

Agricultural Development Association (PARC)



Annual Report 2022

تطوع . تنمية . استدامة

Volunteering . Development . Sustainability





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Message from the Board of Directors:

Suffering remains suffering, whether its source is the occupation, or the pandemic and its social, economic and even psychological effects, or even the economic regression and the accompanying rise in poverty and unemployment rates. PARC also remains PARC, with its efforts and dedication to the advancement of the agricultural sector as a pillar for economic and social development in Palestine. The Board of Directors remains and Hussam Abu Fares remains too. Hussam Abu Fares, even if he was absent in body, his spirit remains. Even if Hussam Abu Fares is no longer with us, his ideas and his vision will remain to lead the path of PARC. So, the message of the Board of Directors this year is the message of Hussam Abu Fares. Abu A'mer's message is that the wound is still there, and that Palestine is still in its shackles and is still bleeding, till it became unusual for it to have an hour of a day or a night without martyrs, or uprooting trees, or demolishing houses, or razing and confiscating Or exile and imprisonment, or being prevented from performing prayers, and despite the wound, Palestine did not cease to say to its children, to its nation, and to the entire world and repeat: I am here, I did not, nor will die, I am the one who will remain. We remain for the sake of Palestine, the past, the present and the future, we will not complain and we will not quit.

The engineer Hussam Abdel Qader Abu Fares "Abu A'mer", Chairman of the Board of Directors of PARC, Abu A'mer passed away from our world late in the evening of Sunday, the 3/12/2023, at the age of 63, due to an incurable disease that did not give him long, after a life full of struggle, giving and sacrifice.



Message from the General Manager:

It is no secret that the year 2022 was a continuation of the years that preceded it in terms of the grave challenges that our Palestinian people are still living and facing in their villages, cities, and refugee camps in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The nature and magnitude of these challenges facing the Palestinian people in the occupied territories is also no secret to anyone, perhaps the most prominent of which are the racist policies pursued by the occupation towards Palestinians, and the increasing rates of poverty, unemployment and food insecurity associated with those policies. Violence in all its forms has increased, especially in the most marginalized areas such as Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, and the Gaza Strip. These challenges also include the negative effects that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people. Although the year 2022 was a continuation of the years that preceded it in terms of challenges, it was also a continuation of those years in terms of the increasing quantitative and qualitative achievements by PARC. PARC's connection and ability to adapt in a thoughtful and smooth manner is evident in all administrative, financial and executive levels in terms of modernizing and creating departments, bringing in professional expertise, and mobilizing supporters and volunteers. The year 2022 witnessed more importance being given to Community Protection Committees "CPCs", in cooperation with various community frameworks and activities in the most marginalized rural areas. The CPCs are vital in enhancing the involvement of marginalized societal groups such as women, youth and children in planning processes for their communities, as well as their importance in enhancing the ability to respond quickly to natural and manmade risks, not to mention the role of these committees in promoting the values of belonging, citizenship, transparency and accountability among their communities. Since 2012 PARC formed (80) protection committees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The year 2022 alone witnessed the formation of (19) new committees and the modernization and capacity building of (13) committees formed in previous years. This year was also the year of preparation for the Protection Committees Conference, which was held in the first quarter of 2023. In addition to continuing to devel-

op and expand traditional activities such as land reclamation, constructing agricultural roads, laying agricultural water lines and networks, digging and renovating wells, building greenhouses and barns, developing the capabilities of agronomists, and building the capabilities of farmers in modern agricultural techniques. The year 2022 witnessed the development of business accelerators in the Zayabdeh, Jericho and Gaza branches. The same year also witnessed a boom in climate activities, entrepreneurship, environmental protection, renewable energy, compost factories, hydroponics, and water treatment units. On an external level, PARC continued to strengthen its partnerships with public sector institutions such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Labor and Social Development, and the Water and Energy Authorities. The year 2022 was a witness to PARC's representation of Palestinian civil society in the process of building the strategic development plan for Palestine 2023-2028, which is led by the Council of Ministers. PARC also worked to strengthen the partnership with the private sector. Regionally, PARC was elected to head the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty.



About PARC:

PARC was established as a volunteering initiative in the late 1970s by a group of agronomists and pioneer farmers, to fill the service and development gap created by the Israeli occupation. The Civil Administration at that time denied Palestinians' access to specialized guidance programs, research stations, and modern agricultural technology. In order, to marginalize the Palestinian agricultural sector and break the link between Palestinian farmers and their land aiming to confiscate it to build settlements. In 1983, PARC became a pioneering institution, which took upon itself the work of contributing to the protection of Palestinian lands from confiscation, providing marginalized Palestinian farmers with a specialized technical guidance program, and the means to cultivate their lands. PARC also offers specialized training to farmers and agronomists, to support pioneering ideas in agriculture, and to consolidate the foundations of equality and justice in rural areas.

Value-Added Chains	Specialized Training	Social entrepreneurship
Agricultural Vocational Training	Equality and Justice	Rural Development
Public-Private Partnership	Adapting and mitigating to climate change	Resilience and CPCs

Vision:

A leading Palestinian organization, committed to agricultural development, sovereignty over resources, and building resilient, sustainable and food-secure rural communities.

Mission:

We are a Palestinian institution that works to develop the agricultural sector, and to empower and organize rural areas and enhance its resilience through a highly capable staff, affiliated volunteers, organized community protection committees, and grassroots institutions within the framework of true partnership and best practices, in a manner that contributes to building a free and democratic Palestinian society.

Governing Values



Our Addresses:



Ramallah, Head Quarter

022963840

022963850



Zababdeh Office

042510461

042510461



Jerusalem office

025833818

025831898



Azzoun Office

092900874

092900874



Hebron Office

022294585

022290288



Nablus Office

092380912

092380912



Jericho office

022327296

022327298



Gaza, Main Office

082805040

082805039



Bethlehem Office

022770812



Tulkarem Office

092675944



Salfit Office

092515220



Ramallah Office

022952650

Chapter One:

“ Violations of Human Rights by The Occupation and The Economic Situation In Palestine ”



Firstly Violations of Human Rights by The Occupation in 2022

During 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities continued their policies to fragment the occupied Palestinian territories. Which included land seizures, settlement expansion, restricting the movement of people and goods, preventing access to resources, and escalating violence, settlers increasing their attacks, continuing the siege of Gaza, and isolating of East Jerusalem, amounting to “crimes against humanity,” represented by Racism and persecution. Following the formation of an extreme right-wing government, the situation worsened and the pace accelerated.



16
years
of Siege on
the Gaza
Strip

600
permanent
and tempo-
rary check
points.



966
displaced

1000
houses and
structures
demolished
in the West
Bank



224

people killed, in May,
2022 Israeli forces assas-
sinated journalist Shireen
Abu Aqleh in Jenin.



866
admin-
istrative
detainees

4658
political de-
tainees (150
children, 34
women)



1300
attacks by
settlers



700
thousand settlers in the West Bank

179
settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem

220
settlement spot (20 farming ones)

12,934
permits granted for settlement units

2220
settlement unit established

113,435
donums seized



230
thousand settlers in East Jerusalem

7
Civil society organizations offices were raided

128
building demolished



Gaza Strip

The occupation continues to restrict Movement of individuals and materials to and from the Gaza Strip. It imposes restrictions on the entry of building material and other materials that you consider dual use. On the other hand, Long and chronic power outages are still prominent (average 12 hours a day), and its burdening important sectors in the Strip, and is exasperating water scarcity as 97% of the groundwater in Gaza is becoming not safe for consumption.

Secondly

The Economic Situation In Palestine for the year 2022

Population of Palestine: 5.4 million



- Population of the West Bank: 3.2 million
- Population of the Gaza Strip: 2.2 million

Number of University graduates in Palestine per year: 55 thousand



- 70% in the West Bank
- 30% in the Gaza Strip.

Percentage of unemployment in Palestine: 24%.



- In the West Bank 13.1%
- In the Gaza Strip: 45%



Unemployment among youth (20-29): 48%. In the West Bank: 28%. In Gaza Strip: 73%



Economic recovery

The economy continued to recover from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2022, albeit at a slower rate than in the previous year. The Ukrainian-Russian crisis increased the pressure on the supply chains of basic food commodities and impacted their prices. This undermined the well-being of Palestinian families, especially the poorest families.

- ↑ The GDP increased by (3.7%) compared to a growth rate of (7.0%) during the year 2021
- ↑ The total consumption in Palestine increased during the same year by (7.0%)
- ↑ Total investment increased by 15.3%
- ↑ Most economic activities witnessed an increase in their added value during the year 2022 compared to the year 2021
- ↓ The GDP increased by (3.7%) compared to a growth rate of (7.0%) during the year 2021



350

thousand Palestinian in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip received aid (In-kind and cash food aid)



1.73

million suffer from Food Insecurity in Palestine (64.4% of the population)

Third The Agriculture Sector in 2022

- ↓ The contribution of the agricultural sector in employment in recent years amounted to (6.7%), a decline of (20-30%) compared to the seventies of the last century.
- ↑ The number of agricultural holdings, according to the results of the second agricultural census, is (140) thousand holdings, an increase of about 30 thousand compared to a decade ago.
18% Of these holdings were in Gaza, with approximately (103) thousand agricultural holdings, and (20) thousand animal possessions, and (18) thousand mixed.
93% of these holdings were male owned.
- ↑ While the volume of agricultural imports amounts to about one billion dollars
- ↓ The value of exports does not exceed 170 million dollars, including 82 million from the Gaza Strip
- ↑ In the Gaza Strip, the agriculture sector's financial value amounted to \$638 million, \$373 million in plant production, \$244 million. Animal production, and \$21 million in fish agricultural production)
- ↓ The number of fishermen in the Gaza Strip is about 4,500 fishermen, and their monthly income does not exceed more than 180 dollars.

The reasons for the decline of the agricultural sector include:



Israeli policies and restrictions that are imposed on import of fertilizers



lack of a dynamic vision for the development of this sector in line with the goals of sustainable development



the low share of agriculture in the Palestinian Authority budget



Fishing industry is still underdeveloped and suffering



2 million losses in the agriculture sector in the Gaza Strip



Uprooting (12,500) of trees, mainly olive trees before by settlers



Establishment of farming settlers in the Jordan Valley

Chapter Two:

“ PARC’s Achievements
in 2022 ”

2021

2022



The reasons for the decline of the agricultural sector include:

19 Projects

183,427 Beneficiaries

55,871 Direct Beneficiaries

127,556 Indirect Beneficiaries



● 54% Males
● 46% Females



● 40% Youth
● 4.5% People With Disabilities



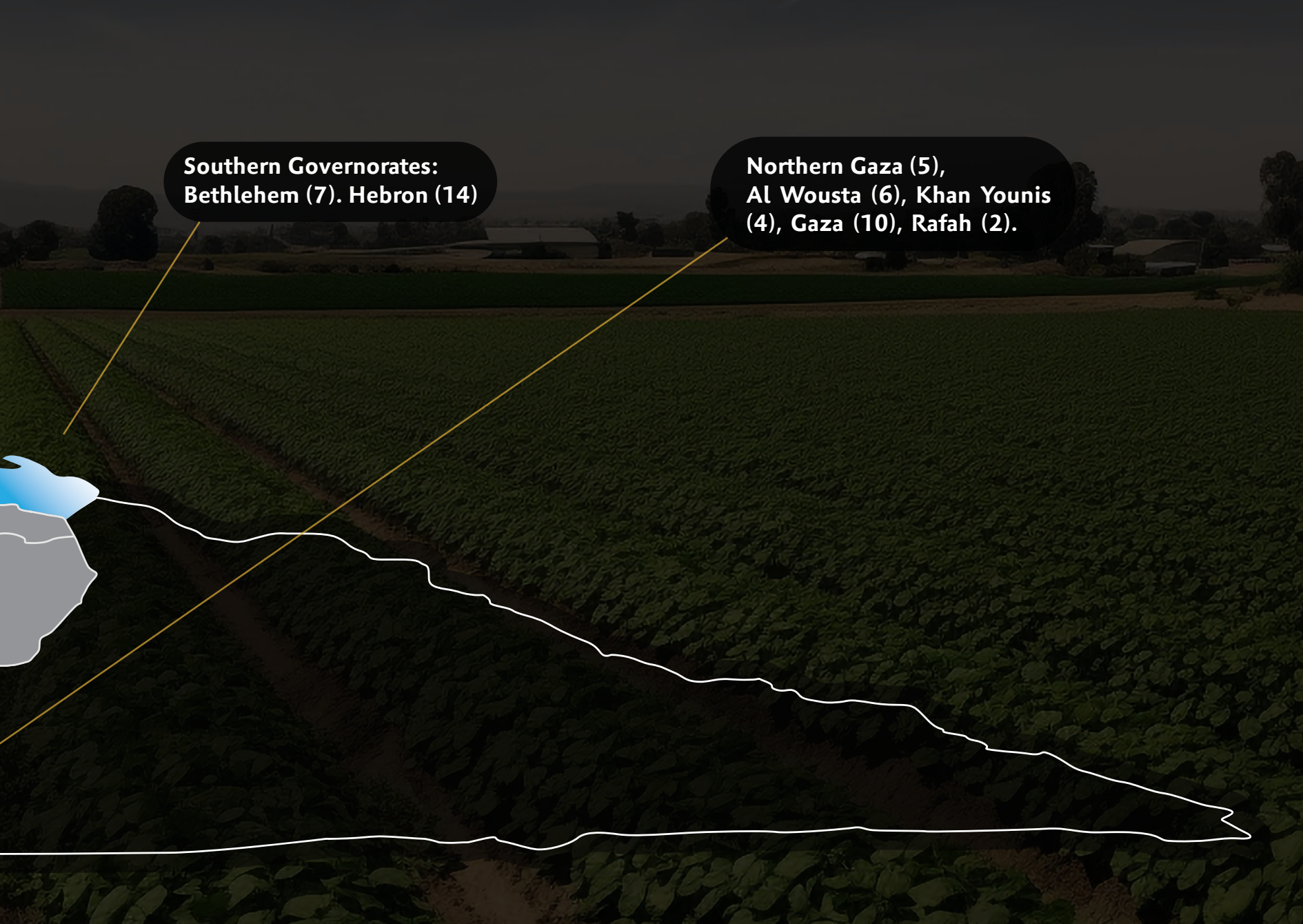
● 54% Males
● 46% Females

Target Locations:

Middle Governorates:
Jerusalem (6), Jericho (4),
Ramallah (27)

Northern Governorates:
Qalqilya (9), Nablus (28),
Tulkarm (22), Tubas (11),
Jenin (21), Salfit (13)





**Southern Governorates:
Bethlehem (7). Hebron (14)**

**Northern Gaza (5),
Al Wousta (6), Khan Younis
(4), Gaza (10), Rafah (2).**

2022 in numbers:



15.4 of Agricultural Roads Opened

3350 Dunums of Agricultural Lands & Forests Rehabilitated



One Water Treatment Plant

12 Kms of Irrigation Networks



648 Temporary Jobs Provided

Graduated 31 Agronomists in Wb & Gs



19 New Community Protection Committees

82 Individual & Collective Grants for Small & Medium-Scale Businesses



112 Training in Various Developmental Fields For Beneficiaries, Parc's Staff &

49 Solar Systems to Generate Energy



1,025 Job Opportunities Created

10 Research Studies, Needs' Assessments and Reports



2022



Achievements against strategic programs:

First Program: Natural Resources

The agricultural sector mainly depends on natural resources (land and water), so this program aims to contribute to achieving sustainable management of natural resources towards achieving sovereignty and food security.

1

First Result:

Expanding agricultural lands in terms of area, productivity and accessibility
Reclamation and rehabilitation of 3,280 dunums
Construction and rehabilitation of agricultural roads 15.4 km
Planting 38,461 seedlings

2

Second Result:

Advanced agricultural production (plant and animal) capable of competing and accessing local and international markets
Construction and rehabilitation of 10 greenhouses
Establishing and rehabilitating 50 poultry sheds
Distribution of production inputs to 395 farmers
Distributing 204 olive pickers to farmers
Solar energy systems 49 systems for charitable organizations
Rehabilitation of two central compost stations

First Program: Natural Resources

3

Third Result:

Efficient management of water resources for agriculture, while preserving current water resources.

- Extension of 12 km of collective irrigation networks
- Establishment of a Waste Water treatment plant
- Establish a pumping unit
- Construction of 14 agricultural wells
- Establishing two water ponds
- Restoration of two underground wells
- Rehabilitating and providing water sources for two forests

4

Fourth Result:

Readiness and ability to adapt to climate change and environmental sanitation.

- Issuing a study on the effects of climate change on the agricultural sector
- Developing a prototype for treating olive mill waste
- Study the spread and biodiversity of insects harmful to fruit trees
- Launching 5 environmental initiatives
- Rehabilitation of three school gardens
- Organizing 13 environmental campaigns

Fifth Result: Readiness and ability to adapt to climate change and environmental sanitation.

- Issuing a study on the effects of climate change on the agricultural sector
- Developing a prototype for treating olive mill waste
- Study the spread and biodiversity of insects harmful to fruit trees
- Launching 5 environmental initiatives
- Rehabilitation of three school gardens
- Organizing 13 environmental campaigns

5



Second Program: Social and Economic Empowerment

1

First Result:

More organized targeted groups

- Rehabilitation of 85 home gardens
- Market study and business plan for a cooperative

4

Fourth Result:

A supportive ecosystem for innovation, entrepreneurship, and small and medium enterprises

- 65 individual grants, including incubation and feasibility study

2

Second Result:

Increased investment in the agricultural sector and enhanced integration between the agricultural sector and other sectors of the economy

- 17 collective grants for small and medium-sized collective projects
- Building two partnerships with the private sector

3

Third Result:

Access to international markets improved.

- 12 marketing campaigns



Third Program: Resilience

This program enhances the steadfastness of the citizens on their land, through development of rural communities, particularly in Area C, the areas near the separation wall, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The program aims to enhance resilience, emergency response, and climate mitigation adaptation.

1

First Result:

Resilience of communities in rural and threatened areas is enhanced

- Forming 19 Community Protection Committees and training their members in 19 locations
- Rehabilitation of 13 community protection committees established in previous years
- Emergency aid, food and health packages for 1,198 families

2

Second Result:

The availability of infrastructure and basic services in rural and targeted areas, to strengthen people's connection to their land and work

- Launching 16 community initiatives by the protection committees.

3

Third Result:

The ability of communities to respond to emergencies, adapt to climate change, and mitigate its effects

- Preparation of 32 emergency plans by community committees formed in 2022



Fourth Program: Lobbying and Advocacy

The program aims to enhance PARC's leadership role in lobbying and advocacy.

1

First Result:

Citizenship and accountability principles are enhanced, and target groups are more aware of their rights.

- 16 social issues adopted through committee initiatives and by PARC

2

Second Result:

A prominent and pioneering role for PARC in effective mobilization and influence

- 2 advocacy campaigns
- 4 conferences
- The fourteenth "We are with you" campaign

Chapter Three:

“ The Internal Environment of PARC in 2022 ”

Evaluation



Employing



Training





Employing:

(34) employees were employed between in 2022. The total number of employees reached (100) employees (33% females). PARC also increased the number and quality of the staff, through the establishment of new units in the organization; Development and Resource Mobilization and The Monitoring and Evaluation unit.

100 employees



Trainings:



PARC employees participated in a number of face-to-face capacity building courses (abroad and locally), and virtual ones, in addition to the participation of a number of the employees in several educational, and awareness-raising workshops, as shown in the table below:

Training Based on Theme	Number of Employees
Training of Trainers (TOT)	8
14 Technical Trainings	14
En7trepreneurship Trainings	7
Clim2ate Change Trainings	2
Lobbying and Advocacy Trainings	12
Monitoring and Evaluation Trainings	6

Evaluation



An evaluation form was designed that includes all job grades, and it was discussed and approved by PARC's Evaluation Committee. The process of evaluating employee performance has resulted in nomination to participate in motivational courses, and approval of the annual increase for all employees.

1 PARC's Headquarters' internal network protection systems have been unified to improve information security in the organization.

2 Developing the server for human and financial resources, which increased its speed and performance and the ability to take permanent backups.

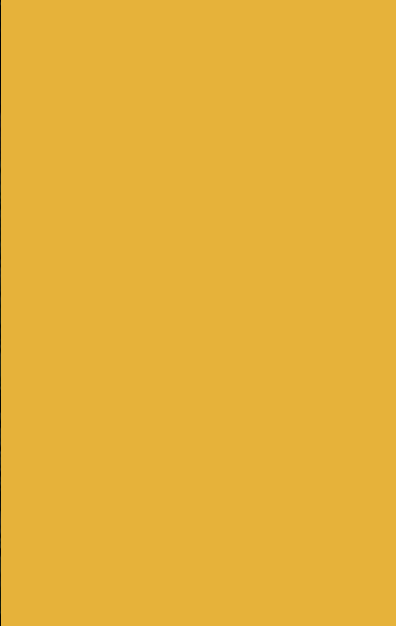
3 Work was done to prepare the appropriate technological environment to raise the Internet speed to a speed of up to 450 Mbps.

4 The system for backing up employees' data, server backups and information has been changed to become more secure and advanced and to keep more than one copy.

5 The organization's website has been completed in its new look.

Chapter Four:

“ Success Stories ”





Hasan.. The water harvesting pond reduces the cost of irrigation

Hassan (33 years old) struggles to support his family of (6) members, and continues to train and acquire skills in order to improve agriculture in his field located in the southern Gaza Strip. With the dawn of every morning, Hassan heads to his field, which has an area of (3.3) dunams east of the city of Rafah, but he relies on cultivating greenhouses built on (1.3) dunams of land, that is, on only about a third of the area of his field, and he does not benefit from the remaining area in open agriculture, due to water salinity and high pesticide prices. This Palestinian farmer has faced a torrent of difficulties over the past years while cultivating his field, including frequent leaks in the water pool made of nylon and high water prices, as the price of one cup in the southern Gaza Strip reaches (2) NIS, in addition to the high percentage of water salinity, which reaches 2400 ppm. Not to mention the frequent insect infestations that plagued his crops for most of the season. Hassan benefited from the project "Strengthening the Resilience of Small Farmers and Communities Affected by Natural Hazards and Protracted and Multifaceted Crises," which is implemented by PARC. Hassan explains that he benefited on both the training and financial levels, as he received advanced training from PARC on how to use soil disinfectants, rationalize the use of pesticides, and combat harmful insects, especially as the harvest season approaches. Hassan adds that the financial benefit was getting rid of the old nylon pond from which water was leaking and requiring expensive maintenance every year, and relying on the geomembrane pond that he obtained from PARC as support for the success and development of his agriculture. In one season last winter, Hassan was able to collect 200 cups of rainwater in the new pond, mix it with well water, and use it to irrigate his crops. Which contributed to reducing the water bill.





Ibziq - Challenging injustice

There, in the Jordan Valley, where inhumanity and persecution go hand in hand, is the village of Ibziq. Ibziq is located northeast of the city of Tubas. It is a marginalized Palestinian village in which dozens of Palestinian families live in tents. The residents benefit from agricultural land with an area of (46,000) dunums, including (2,500) dunums of plain land, and (5,000) heads of sheep, as cultivation of field crops and raising livestock are the two economic activities on which the population depends for livelihood. Like any other Palestinian neighborhood or village built in Area C, Ibziq has been subject for decades of discriminatory Israeli policies and measures, including the demolition of residential tents and livestock pens, and depriving its residents of access to agricultural land under the pretext of military training. Destruction and burning of crops and arrests. The last of these severe attacks on this village was in 2022 when heavy military vehicles completely destroyed (300) dunums planted with wheat, which increased the suffering of the citizens there. Al-Gharbia – in Area C in Ibziq was chosen by the PARC to benefit from one of its basic activities: distributing fodder seeds. (507) dunums of Ibziq agricultural land were planted with these seeds, and (24) families benefited from them, knowing that this type of crop is widely used, and its essential in feeding sheep. According to the residents of Ibziq, the impact of this activity was evident in saving tens of thousands of NIS that were used to buy fodder to be spent on other basic needs and services such as food, health care, and education, knowing that the people there are deprived of the infrastructure and basic facilities related to these services such as drinking water networks, sewage networks, schools, and health centers.





Cash for Work

The Cash for Work Project is a project implemented by PARC, to employ the unemployed in fields that serve the agricultural and cooperative sectors and the environment in the Palestinian countryside as part of the emergency social protection program for the effects of Covid-19 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The project was implemented in (65) locations in (8) governorates: (Nablus, Tulkarm, Jenin, Qalqilya, Tubas, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah). It benefited unemployed young men and women, affected by the COVID pandemic, for a period of 6 months. The project employed many young people, and this opportunity helped them enter the labor market and establish their own entrepreneurial businesses, which contributes to improving the income of families in the countryside, employing a larger number of young people, and developing the national economy. The project also provided many training opportunities to participants, whether through municipalities, and cooperative societies, which produced many inspiring stories from young people. In short interviews with some of the beneficiaries who emphasized the great benefit from the project, whether financially or professionally, agronomist Raban Abu Al-Rub said, "Through my participation in the cash-for-work program at PARC's office in Zababdeh, I had the opportunity to develop my technical capabilities in several fields. The most important areas are beekeeping, and now I can create my own project." Agronomist Lina Sobh also spoke about her dream since graduation to have the opportunity to develop her abilities so that she can access the labor market, until she applied for the cash-for-work program that fulfilled her dream. Through it, Lina was able to participate in more than (5) training courses in entrepreneurship, Business and 21st century skills. As for Doha Shweiki and Farida Ballout, for whom the program provided a temporary job opportunity in PARC in translation, they stressed that this training gave them many skills and they gained many experiences, whether in research, or in translating texts, time management, and withstanding work pressure, contact and communication. This confirms that the project has given many young people the opportunity they are looking for to be able to enter the labor market and be creative in their work, which may provide them with a better professional life and open many doors for them, that may have been closed due to incompetence or lack of experience.





Jayus Cooperative Society

Jayus Cooperative Society for Food Processing and the young farmer, mechanical engineering graduate, Abdul Karim Amjad: The Cooperative benefited a project within the social and economic empowerment program, by developing their value chain and establishing agricultural greenhouses to produce eggplant and pepper as basic materials used in the manufacture of Al-Maqdous pickles, as the cooperative chose Abdul Karim to supervise the cultivation of pepper inside the greenhouse, which is expected to produce approximately 6 tons, and the cultivation of thyme on open ground, which is expected to produce 2 tons, because of his dedication to work, his credibility, and his good reputation in the town of Jayus. The cooperative adopted environmental methods in agriculture through the use of “compost” and natural and chemical organic fertilizers, and the inclusion of natural enemies to reduce the use of deadly pesticides. It is worth mentioning that Abdul Karim Amjad is also a member of the community protection committee that was formed by PARC, and he has always been present in all project activities implemented PARC, especially the day of the distribution of 3,000 seedlings, compost, and agricultural inputs to farmers.







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