



العريضة لحماية الطبيعة

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

Annual Report

2016



In support of people's sovereignty over food and natural resources

Annual Report 2016

Annual Report 2016

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About Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature was established in 2003 as a member-based non-profit organization to contribute to the protection of the environment and natural resources in Arab countries, in coordination with both Arab and international organizations, against all hazards, including the destructive impacts of wars and foreign occupations.

APN's Mission

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature seeks to reinforce the capacity of the Arab people to sustain their natural resources and gain sovereignty over them especially in areas under occupation and conflict, and to mobilize efforts of civil society organizations towards promoting and advocating regional and global environmental issues.

Objectives of APN

1. Contribute to the rehabilitation and sustainability of natural resources in the Arab region which suffers from wars and armed conflicts, especially in Jordan and Palestine.
2. Influence the drafting and implementation of related global environmental policies, and enhance the role of civil society organizations through effective partnerships.
3. Mobilize efforts of civil society in order to contribute and respond to the needs of Arab and global environmental issues.
4. Build the capacity of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature in order to achieve its mission with high professionalism, effectiveness and institutional sustainability.

Annual General Assembly Meeting

On Monday 25 April, 2016, APN held its Annual General Assembly, which was attended by 14 members of the General Assembly as well as the Board of Directors, team of staff, and APN's financial auditor from the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization.

The meeting began with a brief review of APN achievements and administrative report for the year 2015. This was followed by a discussion of the budget and auditor's report for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2015. A representative of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization reviewed the chartered accountant's report and the details of the financial statements for 2015, and answered all inquiries and provided clarifications in cooperation with the APN accountant. APN General Assembly unanimously approved the balance sheet, final accounts and the auditor's report on the financial statement.

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Board members



President of the Board
Rami Barhoush



Vice President of the Board
Suzan Ayoub



Secretary
Ziad Moughrabi



Treasurer
Zina Mushahwar



Board Member
Humam Mufti



Board Member
Razan Zuayter



Board Member
Nicola Al Billeh

APN Team



General Manager
Mariam Al Jaajaa



Project Manager
Mohammad Qtaishat



Advocacy Officer
Heather Elaydi



Accountant
Malik Jariri



Logistics
Sameh Hijab



Administrative Assistant
Wala'a Dabash

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Volunteer team

APN is characterized by the participation of a huge volunteer community. More than 1500 volunteers from both genders and different age groups have contributed to various APN programmes this year.



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Financial Auditors

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization

APN Founding Members

Razan Zuayter
Asem Shehabi
George Mushahwar
Humam Darwaza (deceased)
Humam Mufti
Eman Abu Alrous
Inas Bseisou
Hassan Al Jaajaa
Lubna Irsheid
Mutaz Al Afifi
Nicola Billeh
Rami Barhoush
Sameeh Kwar
Sami Nablusi
Sari Zuaiter
Subhia Al Maani
Zina Kwar
Dina Abu Alrous
Fouad Srouji
Sima Alami

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APN is a member of the following institutions

Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)
People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)
Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR)
Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)
International Network of Jerusalem Institutions
Jordan Federation for Environmental NGOs
Global Campaign to Return to Palestine

APN is accredited with the following institutions

United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

APN collaborates with the following regional and international institutions

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

APN Partners in Tree Planting and Land Rehabilitation Programmes

Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)
Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture
Al-Nahda Rural Society
Bethlehem Farmers' Union
Land Research Centre (LRC)
Council of Palestinian Municipalities
Salfit Development Association
Greater Amman Municipality
Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture - Forestry Department
Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee
Welfare Association
Ahali Center for Community Development
Handala Cultural Center
Al Hakura Society
Al Balqaa Creativity Institute
Rewell Society

Executive Summary

APN's Most Important Achievements of 2016

It's been 14 years since the launch of APN, and it has continued its activities for the year 2016 with agricultural programs in Palestine and Jordan, awareness campaigns, and efforts to impact agricultural and environmental policy on the international, regional and local levels. This annual report highlights APN's accomplishments throughout 2016.

Below are some of the most prominent achievements:

- APN continued its Third Million Tree Campaign in Palestine in 2016, which seeks to enhance food sovereignty in Palestine. In 2016, 83,561 trees were successfully planted on 3,584 dunums of land. These trees meet the needs of over 975 farmers and support approximately 7,214 of their family members. The campaign managed to plant over 30,000 vegetable seedlings and medicinal herbs. APN was also responsible for constructing 12 water collection systems, distributing 28 water tanks, and rehabilitating over 50 dunums of land. In addition, a skills workshop was held for women in Jerusalem to learn about producing and selling agricultural products.

Since its inception in 2000, the campaign has managed to plant 2,154,983 fruit trees on 112,386 dunums of land, and distribute 396,000 vegetable seedlings and medicinal herbs. Over 16 years, the campaign has met the needs of over 23,398 farmers and supported 187,933 of their family members. In addition, 31 water wells were constructed, 574 water tanks were distributed and 6,500 meters of irrigation networks were extended. A relief campaign was organized in Gaza and included the reconstruction of 109 greenhouses, and the provision of 156 fishing nets.



Executive Summary

APN's Most Important Achievements of 2016

• APN also continued its work within the Green Caravan Programme in order to enhance food security and food sovereignty in Jordan. The programme works to combat desertification and increase the country's green cover, particularly in underprivileged areas. The programme also aims to raise awareness among students on the importance of agriculture and trees. This year's work saw a strong collaboration with the private sector; APN, with the support of Zain, Umniah, Integrated Technology Group (ITG), Jordan Ahli Bank, Bank of Jordan, Jordan Dubai Islamic Bank, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), Capital Bank, Abu Khader Group, National Orthodox School, and Canadian International School, planted trees in several areas across Jordan including the Jordan Valley (Northern, Central and Southern), Bayuda in Al Salt and Ghamadan. APN also replanted and transformed a landfill in Wadi Al Qattar into a beautiful garden. In addition, this year's Green Caravan Programme included a number of awareness lectures in schools across Amman under the 'If Only You Know' initiative.



Executive Summary

APN's Most Important Achievements of 2016

•As for the efforts to impact environmental and agricultural policies on the international, regional and local levels in 2016, APN organized a seminar on "Addressing Food Security in Protracted Crises" at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) headquarters in New York. APN also led a fact-finding mission in collaboration with the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) to investigate environmental crimes committed by occupation forces in Palestine, and to investigate Jordanian farmers' urgent need for guidance on lowering their use of pesticides. APN represented civil society at the 43rd session of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome and presented the committee with a study on the "Agricultural Markets in Palestine." APN was granted observer status by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Razan Zuayter, board member and cofounder of APN, was voted as a member of the regional committee at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and was re-voted as the president of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty during the APN-organized annual conference. APN also coordinated the presence of civil society at the CFS reach-out event on the Framework for Action for Food Security in Protracted Crises (FFA) in Kenya. APN took part in a series of meetings in the Philippines organized by the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS) and the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP). APN represented West Asia in the Coordinating Committee of the Civil Society Mechanism in Rome. In Hawaii, APN was successful in including the region's priorities within the IUCN's 4-year working plan. A research paper was written on conflict, food sovereignty, and development cooperation for a project coordinated by the Civil Society Organization Partnership for Development Effectiveness. APN was invited to give a speech on behalf of global civil society during the closing meeting for the Global Forum for Agricultural Research in South Africa.



APN Annual Dinner

Stories of resilience and a celebration of achievements

At its annual dinner on the 3rd of December, 2016 the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) celebrated a year of achievement and collective hard work. APN partners and donors were honored and a fundraiser was held to raise money for APN's projects in Jordan, Palestine and internationally.

His Excellency former Prime Minister Oun Khasawneh attended the event and gave a speech on "International Law and Environmental Protection." Khasawneh expressed his gratitude towards APN, saying "I accepted the invitation to the annual dinner hosted by the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature on the premise of an old commitment of mine as a farmer to protect nature and the environment. The work carried out by this organization is excellent, first protecting the environment in Jordan, and second supporting our fellow farmers in Occupied Palestine; there is no worse injustice in modern history than that suffered by the Palestinian people." Khasawneh presented some examples from different countries of litigation cases dealing with issues of environmental harm.



APN was also honoured to have 80 year old Palestinian farmer, Jamileh Attieh (Um Ishaq), attend the event. She spoke about the struggles of her village in Wadi Fukin in Bethlehem, which was subject to multiple demolitions that drove her and the majority of the residents to the Dheisheh refugee camp in 1948. However, the village residents did not despair, and continued to return every day, despite the long distances, to attend to their agricultural land and to protect it from confiscation. Given their devotion and unwavering dedication, the residents managed to return to the village in 1972. Since then, the inspirational Um Ishaq has lived in a small cave on her land refusing to leave, bravely withstanding the multiple threats to evacuate the land and the occasional settlers' and Israeli occupation forces' open fire targeted at her.



APN Annual Dinner

Stories of resilience and a celebration of achievements



During the ceremony, presented by lawyer Abdullah Hawatmeh and T.V presenter Hana' Al Araj, a musical performance was given by the band Guitanai, who entertained the guests with a number of traditional folk songs.

APN President Rami Barhoush gave a welcoming speech about APN, and APN cofounder and Board Member Razan Zuayter gave a speech about the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, where she holds the Presidency. (Speeches below)



APN President's Speech

A few days ago, I was reminded of the time the late Nelson Mandela was asked about the keys to the success of the revolution he led against Apartheid South Africa. Mandela pointed to two main reasons: first, was that the African National Congress managed to hold on to the principles of the revolution that they had set 40 years prior to independence; and second, was the global support and solidarity that the revolution had received beyond the border of South Africa.

I remembered Mandela's analysis of the victory when I was contacted by one of the Palestinian farmers whom we had invited to the Annual Dinner a few years back to honor him for his righteous confrontation with occupation forces. He had contacted me to express his anger towards settlers' continuous incursion on his land that lies adjacent to an illegal settlement. These acts of violence became something he routinely anticipates, and despite getting arrested and assaulted, the farmer resisted and remained courageously committed to attend and care for his land.

He admitted that he had been driven to despair, but his feelings of discouragement were quickly reversed once he thought about the time he stood before a thousand attendees at APN's Annual Dinner, where his love for the land was praised

and his steadfastness against the occupation was celebrated.

Since that night, the farmer began looking at himself through the audience's eyes, and he realized that his struggle is not just confined to him and his family; rather he is an embodiment of the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Just like Mandela saw that global solidarity was a driving force for the fall of Apartheid, we believe that the unwavering support of farmers in Palestine is one of the most tangible tools for resilience against the



occupation and for invigorating the Palestinian people with hope to dismantle the Zionist agenda.

As such, our work in the field is our affirmation to this belief. We find that the absence of general policies to empower farmers on their land, and the overreliance on Western imports to meet our most basic food needs, have led to the endangerment of the food basket across the region and have driven farmers into urban areas seeking work. Additionally, we find that the social and economic marginalization of farmers is one of the main obstacles to effective citizenship and one of the main hindrances to achieving self-determination.

In this Annual Report, we share with you the highlights from our Green Caravan program planting trees across Jordan, and our "If You Only Know" environmental awareness campaign. We also share with you the tremendous efforts by the APN team to champion the Arab region's food security priorities in international organizations and conferences through its Food Sovereignty program. Finally, we share the incredible work that APN, in collaboration with its Palestinian partners, has done with the Million Tree Campaign, which by the Grace of God has entered its third million.

We are incredibly proud of these achievements and efforts that are a result of collaborative work that involved hundreds of volunteers from all age groups. These volunteers are our emblems of hope and optimism during these distressing times in the Arab world.

Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)

In 2012, APN cofounded the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) as an independent and non-profit network that seeks primarily to enhance food sovereignty in the Arab world and work on resilience building against the underlying causes of economic, social, agricultural and environmental vulnerabilities that plague the region. The network consists of 30 non-governmental organizations, farmers unions, fishermen, pastoralists, women, youth and consumer associations from across 13 Arab countries. APN Board Member Razan Zuayter was elected for the presidency of the ANFS for the next two years and APN currently hosts the ANFS secretariat.

Why the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty?

Arab countries have among the highest food import dependency rates, making the region highly vulnerable to fluctuations in the supply and price of the international food market. Despite the fact that agriculture employs between 53 percent and 84 percent of the Arab labour force, the region imports approximately half its caloric intake and is the largest cereal importer in the world.

There are several factors that contribute to the agricultural incompetence in the region. Environmental factors, particularly water scarcity and climate change undoubtedly play a role in reducing productive potential, while high population growth rates of over 2% add pressure to increasingly scarce resources. More importantly, however, are the nutrition, environmental and agricultural policies that primarily determine the level of regional food security. The decline in investment in agricultural productivity and the absence of governmental support for infrastructure and extension services have caused detrimental effects on the state of production and resource sustainability. Moreover, the high import dependency ratio has dire consequences on food stability, considering the high likelihood of disruption in trade due to chronic regional conflicts and crises.

The sector requires targeted investment on agriculture, research and development, and technology at the national and regional levels. Governments must empower smallholder farmers and work to reduce losses and wastes from the sector. New policies are needed to harness a sustainable agricultural sector that manages and protects essential natural resources, including water, land and seed. The region, the birthplace of agriculture, has incredible potential to boost productivity and enhance food security, and in order to work towards achieving that potential, the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty was initiated.

What is food sovereignty?

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and nations to define their own policies on agriculture, labour, fishing, food, and land, appropriate to its unique environmental, social, economic and cultural circumstances. This includes the right to food and food production, which means the right of every person to have access to reliable, healthy, nutritious, and convenient food and sources of food production, and the ability to sustain themselves and their families.

ANFS strategic goals

The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty aims to achieve the following goals:

1. Promote concepts, practices, and strategies for food and natural resource sovereignty in the Arab world;
2. Improve institutional and community capacity to enhance the role and effectiveness of civil society organizations working in the fields of agriculture and food security;
3. Embrace, encourage, and mobilize innovative and creative initiatives, activities, and campaigns in the areas of food security and food sovereignty at the community and institutional levels
4. Strengthen the cooperation and coordination of Arab, regional and global networking to exchange expertise and to serve the vision and strategy of the Network;

Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)

5. Influence governmental and non-governmental policies and regulations on the local, national, and international levels to achieve food and natural resource sovereignty.

Executive committee

The General Assembly of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty met in Amman on the 4th of May, 2016, and voted for the following executive committee:

1. President: The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature - Jordan
2. Vice president: Tunisian Farmers Syndicate- Tunis
3. Secretary: Al Ouzai Fishermen Cooperative - Lebanon
4. Treasurer: Palestine Farmers Union - Palestine
5. Public relations: Qatar Program for Sustainable Development - Qatar
6. Member: National Confederation for Traditional Fishing in Morocco - Morocco
7. Member: Land Center for Human Rights - Egypt
8. Member: Hawa Association - Sudan
9. Member: Iraqi Society for Consumer Rights Defense - Iraq

Membership

The Network's members represent Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Sudan, Oman, Syria, Qatar, Mauritania and Morocco.



Razan Zuayter's Speech

Every winter, we await these intimate moments that bring hundreds of us from across platforms and backgrounds, from all beliefs and generations and professions, to celebrate and plant life together.

This year, in the presence of our dear guests, our winter has become warmer and filled with hope. Our guests, or rather our family, have come from across the vast Arab World to add their voices and their sweat to our loud plea to achieve sovereignty over our food and resources, affirming that political sovereignty will only be realized with food sovereignty.

We ask you to help us in welcoming the delegations, and we ask the farmer organization representatives from Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Bahrain, Palestine, and Jordan to stand and accept the greetings.

We express our deepest apologies and shame for our dear representatives from Iraq, Yemen, Mauritania, and Sudan,



who despite invitations from the Ministry of Agriculture, were refused a visa for entry to participate in the annual meeting of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, of which Jordan holds the secretariat.

Nonetheless, the ANFS will hold its annual meeting for its board member tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, in order to reiterate that true development in the region cannot be achieved without civil peace and without an immediate halt to the absurd internal wars. Certainly, true

development cannot be achieved without immediately eradicating fear, dependence, desperation, nihilism, and apathy from our hearts and our minds. Finally, true development will not be achieved without redirecting our compasses to unify and devote our efforts to liberate Palestine. This goal, whether achieved in the long run or in the short run, is the only goal that will save us from our self-destruction and the only goal that will give our countries and our people the respect they truly deserve.

This year, and on the international level, we managed to achieve two huge accomplishments. The first of which was at the Committee for World Food Security (CFS) in Rome, the foremost international platform on food security, whereby we pushed for the topic of food security in times of conflict and occupation. However, after the members of the ANFS asserted their presence and competence, they were wrongfully excluded, along with all other Asian organizations, from the Advisory Group. This decision came as a result of Northern hegemony with the aim to maintaining the dominant status quo of these organizations over those in the South. This drove ANFS to lead a vicious confrontation against all parties involved, until a regional balance was reestablished.

The second accomplishment took place during the annual congress held by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the largest international gathering whereby countries and international organizations formulate a 4-year work plan on the environment and determine global priorities. This year, the work plan had completely excluded the Arab World and its priorities, which drove the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature to draft a motion to include our priorities in its agenda. This was supported by the Jordanian and Arab delegations, and endorsed by all countries.

Our dearest guests, our dreams are not naïve, rather they are work plans that we aspire towards day and night and work together to achieve. Your presence here today is an indication that we, at the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, and at the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, are following the right path to gain your respect and contentment. So, thank you, and welcome.

People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty

The People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty is a growing international network consisting of different organizations and popular movements that are concerned with food sovereignty; this includes farmers, fishermen, food producers and their support NGOs. The coalition works on several principles that focus on the right to food and its production. It was officially launched in Asia in 2004, and while it has expanded globally, its leadership remains centred in developing countries.

PCFS Mission

- 1- Promote food sovereignty as an approach that determines global food and agricultural policies;
- 2- Establish and concretize the "People's Convention on Food Sovereignty" as a means to vocalize the concept of food sovereignty and unify efforts between organizations and civil society across the world;
- 3- Organize regional and international activities on food sovereignty, including research and capacity building;
- 4- Exchange knowledge and expertise within the realm of food sovereignty; and
- 5- Push for the ratification of a binding global convention on food sovereignty at the national and international level.



Executive Committee

- 1- Sylvia Mallari - Asian Peasant Coalition
- 2- Razan Zuayter - Arab Network for Food Sovereignty
- 3- Norma Maldonado - AROAJ
- 4- Jorge Delgado - Cubanos en la Red, Cuba
- 5- Tania Ricaldi - GTCCJ
- 6- Azra Sayeed - Roots for Equity
- 7- Moses Shaha - Eastern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Association
- 8- Matet Ledesma - Food Sovereignty in Action - Europe
- 9- Serge Benstrong - Eastern and Southern African Small-Scale Farmers Forum

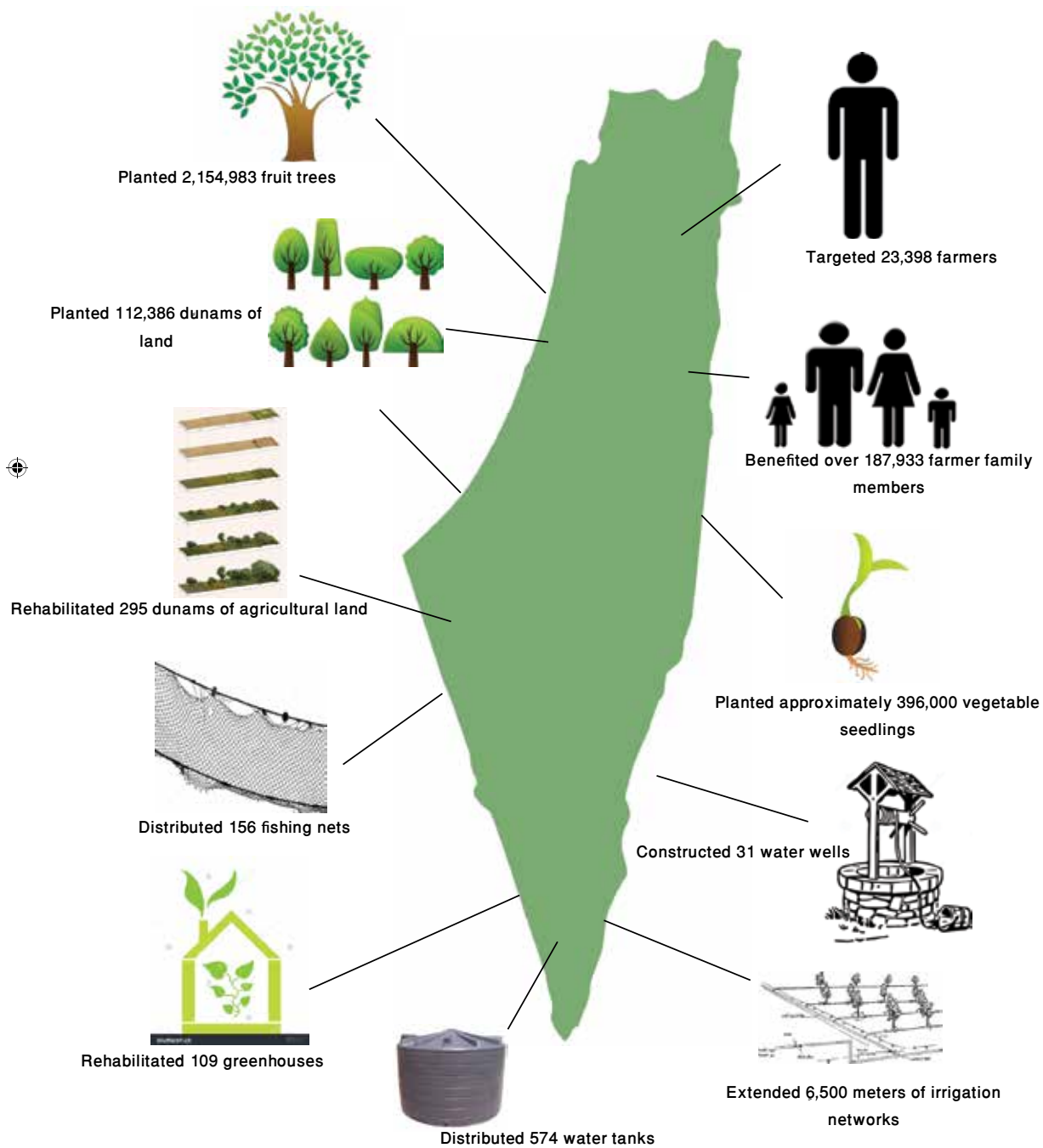
Agricultural and environmental rehabilitation

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)



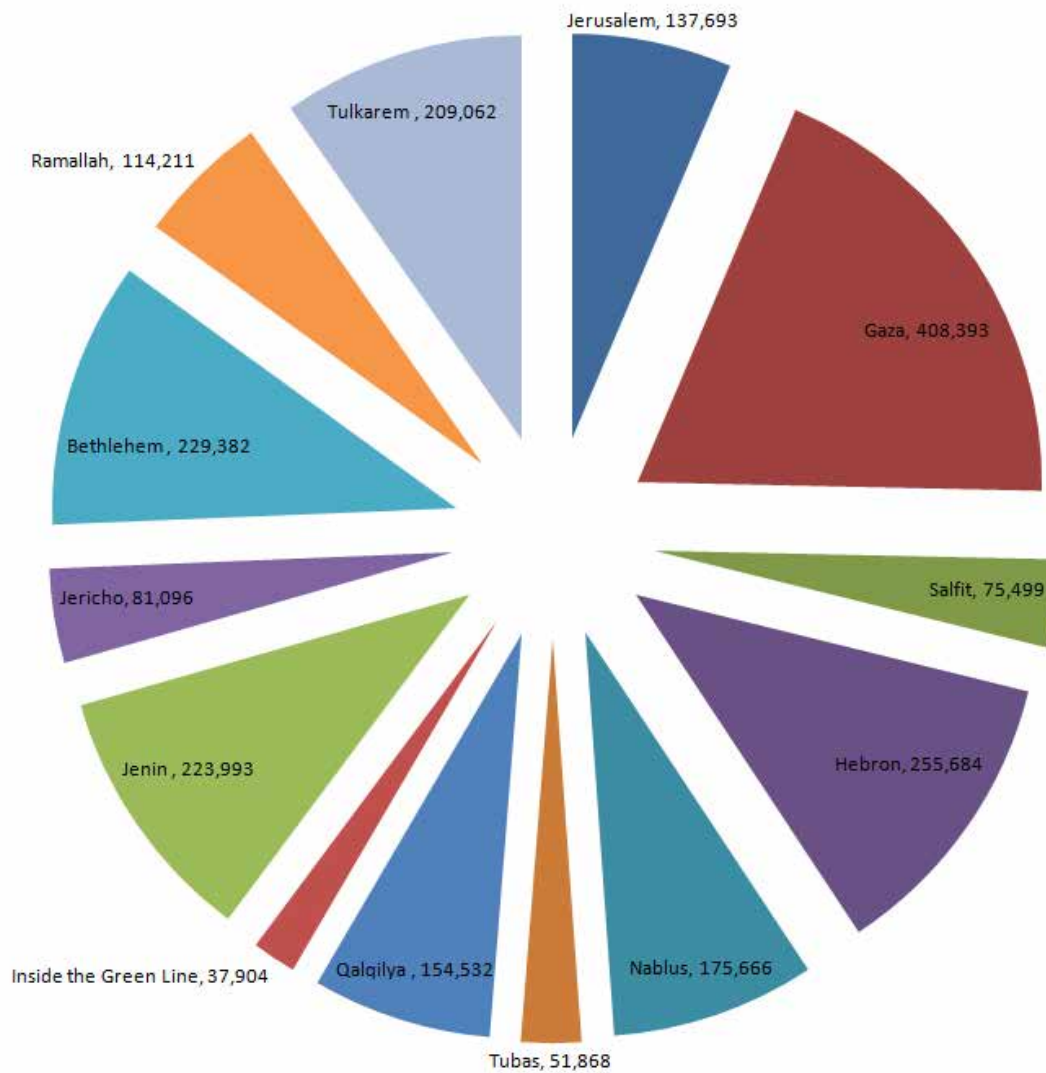
Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Million Tree Campaign 2000-2016



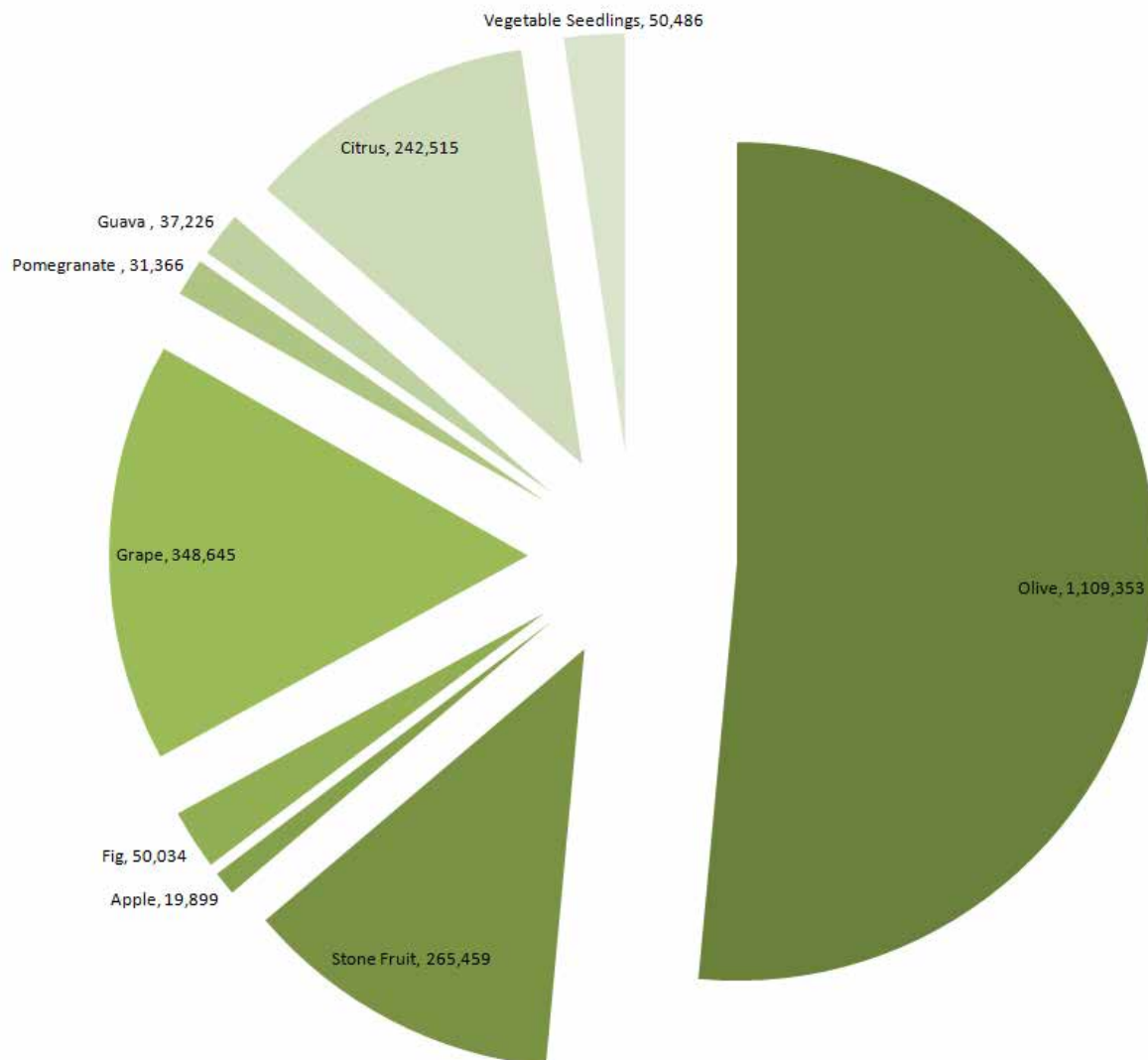
Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Million Tree Campaign Achievements Between 2000-2016: Distribution of trees across Palestine



Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Million Tree Campaign Achievements Between 2000-2016: Tree Varieties planted across Palestine



Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Million Tree Campaign in Numbers

2016



83,561 fruit trees planted

975 farmers targeted, benefiting
7,214 of their family members

29,500 medicinal herbs and
vegetable seedlings planted

12 water wells constructed

50 dunams of agricultural land
rehabilitated

3,584 dunams of land planted

28 water tanks distributed

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Why the Million Tree Campaign?

Historical context

In 1897, the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland was held to promote the implementation of Zionist goals, namely the creation of a home for the Jews in Palestine under public law (Mitchel, 2011). In 1917, Arthur James Balfour, the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary at the time, wrote a letter, known as the Balfour Declaration, to one of the most influential Jewish citizens, Baron Rothschild, expressing the British government's support of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, completely disregarding the fact that at the time, non-Jews constituted approximately 94 percent of the population (McCarthy, 1990). The declaration paved the way for the mass immigration of Jews, and while it clearly stated that the establishment of a Jewish home should not prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing communities in Palestine, what followed was nation-wide ethnic cleansing, land and resource dispossession and the internal and external displacement of over 800,000 Palestinians; enabling the formation of the State of Israel in 1948 (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Israel continued to expand, capturing and occupying the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem in 1967.

Discriminatory laws enacted by Israel in order to seize private Palestinian land

1. The Absentee Property Law, 1950

The law gives Israel the 'right' to seize, administer and control land owned by absentees (Bishara, 2009; Anon., 1950). The law also states that property (including land) held by the State, the Development Authority or the Jewish National Fund is closed to use, development or ownership by non-Jews (Falk & Tilley, 2017).

2. The Land Acquisition Law, 1953

The law was enacted to legalize the seizure of land on the basis of security and development (Forman & Kedar, 2004; Liston, 2013).

3. Ottoman Land Law, 1858

In the 1980s, Israel started implementing an 1858 Ottoman law, which states that any plot of land which has not been cultivated for three years, or has less than half its area cultivated must be reverted to the Ottoman sultan, or to the state in the case of Israel (Matar, 1997).

While this law was originally enacted to encourage farmers to use their land, it has been manipulated by Israeli occupation authorities to facilitate land grabs.

Israeli violations on Palestinian land

In order to facilitate the expropriation of occupied land, thousands of acres of Palestinian agricultural land have been razed and uprooted by Israeli authorities (Palestine Liberation Organization, 2005). This has paved the way for the expansion of illegal settlements, the building of settler-only roads and the extension of Israel's separation (Apartheid) wall (El-Jazairi, 2010).

- Approximately over 3 million trees have been uprooted since the year 2000, most of which are olive trees (Ministry of Agriculture Palestine, 2009).
- The construction of the wall resulted in the uprooting of an estimated 100,000 trees (Mair & Long, 2003).
- There have been numerous accounts of settler violence resulting in the burning, vandalism and poisoning of Palestinian-owned trees (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2012; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2016).

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

While an estimated 90 percent of Palestinian communities own olive groves within, or around, Israeli settlements, they are frequently denied access to their own agricultural land by the Israeli occupation authorities under 'security reasons'.

- (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs , 2012).

The significance of the Palestinian agricultural sector and olives

Palestinians have relied on olives for centuries (El-Jazairi, 2010), and the strategic targeting of Palestine's emblematic olive groves is also an attack on identity, culture and heritage.

- The olive oil industry, including olive oil and its by-products, and table olives, supports between 80,000 and 100,000 Palestinian families and is worth between US\$160 and US\$191 million (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2016).
 - One third of all women in the occupied Palestinian Territories, for instance, are employed in the agricultural sector.
- The clearing of and access restriction to agricultural land are thus a direct threat to the many Palestinian families who rely on agriculture as a vital source of food and income (UNRWA, 2013). As a result of these impediments, many farmers no longer have the financial means to replant the numerous trees that have been uprooted.

The Palestinian cause and international policy

Israel has atrociously violated a plethora of international humanitarian laws, including the 4th Geneva Convention. Some of the laws that have been blatantly breached by Israel include:

Resolution 194 (III), 1948

In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 194 (III) stating that Palestinians have the right to return to their homes, which completely invalidates Israel's Absentee Property Law (UN General Assembly, 1948).

Resolution (ES-10/14), 2004

Following the submission of resolution ES-10/14 by the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel is obliged to return the land and olive groves seized for the purpose of the construction of the wall to the Palestinian owners with full compensation to the owners (El-Jazairi, 2010; International Court of Justice, 2004).

Resolution 2334, 2016

In 2016, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2334 reaffirming that Israeli settlements, the confiscation of land, the demolition of homes and the displacement of Palestinian civilians are a flagrant violation under international law and have no legal validity (UN Security Council, 2016).

A study on "Israeli Practices towards the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid" published by ESCWA (Falk & Tilley, 2017) stated that the system of racial discrimination enforced by the state of Israel is a threat to regional peace and security.

Yet, despite the obligation of Israel, as the occupying power, to meet international law in protecting Palestinian civilians and land, the Israeli occupation authorities and illegal settlers continue to operate unabated with rare indictment or accountability (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs , 2012).

The current situation: West Bank and Gaza

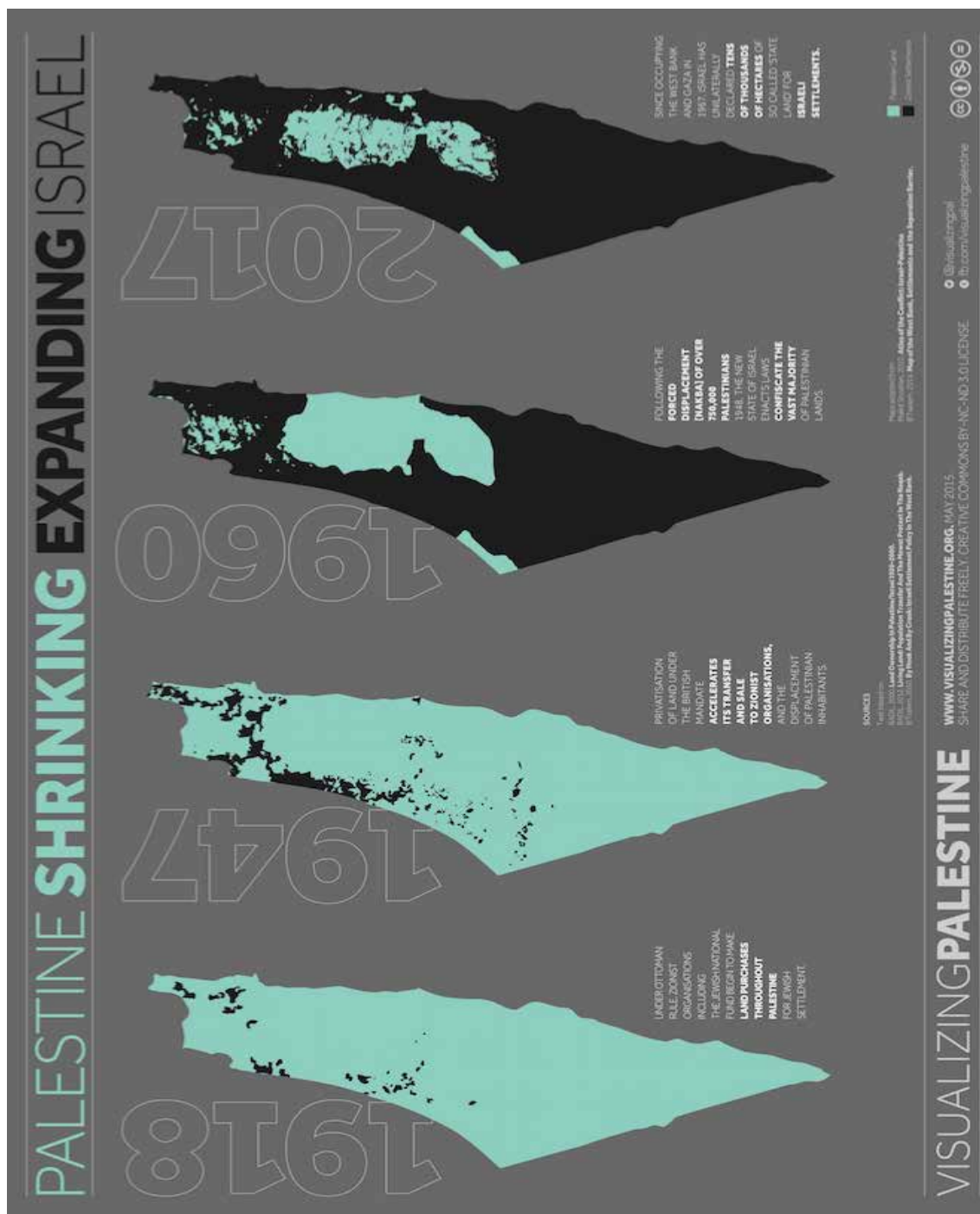
- To date, indigenous Palestinian communities are left with less than 15 percent of historical Palestine (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2017; Anon., 2011).
- Of the land remaining, 60 percent of the West Bank is classified as "Area C" and is under full Israeli control.
- The Apartheid Wall, which Israel began constructing in 2000, cuts deep into the West Bank expanding the expropriation

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

of Palestinian land

- o The Wall is not built along the 1967 boundary, rather 85 percent of it is located inside the West Bank. As a result, approximately an additional 1,200 km2 of land (21 percent of the West Bank) is lost
- o The Wall subjects Palestinians to a complex system of physical and bureaucratic barriers that impede freedom of movement and access to healthcare, education and other essential services (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2017; Human Rights Watch, 2006).

Shrinking Palestinian Land



Source: Visualizing Palestine

The graph above shows the gradual and on-going transformation of historic Palestine into what is now regarded as the 'State of Israel'

1918 Under Ottoman rule, Zionist organizations including the Jewish National Fund begin to make land purchases throughout Palestine for Jewish settlement

1947 Privatization of land under the British Mandate accelerates its transfer and sale to Zionist organizations, and the displacement of Palestinians

1960 Following the forced displacement of Palestinians in 1948, the new State of Israel enacts laws to confiscate the vast majority of Palestinian land

2017 Since occupying the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, Israel has unilaterally declared tens of thousands of hectares of 'State Land' for Israeli settlement

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

The Current Governance Structure in the West Bank

Area	Area A	Area B	Area C	Natural Reserves
Governance Structure	Civil and security control by the Palestinian Authority	Palestinian civil control, and Israeli security control	Full Israeli Civil and Security Control- No Palestinian Access Zone	Israeli Military
% of the West Bank	17.7%	18.4 %	60.9 %	3.0%

Source: Land Research Center

The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (1995) divided the West Bank into three administrative categories: Areas A, B and C. Soon after, a new category, Natural Reserves, was formed. The distinct areas differed according to the amount of self-government the Palestinians would have through the Palestinian Authority.

The exploitation of Palestine's natural resources

The land allocation described in table 1 facilitates Israel's continuous exploitation of Palestine's natural resources, namely by controlling and restricting Palestinian access to aquifers and other water sources (The World Bank, 2008).

- Israel determines the amount of water Palestinians can extract from aquifers, it controls the collection of rain and spring water through most of the West Bank, and it prohibits the drilling of new water wells without permits.
- Palestinian water extraction is limited to 17 percent of the total water in the aquifers, while Israel extracts the remaining 83 percent either for settler use, for consumption in Israel, or for sale back to Palestinians at inflated prices (The World Bank, 2008).
- Accordingly, a 2009 Amnesty International report showed that discriminatory Israeli policies result in alarming disparities in access to water between Palestinians and Israelis (Amnesty International, 2009).

The implications of the siege on Gaza

In 2007, the Israeli occupation over Gaza's land, air and sea, transformed it into a blockade that locks 2 million people (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2017). The ten-year long blockade has devastated public infrastructure, disrupted trade, including food and agricultural imports, as well as people's movement across borders, and has affected the delivery of basic services including water and electricity, such that:

- Between 90 and 95 percent of Gaza's water supply is non-drinkable and 40 percent of the population receive just 5 to 8 hours of water supply every 3 days (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2017; Amnesty International, 2009).
- Israel's siege on Gaza as well as the deliberate targeting of Palestinian agriculture have devastated and exhausted the sector and eroded any sense of food sovereignty
 - o 30-40 percent of arable agricultural land in what was considered as Gaza's food basket is inaccessible due to military imposed 'buffer zones' (Palestinian Farming and Civil Society Organizations, 2013).
 - o These factors have left 47 percent of households as food insecure and roughly 80 percent of the population dependent on international aid (UNRWA, 2016).
- A similar military buffer zone has been imposed on fishermen, such that despite the Oslo Accords stating that Palestinians have the right to 20 nautical miles (Palestinian Farming and Civil Society Organizations, 2013), a 3 nautical mile restriction was placed. In March 2016, this restriction was expanded to 9 nautical miles, only to be reduced back to 6 nautical miles just 3 months later (B'Tselem, 2017).
 - o These restrictions prevent access to large fishing areas and directly undermine the livelihoods and security of approximately 4,000 registered fishermen (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2013).

(See page 103 for references)

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Israel continues to intensify its aggression, destroying the Palestinian agricultural sector by uprooting and razing trees, confiscating Palestinian land and water, and targeting the fishing sector in Gaza. While the occupation continues to deny Palestinian farmers of their livelihoods, APN has continued its work on the third phase of the Million Trees Campaign in 2016. The campaign, under the slogan of "they uproot one tree, we replant 10", aims to support and encourage Palestinian farmers to hold on to their land through replanting trees that have been uprooted by Israeli occupation authorities, constructing water collection systems, extending irrigation networks, and other projects that provide economic security for Palestinian families.

Launching the "Our Land Our Identity" Project to Plant 54,000 Fruit Trees in Palestine

Under the slogan "They uproot a tree... we replant ten", and in order to support the resistance of Palestinian farmers to hold on to their lands, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature with the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) launched the project "Our Land, Our Identity", which aims to cultivate more than 54,000 fruit trees across Palestine.

The launch of the agricultural activities saw a mass turnout of volunteers from various official and community institutions in Khirbet Al-Mikhal, one of the first areas targeted by the project. The town is located on the road to the settlement "Dutan" and adjacent to the settlement of "Hermesh", which has encroached on the town's agricultural land.

In the village of Al-Naqourah, Nablus, volunteers of the Million Tree Campaign held their position in the face of the occupation forces who tried to prevent them from carrying out the cultivation of trees.



Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

The “Zaitoun Al Khair” Project Defies the Occupation by Planting Trees in 14 Areas Across Palestine

In March 2016, APN launched its “Zaitoun Al Khair” project in partnership with the Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD), and in collaboration with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, and the Palestinian Youth Union. The aim of the project was to plant 7,000 olive trees in areas that have been affected by the Israeli Apartheid wall and are under threat of the expansion of Israeli settlements.

The project began with the help of volunteers from the village of Shibteen that is under the threat of confiscation for the expansion of an Israeli settlement that sits on the lands of Palestinians in the villages of Deir Kadees and Shibteen to the West of the city of Ramallah.

The project brought together a number of concerned official organizations, NGOs and universities who were determined to see the project succeed and to protect Palestinian farmers.

Dozens of volunteers participated in the planting of olive trees in the villages of Um Dar and Al-Khaljan in Jenin, two villages which are surrounded to the north by Rayhan settlement; to the west by Barta'a border; to the east the Palestinian town of Ya'bad; and to the south by Move Dotan settlement.



This was an extension to the work carried out by volunteers in February 2015, whereby the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee organized the planting of olive trees in the Toorah village to the south west of Jenin. The village is one of many that have been affected by the Israeli apartheid wall and the existence of settlements and military bases on its land. The activity was carried out in partnership with ACAD, the Voluntary Working Committee, Friends of Diabetes Patients in Tulkarem, and the rural councils of Al Riyadh and Toorah.

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Constructing Water Collection Systems in Support of Farmers in Gaza, Jerusalem and Tulkarem

In January 2016, part of the relief program launched by APN to revitalize the agricultural sector in Gaza and support the resistance of Palestinian farmers, APN carried out a recent project in Gaza with support from the Jordanian Engineers Association and in cooperation with the Palestinian Farmers' Union. Through the project, 2000 olive and citrus trees were planted and 28 water tanks of 1000 liter capacity were donated to 28 farmers in the governorates of Rafah, Khan Younis, and the central Gaza strip. Two water collection systems with a capacity of 60 cubic meters were also built in Rafah and Beit Hanoun.

In April 2016, APN, in cooperation with the Al-Nahda Rural Society, funded by donors from Malaysia, constructed a new 80 cubic meter capacity agricultural well in Khirbet al-Jabal, a community in the village of Beit Sureek, Jerusalem. The well is the final part of a tree planting project in the area which will strengthen the resilience of farmers and create additional support for them to remain on their land. This will help to secure the water necessary for irrigating the trees that were planted over an area of 65 dunums to benefit 20 families.



Also, with support from friends of APN in Senegal and in collaboration with the Tulkarem Growers' Association, APN established an agricultural water collection system on land owned by farmer Mohammad Mustafa Hussein, which will aid the cultivation on an area of 20 dunums of land. In addition to being a source of income to the family, the cultivation of this land is important due to its location between the



settlements of Anaab and Avni Hefteez, as it prevents the settlements from expanding and amalgamating. Work on this project lasted three months, which included the construction of a water tank with a capacity of 70 cubic meters and the rehabilitation of an extensive rainwater collection system.

Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Despite Occupation Interference Volunteers of the Million Tree Campaign Plant Hundreds of Saplings in the Village of Qasra

Dozens of APN volunteers planted 200 olive trees in the village of Qasra near the settlement of Majdoleem in the Nablus governorate, despite the presence of Israeli occupation soldiers, who attempted to disrupt the tree planting.

This agricultural activity was made possible thanks to the support of Mrs Theresa Wolfwood and her late husband, Dr. Gerd Weih. Theresa and Gerd have been long time advocates of the Palestinian struggle, supporting projects on social justice and sustainability in Palestine.



Planting 2,500 Olive Trees on Palestinian Land

The Million Trees Campaign continued its "Land is Ours" campaign with the distribution of 2,500 farmers across areas of historical Palestine including Batouf, Shaghour, Shefa-Amr, Nazareth, the Upper Galilee, Ara, Majd Karoum, Western Baqah, Sakhnin, Deir Hanna, Arabeh, and the Naqab. Trees were also distributed in Mothalath inside the Palestinian territories, and inside the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

The activity was carried out in partnership with the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee, Bayader Association for Culture and Heritage, and the Jerusalem Thought Society for Community Development.



Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Reviving the Village of Shoshahla by Planting Apple and Grape Trees

In commemoration of the 40th Land Day in Palestine on 30th April 2016, dozens of APN volunteers from Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah, under the slogan "They uproot a tree... we replant ten", cultivated 700 grape and apple trees in the village of Shoshalah, from which Palestinians have been displaced since 1967, and on nearby land bordering the Israeli settlements of Efrat and Gush Etzion.

This activity was launched under the slogan "we shall stay as long as the thyme and olives are here" in partnership with the Popular Committee Against the Wall, the Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee and in coordination with the High Council of Youth and Sports in the city of Hebron.



Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Million Trees Campaign Rehabilitates 50 Dunums and Constructs 8 Water Collection Systems in Hebron

APN in cooperation with the Land Research Center (LRC), completed a rehabilitation project to restore 50 dunums of agricultural land, construct eight water collection systems, and plant 2,500 olive trees in the towns of El Kom and Athna, south-west of Hebron, which is adjacent to the Apartheid wall and threatened by its expansion. This project was made possible through the support and supervision of APN, as well as through donations collected from the open fundraiser broadcasted on Radio Hayat "FM" on April 20, 2015.

The project targeted land which supports nearly 12 farming families in the towns of El Kom and Athna in the Hebron Governorate.



Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

Launching the “Revival of the Land” Project to Plant 22,500 Trees Across Palestine

APN signed an agreement with the Palestinian Farmers Union to implement the project, “Revival of the Land” for the cultivation of more than 22,500 fruit trees as part of the 3rd Million Tree Campaign in Palestine.

The project targets the cities of Jerusalem, Salfit, Tubas, Jericho, Tulkarm, Jenin, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, and the Gaza Strip. It aims to increase the income of farmers and enhance their resilience, especially in lands that are threatened by confiscation.

The first phase of the “Revival of the Land” project was launched in partnership with the Right to Land Coalition and the Stop the Wall Campaign, whereby 3,500 olive trees were planted to benefit 36 farmers in a number of Palestinian villages including Deir Ballut , Zububa, Hajez Samra , Al Hadeedia, Kafr a Dik , Deir Ghosoun , Akraba , Susia and Sebastia.

With the help of volunteers, the project also planted olive trees on farmer Khaled Al Khawaldeh's field that is a mere few meters away from Israeli settlements.



Million Trees Program

Signing Agreements to Plant 36,000 Trees in Support of Farmers in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Salbit

APN signed three new agreements aimed at strengthening the resilience of farmers in Jerusalem, Salbit and Bethlehem through the cultivation of a total of 36,000 trees, 70,000 vegetable seedlings, and the establishment of two water collection wells. APN will be planting 18,630 fruit trees in villages in Jerusalem in partnership with Al Nahda Rural Society. In support of farmers in Bethlehem, 11,490 trees will be planted in partnership with the Bethlehem Farmers Association. In addition, 6,000 olive and pomegranate trees will be planted in Salbit to provide a source of income for female-headed households.



Million Trees Program

APN Launches an Economic Empowerment Project to Support Jerusalemite Families

In November 2016, APN in partnership with Al Nahda Rural Society embarked on an Economic Empowerment Project to support Jerusalemite families through training women on agricultural processing and providing them with the means to start their own initiatives. The agricultural products were selected for their economic and nutritional value as well as market demand.



The project was funded by International Islamic Charity Organization in Kuwait and supervised by "Wakf Al Quds" in Lebanon, whereby agricultural engineers with a specialization in food and agricultural processing delivered the workshops in three villages of Aljeeb, Bido, and Rafat. The sessions focused on the production of jam, cream and mozzarella cheese, thyme, molasses, scented soaps, pickles and tomato paste. It also included a course on the cultivation of mushrooms.

The first workshop took place in 3 locations (Al Jeeb, Badou, Rafat) and saw the participation of 35 women who produced different scented soap in each location, including coffee, honey, milk, rosemary, chamomile, cinnamon, cacao, sage and rose water.

The project will also involve the younger generation through training university students on marketing and selling the products, which will contribute to their university tuitions.

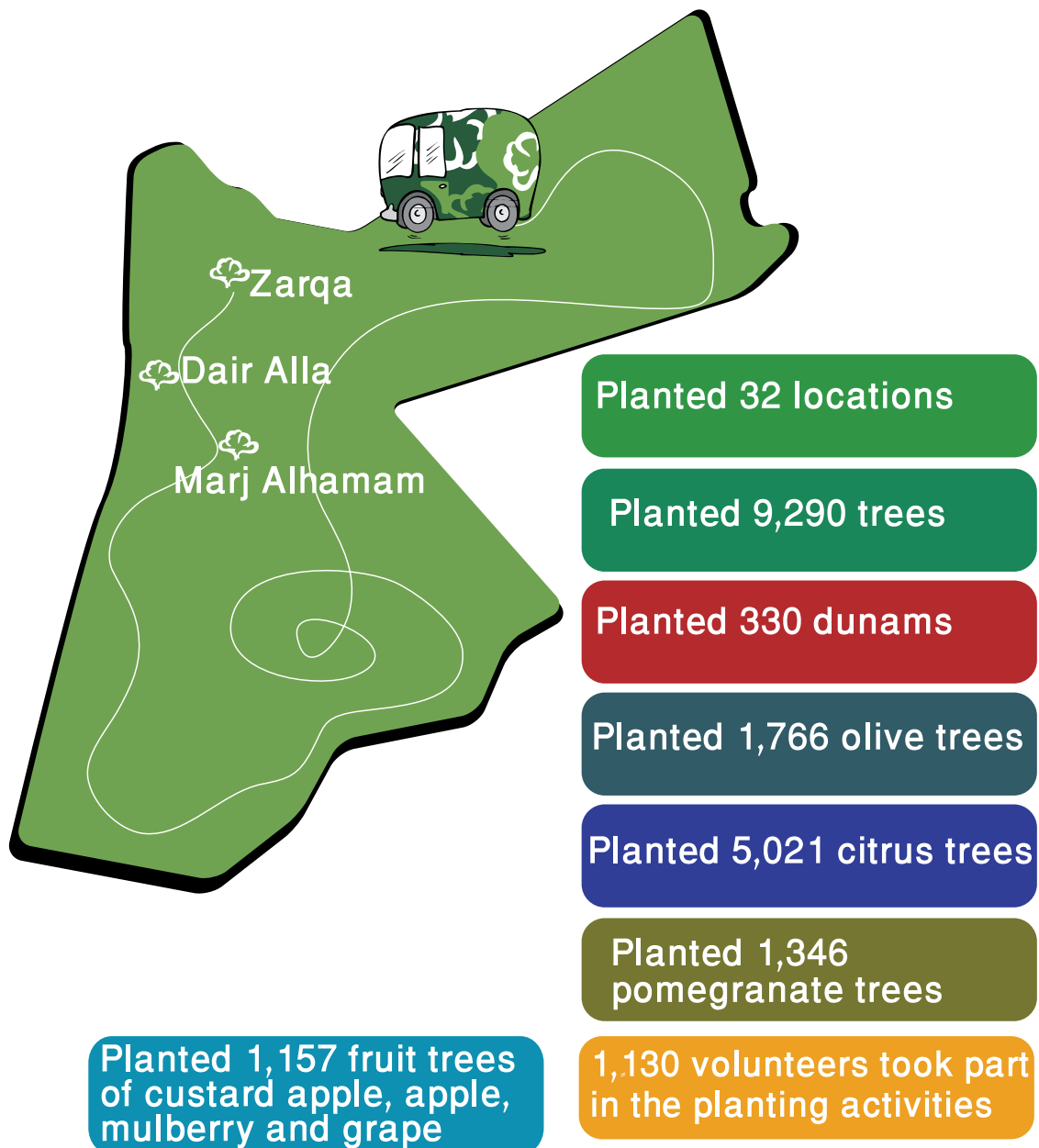


Green Caravan



Green Caravan

The Green Caravan Program:
Areas that were planted in Jordan



Green Caravan

Why the Green Caravan?

Thousands of years ago, the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region was known as the Fertile Crescent and the cradle of civilization, largely lauded for its incredible fertility and advanced agricultural development, from extended irrigation networks to the domestication of livestock. In the 1930s, the Middle East was a wheat net exporter, with Egypt, Iraq and Transjordan as major producers (Woertz, 2014). Since the 1990s, however, a multitude of complex geopolitical, socioeconomic and environmental issues have led to the brutal decline of the renowned regional agricultural superiority. Consequently, MENA is considered one of the most food insecure regions globally (Center for International and Regional Studies, 2012). Jordan, in particular, has fallen as a casualty to weak agricultural policies and a neoliberal-driven economic development strategy.

Poor agricultural policies

Throughout the late 1990s, an eager focus on economic development and modernization, largely based on the Western model of societal reform, led to an overwhelming neglect of a key source of stability and welfare; the agricultural sector (Baylouny, 2008). As a condition of joining the World Trade Organization, Jordan began implementing the Agricultural Structural Adjustment Program (ASAP), which was in line with neoliberal policies that favoured deregulation and privatization of the sector (Jabarin, 2005; El Saadi, 2017). As such, ASAP led to a major decline in governmental support of the sector through the elimination of agricultural subsidies and incentives, the removal of standard pricing of agricultural commodities, and the placement of interest rates on agricultural loans (EuropeAid, 2012; Jabarin, 2005). The agricultural reform also led to the adoption of an export-led and trade-based food security strategy with an excessive over-reliance on foreign labour for domestic productivity (Woertz, 2014).

These budget cuts and misallocation of resources have not ceased; in 2011/2012, a 46 percent increase in Ministry of Agriculture salaries saw a 27 percent decrease in investment (EuropeAid, 2012). As a result of irresponsible neglect, Jordan has an incredibly weak infrastructure for post-harvest storage and processing, and has only one agricultural credit institution (Ibid.). Other institutional constraints include the weak farm extension system with considerably limited physical and technical capacity.

Today, the sector's contribution to the national GDP stands at a mere 4 percent, a considerable decline from roughly 40 percent in the 1950s (EuropeAid, 2012).

Trade

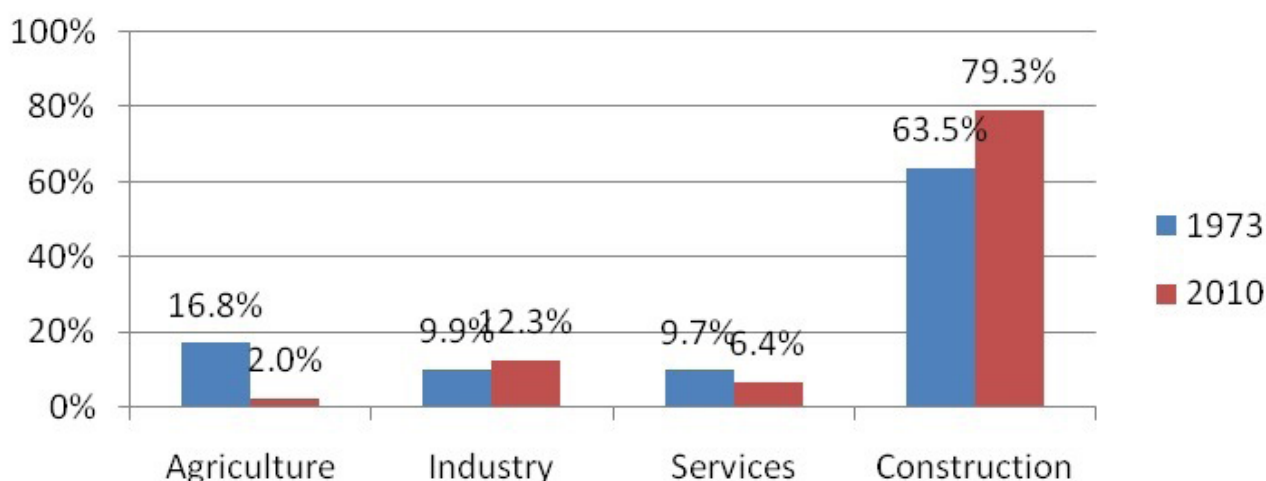
Jordan currently imports 98 percent of its cereal needs (Santos & Ceccacci, 2015), and in 2011, its food self-sufficiency ratio stood at a mere 53 percent (AFED, 2014). In the 1960s, Jordan's wheat self-sufficiency was at 70 percent, whereas today, the country produces only between 3 and 10 percent of annual national demand (EuropeAid, 2012). The over-reliance on food imports has exposed Jordan to the vulnerability and volatility of international food supply chains and food prices (AFED, 2014; ESCWA, 2010); Jordan was hit particularly hard by the 2008/09 and the 2011 global food crises and faces high fiscal and political pressures as a result of its soaring food import bill (Harrigan, 2015).

Green Caravan

Foreign labour

Due to low returns from the sector, many workers in the agricultural sector gradually migrated into other sectors, namely services and industry (UNDP, 2013). Therefore, the agricultural sector witnessed a continuous decline in the total employment from one third in the 1960s, sinking to less than 10 percent by the 1980s, and to approximately 2 percent by 2010 (UNDP, 2013; Baylouny, 2008). As a result of the substantial decline in Jordanians employed by the sector, there has been a dire need for foreign labor to fill the vacancies (Mryyan, 2012; Awad, 2017); currently, over 28 percent of the migrant labour force is engaged in the sector, most of whom are Egyptians (EuropeAid, 2012). Despite the sector being capable of downplaying the effect of unemployment (Santos & Ceccacci, 2015), which currently stands at 18 percent (Trading Economics, 2017), there has been no effective strategy to allow agriculture to absorb the high levels of national and particularly youth unemployment.

The Distribution of the Labor Force by Economic Activity in Jordan



Environmental and geopolitical challenges

Jordan's environmental and geopolitical context is one that further challenges the prosperity of its agricultural sector. The country is a resource-poor, non-oil exporting that is surrounded by political turmoil to the North and East and occupation to the West.

Environmental challenges

Jordan is one of the top five most water stressed countries in the world (Hadadin, et al., 2010; Europe Aid, 2012), and over 90 percent of the country is classified as arid and receives less than 200 mm of annual rainfall (Ministry of Water & Irrigation, 2016). The limited area fit for cultivation is slowly declining due to urban sprawl and other biophysical constraints, including excessive groundwater extraction, depletion of soil quality, soil salinization, and frequent droughts (UNDP, 2013; Europe Aid, 2012). The country, however, is not only a victim of scarce resources, but also a culprit due to inefficient water use and management (Ministry of Water & Irrigation, 2016).

Furthermore, the progression of climate change in the region and nationally is expected to significantly affect local production (IFAD, FAO & The World Bank, 2009). As such, the future of the domestic agricultural sector relies largely on the country's ability to adapt to rising temperatures, a reduction in rainfall, and more frequent and intense climatic events, placing greater pressure on natural resources (Santos & Ceccacci, 2015; Breisinger, et al., 2010).

Green Caravan

Geopolitical challenges

While Jordan is widely considered as an oasis of peace surrounded by turmoil, the country has not escaped the consequences of regional war, conflict and occupation.

The aforementioned climatic challenges undoubtedly add pressure to Jordan's natural resources, but it is important to note that the country's resource scarcity is also largely man-made; Jordan's resource crisis has been exacerbated by Israel's water strategy, which relies on the full exploitation of water resources within and largely beyond its boundaries (Stork, 1983). In 1964, Israel's National Water Carrier project had the task of transferring water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev mainly be allotted to irrigation projects (Bleier, 1994). This required the diversion of water flow from the Jordan River into the Sea of Galilee, which has been deemed as resource appropriation that left Jordan and Syria with brackish, saline water, and has substantially affected local agricultural activity (ibid.).

In addition, the country has long depended on Syrian and Iraqi markets as both major export destinations and gateways to European markets, thus the closure of the two markets due to political instability has had dire consequences on agricultural exports; there has been a 35 percent drop in exports compared to the same period in 2016 (Namrouqa, 2017).

Green Caravan

In light of these constraints degrading the agricultural sector, the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature decided to launch the Green Caravan in 2003 with the aim to protect the land and increase national green cover.

The Green Caravan primarily targets vulnerable small-holder farmers across Jordan, who have fallen victim to poor economic conditions and the neglected agricultural sector. The project empowers Jordanian farmers by providing them with fruit trees that will bring an additional source of sustainable income. As such, the project seeks to reinvigorate the farming culture in Jordan, and revive the connection of local communities with their land, particularly in an effort to prevent selling off or losing fertile agricultural land to larger institutions. Since the program's inception, over 60,000 trees have been planted across Jordan.

(See page 105 for references)



Green Caravan

APN continued its efforts with the Green Caravan Campaign that was launched in 2003. The campaign aims to increase the national green cover and enhance food security and food sovereignty, particularly in marginalized areas across the country. In 2016, a total of 9,300 fruit trees of 25 different varieties, including olives, citruses (monthly lemon, orange, clementine, pomello), apple, berries, pomegranate, loquat, fig, guava, grape, custard apple, stone fruits (peach, apricot, almond, cherry) and pine, were planted on a total of 330 dunums of land across 32 locations.

The campaign activities are carried out with the help of public and private school students, volunteers and individuals of all ages. This year, APN carried out 29 activities that were joined by 1,330 volunteers and in partnership with private sector companies and a variety of agricultural organizations and initiatives, all with the aim to raise awareness about the environment and engaging them in serving society.

Newlyweds Fares Ghandour and Dina Shaban Donate their Wedding Registry to Plant Trees and Support Farmers

In a unique initiative born out of love for the land, Mr Fares Ghandour and Ms Dina Shaaban have collected donations for Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) in lieu of gifts for their wedding, in order to ensure the cultivation of trees and hope in Jordan and Palestine. APN will be distributing 12 sheep and 20 beehives, constructing grapevine trellises, and planting 2,500 fruit trees; 6,000 additional fruit trees will also be planted in the area of Salfit in Palestine.

APN hopes that others follow in the footsteps of the newlyweds who are setting an example for youth to support small farmers in achieving food sovereignty.



Green Caravan

Green Caravan Plants 1,550 Trees on the Banks of the Jordan River

More than 150 volunteers participated in an activity in October 2016 to plant 1,000 citrus and annona trees in 5 locations in the Northern valley, Manshieh, Sheikh Hassan and Alrayan. The activities were funded by the Rewell Society and in collaboration with the Union of Agricultural Workers. The aim was to build resilience for small farmers and prevent them from selling off their lands.

On the banks of the Jordan River, APN organized another activity in November 2016 to plant 550 lemon and orange trees. Around 40 volunteers from different age groups participated in the event in the area of Kreima.



Green Caravan

APN Mobilizes Banks and Plants 1,200 Fruit Trees in the Central Jordan Valley

The Green Caravan headed to the area of Dirar Bin Alazwar - Deir Alla in October 2016 to plant 500 monthly lemon trees through joint support from Jordan Bank and APN. The goal was to enhance food security and find a consistent and sustainable source of income for the farmers. More than 50 volunteers, including employees from the bank, participated in the activity.

With support from Capital Bank, APN organized another activity in the same area to grow 200 lemon, orange, guava and olive trees. The "Absher" initiative, the "Zidni Karaman Ala Karam" Society, and 40 volunteers participated in the event.

An additional two activities, sponsored by Al Ahli Bank, were organized in November to plant 500 monthly lemon trees for four farmers in the areas of Deir Alla and Kreima. The lemon trees selected are characterized by their high yield; producing up to 3 crops a year. More than 50 of the bank's employees, under the "Kuluna Ahel" initiative, volunteered in the agricultural activity.



Green Caravan

APN Plants 1,350 Pomegranate Trees in the Jordan Valley

In November 2016, the Green Caravan departed towards Alma'adi in the central part of the Jordan Valley joined by 100 volunteers of different age groups to plant 1,350 pomegranate trees on a farmer's land to enhance food security and to provide a stable source of income for him and his family.

The activity was sponsored by Zain, whose staff were joined by students from the Ibn Rushd School to plant the trees under the slogan "Hand in hand, we will plant more trees".



Planting Trees in Irbid with the Participation of People with Disabilities

In March 2016, in partnership with the Masar Initiative, and through funding from the Jordan Dubai Islamic Bank, APN organized an activity planting 150 fruit trees including apricot, peaches, cherry, monthly lemon and almond. The trees were planted in Birkesh in Wadi Al Rayan with the help of 50 volunteers.



Green Caravan

APN and Integrated Technology Group (ITG) Plant 780 Fruit Trees in Wadi Al Qatar and Ghor Al Haditheh

In a series of three events organized by Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and in collaboration with Integrated Technology Group (ITG), 780 fruit trees (olive, pomegranate and citrus) were planted in Wadi Al Qatar in Amman and Ghor Al Haditheh, south of the Dead Sea.

Wadi Al Qatar, initially a dumpsite for construction waste, was rehabilitated and transformed into a public park. 500 olive trees were planted, providing a source of income for the residents and municipality workers in the area. In Ghor Al Haditheh, 100 fruit trees (citrus and pomegranate), were planted in the courtyard of the Omar bin al-Khattab mosque, the proceeds of which will help enhance food security for the local community suffering from high rates of poverty. The project also provided a water tank for irrigation of the trees.

APN also collaborated with the Numeria Environmental Association by distributing trees for 50 students from the youth club and for economically vulnerable families in the area.

The events saw the participation of 200 volunteers of all ages from the "Wardatona Al Quds" initiative, orphans from the Gaza refugee camp in Jerash, the "Masar" initiative, the Numeira Environmental Association and employees from the Integrated Technology Group.



Green Caravan

APN and Umniah Plant 1,000 Trees in Wadi Al Qatar

In April 2016, APN collaborated with the Greater Amman Municipality to rehabilitate the former construction waste dumpsite into a public park by planting 1,000 olive trees in Wadi Al Qatar. The activity was sponsored by Umniah, who also provided a group of 100 employees and friends as volunteers.



The Green Caravan Commemorates Al-Nakba by Planting Trees in Deir Allah

To commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, the Green Caravan planted 300 orange trees in May 2016 on the land of Abu Hussein in Al Shkeirieh - Deir Alla. The activity was sponsored by the Integrated Technology Group (ITG), and was joined by volunteers from the Raje' Association, the Intima Campaign, and dozens of children from the al-Hussein camp.

Aiming to enhance the children's connection to the land, the trees were marked with the names of Palestinian and Jordanian villages and cities. The activity also provides a sustainable source of income and promotes food sovereignty and self-sufficiency for the farmer.



Green Caravan

APN Organizes the “A Tree for Every Child” Initiative in Bayouda

In March 2016, APN collaborated with the local community in Bayouda village to launch the “A Tree for Every Child” initiative. 400 fruit trees were distributed to every child in the Bayouda Secondary School for Girls with the aim of creating a strong connection between the children and the land and raising awareness on environmental issues. By transferring agricultural skills to the students, the initiative was also a means of investing in the children for the future.

The head of the Bayouda Village Health Council, Elham Abadi, with the help of the Bayouda Secondary School for Girls, gave the children an opportunity to select their own tree to nurture and grow.



Collaborating with the Jordan Bank to Support Food Security in Deir Alla

Sponsored by the Bank of Jordan, APN organized an activity in April 2016 to plant 250 lemon trees in Abu Obeida - Deir Alla. The event welcomed the participation of more than 50 volunteers from the “Make a Change” initiative, bank employees, and the local community.

The project aims to enhance food security for underprivileged families in the region of Deir Alla. Despite the fact that the Jordan Valley is one of the world’s most productive agricultural regions, producing diverse crops in different seasons of the year, the region is in need of more investment in the agricultural sector.



Green Caravan

APN and the Rotary Club – Amman Citadel Plant Olive Trees in Wadi Al Qatar

With the support of the Rotary Club of Amman Citadel, volunteers successfully planted 200 olive trees in Wadi Al Qatar on the outskirts of Amman. All proceeds from the olives will go to the municipality workers.



APN and the Arab Banking Corporation Plant 200 Trees in Deir Alla

Sponsored by the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), and under the slogan of "Plant Positivity", APN organized an activity in April 2016 to plant 200 loquat trees in Deir Alla. 30 volunteers from the "Be Positive" initiative, with the help of 20 children from the Al Araek Center for the Care and Support of Orphans and Poor Families, came along to plant the trees.



Green Caravan

APN and National Orthodox School Students Plant Olive Trees in Wadi Al Qatar

In April 2016, APN organized a tree planting activity in Wadi al Qatar in coordination with the National Orthodox School and the Greater Amman Municipality, where dozens of olive trees were planted.



The Green Caravan and the Jordan Dubai Islamic Bank Plant Trees in Ghamadan

In collaboration with the Jordan Dubai Islamic Bank and the Greater Amman Municipality, APN organized a tree planting activity in April 2016. Volunteers planted 100 forest trees in the Kingdom of Bahrain Forest of the Ghamadan Park.



Green Caravan

The Green Caravan and Abu Khader Automotive Group Plant Trees in Celebration of Jordan's Independence Day

In May 2016 and in celebration of Jordan's Independence Day, APN and the Social Committee of the Abu Khader Automotive Group organized an activity to plant 100 pine trees in Ghamadan Park in cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality.

The activity saw the participation of many volunteers from the Automotive Group, along with their families. The event was filled with emotions of love for the country and for the land.



APN Plants Trees in Honor of Mother's Day

APN launched a campaign to plant trees in Jordan and Palestine on Mother's Day which falls on March, 21st every year. The campaign highlights the fact that, just like trees, mothers are forever grounded and are symbols of eternal giving and generosity. Hundreds of students from five different schools took part in planting and received certificates for the trees donated in their mothers' names.

The campaign builds on the "If You Only Know" initiative for environmental awareness launched by APN, and aims to raise awareness among students on the environmental issues in Jordan, and on the multiple environmental, economic and social benefits of planting trees.

The Jordan TV journalist Samar Gharaibeh invited two active APN volunteers, Fatimah Al Jamali and Farah Abed Al Jawad, to speak about the campaign.

The campaign's first activity was held in Wadi Al Qatar on the 20th of March, 2016, in collaboration with students from the Canadian International School Amman.



Green Caravan

Planting 650 Lemon Trees in Abu Obeida in the Jordan Valley

In November 2016, APN, the Raje' Association and Jordan University students from the engineering department planted 650 lemon trees in the Jordan Valley. The trees were sponsored by the Integrated Technology Group and planted for vulnerable smallholder farmers in Abu Obeida. The aim of the activity was to enhance food security and provide an additional source of income for the farmers. Around 100 volunteers of different age groups, mostly children of the Nasr Camp participated in the activity. The event was filled with emotions of longing and optimism as the children placed cards on the trees with the names of Palestinian villages they wish to return to one day.



Influencing Agricultural and Environmental Policies: Food Sovereignty



Food Sovereignty

APN continued its work on promoting the concept of food sovereignty by participating in local, regional and global efforts to influence policy on agriculture, the environment and food. The food sovereignty programme focuses on the rights of peoples and nations to determine food and agricultural policies that are suitable for their unique social, economic, political and climatic environments. This includes ensuring the right to food and to sources of production.

To widen the scope of influence, APN is active in several platforms, including: Committee on World Food Security (CFS), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Additionally, APN received consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2015, and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) observer status in 2016.

At the International Level

APN Organizes the First Food Security in Protracted Crises Event at the UN Headquarters in New York

In July 2016, APN organized a side event, entitled "Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises" at the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development being held at the UN headquarters in New York.

Rami Barhoush, president of APN, chaired the meeting which welcomed distinguished speakers including Ms. Deborah Fulton from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Ms. Marya Farah from Al-Haq, Mr. Jamil Ahmad from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and Ms. Roula Majdalani from the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Heather Elaydi, APN Advocacy Officer, spoke about civil society perspective on the issue.

Under the theme of the HLPF, "No one left behind", the side event aimed to promote the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, which was endorsed in October 2015 by the UN Committee on World Food Security in Rome, targeting communities living in protracted conflict, war, occupation, and natural disasters.



Food Sovereignty

APN Succeeds in Integrating Regional Priorities into the 4-Year Work Plan of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii

Being an active member in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), APN participated in its World Conservation Congress hosted by the State of Hawaii in September 2016. Held every four years, the Congress brings together several thousand leaders from governments, civil society organizations, private sector actors, UN agencies and academia to discuss and decide on solutions to the world's most pressing environment and development challenges.

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa submitted an urgent motion on "Enhancing Conservation in War Torn West Asia" demanding changes to the IUCN Work Plan for the four years to follow. The motion was prepared in collaboration with the Applied Research Institute- Jerusalem and Green Line from Lebanon, and co-sponsored by 18 organizations from the region. The changes that sought to include conflict and war as drivers for biodiversity loss needing to be addressed were voted on and accepted by the general congress. The changes mention West Asia, particularly the Fertile Crescent and Yemen, as areas suffering from crises and needing further support, initially with carrying out conflict impact assessments on biodiversity and conservation. This motion came as a result of the complete neglect of the region and its priorities in the IUCN work plan.

At the congress, over 1,300 IUCN members exercise their rights to help form global conservation priorities and guide IUCN's activities for years to follow. APN had led and succeeded in getting endorsements on two other motions in previous years: Resolution 3.046 on Conservation in regions in violent conflict of West Asia in 2004, and Resolution 4.097 on Liability and Compensation Mechanisms for Environmental Crimes During Armed Conflict in 2008. The Arab initiative to put forward the motion was a driver for regional delegations to unify efforts towards achieving a demand that concerns all.



Food Sovereignty

Arab Network for Food Sovereignty Speaks About the Right to Self-Determination in the Philippines

The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), represented by its President Razan Zuayter, and APN, represented by Hassan Al Jaajaa, were invited by IBON, headed by Antonio Tujan, to participate and speak in a series of events in Manila and Davao, Philippines in July 2016. The meetings were organized by the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS), the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), the International Conference for Peoples' Rights in the Philippines (ICPRP) and the Philippines -Palestine Friendship Association (PPFA).

Ms. Zuayter and Mr. Al Jaajaa spoke on behalf of APN during a session on people's rights to self-determination, and presented historical and critical analysis on current affairs as well as lessons learned from Palestine and Lebanon (see annex).

Razan Zuayter also participated in PCFS Executive Committee meeting as the committee member representing West Asia and North Africa. The meeting focused on the coalition's work plan, regional priorities, and set steps forward, including the initiation of research projects to further analyze the impact of conflict on food sovereignty.

Zuayter and Al Jaajaa also spoke about a series of topics related to supporting Palestinians and strengthening the collaboration with supporters in Palestine. Dr Reggie Pamugas and Dr Delen De a Paz gave the opening remarks at the session.



Food Sovereignty

APN General Manager Main Speaker at the Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development (GCARD3) in South Africa

As a partner in the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), APN was invited to represent Arab civil society at the GFAR Partners' Assembly which was followed by the Third Global Conference on Agricultural Research and Development (GCARD3) and hosted by the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa, in Ekurhuleni near Johannesburg, in April 2016.

The Global Event, organized by GFAR and The Consortium of International Research Centers (CGIAR), brought together hundreds of representatives from across all agriculture sectors with a stake in the future of agri-food research and innovation.

Mariam Al Jaajaa General Manager of APN participated in the highly interactive sessions of the Partners Assembly, and presented the findings of one of the working groups. She insisted that the "balance of power" between stakeholders usually determines how and which research topics are selected resulting in an overall top-down approach. She added that disparity in influence exists between members of the same constituency (e.g. civil society).



Al Jaajaa was also invited to be a panelist in the Final Session of the (GCARD3) where she expressed discontent that the Arab region, which is the historic birth place of agriculture, wheat and irrigation systems, takes the smallest share of global investment going to agricultural research. She also stressed that research has to address root causes of challenges and not only symptoms.

When faced by CGIAR Director, who was the chair of the final session, claiming that "this region cannot produce food due to its water scarcity", Al Jaajaa stressed that little research, guidance and investment is given to ensure efficiency, conservation and proper distribution, and utilization of water in the productive sectors. "There is a need to exhaust those opportunities before declaring that this region cannot produce food".

Al Jaajaa stressed on the importance of intensifying efforts to quantify the impact of crises, war, and occupation on agriculture and natural resources.

See page 94 for Al Jaajaa's speech

Food Sovereignty

APN Represents Civil Society in the 43rd Session of the CFS in Rome

In October 2016, APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi participated in meetings of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and in the 43rd Annual Plenary Session of the CFS.

The meetings included a two-day sitting of the Coordinating Committee of the CSM, which included APN's priorities of adding a permanent seat in the CSM for communities living in protracted crises or under occupation, and of ensuring regional balance in the Advisory Group of the CSM by including an Asian member of civil society. The concern for regional imbalance comes in light of the fact that Asia had no representation in the previous year despite having over 63 percent of the world's hungry living in the region (as of 2015, i.e. not including the millions currently facing famine in Yemen). After pressure and determined negotiation, APN was successful in putting its priorities forward.

The annual CSM Forum was also held, where updates on the CSM Protracted Crises working group, coordinated by APN, were presented to more than 200 participating civil society organizations from around the globe.



Elaydi also participated in the panel discussion of a CFS43 side event on Monitoring of CFS Decisions, where she spoke about the need to monitor the progress of the dissemination and implementation of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA). Several recommendations on how to move forward with the FFA were presented, and were well-received by the participants of the event as well as by the panelists. Other speakers on the panel included representatives of the governments of France and Brazil, the FAO, and the CSM working group on monitoring. Approximately 100 participants were present at the event.

Food Sovereignty

APN Coordinates Civil Society Participation in Reach-Out Event in Kenya on Food Security in Protracted Crises

As the facilitator of Civil Society Mechanism Working Group on Protracted Crises, APN was mandated to attend and coordinate CSO presence at the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Reach-Out Event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) in Kenya in September 2016.

The framework was endorsed by the CFS in October 2015 after a three-year negotiation process that involved states, civil society and private sector, as well as international and regional organizations. The FFA describes the appropriate policies and responses for situations of prolonged conflict, occupation and war, which differ from those required in short-term crises and non-crises development contexts.

APN had been a member of the technical committee responsible for forming the drafts of the FFA, as well as the coordinator of the CSO negotiation delegation in the years following.

The purpose of the Reach-Out event was to raise awareness of the CFS-FFA in a number of African countries affected by protracted crises and to promote operationalization at field level, capitalizing on existing relevant national efforts. APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa participated with a depth of knowledge on the FFA in the workshops and facilitated the participation of CSO participants from Kenya, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Other representatives from governments, private sector and FAO, IFAD and WFP staff were present.



Food Sovereignty

APN Coordinates with Partner Organizations in Asia on Regional Priorities at the Coordination Committee Meeting of the Civil Society Mechanism in Rome

On behalf of civil society from West Asia, APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa attended the Coordination Committee (CC) meeting of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) in May 2016.

The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: first, to address the serious concerns raised by APN and in collaboration with the majority of CC members from Asia and the Arab Region on the internal functioning of the CSM, and second to discuss the CSM working groups, work plan and budget for the coming year.

Earlier this year, a group of CC members wrote open letters to protest the lack of regional balance and the conscious exclusion of the entire continent of Asia and the Arab Region in the Advisory Group (AG) of the CSM. They also exposed the CSM failure to protect consensus and the implications of this, such as the immediate blocking of the multiple proposals for adding a seat in the CC for people suffering from crises, conflict and occupation. Al Jaajaa volunteered to take part in the planning committee of the meeting to ensure that these concerns were discussed.

During the meeting the same dominant forces offered little effort to resolve these issues. Nonetheless, recognition was given to the importance of reviewing the decision making processes of the CSM to understand, protect and build consensus, and the need to correct the AG selection process to ensure geographical balance. It was agreed that the proposal for adding a constituency for those living in crises, in conflict and under occupation is given space to be examined and developed.

The CSM is affiliated with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform that works to ensure food security and nutrition for all.



Food Sovereignty

APN Accredited with Observer Status from the United Nations Environment Programme

In March, 2016, APN received accreditation with observer status to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP, established in 1972, is the primary agency which coordinates environmental activities within the United Nations. Accreditation is the main entry point for policy dialogue in UNEP, and will allow APN to participate in the annual Regional Consultation Meetings and contribute to Regional Civil Society Statements which will form the base for the Global Civil Society Statement, comprised of recommendations to UNEP, Governments, and other stakeholders. APN will now also be able to receive unedited working documents from the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and to submit written contributions to these documents for distribution to Governments.



Food Sovereignty

APN Submits a Case Study on “Agricultural Markets in Palestine” for the Civil Society Mechanism in Rome

APN contributed a case study on agricultural markets in Palestine to the Rome-based Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as part of a process on connecting smallholders to markets. Submitted in January 2016, the paper, written by APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi and entitled “Boycott as a Mechanism for Exercising Market Power: the Case of Palestine Under Colonial Occupation” was the only case submitted from the Arab region, and the only case focusing on markets within a situation of conflict, war or occupation.

(See page 100 for a summary of the paper)



Food Sovereignty

APN Prepares a Research Paper on Conflict, Food Sovereignty and Development Cooperation

APN contributed with a case study to a project on Conflict, Food Sovereignty, and Development Cooperation, coordinated by the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), to highlight the unique food system needs of communities living in conflict.

The case study, written by APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi, provides a critical review of the international aid industry in Palestine and its impacts on national food sovereignty. Systemic undermining of local priorities while favouring donor agendas which do not challenge the underlying causes of the broken food system in Palestine - namely, Israeli occupation and closure - was cited as a major and troubling trend in development interventions.

Recommendations made in the paper include adhering to the "Do No Harm" framework for humanitarian intervention, implementing the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, and ensuring non-complicity with actors that do not respect human rights or adhere to international law.

(See page 98 for a summary of the paper)



Food Sovereignty

At the Regional Level

APN Heads the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty and Holds its General Meeting

In December 2016, APN organized The General Assembly for the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty gathered in the Jordanian capital Amman with the attendance of 22 members from Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan and Bahrain representing institutions, associations and unions that primarily seek to unify the efforts of the Arab civil society towards food sovereignty and the protection of natural resources in the Arab countries.

The most significant outcomes of the meeting were the agreement on the network's statute and conceptual framework,

and the proposal of a number of programmes for the coming year. Members also elected an executive committee consisting of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature as the president of the network represented by Razan Zuayter, the Tunisian Farmers Syndicate as the vice president represented by Leith Ben Becher, the Palestinian Farmers Union as treasurer represented by Ra'afat Al Khandakji, Qatar National Program for Sustainable Development as public relations represented by Khaled Al



Muhanadi, in addition to the the Ozai Fishermen Union in Lebanon, Land Center for Human Rights in Egypt, National Confederation for Traditional Fishing in Morocco, Hawa Organization in Sudan, and the Iraqi Society for Consumer Rights Defense.

The network organized an open meeting in December 2016 under the title "The Institutionalization of Partnerships to Enhance Food Security and Nutrition in Jordan and the Arab World". Representatives from civil society, academia, public and private sectors were invited. Farmer unions, fishermen, women and consumer organizations from various Arab countries were present and the conference focused on regional integration, stakeholder partnerships, and strengthening food security in crises, conflicts and occupation.

The attendees were welcomed by Zuayter who described the network as a beacon of hope in these difficult times. Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture Dr Radi Tarawneh stressed on the importance of building a unified strategy between Arab countries to develop the agricultural sector. In addition, the regional representative of the FAO organization in Jordan Dr Nasr Eldin Haj Amin spoke about the need of political commitment and cooperation between the sectors in order to eradicate hunger. Also, among the speakers were Dr Ghaleb Tufaha, Director General of the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE), Dr.Bu Bakr Thuhaibi from the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Abdullah Buliehi president of the Moroccan Confederation of Traditional Fishing, Mohammad Al Oran representative of the General Union of Farmers, and Fuad Khalifeh president of the Bahrain Society of Agricultural Engineers. Mohammad Shibli Head of the Department of Research at the Food Security Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture also spoke about methods to enhance food security in the Arab region through increasing productivity and the area cultivated with grain. Furthermore, Khalid Mansour from the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee and Mariam Al Jaajaa from the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature spoke about addressing food security in crises, conflicts and occupations.

Food Sovereignty

APN Civil Society Sends its Voice to the Arab Forum for the Environment and Development in Beirut

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature and the Arab Network of Food Sovereignty participated in the Arab Forum for Environment and Development in November 2016 in Beirut. Razan Zuayter, president of the Network led the civil society workshop, which was concluded with a declaration that was read at the general plenary. The declaration stressed that civil society is key to the growth of modern nations, and more effort should be put to strengthen partnerships between civil society and governments. It also admitted that it is impossible to achieve the ministerial declaration on the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in Arab countries without stopping conflict and civil strife. Indeed, the ministerial declaration itself states that efforts should be put to end the Israeli occupation, establish peace and prevent conflicts from emerging.

Zuayter spoke about the fundamental barriers to development in the Arab world, including the absence of political will nationally, regionally and globally, the absence of an ethical system and social justice. Zuayter discussed the perils of conditional funding in Jordan and Egypt, which creates a form of dependence, making people less sovereign over their own resources. She also spoke about the consequences of double-standards and unjust sanctions in several Arab countries.

(See page 91 for a copy of the speech)



Food Sovereignty

APN and PANAP Lead a Fact-Finding Mission to Investigate Environmental Crimes in Palestine

In May 2016, Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PANAP) undertook a joint documentation mission in the Occupied West Bank and the Naqab region of historic Palestine inside the Green Line to better understand the human rights implications of the illegal production, trade, dumping of pesticides, and the dumping of industrial and domestic waste by Israeli settlers. The mission was organized by APN and PANAP, represented by its executive director Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, and with the help and expertise of the Palestine Environment Quality Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Palestinian Farmers' Union, Bayader Association, and Palestinian Voluntary Work Committee. Representing APN throughout the mission was Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi, who was joined by PANAP representatives Tanya Roberts-Davis and Dr. Meriel Watts.

The 6-day mission focused on the impacts of these practices on the health of Palestinian communities, as well as the environment and the Palestinian agricultural sector. In Ramallah, the delegation had the opportunity to speak with Palestinian farmer organizations and the Palestinian Hydrology Group. In Hebron, the delegation met with the Hebron Agricultural Directorate as well as a number of farmers, experts and engineers, and witnessed untreated waste discharge from an illegal settlement in the governorate. In the Palestinian side of the Jordan Valley, the delegation documented Israeli's excessive use of pesticides in open fields, which affects Palestinian crop yields. A number of affected farmers also met with the delegation, including Abu Saqer, a farmer from the Al Fasayel area who had been invited to one of APN's annual dinners as the keynote speakers.

A special meeting was arranged with Her Excellency Adalah Al-Atira, head of the Environment Quality Authority, who spoke about the negative consequences of the misuse of pesticides on Palestinian health and environment.

The delegation also documented testimonies by the affected farmers and Palestinian workers inside the settlements on the negative impact of the chemical manufacturing in the Burkan and Arael settlements in Salfit.

In Qalqilya, and with the help of the President of the Palestinian Farmers' Union Raafat Kondakji, the delegation visited farmers who had been affected by toxic chemicals, and visited an area near the Geshuri industrial settlement.

The mission resulted in the formulation of five allegations against the state of Israel and complicit actors operating within Israel. This was brought to the immediate attention of several UN Special Rapporteurs ahead of their June meeting in Geneva. The mission assured affected Palestinian across Hebron, Qalqilya, Salfit, Tubas, Jericho and Tulkarem of their dedication to work with Palestinian civil society organizations to shed light onto the blatant violations of Palestinian human rights committed by Israeli settlers and their government, and onto the detrimental consequences of the illegal trade and dumping of toxic pesticides on Palestinian agricultural land.

Food Sovereignty

ANFS Boycotts FAO CSO Consultation and Sends Letter of Protest to the FAO Director General

Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), of which APN is a co-founder and the current Secretariat, took the decision to boycott the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Civil Society Consultation. The majority decision by the 49 organization member network came about after civil society organizations (CSOs) from the Arab region found themselves effectively excluded from a non-transparent organizing process which favors international organizations. Members of ANFS sent a letter of protest to the FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva demanding that civil society in the Arab region is given its right of self-governance and priority setting, rather than being represented by dominant European organizations.

(See page 89 for a copy of the letter sent to FAO Director General José Graziano)



APN Board Member Razan Zuayter Elected into International Union for the Conservation of Nature West Asia Regional Committee

APN Board Member Razan Zuayter was elected to serve on the West Asia Regional Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) by her colleagues at the Jordan National Committee meeting in March of this year. Zuayter will hold the position for four years, during which she and APN will commit to making the Jordan National Committee stronger, more active, and more vocal within the Regional Committee and IUCN as a whole. This role will also allow APN to encourage the IUCN to prioritize and address environmental issues which are pertinent to Jordan and the West Asia region.

APN has long been an active member of IUCN, focusing particularly on the impacts of crises, conflict, wars, and occupation on the environment. In 2004, APN held a workshop on this subject in Bangkok, Thailand, and prepared a motion that was passed that same year entitled "Strengthening IUCN's Presence to Protect

the Natural and Human Environment". In 2008 APN prepared another successful motion - "Liability and Compensation Mechanisms for Environmental Crimes During Armed Conflicts".



Food Sovereignty

APN Urges Comprehensive Approach to the Food, Fuel and Water Nexus in Abu Dhabi Conference

In May 2016 APN Board Member Razan Zuayter and APN co-founder Hassan Al Jaajaa were invited by the Hollings Center for International Dialogue along with experts from private and public sectors to attend a regional policy dialogue on the water, energy and food nexus.

Zuayter was invited to speak at the conference, where she stressed the importance of focusing on distribution and utilization of natural resources as opposed to adopting the subjective analysis claiming that the region is resource-poor (see annex for a copy of the speech).

Hassan Al Jaajaa spoke about the principle of 'morality', which should be the fourth pillar in the food, energy and water nexus, and about resource scarcity as a result of greed and monopolization.

(See page 95 for the speech)



Food Sovereignty

APN Call to Stop Bloodshed as a Precondition for Development in the Arab World

APN was invited to participate in the third session of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in May 2016, organized by UN ESCWA, where Zuayter called to stop bloodshed as a precondition for sustainable development in the Arab world. The Forum is a high-level meeting that serves as a primary regional platform to discuss the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab region.

During the third session, Zuayter spoke about the importance of civil society in implementing and monitoring the sustainable development agenda. Ms. Zuayter emphasized the need for setting standards for regional civil society to prevent the exploitation of such platform for a vested interest in advancing hidden political disputes and agendas that are far from the region's priorities; as we have seen in Sudan and other nations.

During the session on Key Regional Development Challenges APN General Manager Al Jaajaa stressed the need to develop a regional strategy for food security and agriculture in order to implement the 2nd goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture). She also insisted that civil society and the public sector should act together to ensure that regional needs are fully recognized in international policy platforms.



Food Sovereignty

APN Reveals the Dynamics of the International Policy Platforms in the Arab Food and Nutrition Security Blog

As one of the rare voices of Arab Civil Society at international platforms, APN was requested to contribute with a blog story to the Arab Food and Nutrition Security Blog. APN manager Mariam Al Jaajaa was invited to prepare a piece on firsthand CSO experience and lessons learnt from engaging in policy making at the international level. She shared an article, Arab Civil Society Winning Battles in International Fora, which exposes the absence of Arab representatives in global policy platforms, the challenges confronted by regional and Southern CSOs to have a meaningful impact on these platforms, and the hegemony of northern organizations on international civil society spaces. The article showed that with APN's determination, hard work and autonomy, significant successes have been achieved.

Managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the blog is supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA).

(See page 92 for the article)



APN Calls for the Inclusion of Palestinian Human Dignity During the Water and Energy Conference

In April 2016, APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi attended the conference "Energy-Water Nexus: Integrated Energy and Water Planning in the WANA Region" in Jordan. The conference was hosted by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy, and the West Asia and North Africa(WANA) Institute.

Elaydi asserted that while a call for inclusion of human dignity is welcome, it is contradicted by the framing of the Red-Dead Conveyance Project and the Nobel Gas Energy deal as policy decisions to secure Jordan's water and energy; these agreements with the Israeli state ask Palestinians to consent to their own dispossession and completely disregard the human dignity of the Palestinian people. HRH Prince El Hassan replied with concurrence stating that the rights of the Palestinians must be considered in such agreements.

Food Sovereignty

Participating in the Opening of the Palestinian Heirloom Seed Library

In October 2016, a seminar was conducted at the A.M. Qattan Foundation HQ in which the "Educational Research and Development Program", a new stage in the "Palestinian Heirloom Seeds Library" project, was inaugurated. It was officially announced that the educational course under the title "Seeds: Policies and Cultures" has been launched with the aim to study the relationship between agricultural practices and the current food production processes in light of the current international policy frameworks, as well as the aim to understand the principles of food sovereignty. Small seed libraries will be built in six schools based on the teachers who are involved in the project.

Razan Zuatyer, APN Founder, participated in the seminar via video conference and said, "When I received the invitation I did not know how I would be able to participate in the event, however I am here with you in Ramallah despite the occupation." She emphasized that preserving traditional seeds lies in the essence of food sovereignty. She also announced APN's complete support of the project and the possibility of building a similar Seeds Library in Jordan.



Food Sovereignty

Meeting of the National Representatives to the IUCN Regional Committee

In August 2016, Razan Zuayter from APN met with members of the IUCN Regional Committee, Dr Mohamad Majdalawi from the Jordanian Society For Organic Farming and Eng. Ehab Eid from The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan, in the presence of IUCN Constituency Administrator Ola Mallah. The members exchanged knowledge and experience, and discussed mechanisms for influencing policies and programmes for meeting the needs and priorities of the region.

A work plan was agreed upon whereby a meeting will be held for the members of the National Committee to introduce their work, collaborate and prepare for the conference in Hawaii. The need for a detailed database on the IUCN website for National Committee members was also stressed upon.

At the Local Level

The Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs Meet to Discuss Environmental Policies and Strategies

As a member of the Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs, APN, represented by board member Razan Zuayter and APN volunteer Hanan Aruri, participated in a meeting in Aqaba in December 2016. The meeting was on Defining Environmental Policies and Strategies. The workshop was organized as part of the Capacity Building and Environmental Governance Project supported by the Small Grants Programme of the UN and Ministry of Social Development.

The two days of meetings were attended by partner organizations, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and other environmental organizations who presented their organizations and their work. Zuayter gave a brief on APN's programmes and achievements.

APN stressed that the federation must impose its role as a partner in setting priorities, shaping domestic and international policies, focusing on implementation and setting accountability and monitoring programmes. Zuayter stressed that this requires strong political will, effective institutional collaboration, and the freedom to work as a team, away from any financial incentives.



Food Sovereignty

APN and PANAP Investigate Israeli Environmental Crimes in the Jordan Valley

Arab Group for the Protection of Nature in partnership with the international Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PANAP) organized a fact-finding mission in the Jordan Valley (Jordan) in April 2016, to learn about the risks and challenges faced by Jordanian farmers. The mission's focus was on the village of Damia in the Deir Alla region, which suffers from the impacts of the Damia Landfill controlled by the Israeli occupation forces on the opposite side of the Jordan River.

APN received a number of calls from residents and farmers in Damia village who have been impacted by the landfill, which causes the emission of foul odors, the spread of insects, increased respiratory problems, and damages crops. Four months ago, occupation forces excavated the 20 year old landfill and spread its contents along a 5-6 kilometer stretch of the border, 1 km wide.

The delegation met with local farmers from the Damia village who were concerned about the waste containing heavy

metals such as lead, zinc or radioactive materials that might have affected their health and the health of future generations. Some farmers reported that the Israeli occupation forces spray aerial toxic pesticides that are blown into Jordanian territory by the wind, destroying the land and agricultural products. The delegation also found that Israeli companies are exporting toxic and banned pesticides to Jordan.

APN also visited a farmer whose land was damaged by frequent fires ignited by Israeli occupation forces on the western bank of the river. The huge fires spread into the territory of Jordanian farmers and become difficult to control, causing substantial losses to farmers because of crop damage and livestock death.

The delegation proposed several recommendations: to conduct a necessary environmental assessment of the Damia landfill and analyze soil and water samples; to pressure the Israeli forces to disclose information on the contents of the existing waste; to pressure Israeli actors to remove the landfill from the border region due to its negative effects on public health, agriculture, and animal welfare; for the Jordanian government to call on the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Implications of the Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Hazardous Substances and Wastes regarding the landfill; and, to communicate with agrochemical companies on their obligations under the Basel Convention and International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides to dispose of pesticide containers in an environmentally sound manner.



Food Sovereignty

APN Continues Engagement in Climate Change Issues in Jordan and West Asia

In January and February 2016, representatives from Arab Group for the Protection of Nature participated in multiple meetings and conferences on the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21). COP is the highest decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

APN Project Manager Mohammed Qtaishat and Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi attended the meeting "Mainstreaming Rio into National Sectoral Policies" at the Landmark Hotel in Amman. The meeting was organized by the Jordan Ministry of the Environment, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Additionally, in February 2016, APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa and Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi attended the "Inception Workshop for the Project: Preparation of the First Biennial Update (FBUR) Report to the UNFCCC" at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). The event was hosted by the Jordan Ministry of the Environment, RSS, UNDP, and GEF.

Also in February, 2016, APN Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi attended the UNDP-Jordan Ministry of Environment national workshop on climate change, "From Paris to Amman", at the Landmark Hotel in Amman. The purpose of the workshop were to update participants on the outcomes of the COP21 and their relevance to Jordan. The impacts of climate change on water was a key focus of the event, with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation outlining several adaptation policies relating to water and energy.

During the meetings and workshops, APN stressed that the main challenge faced by civil society is strengthening the cooperation between NGOs and the government in climate change adaptation efforts, particularly in laying out a work plan with effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Food Sovereignty

APN Participates in the Jordanian Agricultural Conference

APN Board Member Razan Zuayter was invited by the Jordanian Association of Exporters and Producers of Vegetables and Fruits and the Chamber of Commerce in Amman to participate in the Jordanian Agricultural Conference in September 2016.

The Conference focused on four main themes: the impact of policies related to import and export of vegetables and fresh fruit on guiding production; agricultural marketing; sources of agricultural finance and its impact on production; and agricultural employment.

APN intervened to address the dangers of discontinuing wheat cultivation in Jordan, despite previously being an exporting country, as well as the importance of setting comprehensive guidelines and frameworks for donors to avoid harming smallholder farmers with top-down approaches.



Jordan Federation for Environmental NGOs Meet at the Dead Sea

APN participated in the Strategic Planning Workshop of the Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs, which was held in February 2016. The workshop aimed to develop a roadmap for the Federation for the coming years, as well as a framework of corporate governance.

APN also participated in the General Assembly of the Jordan Federation for Environmental NGOs meeting which led to the election of new council members, consisting of: Mr. Nidal Oran as president of the Federation, Mr. Omar Shoshan as vice president of the Federation, Mr. Ismail Attiat, Mr. Omar Tahboub, and Mr. Ehab Eid.



Awareness and Mobilization



Awareness and Mobilization

APN Participates in the Second Annual National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre

In May 2016, APN participated in the second annual National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre (NAIK) conference "Agriculture and Climate Change: Broad International Cooperation in Solving Global Problems", which took place in Godollo, Hungary. Representing APN, Advocacy Officer Heather Elaydi discussed issues of agriculture and food security in the Gaza Strip. Elaydi also spoke about discourses of natural resource scarcity in Palestine, stressing that technical solutions cannot be used to solve what are essentially political problems. She also highlighted the need for researchers to understand the political context in which their research is being used.

The conference hosted nearly 100 guests and saw 14 presentations by Hungarian and international speakers from various agricultural research backgrounds. NAIK also invited Elaydi to visit an agricultural field station for water management the day following the conference.



APN Continues its Opposition of the Gas Deal

As a founding and active member of the "Jordanian National Campaign to Terminate the Gas Agreement with Israel" since its establishment in 2014, APN participated in organizing all activities aimed at ousting the agreement which affects national security and Jordan's sovereignty over its energy.

Some of the most important activities carried out by the campaign in 2016 was organizing weekly protests in various places in Jordan, presenting a complaint to the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission in November 2016, and forming a joint working group with members of the House of the Representatives in December 2016, the majority of which refuse to accept the deal.

In celebration of the 48th anniversary of the Karamah Battle, APN collaborated with a delegation from the Jordanian National Campaign to Terminate the Gas Agreement with Israel to place a bouquet of flowers on the statue of an Unknown Soldier of the Karamah statue under the slogan "Our Dignity Comes with Terminating the Gas Deal."



Awareness and Mobilization

Official and International Presence in the Global Unions Coalition in Support of Jerusalem and Palestine

In October 2016, APN, represented by Razan Zuayter and Hassan Al Jaajaa, was invited to the Global Unions Coalition in Support of Jerusalem and Palestine under the slogan "Together for Jerusalem" in the Turkish capital Istanbul. The conference was attended by a number of official guests, trade unionists and supporters of the Palestinian cause including Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus and Mohammad Arsalan the president of the Union of Municipalities who was the host of the event. In addition, presidents



and representatives of Labor Unions in Arab and Islamic countries attended the conference. The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature called on Turkey in the conference to boycott Israeli imports, particularly settlement produce that is illegal under International Law.

"If You Only Know" Initiative Organizes Awareness Lectures in Several Schools

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature reinstated its awareness lectures as part of the "If Only You Know" initiative, with four environmental lectures. In October 2016, the first lecture targeted 8th and 9th grade students at the Brighter Horizon Academy. APN volunteer Firas Qatanani presented both a theoretical and practical lecture on how to plant and grow mushrooms at home.

In November 2016, "Sanfour Mohandes" committee and APN volunteers Luma Lozi, Hala Abdo and Ahmad Khleif also organized an introductory lecture for engineering students at the Jordan University about APN. APN volunteer Lamis Abu Aziza and Project Manager Mohammad Qtaishat gave the lecture and discussed ways students can become more involved in environmental projects.



APN was also invited by the Palestine Solidarity Association of Sweden to the Larsa Hotel in Amman, where APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa gave a talk to civil society representatives from the Palestinian diaspora on ways to integrate environmental principles and activities in their work.

In December 2016, APN organized an awareness lecture about environmental challenges in Jordan and Palestine to Grade 10 students from the Islamic Educational College in Jubeiha. The lecture was presented by Mohammad Qtaishat in coordination with APN volunteer Rama Asfour.

Awareness and Mobilization

One Love Initiative and APN Send Love to the Gaza Refugee Camp

One Love initiative and the APN organized a charity event with the Jordanian band Dozan wa Awtar in November 2016 at the Ahliya School for Girls. The band volunteered to provide musical entertainment for the over 400 people attendees at the event. The proceedings were dedicated to creating a center for children at the Gaza Refugee Camp in Jerash, Jordan.



The One Love Initiative, which is run by a number of volunteers aims to ease the

difficult living conditions that the residents of the camp face. The children's center will be the first of its kind in the camp, and will encourage art and musical talent among the children and youth. It will include a garden and a section on the environment to raise awareness about the importance of agriculture and environmental preservation. The center will also have the first library in the camp.

APN Celebrates the Success of Farmer Field Schools in Jordan

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the "Directive Guide for Farmer Field Schools in Jordan" in collaboration with The National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE). The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature was invited to participate in the event that took place in November 2016.

APN Board Member Razan Zuatyer, expressed her pride that APN was the first to introduce the concept of Farmer Field Schools in Jordan in 2004. Director General of NCARE Dr. Fawzi Al Sheyab said that 153 Field Schools have been established in the various governorates of Jordan, which trained more than 2000 farmers, and 20 percent of whom are women. He also noted on the economic and nutritional benefits that the project brings to local communities. The event was concluded with an open discussion with the farmers who expressed their ideas and aspirations for the future.



Awareness and Mobilization

A National Campaign in Defense of Palestinian Prisoner Journalist Mohammad Al Qeeq

On the 21st of February, 2016, a number of civil society organizations, led by APN, organized a national campaign in defense of the Palestinian prisoner and journalist Mohammad Al Qeeq. Several institutions, unions, popular and grassroots movements and political parties as well as journalists demonstrated to demand the release of Al Qeeq in front of the United Nations headquarters in Amman.

A delegation formed from members of the campaign met with a United Nations representative in Jordan and gave in a statement addressed to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva Zeid Bin Raad. The protesters demanded the United Nations to exert pressure on the Israeli occupation authorities to release the political prisoner Al Qeeq immediately and urgently and release all administrative detainees held in Israeli prisons. The delegation also demanded the United Nations to terminate its contract with the security firm "G4S", which serves Israeli prisons and the administrative detention system.



The statement was endorsed by 47 Jordanian bodies including political parties, unions, popular movements as well as a number of media agencies. The campaign also organized a twitter storm on the social media website using #Freedom4Alqeeq and affirmed that they will not cease the pressure placed on the United Nations.

The 7 civil society organizations that collaborated with APN to organize the "National Campaign to Defend Palestinian Journalist Mohammad Al Qeeq" were: the Jordanian Women's Union; Jordan Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions Movement (BDS); Center for Defending the Freedom of Journalists; Raje' Center; The Campaign for Solidarity with Prisoners.

A few days after the sit-in, Al Qeeq was released.

Awareness and Mobilization

Organizing a Workshop for APN Volunteers in Bayouda

APN organized an outreach event for volunteers to familiarize them with APN programmes and possibilities for participation. The workshop was held in Bayouda - Al Salt in September 2016.

APN board member Ms. Lubna Irshaid explained the different projects carried out by APN and the importance of consistency in volunteer engagement in present and future activities in order to achieve APN's goals.

Ms. Elham Al-Abadi, local community activist, talked about Bayouda projects that have been supported by APN, including the provision of sheep, beehives and trees as well as the launch of the "Tree for Every Child" initiative in the Bayouda Secondary School for Girls.

The volunteers were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and choose the activities they are interested in joining.



APN Participates in Jara Market

APN participated in the Jara Market that is held in Rainbow Street every Friday from May-September.

Over 100 APN volunteers took part in the market where APN sold merchandise and products, the proceedings of which will plant over 500 fruit trees in Jordan and Palestine.



APN in the Media



APN in the Media

APN Holds a Press Conference and Appears in Several Media Outlets

APN held a press conference at its headquarters on November 30 to announce its Annual Dinner 2016 set for December 3rd and to discuss its achievements in supporting agriculture, food security and environmental issues. The conference was attended by 20 journalists who were welcomed by APN founding member Razan Zuayer calling them the conscience of this nation much like civil society; "We both monitor and record history". Zuayer added "what distinguishes APN is its ability to rely on volunteerism, and strictly local and regional funding."

APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa discussed the year's achievement in the Million Trees Campaign, The Green Caravan and the Food Sovereignty programmes.



Um Ishaq, an honorable guest of APN's Annual Dinner, also attended the conference and recounted her story of living in a cave with her husband in a village in Wadi Fukin - Bethlehem in an effort to protect her land from confiscation.

In addition to the press conference, several TV and radio interviews were held to discuss APN's work and inform people about the Annual Dinner. APN President Rami Barhoush, and Um Ishaq were hosted by Roya's TV Show "Donya ya Donya", APN lawyer and volunteer Abdullah Hawatmeh was interviewed by Mazaj FM, while board member Ziad Moghrabi was interviewed by Albalad, Farah Elnas, Radio Jordan and Husna radio stations.

APN in the Media

APN Board Member Razan Zuayter Hosted by Al Mayadeen TV

In March 2016 Rihan Younan interviewed APN Board Member Razan Zuayter on Al Mayadeen TV's Metro programme to discuss all the symbolic, economic and social dimensions of olives and olive trees as well as APN's various activities in Palestine, the Arab region, and in global platforms. Zuayter was joined by APN volunteer and activist Leen Jabri, and the program concluded with donations from Mayadeen and Metro to plant olive trees in Palestine.



APN Programmes Discussed on the Radio

APN Board Member Razan Zuayter was invited by Amen FM to a Radio interview in September 2016 on the Nabaad Al Mujtama program (Pulse of the Community) to talk about APN programmes The Green Caravan, Million Tree Campaign, If You Only Know, and international platforms on food sovereignty. Zuayter also spoke about the new initiative of Mr. Fares Ghandour and Ms. Dina Shaaban who decided to collect donations for APN to plant trees in lieu of wedding gifts. The newlyweds managed to collect donations for 8,500 fruit trees to be planted in Jordan and Palestine, distribute sheep and set up 20 beehives.

Hosna FM also hosted Zuayter to talk about APN and the newlyweds' initiative.

Articles, Declaration and Statements

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Letter of Protest Sent by APN to FAO Director General in Rome

Dear Director General Graziano da Silva,

On behalf of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), we would like to begin by conveying our warm greetings and appreciation to you and your team for all the efforts and hard work you undertake.

We are writing to inform you that we, ANFS, consisting of 49 member organizations, have taken the decision to boycott the CSO Regional Consultation prior to the NERC 33. We take this step in protest of the exclusion and lack of transparency that we have witnessed, despite being a formal member of the Steering Committee.

The preparation process for the CSO Consultation has thus far lacked legitimate participation of regional CSOs, in spite of the fact that the event is intended to be dedicated entirely to regional consultation. In particular, we would like to highlight the following:

- At no point were we consulted on or made aware of the selection process for the members of the CSO Steering Committee. We were not informed of who takes decisions or of what criteria were used. Furthermore, no official correspondence was sent prior to the start of planning informing us of who was on the Steering Committee.
- It was only after repeatedly contacting FAO OCP and the FAO Regional Office inquiring into the planning process that we were informed that we were indeed on the Steering Committee, at which point we realized that the majority of decisions had already been made without our consultation.
- The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) has taken multiple decisions on behalf of the SC without consulting, obtaining the consent of, or informing all SC members, including:
 - changing the initial date and the host organization of the consultation, and sending FAO a letter of confirmation in the name of the SC;
 - sending an invitation for registration only to IPC member organizations in the name of the SC. Through this action, IPC had notified the IPC mailing list of the invitation and date changes before the Steering Committee was made aware of them;
 - unilaterally appointing non-Steering Committee 'support persons' to be involved in the organizational process, many of whom are neither from nor live in the Arab region.

Members of IPC eventually attempted to amend some of these actions only after significant protest from us.

Most alarming was the response we received from FAO OCP in Rome after we had notified the FAO Regional Office of IPC's actions. Rather than demonstrating concern and committing to a transparent, inclusive process, Mr Rodrigo Castaneda replied that CSO exclusion "is a [sic] internal procedure among CSO" and that the regional office of FAO should "not reply [to ANFS] or reply saying please contact to IPC for further clarification", thus legitimizing the IPC takeover of the Steering Committee.

IPC, with FAO support, is effectively acting as the sole representative of civil society in our region despite not having any Arab regional organization members. To our shock, IPC expunged ANFS unilaterally and without transparent process or explanation in November, 2015 and IPC is now attempting to form an alternative network rather than to recognize, communicate and work with ANFS as a legitimate existing representative. FAO has entrusted IPC to act in an ethical, inclusive manner in such processes, yet IPC acts without accountability to civil society from the Arab region.

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It is clear that organizations from the region were appointed as members of the Steering Committee in name only, and that our participation is meant to be merely token. As a network of regional organizations we insist on respect for the dignity and autonomy of our region, and thus cannot allow ourselves to be used to give legitimacy to a process which we are not a part of in a substantial way.

We remind you that FAO in 2012 acknowledged two essential principles regarding FAO-CSO engagement that should be respected:

- **Autonomy and self-organization:** once granted access to a forum, CSOs can autonomously organize, deciding how best to occupy the different spaces of dialogue and express their positions.
- **Internal consultations:** CSOs will carry out internal consultations among their constituencies to establish their positions and identify their representatives.

We therefore appeal to your good office to:

1. Acknowledge the importance of regional networks as opposed to only international organizations which are based in the North;
2. Allow CSOs from the region to take the lead, organize their consultations and select their own representatives autonomously;
3. Recognize ANFS as a regional network that was formed in a FAO-Civil Society Consultation in 2012 to unite CSO voices and bring consensus on policies and activities related to food security and nutrition - it is our right, as 49 member organizations, to engage fully in FAO activities which impact our lives, and we have thus far been deprived of this right;
4. Demonstrate equality toward all regions in respect to civil society involvement in FAO activities, including workshops, consultations, and programs;
5. Do not show favoritism toward particular CSOs or allow FAO activities and spaces to be monopolized by a single CSO network.

We hope to cooperate together to ensure that these issues will be resolved, resulting in a fair, inclusive, dignified, and transparent process for regional CSO involvement. If helpful, we are open to including our governments from throughout the region in this conversation. Until this is resolved, ANFS regrets that we feel forced to abstain from this Regional CSO Consultation, and we await your prompt response.

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Civil Society Declaration in the Arab Forum for Environment and Development– Beirut, 11/11/2016

First: Demand the establishment of national and regional bodies with wide and high level representation to set sustainable development strategies. Such bodies should include civil society as full active partners in setting priorities, planning, implementation and monitoring.

Civil society organizations should also be working closely with national institutions and local authorities such as elected municipalities.

Second: Advocate the culture of environmental volunteerism.

Third: Recommend the "localization and regionalization" of sustainable development goals in an understandable manner for the local community.

Fourth: Focus on developing scientific research to build an environmental data base that is accessible to local communities including through curriculums.

Fifth: Call on governments to increase the budget allocated to the implementation of sustainable development goals, and assigning a share for civil society initiatives.

Sixth: Encourage the forming and institutionalization of civil society networks to unify efforts and increase influence on policy makers

Seventh: Link natural resource conservation with enhancing community livelihoods and social protection through building capacities on the use of traditional and rural knowledge to produce and market products. Also, build the capacities of youth and provide them with green job opportunities.

Eighth: focus on Food security and sovereignty over food and natural resource that are compulsory for political sovereignty needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Blog Entry on Arab Food and Nutrition Security by Mariam Al Jaajaa

Arab Civil Society Winning Battles in International Fora – 14/04/2016

The Rome-based Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental body that reviews and follows up on food security and nutrition policies. As part of its reform process which took place in 2009, the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) was established as the largest international mechanism of civil society organisations (CSOs) with a mandate to influence food security and nutrition policies and programmes on the national, regional and global levels.

Representing Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), I was fortunate to be nominated by CSOs from the region to act on behalf of West Asia in the Coordination Committee of the CSM. The experience has been invaluable but often fraught with great frustrations. Participating in platforms that include very little presence from the Arab region is an immense challenge. There are times I find myself alone, in the midst of 200 CSO organisations from all over the world, fighting for the region's priorities. Unfortunately, Arab governments are frequently absent within influential international decision making spaces, leaving Arab civil society to ensure that regional priorities are put forward during events, consultations, and policy negotiations.

To be able to introduce issues that are critical to the region, one needs not only to overcome the resistance of governments and the disinterest of international institutions, but also - and most surprisingly - the opposition that comes from large civil society organisations based in the North. Because these organisations have grown accustomed to determining what global civil society looks like, how it operates, and the issues it should fight for, it is often difficult for CSOs based in the Arab region to insert ourselves into international arrangements such as the CSM. It has been eye-opening to note that international civil society is not exempt from global power imbalances, and CSOs often have privileges over others based on the wealth of the region they come from and their geographic proximity to the decision-making space. Unfortunately, Southern CSOs are often included as token partners. We are encouraged to wear our traditional attire and are sometimes allowed to speak our languages, but not to speak our full minds. What was shocking for me was to see several civil society representatives pushed to speak against issues that mattered the most to them. For instance I witnessed a representative of the indigenous peoples voting against giving a platform for people suffering from occupation, and a representative from Africa dismissing "conflict and crises" as a priority topic.

Additionally, only three languages are formally recognised within this global civil society platform - English, Spanish and French - which prevents many southern CSOs from joining the discussions which have a huge impact on their daily lives.

After ten years of lobbying amongst CSOs, UN organisations, and governments, APN succeeded in inserting the contentious issue of food insecurity in times of conflict high on the agenda of the CFS. The adoption of this work stream was marked by the publishing of the FAO 2010 SOFI Report 'Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises'.

APN was then nominated to coordinate the Global Civil Society Working Group on Protracted Crises - the only CFS working group facilitated by Southern organisations. APN President, Razan Zuayter, was selected to be part of the CFS Steering Committee for the Protracted Crises Process, and I was nominated to be on the CFS Technical Committee which prepared the draft documents for negotiation. We managed to put communities suffering from crises at the centre of consultations and intergovernmental negotiation sessions, which culminated in the endorsement of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) in October 2015.

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By building strong alliances with government representatives, both from the Arab region and those elsewhere with similar concerns, we managed to ensure that our common priorities were included in the FFA. The document tackles sensitive issues with courage. Thanks to the insistence of the civil society Working Group, the Framework advocates a comprehensive human rights-based approach with a focus on resolving and preventing the underlying causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition in crises. This stands in contrast to the narrow scope of adaptation and recovery - often found within the "resilience" approach - which is frequently promoted by large, global institutions. The FFA includes "occupation" as one of the root causes of food insecurity in protracted crises, and explicitly prohibits the "use food as a tool for political or economic pressure".

The FFA highlights the need for strong accountability mechanisms and identifies the main reasons behind the failure of current policies and programmes, including the undermining of local capacities, institutions and priorities by externally driven interventions; a lack of commitment to support small-scale food producers; and vested commercial, political and institutional interests.

With significant challenge from certain governments, the FFA is the only CFS document thus far that recognises local food systems as a main component of supporting resilience, including through local procurement and building food reserves at the community, national, and regional level.

As I continue my journey in this very complex space the many lessons I've learnt have surely made my wider advocacy efforts more effective. First it is clear that great perseverance is needed to ensure that policies such as the FFA move into implementation, and that this is followed with monitoring frameworks.

Second, in order to exert greater influence from the region, CSO efforts must be unified both regionally and globally. Thus we have co-founded the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), which comprises 49 member organisations including those representing small producers, NGOs, women, youth, workers, consumers and researchers from eighteen countries across the Arab world. We have also built strong alliances with organisations from the south facing similar battles.

Finally, we have learnt that we need to be persistent, unapologetic in our goals, and to fight for our space in international fora. As Arabs, we are the best representatives of ourselves, and we must defend our autonomy and not lose sight of our priorities.

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Mariam Al Jaajaa's Speech During the Closing Ceremony of the Global Conference on Agricultural Development and Research GCARD3 – Johannesburg, South Africa – 08/04/2016

It gives me great honor to stand here today in South Africa; a place that has globally disseminated lessons on justice and human rights, and I thank you for giving me the chance to speak on behalf of civil society at this esteemed global event.

I come from the region that had sown the very first seeds of agriculture; a pioneer in wheat production; and a champion in the development of irrigation systems: assuredly the Arab region.

Today, however, the region suffers from deplorable neglect and marginalization of the agricultural sector, a paradigm shift away from accustomed food self-sufficiency. The region has also been wrongly vilified as a place that is 'unsuitable for agriculture' and one that is 'incapable of feeding itself.'

We, as civil society, have the duty to face this storm of misconceptions in any way possible. We must collaborate with all parties, particularly the notable research sector to address the decline in agricultural investment and food production, and identify mechanisms to improve productivity and to combat the mismanagement of natural resources.

Unfortunately, these priorities have been absent from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) agenda, which has ignored the Arab region in its global allocation of agricultural investment funds. This is despite the fact that our region is plagued by war and occupation that continue to have catastrophic consequences on the agricultural sector and food security; a prime fact that drove us to push the Committee on World Food Security and its member States to approve the Framework for Action for Food and Nutrition Security in Protracted Crises; stressing on the need to investigate the root causes of deteriorating agriculture and food security, and mechanisms to address them.

We mustn't forget that we, the civil society organizations, are the very engines of transformation, and we must relay the priorities of those we represent to all platforms and parties. We must ascertain that the research sector serves the vulnerable and disenfranchised, including victims of conflicts and wars, small holder farmers and producers. We must also be effective in relaying the results of research studies to these groups in order to bring about genuine improvements in their livelihoods.

And with that, I urge you to dismantle the monopolization of the academic elite; include and consult us in your debates and discussions, lest the research world remains detached from reality.

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Hassan Al Jaajaa's Speech at the Water Energy Food Nexus in Abu Dhabi, 18-22 May 2016

Thank you for your invitation and the chance to meet, interact and take part in this very important issue in the region, namely the Nexus between water, food and energy. I believe there is a forth missing pillar in this nexus which is ethics. We should always address the human dimension within any approach we adopt. Drawing relationships between these three elements in simple technical equations, away from human fundamentals such as empathy, generosity, equality as well as compliance to international law and human rights does not leave us with an accurate depiction of reality.

For instance, the water dilemma in our region is complex and is not solely a matter of availability. When we categorize Jordan as the second water- poorest country in the world, have we also looked at root causes of such scarcity such as the distribution of cross-border resources? Have we looked at Israel's violations in this regard? Have we looked at internal discrepancies in governance?

Another example would be the problem of the extreme consumerism we came to have in the region. Around 50% of the Gulf's municipal waste is composed of food. This is an ethical problem, rather than a technical one.

APN believes that human attitudes and accountability mechanisms should be at the core of strategies tackling Energy, Water and Food.

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Razan Zuayter's Speech at the Water Energy Food Nexus in Abu Dhabi, 18-22 May 2016

The nexus analysis is certainly an important step to challenge the silos mentality when looking at arrangements involving food, water and energy.

It is nonetheless important for us to look closely at the scope of this nexus so we do not fall into adopting trendy concepts regardless of their implications.

The nexus analysis usually builds on the premise that the main challenge we face is resource scarcity, due to population growth, climate change and over exploitation which are inevitably causing resource depletion.

However important elements are overlooked by this premise, one, is the actual distribution and access to these natural resources, another element is the utilization of natural resources.

As for the distribution element, a living example is the privatization and commercialization of water. When we were young, we used to laugh at the crazy idea that we would have to pay money to drink water. A public good which is water has actually become a commodity that is monopolized by certain corporations.

As to the utilization of resources element, the decision lies in the hands of groups that do not necessarily seek public interest. For instance land, which is an important factor in this nexus due to its value to all three components, is greatly subject to market speculation.

Therefore, the discourse of "scarcity vs. abundance" is often a "constructed discourse" as Prof. Samer Alatout once said where root problems, politics, and unequal power relations are overlooked.

In fact, scarcity is in large part political, and constructed by those with the power to shape discourse and not a consequence of impartial, technical scientific body of knowledge.

For example: London's annual rain fall of 596 mm is less than Ramallah's annual rainfall which is 619mm, but Ramallah is always described as "water scarce" without mentioning that unlike London , it suffers from appropriation of water resources, control of supply, destruction and obstruction of infrastructure development.

Hence when we are talking about managing supply, as the International Institute for Sustainable Development actually says, there are two contextual systems that influence availability and access: natural and built systems, and human and institutional systems. Natural systems include ecosystem goods and service, while built systems are infrastructure such as irrigation pipes, production and storage facilities. Human systems on the other hand, are wider institutions controlling these resources including markets, governance and management. When we only build our nexus on scarcity, and overlooking these human institutions, this will inevitably lead to solutions based only on enhancing efficiency, productivity and intensification. It certainly does not tackle issues such as inequality and poverty eradication.

It is also apparent that the current nexus approach is being used to push in towards what has been called a "Green Economy". Again in our point of view, and there is not enough time to elaborate , the green economy approach does not adequately or holistically address the social , economic , and ecological dimensions of sustainable development.

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I would like to conclude my remarks with a number of recommendations:

1. Address root causes of resource scarcity and barriers to resource distribution and access. Examples are, increased dependency on, and thus vulnerability to, the international markets, commercialization and privatization of resources, as well as occupation; a critical hindrance that plagues our region.
2. Integrate human rights and accountability to guide dialogue and planning for the nexus approach: for instance promote responsible investment, protect tenure and customary tenure rights, manage transboundary water, and finally protect resources in times of conflict and occupation.
3. Promote agroecology, biodiversity, climate smart varieties, renewable energy, access to inputs and technical assistance to improve small scale farmers' productivity and resource efficiency..
4. Allow genuine CSO ownership and partnership
5. Promote Arab cooperation and integration to deal with regional priorities, without which no nexus is possible.
6. Finally all efforts should be galvanized to stop conflicts wars and occupation, contrary to what we see now where all efforts are directed to sustain them.

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National Conflicts, Food Sovereignty and Development Cooperation Implications for Peace and Development in Countries in Conflict Situations: Case of Palestine

Executive Summary

Heather El Ayadi

The colonization, occupation, and closure experienced in Palestine over the past several decades have caused the local food and agricultural system to fall into steep decline. As in most conflicts of this nature, Palestine has also attracted the attention and funding of the international community. This paper addresses the impact that this interest from the international development sector has had on Palestine's food system, arguing that both the Israeli occupation and the international donor community contribute to the inability of Palestinian farmers to achieve sovereignty over their food system.

Israeli occupation and closure have had a detrimental impact on the agricultural sector. While the entire food system is affected, the most significant impact has been on the production end, as a significant amount of farmland has been confiscated by Israeli forces, for illegal colony construction in the West Bank and for the establishment of 'security' zones in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are the largest per capita aid recipients worldwide(1), with international aid making up an estimated 36 percent of GDP; (2) Gaza in particular is heavily dependent on aid (3), with 80% of the population receiving some form of assistance, primarily food aid. Accepting aid has often meant accepting the terms and recommendations of those offering assistance. The aid industry in the oPt has been widely criticized and debated for a number of reasons. In the agricultural and food sectors, it has been argued that aid "directs Palestinians to consume what they don't produce; and eat only what and when their occupier allows." (4)

This paper identifies a number of ways that development cooperation is undermining Palestine's struggle for a sovereign food system:

- Palestinian NGOs become depoliticized due to selective funding which excludes overtly political projects and organizations, restricting political aspects of projects, and requiring organisations to avoid open criticism of the occupation or support for the resistance movement (5)
- Conditionalities attached to foreign aid, most notably USAID, serve to prevent Palestinians from developing a popular, cohesive movement to achieve sovereignty and 'development'
- The aid community removes the burden of responsibility for the devastating impacts of the occupation, colonization, and repeated military campaigns from Israel, as the development industry tries to 'band-aid' these impacts (6)
- Local NGOs are forced to spend their resources, both time and money, on "servicing donors in order to meet their administrative demands" (7)
- Funding is often distributed on a project-by-project basis which is incompatible with long-term situations (7)
- Lack of appropriate focus serves to legitimize, maintain, and entrench a status quo that is counter to both international law and human rights.

The report proposes four primary recommendations to improve the appropriateness and effectiveness of development cooperation:

1. Universal implementation of the Committee on World Food Security's Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises
2. Adherence to the Do No Harm framework for donor intervention
3. Observance of International Law and Human Rights
4. Mobilization of community resources and community philanthropy

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It is clear in Palestine that only a political solution that ends the Israeli occupation, secures access for Palestinians to their sources of production (land and water), and ensures genuine ownership of agricultural projects can end the 'development' issues faced by Palestinians.

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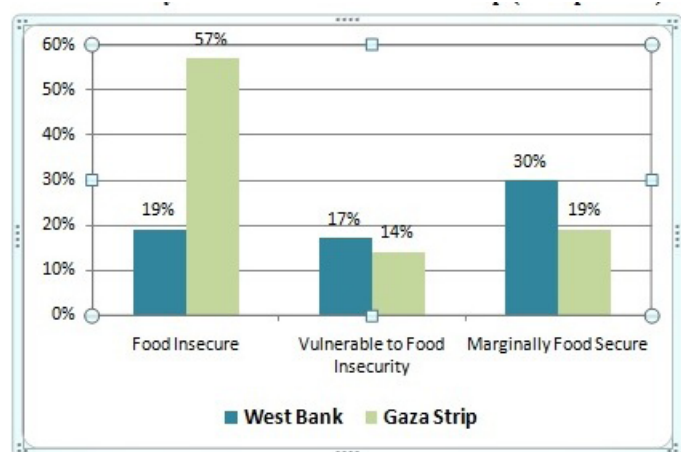
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Articles, Declaration and Statements

Case Study on “Agricultural Markets in Palestine” Written by Heather Elaydi (Summarized)

Israeli colonization, occupation, and siege have been devastating for the food and agricultural system in Palestine. 33% of the population of the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) is food insecure, spending 34.5% of their income on food - their biggest share of cash expenditure.

Food Insecurity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (% Population)



The oPt is now highly dependent on staple food imports, with an export/import ratio of 1.1 compared to a world average of 11.3, and food production per capita of 135, compared to a world average of 233. The food production system in the oPt is small, and shrinking: in 1987 agriculture contributed to 18.8% of GDP, down to 5.6% in 2012, due primarily to Israeli appropriation of land, settlers violence toward Palestinian farmers, and restricted access to productive resources.

The occupation severely impacts the ability of Palestinian smallholders to access markets needed to purchase agricultural inputs and to sell agricultural goods.

Throughout the West Bank, the Israeli government maintains a series of checkpoints and closures which hamper movement and make the transport of produce unnecessarily onerous, often resulting in time delays and subsequent increased cost for transportation, storage and food losses. Palestinians moving agricultural products within the West Bank are also required to obtain permits, a system implemented and enforced by the Israeli military.

The 1994 Paris Protocol on Economic Relations reflects and entrenches Israel's sole control over all external borders of the West Bank. Since it went into effect, the Palestinian agricultural sector has declined while dependence on Israeli and other foreign food products has increased. Israel has used the unequal power relations between the two parties to maximize the amount of produce it exports to the oPt, while minimizing the amount it imports: since the signing of the Oslo Accords and Paris Protocol, the oPt's trade deficit with Israel has grown substantially, from \$922 million USD in 1995 to \$2.84 billion in 2010.

The Israeli agricultural sector is heavily subsidized, which keeps prices relatively low and ensures that the cost of Palestinian-produced food is unable to compete with Israeli imports. Much of the Israeli produce sold in Palestinian West Bank markets is grown illegally on large-scale industrial farms on stolen land in the Jordan Valley, cultivated by settlers who receive substantial support from the Israeli government. Many small-scale Palestinian farms, which do not receive similar support, have been abandoned due to their inability to compete with Israeli agri-business products.

Donor assistance and the international aid industry in the oPt have been widely criticized for directing Palestinians “to consume what they don't produce; and eat only what and when their occupier allows”. As part of international NGO projects aimed at helping producers, many Palestinian farmers have been encouraged to produce chemically-intensive, industrial-style, export-oriented agricultural produce. This has contributed substantially to a decline in Palestinian

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production that supports local food needs, and also overlooks the context of occupation whereby Israeli control over the best agricultural land, access to subsidies, and control over Palestinians' ability to export means that Israeli settlers are significantly better positioned to compete for export markets.

Development of industrial Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the West Bank began in the 1990s as part of the neo-liberal economic movement implemented by the PA following the Oslo Accords. The SEZ model is promoted by major developed donor countries - such as Germany, France, Japan and the World Bank . Increasingly, the PA is confiscating land belonging to Palestinian farmers in order to build these zones by claiming 'eminent domain', which allows the government to purchase land at below market value prices to use for 'public good' . By deliberately stripping food producers of their land, locals are concerned they will be turned from productive farmers into wage laborers. Critically, these zones also have a symbiotic relationship with the existing Israeli settlements, and provide an easy way for other Israeli companies to work within the Palestinian economy .

In situations of protracted conflict, third parties - including governments, international institutions, and civil society - should commit to two basic principles:

1. to abide by international law, and refrain from being complicit in breaches of international law by other parties
2. to respect human rights for all, and refrain from being complicit in disregard of human rights by other parties

Situations of conflict are often characterized by an imbalance of power and disregard for basic human rights and international law, which is also evident in the functioning of the food system. Solutions to asymmetrical market access should therefore not only focus on the ability of actors to function better within an asymmetrical system, but should also directly challenge the injustices of that system. In all cases of conflict and other protracted crises, cures for the symptoms of the problems must come in tandem with direct solutions to the problems themselves.

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Hassan Al Jaajaa's Speech at the People's Right to Self-Determination and Freedom in the Philippines

July 23-24 2016

Lessons Learnt from the Lebanese Case

Dear comrades and friends

Imperialism, occupation and exploitation are not the destiny of peoples on earth. They can be defeated once we understand that all three have established professional institutions to sustain their existence.

Our effort will have fruit only if we unite our resources, aspirations and coalitions.

We have to be extremely keen, like surgeons, to distinguish between societal differences and diversity within the authentic components of a nation. Diversity is strength when unity is protected. It should not be used for division or control.

The Lebanese movements, worked to cement the social bonds, respect the people, and learn from the community. Being ideological is very important but not sufficient. Humanity, ethics, truthfulness, transparency, integrity, professionalism should be very well integrated within us to gain the love and trust of the people. It will make us resilient to external factors.

Lots of efforts, time and resources should be spent to build the capacity of individuals to demonstrate these principles. This is very important to build peoples ownership to reach substantial and sustainable results in our struggle towards self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources.

We need equipped "alternative" think tanks to understand our composition and history to defeat vulnerabilities rather than deepen them. We should always rally to reach agreements and focus on specific priorities. Similar to what we do when we want to break a rock using a hammer. We focus on hitting a single point repeatedly so the rock disintegrates. It is not only the last hit that stroke victory but rather the accumulation of all the attempts to reach the point of change.

Thank you again for providing us this chance and honor to meet and communicate our lessons learnt.

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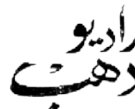


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