hold private-sector actors to account.

- Strengthened civil society has the capacity to improve (inter)national norms, safeguard people's rights in value chains and monitor implementation of laws.
- Strengthened civil society mobilizes the public to influence governments for stronger legal protection of people in value chains, especially women.





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4/2020-3/2023



- Strengthened civil society actors work in coalitions to demand transparent, accountable and progressive fiscal, trade and value-chain regulations.
- Empowered citizens and youth have oversight of and voice in trade and fiscal issues and governments have increased political will for inclusive, transformative development.

Project Achievements:

- Memorandum of Understanding with the Cooperative Work Authority (CWA): The signing of MoU with the Cooperative Work Authority, a member of the "Women in Cooperative Work Coalition," served as a significant milestone and a sign of success for the project.
- Approval and Dissemination of the Fact Sheet: The Fact Sheet was prepared and reviewed in consultation with coalition members, received approval from the Cooperative Work Authority for its final release. This Fact Sheet serves as a fundamental tool for advocacy, awareness, and disseminating crucial information about the cooperative sector, particularly addressing challenges and issues related to registration and banking procedures.
- Strengthening Collaboration and Workshops: The Coalition's efforts extended beyond meetings, leading to the implementation of three central workshops in partnership with the Cooperative Work Authority to discuss the results of the Fact Sheet. These workshops brought together decision-makers and stakeholders from various backgrounds, including CWA staff, cooperatives, women's groups, civil society organizations, ministries, and various organizations interested in the cooperative sector.



GENERALITAT VALENCIANA

15/6/2023-28/2/2025

Project Title:

Building up the capacities of female-led cooperatives and the professional skills of young women by strengthening the Women Cooperative Platform in Jenin Governorate, Palestine. Implemented in partnership with FPS

General Objective:

Promoting the right to access to labor of rural women in Jenin (West Bank), contributing to generate equitable, inclusive and sustainable development in the area of intervention

Project targeted locations:

Meithalun, Anza, Birqin, Deir Abu Deef, Jalboun, Faqu'a, Al-Jalameh, Deir Gazaleh, Kufr Dan, Beit Qad, Arabouneh, Aroura, Mazare Nobani, Qarawet Bani Zaid

Targeted group:

_women, youth, cooperatives

Project Achievements:

- 1.Developing baseline survey
- 2.Logistic support for 3 cooperatives in west bank
- 3.Formulation of women cooperatives coalition and electing board of members



French Palestinian Friendship Society

2/2023-1/2024

project:

Enhancing the premises of two of RWDS women clubs south of the West Bank to provide better services to the communities.

Objectives of the project:

- To enhance the operational conditions of the women clubs to become more effective in providing the services
- To integrate more young females in the governance of the women clubs by designing programs that are attractive to youth.

This project has 4 dimensions of support:

- Responding to the physical needs of the two women clubs such as rehabilitation needs of the premises.
- Furnishing and equipping it with the needed furniture and office equipment and supplies.
- Building the technical skills' capacities of the women in topics related to production capacities, photography and digital marketing etc.
- Organizing clean and green campaigns within public spaces in the villages to enhance the environmental conditions of the villages that suffer from various unhealthy practices such as burning garbage, throwing garbage in public places, running waste water, etc. by planting flowers and trees, and cleaning public areas to look more hygiene, clear and beautiful. The campaigns will be organized and led by young females and males in cooperation with the women clubs' members and local authorities.





French Palestinian Friendship Society

2/2023-1/2024

Implementation areas:

Bethlehem – Zataraa, Hebron – Ithna

Target group:

women.

Project Achievements:

- Rehabilitation of the Zaatara women's club in Bethlehem governorate and providing it with basic furniture and equipment.
- Attracting and employing five young women to work on reactivating the club's activities and designing and leading initiatives, community campaigns, programs and other activities.
- Organizing a "clean and green" campaign to reduce negative polluting practices in the region.
- Conducting volunteer campaigns to clean and plant trees and flowers in the target area.
- Raising the capabilities of members by giving workshops and training courses on production mechanisms, food processing, management, digital marketing, photography and others.



The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) 7/2023-3/2024



Project:

Enhancing the production capacities and food security of rural farmers south the West Bank," funded by The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Project objective:

Economic Empowerment of Women Farmers in Bethlehem Governorate

Sub- objectives:

- Improving the productive capacities of women's associations in the northern governorates
- Providing beneficiary associations with various production requirements

Areas of implementation:

Bethlehem Governorate

The target group:

35 beneficiaries directly and 175 beneficiaries indirectly





Belgium

partner in development



DGD

1/2022-12/20226

Project:

Women, youth, and other SSPs increase benefits in the fresh vegetables value chain as change agents

Implementing partners: Oxfam, Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), and Palestinian Farmers' (PFU)

Project objective:

The programme will work to make the fresh vegetables value chain more inclusive, fair and sustainable.

Areas of implementation:

six governorates in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (1) Tulkarem, 2) Qalqilya, 3) Jenin, 4) Tubas in the Northern Jordan Valley) and Gaza (5) North Gaza and 6) Khan Yunis.

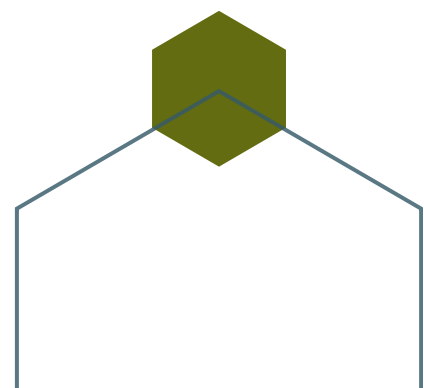
The target group:

3.000 women, female/male youth, and other vulnerable small-scale producers in the fresh vegetables value chain in the six governorates in the West Bank (Tukarem, Qalqilya, Jenin, Tubas in the Northern Jordan Valley) and Gaza (North Gaza and Khan Yunis).



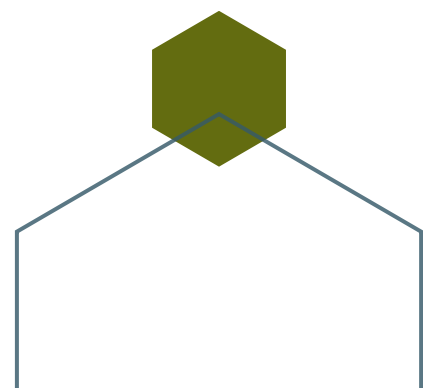
The most important achievements of RWDS for the year 2023

- Signing memorandums of understanding with a number of local and private institutions, including (cooperative Work Agency, Bethlehem municipality, QADER for Community Development, Palestine Ahliya university in Bethlehem and the legal clinic at Birzeit University).
- Develop RWDS website and build a complaints system
- RWDS participation in emergency committees in all governorates. Psychological and social interventions were held at the RWDS sites with patients and Gazan workers present in the West Bank.
- Renovation of women's clubs in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron governorate.
- Targeting a group of new graduates in various fields and giving them temporary training and employment opportunities.
- Establishment of marketing fairs for women's products in all governorates



The most important achievements of RWDS for the year 2023

- Participation of the Rural Women's Development Society in the final conference of the European Union-funded Mediterranean Sustainable Agro-food Innovation Networks Project (ENI CBC Med) funded by the Federation of Andalusian Municipalities which Provinces in Italy.
- Participation of the Rural Women's Development Society over two days in the strategic planning of the Arab Women's Network (ROA'A) held in Jordan.
- Opening of membership in women's clubs and work to integrate young groups into the management bodies of women's clubs
- Organization of support and support campaigns for female members of women's clubs in the Gaza Strip in the current war, as well as assistance to Gazan patients and escorts who have been detained in the West Bank.
- Open relationships with new financiers.



Success stories

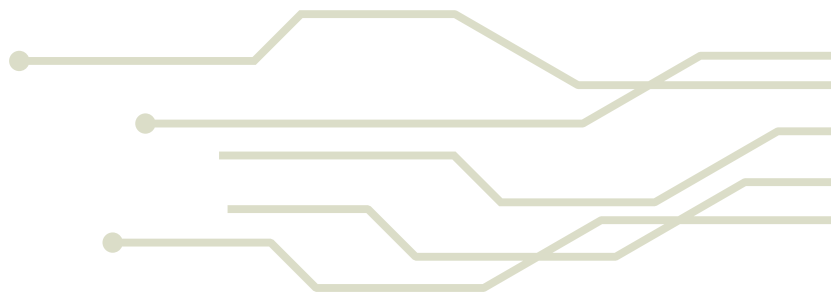


Rahaf Abdel-Fattah Abu Al-Saud

Rahaf Abdel-Fattah Abu Al-Saud, an agricultural engineer, embarked on a transformative journey that not only enhanced her own expertise but also revolutionized the agricultural practices in her community. Working in the Jayyus Cooperative Society, Rahaf took charge of supervising several compliance en houses, focusing primarily on cultivating eggplants. Her dedication and innovative approach led to a remarkable success story.

One of the significant challenges Rahaf faced was the limited awareness among farmers about effective disease and pest control methods, particularly those involving biological and organic solutions. Most farmers relied solely on chemical pesticides, disregarding the potential benefits of alternative approaches. Determined to make a difference, Rahaf saw an opportunity to introduce new techniques and educate the farmers about the advantages of biological control methods.

Being part of the Jayyus Association and Women's Club, which fostered pioneering agricultural projects, Rahaf had the support and platform to implement her ideas. She recognized the association's emphasis on producing high-quality crops that adhered to specific standards, such as size and color. For her, the goal was to cultivate eggplants free from defects and diseases while optimizing production.



Success stories

Rahaf Abdel-Fattah Abu Al-Saud

To achieve this, she organized numerous meetings and gatherings, one of which was a special session on organic agriculture and its benefits. Ensuring credibility and promoting a holistic understanding of organic farming practices.

Through these interactions, Rahaf successfully conveyed the importance of integrating biological and organic methods into their farming practices. She shared her knowledge about identifying and controlling diseases and pests without relying heavily on chemical interventions. By emphasizing the benefits of sustainable and environmentally friendly approaches, Rahaf inspired the farmers to embrace change and explore alternative solutions.

As a result, the farmers began to implement the new methods in their greenhouses, including the use of beneficial insects for pest control and adopting organic fertilizers. Rahaf's guidance and support were crucial in their transition, as she provided them with the necessary information to implement these changes effectively.

The impact of Rahaf's efforts soon became evident. The eggplant crops produced by the farmers under her supervision exhibited remarkable improvements. The quality of the produce met the stringent standards, making them marketable at a premium price.



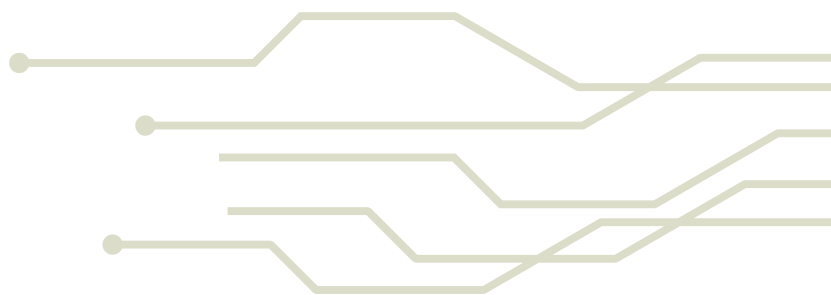
Success stories

Rahaf Abdel-Fattah Abu Al-Saud

Moreover, by collaborating with the farmers, Rahaf arranged for the purchase of their crops at a fair rate, creating a mutually beneficial exchange and encouraging further adoption of organic practices.

Rahaf's success story didn't end within the confines of her community. As a prominent advocate for sustainable agriculture, Rahaf became a catalyst for change, inspiring others to reconsider their farming methods and embrace more environmentally friendly practices.

Through her commitment, perseverance, and passion for sustainable agriculture, Rahaf Abdel-Fattah Abu Al-Saud dedication to introducing biological control methods, educating farmers, and promoting organic agriculture set a powerful example. By empowering her community to adopt more sustainable practices, Rahaf's success story continues to inspire and pave the way for a greener, more environmentally conscious future in agriculture.



Success stories



Greta Abu Aita

My name is Greta Abu Aita and I am from Beit Sahour, a small city in Bethlehem governorate, I studied nursing at Al-Quds University. After graduation, I devoted myself to raising my children and taking care of my family. A year ago, my husband died at the age of 55. He was the only source of income for the family, my son is still studying at the University and working part-time to cover part of his tuition fees. Therefore, I became the only source of income for my family. It was time to build my career as I had no other source of income because he did not retire from his old job. I also wanted to make a positive impact on my community.

To achieve this, I participated in advanced courses on natural homemade skin care products that were held in my city in September 2022. After finishing taking courses in this field, I started my own small business manufacturing natural and organic skin care products using ingredients from my garden, and I planted Rosemary, aloe vera, lemon, orange and other natural herbs found in my garden to be used in organic products such as olive oil soap and natural body scrubs.



Success stories

Greta Abu Aita

Starting a business on my own was difficult because the cost of packaging materials such as bottles and cream cans is quite high. However, I managed to develop my small business with the help of the Rural Women's Development Society. They helped me buy the necessary items for making new products, such as hair masks, eyebrow strengthening serums, eyelash strengthening serums. They have also supported me by participating in many events from marketing days and festivals and introduced me to potential clients outside my local city.

Thanks to their help, people began to recognize and try my products, which led to an increase in demand for my products through the social networking pages of my business.

I am very grateful to the Rural Women's Development Society for their constant encouragement to me to develop my own project. Actively participating in festivals, such as the Makhror festival, which helped me build a client base living outside my province.

In the end, I would like to thank Global Ministries very much



Aspirations for the year 2024

Continuing to build the capabilities of the crew and providing them with additional privileges.

Work on preparing the special strategic plan for the association for the years 2024-2028

Expanding the association's audience base.

Opening relationships with new financiers.

Review and amend the Procurement Manual