



Annual Report 2020

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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 origins date back to 1987, 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 Authority under registration number: RA-287-C.

RWDS has a strong and respected presence among grassroots rural communities, with over 3,000 female members that form a network of 55 women's clubs. It is this unique structure, geographic breadth and large core of dedicated volunteers that distinguish RWDS from other Palestinian women's organizations.

We advance the rights of rural women by fostering empowering and supportive spaces within their local communities. This is achieved through clubs, which highlight women's invaluable contribution to Palestinian society, and through 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 and able leaders within the rural community.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our 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 working for the most vulnerable individuals
- Equality
- Participation
- Transparency
- Volunteerism
- Credibility
- Empowerment and non-bargaining

Our Strategic Objectives

RWDS' 2019-2023 strategic objectives are as follows:

1. Enhancing the level of justice and equality between men and women and reducing violence against women and girls in Palestinian society.
2. Promoting economic justice for women and girls in Palestinian rural areas.
3. Improve the society's performance and efficiency, and raise the level of its representation and influence at the national, regional and international levels.

Community mobilization, lobbying and advocacy are an essential part of the methods that 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:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Randa Abed Rabo / Zain</i> | Chairwomen |
| <i>Hilda Issa</i> | Treasurer |
| <i>Buthaina Mizyed</i> | General Secretary |
| <i>Laila Khashan</i> | (Vice president (Gaza Strip |
| <i>Khawla Dasoqi</i> | Member |
| <i>Lubna Matar</i> | Member |
| <i>Salwa Bannoura</i> | Member |
| <i>Samaher Abu Rkab</i> | Member |
| <i>Suhila Abu Amra</i> | Member |

- *Euro-Mediterranean Network for Human Rights*
- *Arab Women's Network Roa'a*
- *Euro-Med Feminist initiative IFE-EFI*
- *Coalition of CEDAW*
- *Gender Forum in Local Governance*

Supervisory Members:

- *Ms. Warda Shabat*
- *Ms. Samia AL Tel*

Our partnerships:

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

- *The Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network*
- *The Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO)*
- *Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic Violence Against Women*
- *Women's Empowerment Centers/ Bethlehem Governorate*
- *Tawasol Center for Women's Empowerment*
- *Ma'an News Agency*
- *Palestinian Education Coalition*
- *Chambers of Commerce*

Chairman's Statement

The year of 2020 was like no other in living memory. The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed our lives, causing a health, economic and social crisis that has engulfed the world. The pandemic has highlighted many of the major global challenges that we still face until this day. A year that brought with it difficulties and pains which has exceeded consideration and increased the burdens that we have become accustomed to over the years, and which was postponed by the brutal Israeli aggression and the repercussions of its arrogance and brutality on all aspects of social and economic life, and the confiscation of rights and freedoms and control over natural and financial resources.

The Palestinians faced the biggest and most difficult challenge within all the political realities and capabilities of a country that is still subject to the longest occupation. Despite all that, the Rural Women's Development Society (RWDS) was able to take the lead in confronting the most difficult conditions and continuing to provide its services in the governorates of the country from Jenin in the north to the Gaza Strip in the south. Primarily targeting Palestinian women, especially marginalized women in the Palestinian countryside, by developing a more equitable and socially responsible society.

The Rural Women's Development Society has been able to implement all of its projects that have exceeded fifteen, with an amount of nearly two million US dollars. Through the organization's credibility with the financiers, it was able to transfer part of the project activities to provide relief and health aid imposed by the pandemic conditions.

The organization has worked to put our values and principles in solidarity and mutual assistance, as one of the most important means to overcome this crisis, and did not neglect the importance



of coordination with civil society institutions and relevant authorities to form an integrative work. The organization always believed that no one can make any change on all levels, including social and economic alone, but it is a participatory, integrative, cumulative process, and it is the same for facing the crisis.

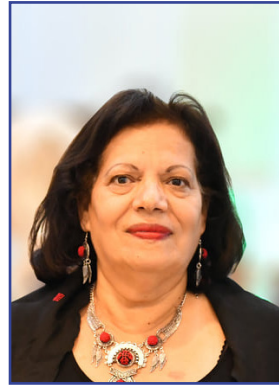
I am very proud that the Rural Women Development Society has shown true solidarity and persistence during the crisis, by continuing to provide its services, and the organization has proven that even in the most difficult times it was able to maintain employments, and did not stop paying salaries to its employees, who in turn, were not hindered by all the difficulties from providing their services, by developing appropriate means for the conditions of the pandemic. This indicates the affiliation and belief of the employees in the mission and goals of the organization.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the organization's staff, including all employees, volunteers and supporters for all that you have provided and will continue to provide and achieve, to ensure the achievement of the organization's goals for the benefit of our people and our country to overcome this crisis, and to come out of it with lessons to build on for our future generations, a firm solid foundation for a system that achieves social justice and preserves freedoms

Chairman of Board of Directors

Randa Abed Rabo / Zain

Statement of the General Director



The year two thousand and twenty have passed as the most difficult stage in human history in our time due to the very harsh experience with the Covid-19 pandemic, which cast a terrible shadow on the entire world, as the peak of these injuries was in the Chinese city of Wuhan until March of the year 2020, when the infection was transmitted to the city of Bethlehem, as it is a tourist city of the first degree. At that time, the Rural Women Development Society was preparing to celebrate the eighth of March as usual, but unfortunately we were shocked by the imposition of the comprehensive closure which lasted for three months. Therefore, this emergency situation prompted us to think of new tools to work and communicate with the organization's staff in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as with the public of the organization's women's clubs, and this required searching for new tools to communicate with the organization's staff and all partners and financiers through the Zoom application as well as other available means of communication.

In view of the difficult conditions experienced by the organization and all the Palestinian people, we decided in the RWDS to write a position paper to demand support and funding for programs for distributing humanitarian, medical and social aid distributed to the governorates of the West Bank. In fact, there was a huge response from the donors, to whom we thank very much, as we managed to distribute 350 health parcels funded by the Oxfam Foundation, and 450 health parcels funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Civil Society in Development (CISU) in partnership with the Danish Foundation DANNER, and 300 food parcels funded by the Kvinna Till Kvinna organization, 100 health packages funded by the GIZ organization, 100 families headed by women were targeted and supported with in-kind packages

funded by the Global Fund for Women in partnership with the Forum Against Domestic Violence Against Women (Al Muntada).

Perhaps one of the most prominent things that the administration has done, is developing the procurement system in line with the current situation and the comprehensive closure imposed by the government due to the Corona pandemic. Despite the set of great challenges, the organization has given training courses and active participation with other organizations and institutions at all levels. Various field studies were conducted, field visits were made to grapevines, and mobile bathrooms were distributed to women and children working in agricultural lands and digging home wells.

Despite the pandemic, the organization worked to elect a new board of directors after the end of the term of the previous board of directors, fulfilling all the required conditions, and practicing the democratic process in the most difficult circumstances.

Finally, I cannot but extend my sincere thanks to all the staff and volunteers of the organization at all technical and administrative levels, and to the members of the board of directors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and also to all lovers of goodness and hope, and to all donors and partners who believed with us in the role played by the organization and its staff. My sincere appreciation for the active women in the spring of good deeds in particular, and for all Palestinian women in general.

General Director

Nadia Harb

Our Locations:

Our women's clubs are at the heart of our work. Since 1987, RWDS has established 55 clubs throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, offering unique spaces for women to gather, learn, organize, and work together. Each RWDS club is a semi-autonomous community-based organization (CBO) with its own operational structure and system. The clubs focus on activities that respond specifically to the needs of women in the local community, while membership in the RWDS network creates opportunities for clubs to participate in larger projects and political campaigns.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ramallah & Jerusalem | Al Jeeb | Mazare' Al-nobani | Yabroud |
| | Beit Enan | Qarawa Bani Zaid | Aroura |
| Bethlehem | Al Khader | Husan | Wadi Fokin |
| | Al Walaja | Wad Rahal | Za'tara |
| | Beit Fajjar | | |
| Hebron | Al Thahrieh | Beit Ula | Kharas |
| | Beit Kahel | Halhoul | Sureef |
| | 'Al Samou | Ithna | Tarqumia |
| Gaza Strip | Beit Kahel | Al Sawahra | Khirbet Al Adas |
| | Al Manara | Beit Lahia | Wadi Al Salqa |
| | Al Shokeh | | |
| Nablus & Salfeet | Beit Dajan | Burqa | Sebastiya |
| | Beit Fureek | Jama'in | Farkha |
| Jenin & Tubas | Aneen | Beit Qad | Maythaloan |
| | Anza | Dair Abu Day'if | Sanur |
| | Bardala | Jalboun | Tubas |
| Tulkarem & Qalqilya | Beit Lid | Dayr Alghasoon | Shufa |
| | Jayyous | Kufr Aboush | Irtah |
| | E'teel | Kufr Thulth | Saida |
| | Imatain | Qaffin | |

Annual Achievements of the RWDS During the Year 2020



Projects

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

The following are the projects that the Society implemented during the year 2020, part of them is still ongoing, and they are as follows:



Australian Aid

Project: “Improving access for small Palestinian producers and strengthening their end in the value chains of high value fruit products and small ruminants” (Takamol) AMENCA 3

The project is implemented by RWDS in partnership with Oxfam.

It aims to improve and strengthen the performance of agricultural production and food processing to be more equitable to producers, more flexible and ready for markets, thus contributing to increased production, quality, profitability, and competitiveness of fresh vegetables and fruits, as well as activating the participation of women and men in the targeted value chains to be more sustainable and profitable.

Target group: small farmers, women farmers and associations.

Areas of implementation: West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Project Duration: 2016 to 2021.



Interventions during 2020

Interventions focused on enhancing the status of women and youth at the economic and social levels by enhancing productive capacity, sales, income and profits. The interventions were as follows:

- **Najd Intervention:** Establishing a production unit to extract essential oils and waters that are used in industries.

- **Al-Radwan Intervention:** Inclusion of women where a new partnership was established between the owners and three female workers who had expressed an interest in becoming shareholders in the company. Participation in trainings on market systems and development, poverty, gender, social integration and DCED, through a training course held in Jordan.
- **The Intervention of the Arab Women's Union Society:** targeting persons with disabilities in the city of Beit Sahour by creating suitable opportunities for persons with disabilities in the food processing sector, and working to improve their resilience and increase their income. The food dryer unit has been improved as well as the location which became suitable for the employment of persons with disabilities, and the hydroponic farm has been rehabilitated to be suitable and appropriate for the work of persons with disabilities. In addition to conducting an awareness campaign for the community and families about the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society.
- **Intervention of Creative Cooperative Society for Agricultural Industrialization - Deir Ballut:** represented by the cultivation of Armenian cucumbers in their town "Deir Ballut." The Corona pandemic spread, and as a direct response to the inability of women farmers to sell the fruits of the Armenian cucumbers in the market, an intervention was made with the Creative Cooperative Society, where the Armenian cucumbers were bought from women farmers as support for them, and the Creative Cooperative Society picked it and exported it abroad, the intervention was to purchase raw materials from women farmers and assist the Creative Cooperative Society in packaging materials.
- **PTC Company:** As a continuation to the intervention of Kfardan, the following activities have been carried out with PTC,
 - 1- Appointment of a qualified factory manager (the payment of his salary was contributed by 50% for a

year).

- 2- Hiring a technical expert in the pickle industry to assist in the operation and calibration of production lines.
- 3- Installing a water treatment unit needed for production operations in pickling.
- 4- Participation in the costs of packing materials necessary for production operations.





Global Fund for Women

Project: We Have a Right to a Law that Protects Us

Project objective: To work on increasing the awareness of women, youth and clergy in 5 rural areas of the negative impact that violence against women has on all society as a whole.

Areas of implementation: The West Bank.

The target group: Women, male and female students from schools, clergymen, preachers, and members of local councils.

Project Duration: 8/2019 to 7/2020.

The most important achievements of the year 2020:

- Coordination and implementation of nearly fifty workshops in ten marginalized rural villages in the West Bank in Palestine.
- Holding workshops in the selected schools in coordination with the Ministry of Education and the administrations of those schools. The topics raised in the workshops focused on gender-based violence, violence against women, femicide, and its effects on women and society as a whole.
- Holding 3 meetings with religious men of the Christian and Islamic faith and preachers to make them allies and partners of our organization to contribute to raising people's awareness, reducing violence against women, and convincing society of the need to renounce violence against women.
- Supporting nearly 50 battered women who head their families and have a bad economic situation by providing them with food parcels.
- Conducting consultations and counseling sessions for approximately 100 women who suffer from many societal

pressures in the Bethlehem and Hebron areas.





Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation AICS

Project: Promoting gender-sensitive sustainable rural development to ensure food security and resilience of vulnerable communities in the West Bank.

The project is implemented in partnership with Oxfam and PLDC.

The objective of the project: To contribute to the promotion of sustainable rural development that takes into account gender sensitivity and to achieve food security and resilience components of marginalized rural communities adjacent to the apartheid wall in Area C.

Execution areas: Wadi Fokin and Jayyous

Target group: Forty-six women in both areas.

Project Duration: 5/2018 until 5/2021.



The most important achievements of the year 2020:

1. Establishing a plastic house with an area of one dunam and planting it with vegetables for the benefit of Jayyous Cooperative.
2. Rehabilitate the food processing unit and provide it with the necessary equipment.
3. Absorbing and training three female graduates and providing them with a job opportunity for 8 months in Jayyous Cooperative.
4. Registration of the production unit as an official cooperative with the Cooperative Work Agency.



The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation

Project: Strengthening the economic cooperation network in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to improve social, economic and independence capacities "convinio."

The project is implemented in partnership with the Agricultural Development Association and the FPS Organization.

Project objective: To contribute to improving the resilience of vulnerable rural communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to enable them to access rights in a sustainable and equitable manner.

Implementation areas: Barqa, Jama'in, Beit Fureek, Beit Dajan, Al Manara/ Gaza

Target group: Women, girls, men and youth in the targeted locations

Project Duration: 1/2019 up until 1/2023

The most important achievements of the year 2020:

1. Implementation of 25 workshops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on social and economic rights for women.
2. Providing logistical support to five women's clubs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
3. Drilling and handing over 16 home wells at Beit Dajan and Burqa sites in Nablus Governorate.
4. Supporting and registering the Al-Manara Women's Club unit

in the Gaza Strip and providing it with the necessary equipment and training for food processing.



Manos Unidas

Project: Increase water resources and hygiene services for the most marginalized women at As-samou' village

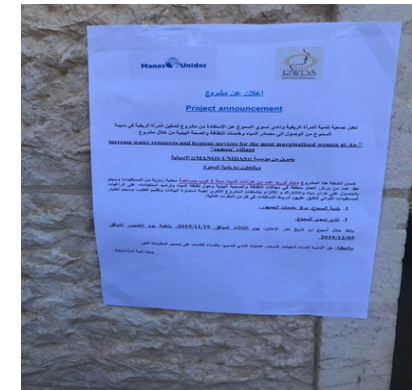
Project objective: Improving the access of marginalized and rural women to water sources and health services, and raising awareness and culture about the importance of rationalizing water use and maintaining a healthy and clean environment.

Implementation areas: As-samou' village (Hebron governorate)

Target group: 120 women

Project Duration: 11/2019 to 8/2020

The most important achievements of the year 2020:



1. 2000 liters of plastic water tanks were distributed to 141 families, and the number of project beneficiaries who received 120 water tanks was increased to 141 beneficiaries.
2. Publishing billboards in the streets and awareness brochures on prevention and protection from the Covid19.
3. Implementation of awareness-raising workshops on ways and methods to improve health conditions and rationalize water use, in addition to workshops on methods of prevention and protection to avoid infection with the Corona virus.
4. Conducting a campaign to plant trees and clean and sterilize the old town of Samou' in partnership with school students, the women's club and the municipality of Samou'.



Global Ministries

Project: Promoting livelihoods and employment opportunities for women and young women living in different rural areas in the south and north of the West Bank.

Project objective: To enhance the livelihood of rural women by increasing their productive capacities and expanding their marketing outlets.

Implementation areas: 6 locations in the West Bank.

Target group: Cooperative' women in the targeted areas, and a number of university's newly graduates.

Project Duration: 1/2020 to 12/2020.

The most important achievements of the year 2020:

1. Recruiting a young woman who received training in the first part of the project to work on coordination for the market and sales.
2. Buying a private car in the market to transport women's products.
3. Increase the number of shares in the market.
4. Increase the number of market customers.
5. Conducting media campaigns about the market.
6. The interest of local community institutions and their support for the market.



United Nations Humanitarian Fund for the Occupied Palestinian Territory & WeWorld- GVC

Project: Enhancing access to water, sanitation and hygiene services and response capacity for the most vulnerable families in North Gaza Governorate.

The project is implemented in partnership with the GVC Organization.

Project Objective: Helping poor, marginalized families exposed to floods



Implementation areas: Gaza Strip

Target group: 120 families from the northern Gaza Strip.

Project duration: 11/2019 – 7/2020

The most important achievements of the year 2020:

1. Through the project, the organization organized fourteen awareness sessions about hygiene in the Beit Lahia area, during which it targeted 37 children (boys and girls), 56 women and 56 men.
2. Through the project, the organization organized sixteen awareness sessions about hygiene in the Um Al-Nasr area, during which it targeted 64 children (boys and girls), 62 women and 63 men.
3. 260 parcels, containing hygiene supplies and tools, were

distributed to 260 families from the areas of Beit Lahia and Um Al-Nasr.



Civil Society in Development

Project: Reducing Violence against Women by Establishing Support and Pressure Groups in Palestine.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Danish House Organization in Palestine.

Project objective: To form supportive communities to empower and support women survivors of violence by providing them with individual services.

Implementation areas: Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

Target group: Project staff, 10 teachers and 20 social workers/ experts.

Project Duration: 1/2019 to 6/2020



The general outputs achieved during the project are:

1. Worked with four schools in the target sites of the project, awareness workshops and youth initiatives and open days were carried out with all school families and students, where work was done with approximately 700 students (males and females) who showed improvement in behavior, beliefs and more knowledge of the direction of prevention methods and protection from violence against women in the four project areas.
2. Worked with about 30 educational specialists in the schools of the south on the Baba's Approach, and they showed a change in beliefs and behavior towards violence against women. In addition to the work with nearly 300 other fathers.

3. Worked with approximately 120 women in awareness-raising workshops with women, they have more confidence, a better positive view of themselves, more knowledge of their rights, the forms of violence directed at them, alternatives to violence and how to protect themselves.
4. Worked with 80 women in support groups to relieve tension and pressures on them and help them deal with violence. They have increased knowledge of the services provided to survivors of violence in its various forms, in addition to approximately 100 women and 50 young people. Individual counseling services have been provided to help them overcome the crises they are going through.

After the Corona pandemic in Palestine, a grant was submitted by the funders to work on an emergency campaign, and the following activities have been worked on:

1. Distributing 400 parcels of food and cleaning materials to target groups after setting certain criteria for selecting the beneficiary families.
2. Children's booklet has been printed.
3. An electronic awareness campaign was conducted about the safety procedures in Corona pandemic and about psychological support, and the contact numbers of female specialists were put in place to be contacted by the psychologically affected people.
4. Providing psychological and counseling services over the phone to 40 women and youth.
5. Forming support groups and pages for women's clubs to provide psychological and social support to the governorates of Hebron and Bethlehem
6. Designing an awareness leaflet to support people during the Corona period.



Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Project: Enhancing the livelihoods and production capabilities of rural women and increasing job opportunities for young women in different areas of the West Bank.

Project Objective: To increase the production capacity of women in rural areas and increase sales.

Areas of implementation: The West Bank (Anza Women Club, Saida Cooperative Society, Beita Soap Cooperative Society, Deir Sharaf Charitable Society, Farkha Cooperative Society.)

Target group: women who provide for their families.

Project duration: 12/2018 to 31/3/2020.

The general outputs achieved during the project are:

1. A market and product analysis study was conducted for thirteen productive cooperatives, and based on the study's outcomes, five cooperatives were selected to work with them in the project as follows: (Beta, Deir Sharaf, Anza, Saida and Farkha).
2. Cooperatives were supported by:
 - a. Providing vocational training for women in cooperatives.
 - b. Providing logistical support and developing the productive capacities of cooperatives.
3. Work has been done to train 20 male and female students on

cooperative work in financial, administrative and marketing terms.

4. Paid job opportunities were provided to 13 male and female students after completing the training for a period of six months.
5. A trademark has been registered through the project for all women's products supported by the organization under the name "Nab' Al-Khairat"
6. Opportunity was given to some of the trainees to create their own production projects.



European Union

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: To encourage the use of environmentally and socially sustainable production as well as production methods and to spread them throughout the Mediterranean region. It is expected that the quality, quantity and clarity of local agri-food products will be improved. As a result, the income of small rural enterprises will be increased - with a special focus on those which are run by women. Finally, jobs will be created in the newly established small and medium-sized companies in the agri-food field. Work will be done to strengthen and develop small-scale traditional agri-food value chains that will provide increased employment opportunities and greater social and environmental sustainability. The project will build on the proven expertise and methods of Slow Food.

Areas of implementation: agricultural areas in the governorates of Jenin and Tubas

Target group: small producers and farmers of agri-food, public and local authorities, young university and institute graduates.

Project Duration: 9/2019 up until 8/2022

The most important achievements of the year 2020:

1. Worked on preparing, planning and sharing a reference study on biodiversity in the governorates of Jenin and Tubas.
2. Completed the follow-up to the preparation and printing of introductory publications and paper plates and distributed them to partners and beneficiaries in the municipal and rural areas in the Jenin governorate.
3. Implementation and follow-up of the selection of the external auditor for the project.
4. Bilateral training held between the Rural Women Development Society and the Slow Food Foundation through social media. The field planning methodology for the project and the mechanism for implementing field interviews resulting from the field visits were introduced.
5. Implementation and follow-up of conducting parts of the study of biodiversity - field interviews and determining the list of agricultural food products.
6. Participation in the Terra Madre (Mother of Earth) Festival on behalf of the partners, the Slow Food Foundation, through the production of an introductory video on how to prepare the (Ja'da Al Ja'ajee') food (using the Ja'ajee' plant) and Qaraqeeesh sweets with sesame and olive oil.



Kvinna Till Kvinna

Project: “Developing the organizational capacities of the Rural Women’s Development Society and strengthening the skills and competencies of cooperatives, women’s clubs and youth groups”

Funded by: Kvinna Till Kvinna organization and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

The objective of the project: to build capacities and develop the skills and competencies of the staff of the Rural Women Development Society, in addition to cooperatives, women’s clubs and youth groups.



Implementation areas: Jenin, Tulkarm, Salfit, Nablus (northern West Bank), Ramallah (central West Bank), Bethlehem and Hebron (southern West Bank)

Target group: the organization’s staff - women’s clubs and cooperatives - in addition to 40 male and female volunteers.

Project duration: 1/2020 - 12/2020.

Project achievements:

- **Organization Staff:** This phase of the project focused on building the capacity of Rural Women Development Society staff through a series of trainings, reviewing and developing the organization’s internal policies and manuals, in addition to developing new guides such as the Emergency Manual and the New Employee Handbook.
- **Cooperatives and women’s clubs:** 6 grants have been implemented based on monitoring the needs of cooperatives,

varying between financial or logistical support and capacity building for members of cooperatives and women's clubs. A number of activities were implemented with youth groups that focused mainly on capacity building for these groups. A training entitled e-marketing was carried out in the northern and southern regions of the West Bank for 40 male and female volunteers, which resulted in the development of individual project plans for the participating young women and men. A joint activity was also carried out between youth groups and employees of the Rural Women Development Society, which was implemented in the Battir path and included many cultural, social, environmental and exploratory activities.

- **Youth groups:** The organization implemented a partial employment program for 17 young men and women who participated in the project for a period of two months, who were paid, where coordination was coordinated with local community institutions to integrate these young men and women into programs and activities with the aim of acquiring various skills and practical knowledge, and these job opportunities contributed to strengthening their economic, social and psychological situation.



EU

Project: Promoting Inclusive Agricultural Growth to Ensure Improving the Standard of Living and Strengthening the Capacity of Vulnerable Communities in Area C of the West Bank.

The project is implemented in partnership with Oxfam.



Overview of the project: This project targets the beneficiaries, especially small farmers in Halhul, Al-Khader, Wadi Fukin and Tubas, and focuses on enhancing the productivity of grape leaves and vegetables in the targeted areas in order to empower farmers, especially women, economically and socially. The project targets individuals and agricultural cooperatives to achieve a financial impact. and sustainable economic, as some suitable agricultural tools were distributed to the beneficiaries, such as: fertilizers and pesticides, irrigation networks, arbors for grape trees and metal fences, mobile bathrooms for beneficiaries, and the supply of some equipment for pickling grape leaves and freezing vegetables in three areas, in addition to providing many training courses, capacity building of individual beneficiaries and cooperatives, especially with regard to enhancing the role of gender and participatory scrutiny of gender standards for beneficiary cooperatives, as well as organizing some reciprocal visits to beneficiary cooperatives in order to exchange experience and knowledge.

Implementation areas: North and South West Bank

1. Target group: direct beneficiaries, especially women, (31) male and female beneficiaries.

2. Indirect beneficiaries: an average of (150) male and female beneficiaries.
3. Beneficiary cooperatives: (4) cooperatives in four different regions, (Halhul, Al-Khader, Wadi Fukin, Tubas).

Project Duration: 2/2019 - 2/2022

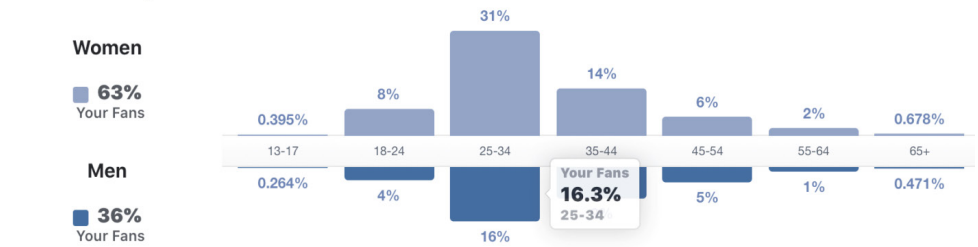
The most important achievements of the project during the past year 2020:

1. Supplying fertilizers and pesticides to ten beneficiaries.
2. Supply of irrigation networks, water tanks and small water pumps for eleven beneficiaries.
3. Supply of varicose veins and metal fencing for thirteen beneficiaries.
4. Supplying 25 mobile toilets.
5. Supplying a packaging unit for grape leaves and pickles to beneficiaries.
6. Supplying a vegetable and fruit refrigeration unit for Tubas Cooperative.
7. Providing training in the field of sustainable agriculture to twenty-five beneficiaries.
8. Providing training in the field of pickling and packing grape leaves for twenty-five beneficiaries.
9. Providing training in the field of organic agriculture in cooperation with the Palestinian Farmers' Union Society for thirty beneficiaries.
10. Making reciprocal visits to the grape leaves factory in Dura – 'Dawalina' Company.
11. Contracting with trainers in the field of marketing, pricing and food processing, and conducting training with the participation of 50 beneficiaries.

Statistics:



| | Year 2019 | Year 2020 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Staff | 29 | 21 |
| Number of Projects | 16 | 12 |
| Revenues | 1225336 | 1337962 |
| Expenses | 1253795 | 1387759 |



Followers:

| Country | Followers of 2019 | Followers of 2020 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Palestine | 4228 | 5777 |
| Occupied Territories | 395 | 393 |
| Egypt | 161 | 172 |
| Jordan | 67 | 71 |
| America | 61 | 62 |
| Tunisia | 42 | 47 |
| Algeria | 31 | 32 |
| Syria | 30 | 30 |
| Morocco | 24 | 25 |
| Denmark | 26 | 26 |
| Turkey | 21 | 21 |
| other countries | 320 | 327 |

Success Story



Jayyous Cooperative Society for Food Processing

Jayyous is a Palestinian town 12 km from the city of Qalqilya with a population of 4000 people and an altitude of 235 m. The land area is 12100 dunams, and 3 settlements are built on its lands. 5000 dunams were isolated behind the apartheid wall of fertile lands planted with citrus, as well as isolated 6 underground wells. The wall was destroyed in a way of 600 dunams and 4000 olive trees were uprooted

After eliminating the agricultural sector in the town through the establishment of settlements and the apartheid wall, and preventing hundreds of families from working in agriculture, as well as preventing a large number from entering the Palestinian interior for work, the village became one of the poor and marginalized villages, and there was a need for women's work and the participation of men in the search for additional sources of income, and since the Rural Women's Development Society has been working in this village for more than 20 years, and it has volunteers who form the women's club in the village. The organization obtained the project "Promoting gender-sensitive sustainable rural development to ensure food security and resilience for vulnerable communities in the West Bank" in cooperation with Oxfam and with the support of the Italian Cooperation (AICS), where the project was announced and many women came to benefit from the project activities, organizing meetings with women in the town, and making efforts by the staff of the Rural Women's Development Society to register a women's agricultural cooperative.

A one-acre greenhouse was planted with vegetables, the most important of which is the eggplant suitable for the holy one, according to the feasibility study that recommended it. The women's club was rehabilitated to be suitable for food processing and was provided with the necessary tools and equipment.

Over the course of 7 months, the Rural Women's Society made unremitting efforts and extensive meetings to register the cooperative, 17 women who supported the cooperative joined the

cooperative. Some of them are widows and divorced women who provide for their families, and the members were distinguished by the presence of young women with many specializations, which enhanced the role and success of the organization, and they obtained a license from the RWDS (Jayyous Cooperative Society for Food Processing). Women were trained in modern methods of farming and provided with guidance by specialized agricultural engineers, as this guidance contributed to the development of their agriculture in home gardens, thus increasing their income and providing food for their families, as the Rural Women's Development Society provided seedlings in light of the closure due to the Corona pandemic.

The society became a body with societal legitimacy in the town, well-known and a member of the emergency committee in the town, and a contact address for all institutions, so the organization worked during the pandemic to help the affected families by providing medicine, food, advice and guidance.

Seven women from the members of the organization received training in the manufacture of makdous, where they acquired high skills in the production of makdous with high specifications and unbeatable taste. 17 shekels per kilo.

The women use the eggplant produced from the plastic house of the organization granted to them by the project, where they produce eggplant with high specifications according to a safe, chemical-free production under the guidance of the Rural Women Development Society. In the event that the eggplant produced by the organization is used, it is used in the manufacture of makdous.

Women benefited by:

First: Maintaining the price of eggplant in light of its low market price, as the organization calculates the price of a kilo at 4 shekels supplied from its own plastic house in light of its market price of 2 shekels, which enhances the profitability of the plastic house.

Second: Obtaining high-quality eggplant, free of chemicals, and the percentage of use is 100%, as there are no dead or non-conforming fruits.

Third: obtaining a fruit suitable for food processing 100%, which raises the specifications of the makdous and consequently its high price.

The project provided job opportunities for 3 women in the greenhouse and seven women in the food processing unit who work in rotation.



Aspirations for the year 2021:



Aspirations for the year 2021

- Open up relationships with new financiers
- Expanding the public base of RWDS
- Continue to build the capacities of the staff and members of the women's clubs
- Work on preparing a media plan to highlight the activities of RWDS
- Registration of RWDS' productive clubs as independent production cooperatives.
- Preparing a strategic plan in the field of gender for the organization.
- Develop and approve some evidence and documents related to work, such as the harassment policy.
- Opening marketing channels for the production of cooperatives, the most important of which is the development of the spring of goodness market, in addition to networking with the local market.