

العربية لحماية الطبيعة  
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018







# Annual Report 2018

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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 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 to achieve its mission with high professionalism, effectiveness, and institutional sustainability.

## Annual General Assembly Meeting 2018

APN held its Annual General Assembly on the 16th of May 2018 with the majority of its members, Board of Directors, executive staff and financial auditors. The meeting started with a brief review of the achievements and the administrative report for the previous year 2017. The review was followed by a discussion on the budget and the auditor's report. A representative of Talal Abu Ghazaleh audit firm presented the chartered accountant's report and details of the financial statements of 2017 and answered all inquiries with the support of APN's accountant.

APN's General Assembly unanimously approved the balance sheet, final accounts and the Auditor's report.

### APN Founding Members

Razan Zuayter  
Asem Shehabi  
George Mushahwar  
Humam Darwaza  
Humam Mufti  
Eman Abu Alrous

Inas Bseisou  
Hassan Al Jaajaa  
Lubna Irsheid  
Mutaz Al Afifi  
Nicola Billeh  
Rami Barhoush

Sameeh Kavar  
Sami Nablusi  
Sari Zuaiter  
Subhia Al Maani  
Zina Kavar  
Dina Abu Alrous

Fouad Srouji  
Sima Alami  
Saad Hijjawi

### Board Members



Rami Barhoush  
Chairman of the  
Board



Suzan Ayob  
Vice Chairman



Ziad Moughrabi  
Secretary



Zina Kavar  
Treasurer



Humam Mufti  
Member



Razan Zuayter  
Member



Nicola Billeh  
Member

## APN's Staff



Mariam Al Jaajaa  
General Manager



Mohammad  
Qutaishat  
Projects Coordinator



Zeina Fakhreddin  
Advocacy Officer



Malek Jariri  
Accountant



Walaa Dabash  
Administrative  
Assistant



Sameh Hejab  
Fleet and Support

## APN Voluntary 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.



### **APN acquired the following accreditations:**

- Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Chair of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty
- Co-Chair of People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)
- Co-Chair of the sub-working group on ending hunger in conflict inflicted countries linked with the Arab League
- Co-Chair of the Working Group on Conflict & Fragility at CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)
- Observer Status at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- West Asia Facilitator at the International Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) linked with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

### **APN is a member of the following platforms**

- 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)
- Committee to End Hunger in the Arab Region – Arab League
- International Network of Jerusalem Institutions
- Jordan Federation for Environmental NGOs
- Global Campaign to Return to Palestine

### **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)
- The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)
- The Arab League

### **APN Partners in Tree Planting and Land Rehabilitation Programmes In Palestine**

- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture
- Al-Nahda Rural Society
- Bethlehem Farmers' Union
- Council of Palestinian Municipalities
- Salfit Development Association
- Handala Cultural Center
- Ahali Center for Community Development
- Al Hakura Society
- The Palestinian Farmers' Society – Wusta – Gaza Strip
- Gaza Urban Peri-urban Agriculture Platform

## APN Partners in Tree Planting and Land Rehabilitation Programmes In Jordan

- Al Ahliyya for Agriculture
- Al Numeira Environmental Association
- Al Balqaa Creativity Institute
- National Agricultural Research Center (NARC)
- Rewell Society
- Jordan Agricultural Labour Association



## Executive Summary

### APN's Most Important Achievements of 2018

It's been 16 years since the establishment of APN, and it has continued its activities for the year 2018 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 2018.

Below are some of the most prominent achievements:

- APN continued its Third Million Tree Campaign in Palestine in 2018, which seeks to enhance food sovereignty in Palestine. In 2018, 100,180 trees were successfully planted on 5,500 dunums of land. These trees meet the needs of over 1,390 farmers and support approximately 8,838 of their family members. The campaign managed to plant over 7,520 vegetable seedlings and 280,000 kilograms of seeds. APN was also responsible for constructing 11 water collection systems and rehabilitating over 107 dunums of land.



- Since its inception in 2000, the campaign has managed to plant 2,366,297 fruit trees on 123,227 dunums of land, distribute 410,520 vegetable seedlings and medicinal herbs and 280,000 kilograms seeds. Over 16 years, the campaign has met the needs of over 26,466 farmers and supported 207,709 of their family members. In addition, 46 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.
- APN also continued its work with the Green Caravan Programme 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. APN had 32 voluntary activities and managed to plant 6,490 fruit trees on 110 dunums. These trees meet the needs of over 187 farmers and support approximately 822 of their family members. The Green Caravan witnessed the participation of 993 volunteers.

- As for the efforts to impact environmental and agricultural policies through its Food Sovereignty Programme, APN has launched an international appeal for an end to the military operations in Yemen and safe delivery of humanitarian aid to its embattled population. APN also urged the Committee on Food Security (CFS) to respond to this crisis where nearly 14 million people, or half the population, are at risk of famine. APN proposed several effective ways to deal with the crisis prompting the chair of CFS to agree on preparing an urgent statement in the name of the committee to raise awareness and push for an end to the human suffering in the country.
- Member of APN's administrative and founding board RazanZuayter was elected as co-chair of the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS). The alliance groups various organizations and grass-roots movements that are concerned with food sovereignty in the world.
- APN Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa joined the International Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) Coordination Committee meeting in Rome on behalf of West Asia. The meeting touched on results of an evaluation process done for the Committee on Food Security (CFS) and its linkage with peoples' struggles on the ground. The CSM evaluation process was also discussed, including APN's proposal to develop seats in the CSM, along with the existing ones, for communities suffering from wars, occupation, and crises.
- Heather al-Aydi represented APN in a side event on «Defending Human Rights Defenders» during the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome. In her speech, al- Aydi highlighted Israel's brutal punishment of Palestinian activists by incarceration without trial, in addition to the detention of hundreds of children every year.
- At the regional level, APN organized a multi-stakeholder regional workshop to discuss the implications of protracted crises on food security and nutrition in the Arab region. The conference was held in partnership with ESCWA and under the patronage of the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture. It was attended by government representatives from conflict-inflicted countries. After the workshop the Arab Network for Food Security (ANFS) held its General Assembly.
- APN joined the first strategic alliance to end hunger in the Arab region in Cairo held by the Arab League. It was also chosen to co-chair the sub-working group on ending hunger in conflict-inflicted countries.
- At the local level, APN and FAO joined efforts to organize a country workshop under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment addressing the implications of protracted crises on Food Security in Jordan. It was attended by experts, government officials, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, donors, and the private sector.
- APN took part in 3 national thematic consultations culminating in a report entitled «The State of the Country» which aims to assist the Prime Minister in decision-making. APN also took part in a dialogue focusing on the country's Green Growth Plan and Land Governance Strategy.
- APN and partners launched an appeal opposing the permission of Genetically Modified Organisms into Jordan. Backed by 45 local civil society organizations, the appeal was announced at a press conference at the Jordan Environmental Union.

## President's Foreword



I speak on behalf of my colleagues and friends in the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) when I say that 2018 was one of the most important milestones in the life of the group. It has become an environmental and agricultural movement whose prospects exceed the structure of registered members to include hundreds of supporters, volunteers, and partners in efforts and hope.

This year reminds us of where we were when we laid the foundation for APN 15 years ago to see where we have reached and what has been achieved today by our aspirations and dreams.

Fifteen years ago, when we stood by our brothers in Palestine to re-cultivate tree saplings instead of old fruit trees uprooted from their lands by the Zionist colonizer, we called the project the One Million Tree Campaign.

Our dreams at the time were big and bold and we did not expect them to be realized within several years but thank God we saw them multiply. We managed to plant more than two million trees till this moment in conjunction with our partners and friends in Jordan, Palestine, and beyond.

We are now looking forward to the young generation that has proved to the world that rights could not be lost. We see hope in them and in the support of individuals and institutions who have generously financed our activities and with the solid stand and perseverance of our farmers in Jordan and Palestine who have held on to their lands despite all the challenges and difficulties.

Today, our work is bearing fruit. Many villages located in the Jordan Valley are beginning to see real benefits from the fruit trees planted by APN as part of the Green Caravan Program which we intend to expand to be an important element in securing the principle of food sovereignty at home.

Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to all those who have made the journey with us by contributing effectively, materially, and morally toward the attainment of sovereignty over our resources, food, and unity.

## **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, fishers, 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 for 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. The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty was initiated to work towards achieving that potential.

### **What is Food Sovereignty?**

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and nations to define their 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;
5. Influence governmental and non-governmental policies and regulations on the local, national, and international levels to achieve food and natural resource sovereignty.

### **Membership**

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

### **Executive Committee**

The General Assembly of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty met in Beirut on the 30th of March, 2018, and voted for the following executive committee:

1. President: The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature – Jordan
2. Vice president: National Confederation for Traditional Fishing in Morocco – Morocco
3. Secretary: Al OuzaiFishers Cooperative – Lebanon
4. Treasurer: Palestine Farmers Union – Palestine
5. Public relations: Qatar Program for Sustainable Development – Qatar
6. Member: The National Fishing Federation – Artisanal section (FNP) – Mauritania
- 7 Member: National Observatory of Participatory Citizenship -Tunisia
8. Member: Hawa Association – Sudan
9. Member: Iraqi Society for Consumer Rights Defense – Iraq



## Address by ANFS President Mrs. Razan Zuayterat the General Assembly in Lebanon

First, I would like, on behalf of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), which includes 30 NGOs and unions of farmers, fishers, pastoralists, workers, women, youth and consumer associations from thirteen Arab countries, to thank Lebanon through its minister of agriculture Mr. Ghazi Zuaiter, for the noble embrace of our conference. Our sincere thanks to ESCWA and its




wonderful team for our extensive partnership since 2004 when we adopted our one million tree project for Palestine and when the Organization agreed to place agriculture, food security, the issues of conflicts and wars on its list of priorities. Thanks also to the fisher's union for the outstanding efforts to make this conference a success.

So, what is sovereignty of food? We believe that sovereignty over our food and production and our natural resources is the way to our desired sovereignty over our political decision. Without that, our destinies will not be ours, and we can only remember Kissinger's statement: «If you control the food supply, you control the people».

The sovereignty of food is the right of peoples, communities, and states to determine their policies concerning agriculture, labor, fishing, land, and food suitable for their own environmental, social, economic, and cultural conditions. This includes the right to food and its production, which inevitably means the right of everyone to have healthy, nutritious and appropriate food which means sovereignty over their sources of production and its sustainability.

The most important means of achieving sovereignty over food in the Arab world is to raise strategies from the level of regional cooperation to the level of an integration strategy. The definition of complementarity is to make loose parts integrated through interdependence between the economies of the Arab countries in different degrees based on certain foundations with different approaches to increase and strengthen the socio-economic capacity of member states without harming the sovereignty of any of them.

The most important achievements of our network relate to the subject that we will discuss today. The Network led the negotiating team of global civil society leaders in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) negotiations, the world's largest food organization, to develop a conceptual framework on food security in protracted crises (wars, conflicts, occupation). The negotiations lasted 3 years, and all states ratified the final version.



It is important to say that the framework is fair to our priorities and that thanks to the real Arab civil society, which rejects any conditional foreign financing for we were able for the first time to pinpoint the occupation as a major cause of poverty.

We included the need to search for the root causes of wars and the need to stop them and hold accountable those who stand behind them. We also included the need to prevent the use of water and food as a weapon to put pressure on peoples and nations and the need for food support to disaster-stricken peoples to come from the production of small farmers.

We emphasize in the network that there is no room for achieving real development or food security in any territory in this region without civil peace. It cannot be achieved without the immediate cessation of the senseless wars, the aim of which is to sustain them, not to win them or without uprooting fear, dependency, despair, hostility, and indifference from our minds and hearts or without guidance to unite our efforts to liberate Palestine. This is the only way to save us from the madness of war and sedition and the only way to restore the respect we deserve for our nations and peoples.

## People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty

### 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, fishers, 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 centered 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.
- 5- Push for the ratification of a binding global convention on food sovereignty at the national and international level.

### Executive Committee

Sylvia Mallari	IBON International
Razan Zuayter	Arab Network for Food Sovereignty
Norma Maldonado	AROAJ
Tania Ricaldi	GTCC
Azra Sayeed	Roots for Equity
Chennaiah Poguri	Asian Peasant Coalition (APC)
Gershon Kabaso	Zambia Social Forum (ZamSoF)
Florah Maswanganyi	Eastern & Southern Africa Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)
Julie Smit	Food Sovereignty in Action (FSA)



# Food Sovereignty Program

APN continued its participation in local, regional and global efforts to influence policy on agriculture, environment and food. The Food Sovereignty Programme promotes the concept of ‘food sovereignty’ which is defined as the right 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 its sources of production.

## At the International Level

### Urgent International Appeal to End Starvation in Yemen

Joined by the French Hikmat Organization, APN has launched an international appeal for an end to the military operations in Yemen and safe delivery of humanitarian aid to its embattled population.



## **Demand for Action to Address the Famine in Yemen**

The Committee on Food Security (CFS) Advisory Group has met in Rome, to evaluate the outcomes of the 45th session of the Committee and draw up plans for 2019. APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa attended the meeting on November 23, 2018 on behalf of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM).

In remarks at the start of the meeting, she urged CFS to respond to the current and the world's worst food crisis in Yemen where nearly 14 million people, or half the population, are at risk of famine. Referring to Save the Children Fund's reports, she noted that 85 thousand children under the age of five have died as a result of acute malnutrition during three years of war in the country at a current rate of 130 children a day.

Al Jaajaa proposed several effective ways to deal with the crisis including agreeing on a statement to be conveyed to the concerned parties, the UN General Assembly and the Security Council to stop the tragedy. This also would include organizing a concentrated session on the issue during the next meeting of the Advisory Group.

The Chair of CFS Mario Arvilo agreed to prepare an urgent statement in the name of the Committee to raise awareness of the crisis in Yemen and push for an end to the human suffering in the country. The meeting was attended by other CSM representatives including Mrs. Azra Saeed of Pakistan, President of the International Women's Alliance and Saul Vicente Vasques, President of the International Indian Treaty Council which serves as an advocate for the human rights of indigenous peoples.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the inclusive intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

Ms. Al Jaajaa was chosen to represent West Asian civil society in the Committee. It is worth noting that APN was the first to bring forward the issue of the impact of conflicts and occupations on food security in the Committee agenda.



## Razan Zuayter, Co-Chair of the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty

Member of APN's administrative and founding board Razan Zuayter was elected as co-chair of the international People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS).

The alliance groups various organizations and grass-roots movements that are concerned with food sovereignty in the world. Representatives of peasant organizations, fishers, food producers and supporting NGOs have participated in the electoral process.

The coalition advocates several principles revolving around the right to food and its production. It held its general assembly in Thailand on October 29, 2018, was formally established in 2009 and is now spread across all continents. Its policy is that its administration should be based in developing (southern) countries, although its membership is open to all continents.



It is worth mentioning that the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, headed by Ms. Zuayter, is a regional network established in 2012 in Beirut as an independent civil coordinating body to influence regional and global agricultural and environmental policies. It is based on the principle of sovereignty over food, the promotion of Arab agricultural integration and sustainable development, rejection of all shapes of food dependency and addressing the underlying causes of social, economic, agricultural and environmental vulnerability faced by Arab societies.

The network includes more than 30 non-governmental organizations, federations, trade unions, farmers, fishers, pastoralists, workers, women and youth, as well as consumer associations from 13 Arab countries.

As co-chair of the International Coalition, Mrs. Zuayter will be joined by the head of the Asia Peasants Coalition, which has more than 15 million members representing 42 organizations from 10 countries in Asia such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

## **APN to the Committee on World Food Security in Rome: Palestinian Activists must be Protected**

The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) was selected to occupy the seat of Western Asia during a series of meetings for the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) on the sidelines of the 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held on 11-19 October 2018 in Rome.

APN volunteer Heather al-Aydi represented the group at the CSM coordination committee meeting which discussed APN's priority of adding permanent seats in CSM for communities living under conflict, occupation and protracted crises.



Around 200 representatives of organizations attended the CSM Forum held in the same period in Rome. Al-Aydi spoke about APN's success in organizing a regional meeting in Lebanon and a national one in Jordan - in conjunction with ESCWA- which brought together public, civil society and private sector delegates. The two meetings focused on ways to implement the CFS Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. The framework was endorsed by the CFS in Rome in 2015.

During the CFS session, al-Aydi took part in a panel discussion on the protection of human rights activists where she highlighted Israel's brutal punishment of Palestinian activists by incarceration without trial, in addition to the detention of hundreds of children every year.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

## Representing West Asia at the CSM Coordination Committee in Rome

APN Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa joined the International Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) Coordination Committee meeting in Rome on behalf of West Asia. The meeting held on July 4-6, 2018, touched on results of an evaluation process done for the Committee on Food Security (CFS) and its linkage with peoples' struggles on the ground.

The CSM evaluation process was also discussed, including APN's proposal to develop seats in the CSM, along with the existing ones, for communities suffering from wars, occupation and crises.

Al Jaajaa met on the side of the meeting with the Arab group representative at the Rome-based UN agencies.



The coordination committee (CC) consists of 41 seats from 11 constituencies and regions around the world. It is responsible for ensuring that the functions of the CSM are carried out effectively as possible. The CC performs this role by sharing information, facilitating dialogue on the international level, and supporting analysis and advocacy at national and regional levels.

## Partnership for Development Effectiveness in The Hague

The fourteenth meeting of the Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) coordination committee has been held in The Hague, Holland.

Representing the farmers sector, Mrs. RazanZuayter, co-chair of the Working Group on Conflicts and Vulnerability attended the meeting on 26-27, November 2018.

Speaking at the meeting, she stressed the need to integrate the popular sectors in the dialogues of this platform by simplifying the technical language used in the dissemination of positions and programs of action.



She called for strengthening the demands of the concluding statement to include achieving justice and stopping wars by addressing root causes, for example, and not to deal with them as reactions only. Mrs. Zuayter demanded that the statement should include, conflict prevention and accountability, in addition for the need for support funds to be directed to development relief rather than short-term relief only.

## At the Regional Level

### APN and ESCWA Hold a Regional Conference on the Implications of Conflict on Food Security Under the Patronage of the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture

APN organized a multi-stakeholder regional workshop on the 29th of March in Beirut-Lebanon to discuss the implications of protracted crises on food security and nutrition in the Arab region. The conference was held in partnership with ESCWA and under the patronage of the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Ghazi Zeaiter. It was attended by government representatives from conflict-inflicted countries, including Yemen, Palestine, Iraq, and Palestine; regional and international intergovernmental organizations; civil society organizations from 9 different Arab countries; donors; as well as participants from the private sector.

The opening session was moderated by Mr. Abdellah El Blihi, president of the National Confederation for Artisanal Fisheries in Morocco. In her welcoming remarks, APN Co-Founder and President of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), Ms. Razan Zuayter, stressed the importance of regional integration among countries rather than cooperation and spoke about ANFS's key role as a platform to unify Arab civil society efforts.



His Excellency Ghazi Zeaiter, Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, welcomed ANFS as a unique regional civil society platform. Zeaiter noted that the Arab region is the largest wheat importer in the world; importing around 50% of its needed calories; even though 53-84% of its population work in the agricultural sector. Zeaiter stressed the importance of linking humanitarian aid with agricultural development through increasing investments in agricultural research and supporting small farmers, and the importance of developing legislation in relation to the use of natural resources.

Ms. Khawla Mattar, deputy executive secretary of ESCWA, highlighted in her speech that food security is a human right and an important element of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. She introduced "Arab Horizon 2030: Prospects for Enhancing Food Security in the Arab Region"; a report prepared by ESCWA with the help of FAO, which was built around three axes, local food production, reliable trade, and food wastes.

The first session encompassed technical presentations to supply the participants with additional background information on the topic. Mr. Ayman Omer, NENA senior field programme officer at FAO, noted that 70-80% of Syrian and Yemeni populations are food-insecure and that 76% of the total number of refugees globally (50 of 65.5 million) are Iraqi, Libyan, Sudanese, Syrian and Yemeni. He also indicated that countries in the region that suffer conflict spend 21%-67% of their GDP on conflict-related expenditures. In addition, he pointed out that in six years damages to the agricultural sector in Syria were estimated at 16 billion dollars.

Mr. Fidele Byiringiro, economic affairs officer at ESCWA, indicated that conflict affects all 4 dimensions of food security (availability, accessibility, utilization and stability), adding that 80% of children experiencing stunting in the region are from countries under conflict.

Ms. Mona Mousawi, president of the Iraqi Society for Nutrition and Food Safety, declared that 2 million Iraqis suffer food insecurity. Mousawi noted that poverty rates in the areas captured by ISIS are 40%, while poverty in Iraq as a whole has risen to 32%. In addition, she noted that Iraq faces a serious challenge with surrounding countries due to transboundary water issues.

Ms. Raquel Moreno, head of the programme at WFP, stated that there is a strong relationship between conflict, food insecurity and migration, she noted that countries are vulnerable after wars end and are 40% likely to return to conflict within a decade.

Mr. Mohammad Bashir, president of the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Yemen, noted that 60-85% of the Yemeni population is food-insecure and 7 million Yemenis suffer from famine. He added that WFP supplies food assistance to less than half of those in need. In addition, he noted that indiscriminate attacks targeted agricultural facilities, markets, schools, health centers, food and water supply routes. Both physical damages and the shortage of oil caused more than 6 billion \$ in agricultural losses.

Finally, Ms. Valentina Calderon Mejia, first economic affairs officer at ESCWA noted that conflict hinders biological development, learning, skill formation and cognitive skills and stressed that early interventions to meet the needs of children are necessary.

Following the contextualization of the implications of conflict on food security in the region, APN General Manager Mariam Jaajaa introduced the main principles of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA) which include:

1. Meeting immediate humanitarian needs and long-term development goals
2. Focusing on nutritional needs
3. Reaching affected populations
4. Protecting those at risk from protracted crises
5. Empowering women and promoting gender equality and sensitivity
6. Ensuring evidence-based analyses
7. Strengthening country ownership, participation, and accountability
8. Promoting effective financing
9. Adopting an approach sensitive to conflict
10. Sustainable management of natural resources
11. Promoting effective national and local governance

Participants split into groups and discussed challenges and opportunities to applying the principles. There was consensus on the necessity to create a follow-up committee comprised from ANFS, ESCWA, FAO and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). The committee would present the FFA to agricultural ministers and develop an action plan that interprets the FFA into programmes and policies.

## The General Assembly of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty 2018

The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) held its General Assembly on the 30th of March 2018 in Beirut. Participants from nine different Arab countries attended the meeting to endorse the financial and administrative reports, and work on the network's strategy for the coming years.



## FAO's Near East and North Africa Ministerial Conference in Rome: A Wasted Opportunity for Integration

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held its 43rd Regional Conference for the Near East in Rome on the 10th of May 2018. The conference was attended by eleven ministers, 144 participants representing 26 out of the 30-member states, three non-member observer states, and 7 representatives from civil society.

APN co-founder and president of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), RazanZuayter, noted that while the Regional Office of the FAO had put significant effort



into the preparation of the conference, the results were not up to expectations, and that comes as a result, perhaps, of the centralized decision-making process, as the agenda, report, recommendations and mechanisms of civil society involvement are set at the headquarters in Rome.

Zuayter described the discussions of the conference of being insubstantial while insisting that not holding it in the region reflects the sad reality of fragmentation and disunity among countries.

The conference allowed ANFS to connect with Ministers of Agriculture, the head of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development of the League of Arab States, as well as many other government officials, and international and regional experts. However, it did not come out with effective results for the region in matters of food and agriculture. Recommendations were not discussed thoroughly. They did not include results from the important side session on armed conflict and crises, and disregarded important calls such as the need to increase agricultural ministries' share of public spending.

Additionally, the report included recommendations that needed further investigation and had met serious objections from several countries and organizations. An example was the promotion of hydroponics for achieving food security. Hydroponics require large capital, chemicals, and highly qualified personnel. Its produce is significantly more expensive than the produce of conventional agriculture. While this may be beneficial for exporting by medium to large farmers, it would not be favorable for enhancing local food security which requires the need to support small farmers to access local food markets.

Zuayter called for the inclusion of regional CSO networks representing large segments of food producers, in the CSO discussions and meetings that take place before to the regional conferences. APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa called for the need to include a recommendation in the Final Report for the implementation of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) guidelines.

### **APN Joins a Strategic Alliance to End Hunger in the Arab Region**

The first meeting of a committee charged to discuss ways to combat hunger in the Arab region has met at the Arab League in Cairo Egypt. APN founding member and Chair of the Arab Network for Food Security (ANFS) RazanZuayter was invited to the meeting held on September 19, 20, 2018.



Zuayter's recommendations included the need to push for the immediate cessation of wars and conflicts and the adoption of regional priorities in food security rather than ones dictated by international donors. She stressed the importance of partnership with civil society, especially the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty.

She also called for mobilizing political will for Arab agricultural integration and intensifying the cultivation of wheat and grain as a means of food sovereignty and hunger eradication.

In recommendations addressed to the international institutions, she called for a clear plan of action from the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, Syria (ACSAD) and the World Food Program (WFP) to support the strategic reserve in the affected countries, for more important roles of ESCWA, IFAD, and FAO and commitment to promote and implement the Framework for Action for Food Security in Protracted Crises endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security.

## The Arab Sustainable Development Week

The Chair of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) Razan Zuayter has called for the need to pay attention to the root causes of the conflict that prevents the establishment of peace. She said during activities of a week on sustainable development in Cairo on Nov.19-22, 2018 that the Arab-Israeli conflict will not end as long as the occupation of Palestinian lands continues.

Conflicts, she said, will not stop as long as there are political goals that seek to perpetuate them for reasons of hegemony and the sale of arms. The conflicts have become a source of income for international organizations in the region.

She called for efforts to end wars and conflicts in the region and for the Arab region to work towards sovereignty over its food and natural resources and institutionalize joint action among Arab civil society organizations.



During a session on the interrelationship between rural and urban development, Mrs. Zuayter thanked Dr. Nada Al-Ajizi, Director of the Sustainable Development and International Cooperation Program at the Arab League for adopting the fundamental issue of combating hunger in the Arab world.

She underlined the need for agrarian reform and development to reduce rural to urban migration and recommended that rural communities, especially small farmers, be given access to productive resources such as land, seeds, water, extension services, markets and pastures.

## UNEP Regional Consultative Meeting for West Asia Group

The UN Environment Programme Annual Regional Consultative Meeting for West Asia has been held in Amman with major groups and stakeholders to prepare for the upcoming Environment Assembly in March 2019.

APN's founding member Hassan Al Jaajaa took part in the meeting held on Nov.26-27, 2018 representing the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS). Speaking at the meeting,



he said: «we have a humanitarian, professional and conscientious responsibility to stand up against bloodshed and environmental destruction in the region and the use of internationally banned weapons, such as white phosphorus in Syria and cluster bombs in Yemen.»

He said “130 children under the age of five die every day (in Yemen). 85 thousand children died in the country due to famine and war.”

Al Jaajaa asked to include these recommendations in the final statement to the Ministerial Meeting. His suggestion was met with support within the group.

## Litani River Project Challenges

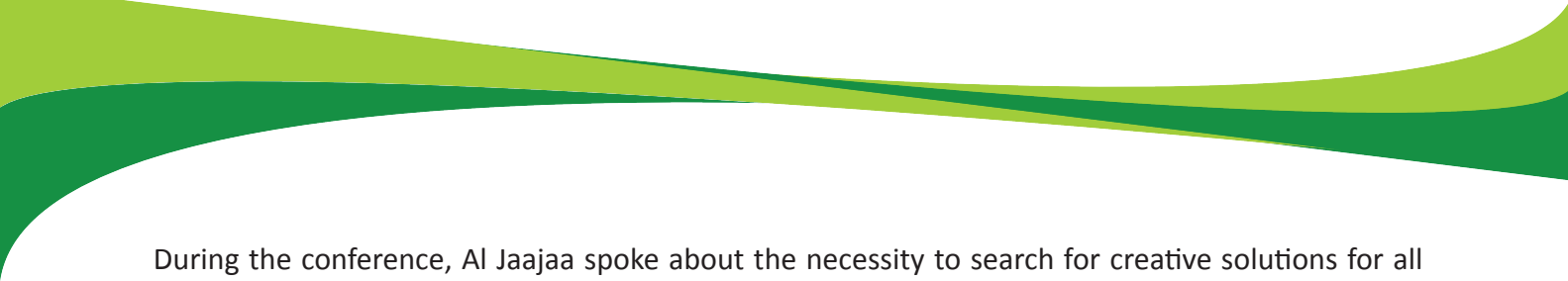
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) co-founder Hassan Al Jaajaa has been invited to the Litani Project Challenges and Opportunities conference in Beirut.

Al Jaajaa, an agricultural and development expert, attended the conference held on Nov.27-28, 2018.

The conference aimed to discuss what has been achieved so far in terms of infrastructure and the challenges facing the project at all levels, including pollution in the riverbed and Lake Qaraoun. The first phase of the project aims to transfer 90 million



cubic meters of water below the Qaraoun dam to irrigate 15,000 hectares in the south and secure drinking water for 76 villages in the area.



During the conference, Al Jaajaa spoke about the necessity to search for creative solutions for all obstacles, the most important of which are pollution, decreasing water quantities in the stream, decline of the social and agricultural environment and marketing of agricultural products, the small size of agricultural holdings, lack of rainfall and the impact of crushers on the course of the flow of springs feeding the river.

He proposed using the artificial rain and irrigation technology only when necessary, reed cultivation to reduce the contamination of untreated wastewater from municipalities to the riverbed, establish agricultural cooperatives that provide material and moral incentives to smallholders to join them. He also pointed to the need to raise the quality of the agricultural product to compete better, for example by using the organic technicalities in the production of vegetables and fruits and the production of olive oil with the required specifications globally.

## At the Local Level

### APN Organizes a Country Workshop on Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of Protracted Crises in Jordan

APN organized a multi-stakeholder workshop addressing the implications of protracted crises on Food Security in Jordan which took place at the Landmark Hotel - Amman, on the 5th of April 2018. The conference was attended by government officials, intergovernmental organizations, local, regional and international civil society organizations, donors, as well as farmers and representatives from the private sector.

The conference aimed at introducing the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted crises (FFA) produced by the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as a comprehensive approach that connects humanitarian assistance, long-term development interventions, and the tackling of root drivers of food insecurity in crises.

Razan Zuayter, president of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), welcomed the participants by introducing the concept of food sovereignty as the right of communities and nations to food and its sources of production. She spoke about the key role of ANFS as a platform for Arab civil society and its achievement in leading the Global Society Working group in the negotiations of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on the (FFA).



Talal Al Fayez, Deputy representative of FAO, declared that the estimated number of undernourished people in the world increased from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016 mainly due to conflicts that have a large effect on worn-torn countries and the surrounding regions as a whole. Though Jordan does not suffer from internal conflicts it faces vast economic, social and food-security pressures due to its proximity to three conflict inflicted countries, and the hosting of over 1.3 million refugees.

The Director of the Nature Protection Directorate, Mr. Raed Bani Hani, gave opening remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Environment. He focused on the impact of prolonged conflict and climate change on the deterioration of resources and biodiversity. Mr. Nizar Haddad, Director General of the

National Center for Agricultural Research spoke on behalf of H.E. Minister of Agriculture, emphasizing the crucial role of food security in relation to national security, and stressed on the need to examine Jordan's potential to work closer towards food sufficiency. Furthermore, he pointed to the importance of funding agricultural research, as well as the need to focus on enhancing resource productivity.

During his presentation, the World Food Programme's Country Representative Mr. Mageed Yahia affirmed that hunger and conflict often create a vicious cycle. He stressed that the region needs a new approach to tackling food insecurity, one that ties different sectors and stakeholders.

Mr. Kamil Hamati, research assistant at ESCWA, pointed out that the region's wheat yield productivity is much smaller than the world's average rate and significantly below the average rate for developing countries. He stressed on the need to enhance productivity and intra-regional trade.

Mr. Samih Hashem, manager of Al-Ahlyia Al Ziraya Cooperative, spoke of the key role that farmers play in combating food insecurity and undernutrition. He described the damage that conflicts inflict on farmers as well as other challenges including desertification, urban sprawl and the absence of a national agricultural strategy that incorporates different important dimensions such as the provision of water, taxation, and access to markets by smallscale food producers.

Chief Technical Advisor of FAO, Rene Verduijn, said that severe food insecurity in countries affected by conflict in the region is twice that of non-conflict countries, and undernourishment is six times higher. He noted that the 70-80% of Syrians and Yemenis face severe food insecurity.

APN Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa presented the FFA and its main principles which focus on linking humanitarian assistance, development interventions and addressing root causes of food insecurity in crises; mainstreaming nutrition; access to and protection of affected communities; gender equality; evidence-based research; country ownership, participation and accountability; the need to work in a conflict-sensitive manner to ensure that interventions are not exacerbating conflict; and assessing the impact of policies on food security outside national borders.

Participants agreed that there is a dire need to form a national multi-stakeholder platform to follow up on food security and nutrition issues, including the implementation of the Framework for Action on Food Security and Nutrition in the context of Protracted Crises.



## National Socio-Economic Consultations

Socio-economic issues were at the centre of consultations of the Jordanian Social and Economic Council in Amman. APN co-founder, Razan Zuayter took part in the meetings which aimed to bring together parties concerned to agree on recommendations addressed to the Prime Minister to contribute to decision-making.

The consultations addressed more than 30 economic and social issues, culminating in a report entitled «The State of the Country». Ms. Zuayter participated in three sub-meetings focusing on the environment, water and agriculture, and social responsibility.

### The Water and Agriculture Sectors

APN joined the meetings on the agriculture and water sectors held in Amman on July 15, 2018 at the Kempinski Hotel. Razan Zuayter, the group's co-founder commented on a draft report presented to the participants.

She said that the draft is very important but lacks some basic issues such as support for seed production and development (in both quality and quantity) including cereal production, where domestic grain

production accounts for only 2% of local consumption. Mrs. Zuayter raised other issues such as the need to protect rain-fed agriculture (not just the irrigated) and support agricultural processing. She noted that the report focuses heavily on enhancing exports but marginalizes the need to

strengthen local markets and farmers' access to them. She voiced concern about including "trade liberalization" as a high priority objective. It needs to be examined in depth and the matter cannot be simplified, she said. Ms. Zuayter stressed the importance of providing donors clear guidance to act within national priorities.

### The Environmental Sector

Ms. Zuayter, in remarks at the meeting that was held on July 22nd emphasized

that the biggest challenge in this sector is not access to funding, but rather the lack of political will to implement legislation, monitoring and accountability, as well as institutionalizing the relationship with Jordanian civil society as well as with the private sector.

She pointed out that the draft environmental report did not mention civil society at all. She stressed



the need to enact laws and apply them to prevent urban expansion at the expense of agricultural land and the need to adopt Jordan's directions on responsible investments, especially in the establishment of tourism and industrial projects.

Her remarks also touched on the urgent need to monitor the entry and use of poisonous and prohibited pesticides in Jordan, guide and educate farmers on this matter and monitor organic pollution giving the example of Seil al-Zarqa (sub-basin) where the presence of E.coli and Coliform Bacteria have been found.

### **Civil Society Convenes a Meeting and a Press Conference Tackling the Dangers of Allowing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) into Jordan**

Civil Society Organizations have met on Thursday the 21st of June 2018 to discuss the dangers of using GMOs, which the American Ministry of Agriculture is trying to force into the Jordanian market.

Representatives of the Civil Society Organizations have agreed in the meeting held at APN headquarters that the use of GMOs, including crops and seeds, comes with various adverse effects.

It has also been confirmed that the Jordan Food and Drug Administration



has transmitted a recommendation of lifting the prohibition imposed on GMOs onto the Prime Ministry for approval.

The meeting witnessed a heated discussion about the economic and social dangers of GMOs on the agricultural sector and the nation's sovereignty over food systems.

Members participating in the meeting furthermore released a collective petition, which was signed by 45 local Civil Society Organization, and will appeal to the government to reject American pressures and refuse the entry of GMO's into the local market. The petition was announced during a press conference held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday the 26th of June 2018 at the Jordan Environmental Union.

Razan Zuayter of APN, Basel Burqan of Friends of the Environment Association, and Elham Abbadi of Balqaa Ibda Association provided valuable input and insights during the conference.

APN held a series of meetings to ensure an appropriate civil society response, including one with the Jordanian Food and Drug Administration on the Wednesday 20th June 2018 and another with the National Centre for Agricultural Research on Monday 27th of June 2018.

The Jordan Environmental Union, Friends of the Environment Association, the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), Balqaa' Ibda' Association, Taghmees for Training, and Thikra Initiative also took part in organizing the meeting and press conference.



## 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

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).



While an estimated 90 percent of Palestinian communities own olive groves within, or around, Israeli settlements, they are frequently denied access to their 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 of Palestinian land.
- 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 km<sup>2</sup> of land (21 percent of the West Bank) is lost.
- 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).

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.*

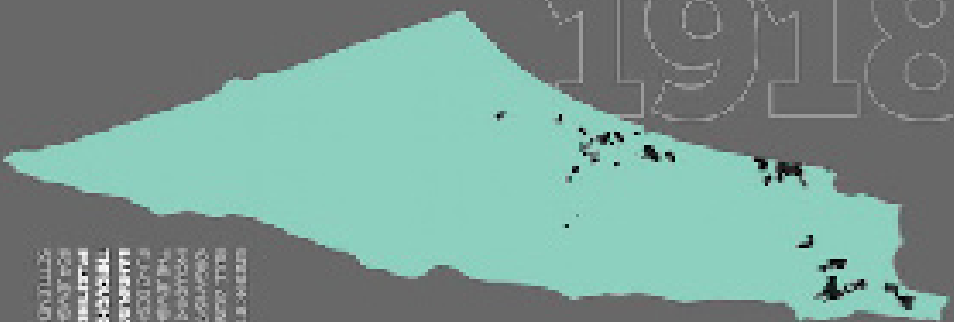
### The exploitation of Palestine’s Natural Resources

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).

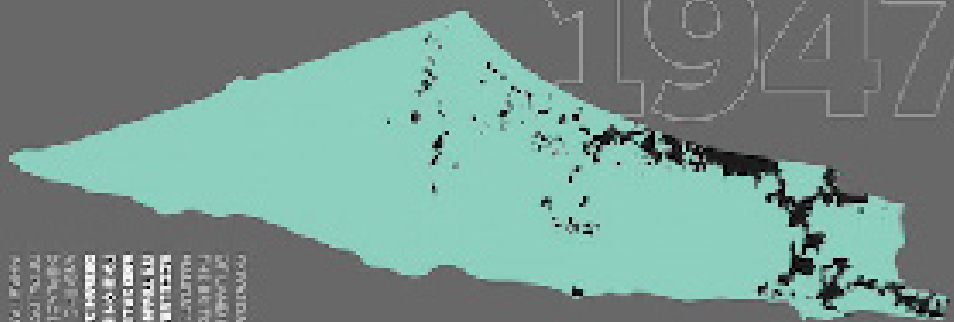
# PALESTINE SHRINKING EXPANDING ISRAEL

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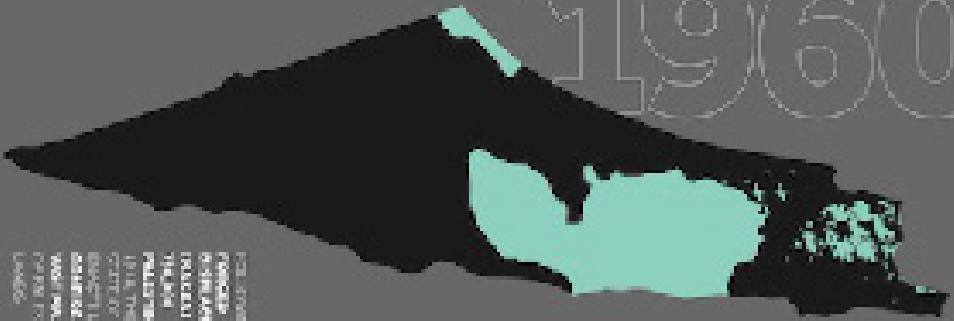
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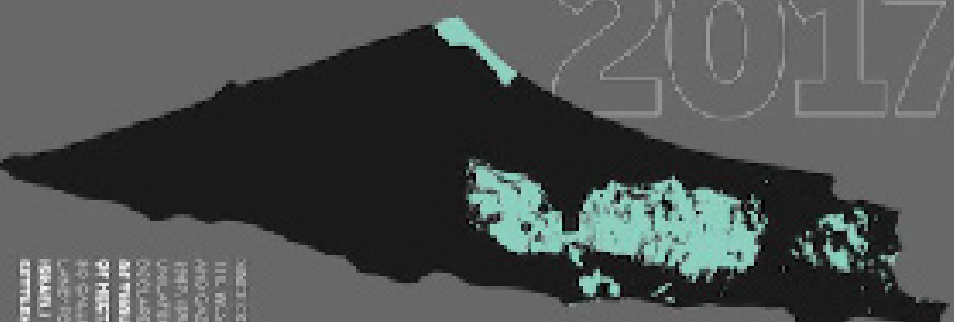
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## VISUALIZING PALESTINE

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PALESTINE SHRINKING EXPANDING ISRAEL

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Visualizing Palestine:

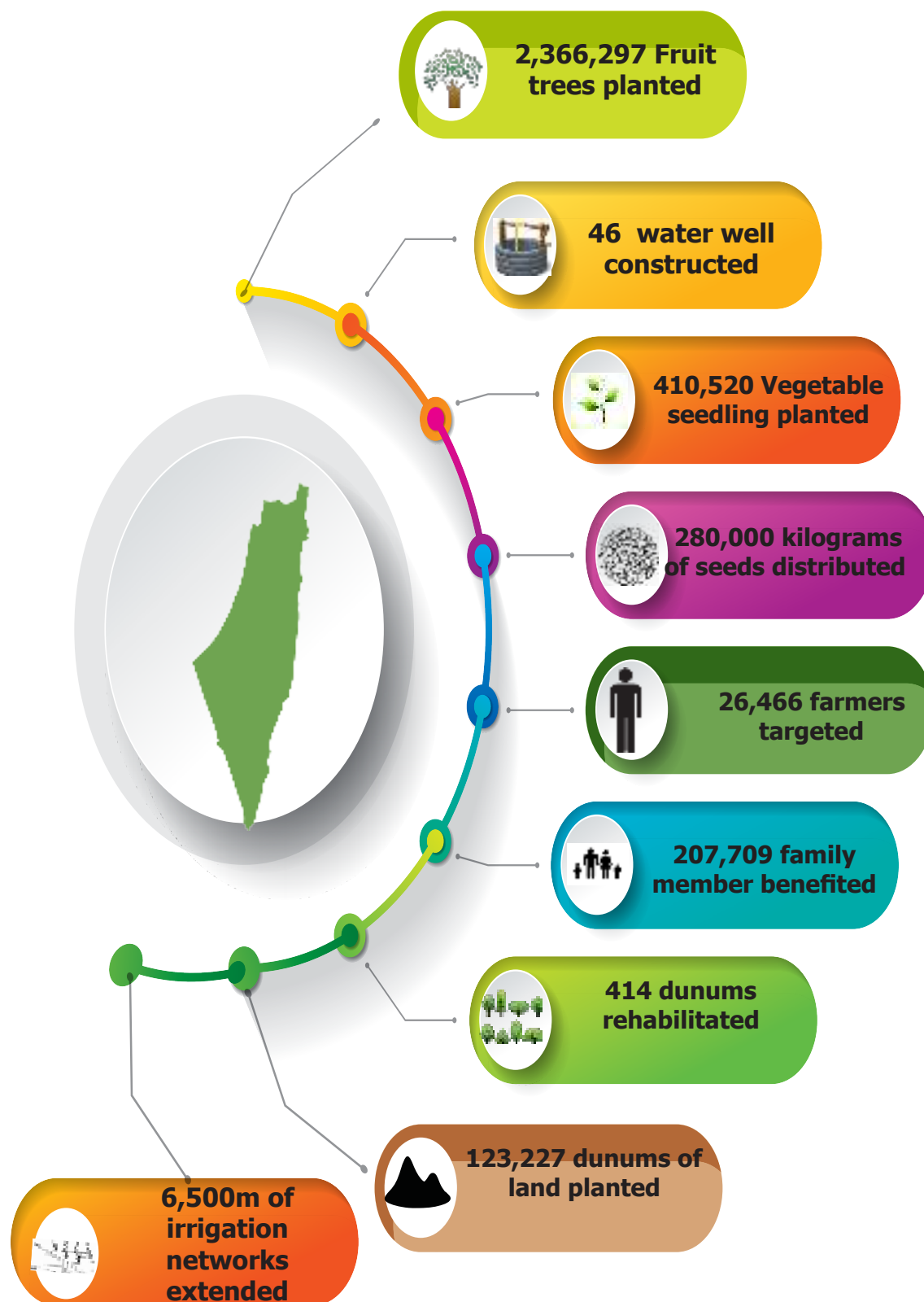


## The implications of the siege on Gaza

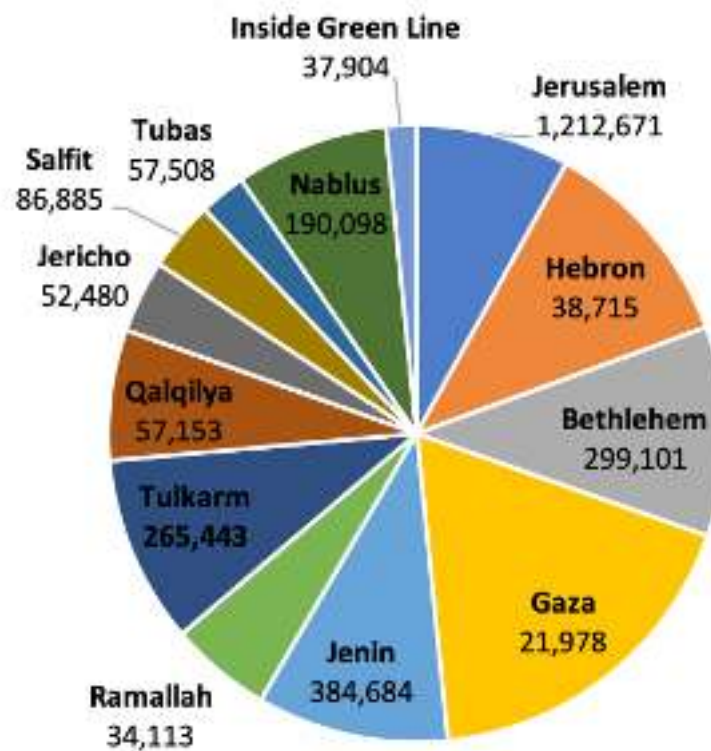
In 2007, the Israeli occupation over Gaza's land, air and sea, transformed it into a blockade that locks 2 million people (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2017). The ten-year-long blockade has devastated public infrastructure, disrupted trade, including food and agricultural 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 receives 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
- 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).
- 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 fishers, 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).
- These restrictions prevent access to large fishing areas and directly undermine the livelihoods and security of approximately 4,000 registered fishers (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2013).

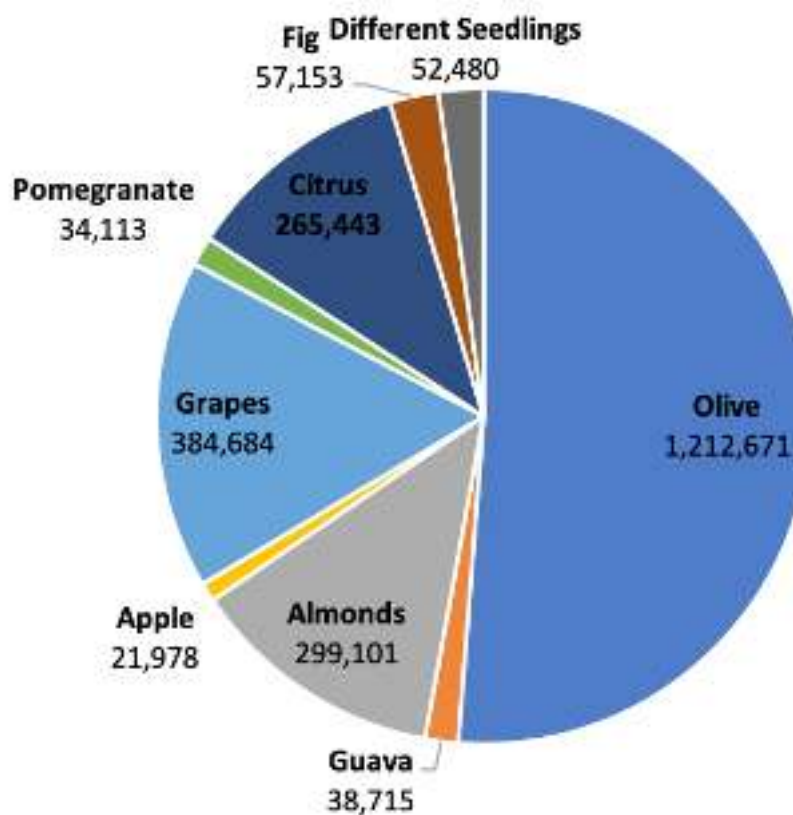
## Achievements of the Million Tree Program III from 2000 to 2018



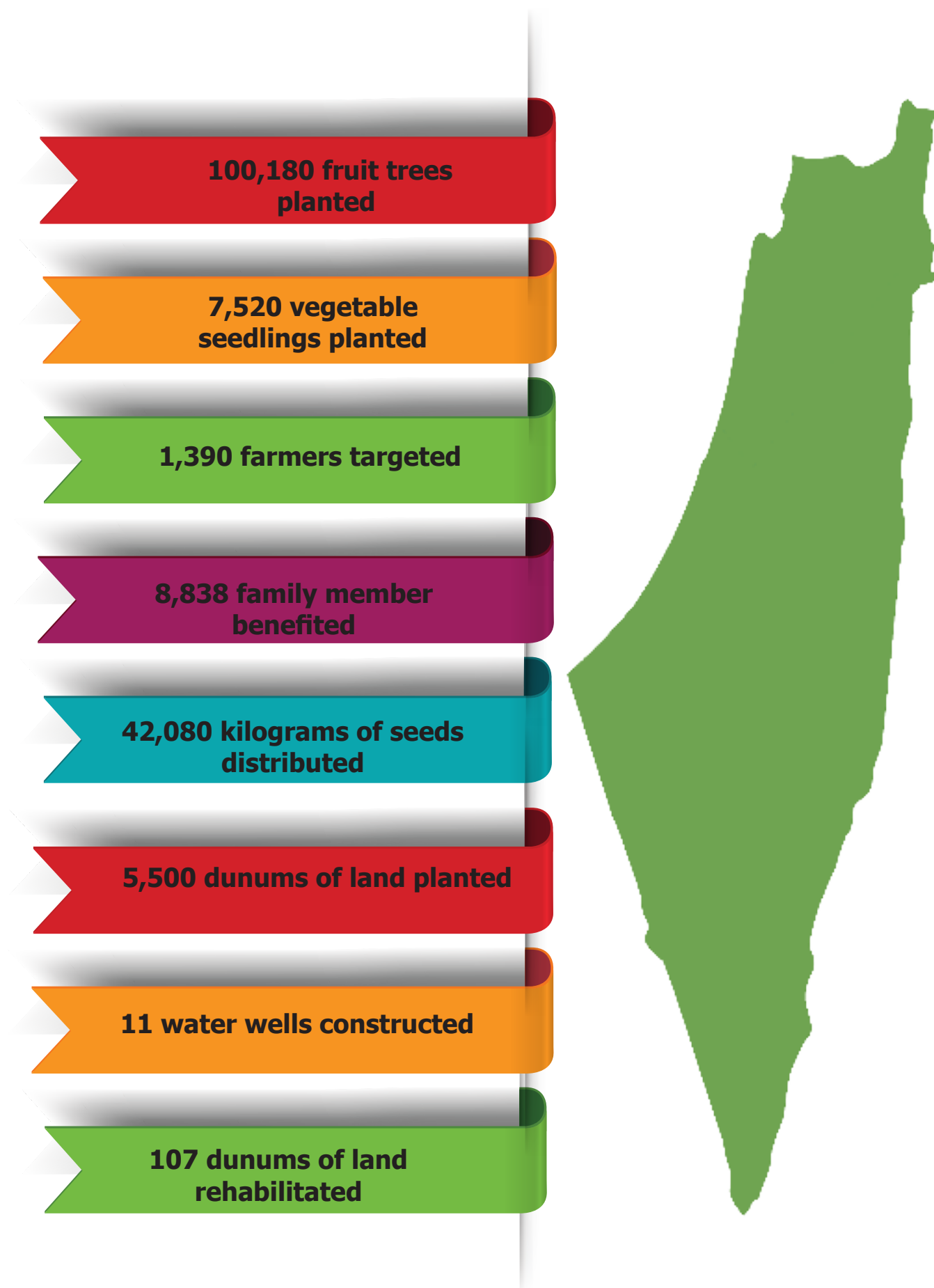
## Distribution of trees within the Million Tree Campaign 2001 - 2018



## Types of trees planted within the Million Tree Program 2001 - 2018



## Achievements of the Million Tree Program in Palestine in 2018



## Million Tree Campaign (MTC) Projects for the year 2018

### APN Insists that Jerusalem is the Eternal Capital of Palestine by Planting 25,646 Fruitful Trees in its Villages

APN, and in cooperation with Al-Nahda Rural Society, completed the “Plant Your Resilience (I)” project with the goal of planting 25,646 different fruit trees in 25 villages in Jerusalem. The trees include olive, fig, pear, walnut, pine nut, apple, and citrus trees, over an area of 1284 dunams. The farmlands owned by 989 farmers, support around 6,438 family members. APN also constructed 7 collection tanks.

Furthermore, APN launched a second campaign on 30 April 2018 on Radio Husna to fundraise for Plant Your Resilience (II) which aims to plant fruitful trees and build water collection tanks in Jerusalem and Gaza.



## Big Achievements within the Green Hands Project

APN and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC) completed 5 activities within the Green Hands Project. The project targeted 2285 dunams and covered 350 families residing next to illegal Israeli settlements and the annexation wall.

The five activities were as follows:

1. Planting 1,680 dunams of land in the village of Sakot in Northern Valley with wheat and Barley. People residing there have previously not been able to access their lands due to the presence of mines and enclosures. APN, through this activity aims to reinforce residents' right to own and use the land;
2. The planting of 12,000 fruit trees ranging from olives, almonds and citrus' targeting 480 dunams;
3. Installing agricultural fencing around a 50 dunams land belonging to martyr Mahmoud Odeh's family from Qasra Village. APN raised the slogan "The martyr rises and the land lives". The aim is to protect the family's ability to use the land and provide a source of income for the family of seven – the oldest of which being 16.
4. The rehabilitation of 90 dunams of land containing 2,000 olive trees in Jenin;
5. Constructing a water collection tank for Al Mughayir School in Jenin.



### Constructing a Water Well for Two Neighboring Schools in Jenin

A water collection well was constructed to serve the needs of two schools in the West Bank town of Jenin. The well was constructed by APN and the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) as part of the Green Hands project to provide water supplies to more than 400 students of the two schools.



### APN's "Here We Remain Campaign" Executes 35 Agricultural Activities in Lands that are Threatened by the Wall of Annexation

APN, in cooperation with the Stop the Wall Campaign and the Palestinian Farmers Union, executed 35 agricultural activities in villages threatened by the Israeli Wall of Annexation that is being built on occupied Palestinian land.

The Hona Baqoon - Here We Remain Campaign included the planting of 10,000 olive trees in several villages, including Al Qotna", "Madma", "Al Taweel", and "Yanoon", and "Aqraba"



## The Million Tree Programme Plants 26,000 Trees in the Northern Villages of Palestine that are at Risk of Confiscation

Through APN's 3rd "Million Trees Programme, and in collaboration with the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC) and support of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), 26,000 fruitful trees ranging from olive, almonds, citrus and avocado trees were planted over 1,040 dunams of land in the Northern villages of Palestine. The project targeted villages at risk of confiscation including Asira Al- Shamaliya, Jureish, Aorta, Naqoura and Nazlat al Sheikh Zaid.

APN's objective from within these programs is to protect what can be salvaged from the Palestinian territories as well as, to enhance food security and establish Palestinians in their land.



## **APN Launches “The Seeds of Perseverance” Project and Plants 1170 Dunams of Wheat and Barley in Tubas Governorate**

In cooperation with the Palestinian Farmers Union and Tubas Governorate, APN launched “The Seeds of Perseverance” project with the goal of planting 1,170 dunams of wheat and barley, between the Israeli Roi and Bakahot settlements. Israeli forces continuously attempt to occupy the area with the excuse that it was not cultivated for three years in reference to the old Ottoman Law, which Israeli forces exploit to occupy more Palestinian lands.



## APN Plants 16,800 Fruit Trees and over 289,000 Local Seeds

In cooperation with Bethlehem Farmers Association, APN completes its project “Supporting Farmers of Bethlehem II” in the villages of Bethlehem that are surrounded by more than 50 settlement outposts.

The projects mentioned above targeted 506 dunams of land (namely Al-Khodor, Wadi Fukin, Beter, Beit Jala, and Beit Sakaria), owned by 113 farmers supporting 820 persons. The projects were as follows:

1. Planting 16,800 fruitful trees, with a particular focus on growing grape trees, which bring in considerable economic benefit to the rural families;
2. Planting 240 dunams of land with some 289,000 local seeds, including cucumber, squash, eggplants, cauliflower, and okra;
3. Installing agricultural fencing around 20 dunams of farmland;
4. Rehabilitating 10 dunams of agricultural land as follows:
  - a. Rehabilitating a political prisoner’s land, who has been released from Israeli jails after 21 years of imprisonment.
  - b. Rehabilitating a farmer’s land, which lies near the Ghosh Atsion settlements in Beit Sakaria.



## APN Supports “Al Sawafta” and Replants his Land in “Bardala” within 24 Hours- from its Destruction

In cooperation with the Palestinian Farmer Union, APN planted 330 new olive trees in Hussein Al Sawafta’s farmland, 24 hours after Israeli forces deliberately destroyed his orchard.

Many volunteers participated in the planting campaign that took place on Thursday, 26/4/2018. APN replanted trees of the same age and kind as the destroyed trees, to support the steadfastness of Sawaftah’s 35 family members.



## Olive Planting in Memory of Rachel Corrie and in the Name of Ahed Al Tamimi

APN planted olive trees in honor of Earth Day; in memory of all martyrs of solidarity with the Palestinian people including Rachel Corrie; in memory of martyrs from Burin; and in the name of hero Ahed Al Tamimi. The planting took place on the 20th of March 2018 in Burin, south of Nablus by the junction of Yitzhar settlement where dozens of Israeli soldiers tried to restrict the activity, but participants insisted on planting the trees as planned.



## APN Plants 5500 Trees in Northwest of Jerusalem

More support has been extended throughout 2018 by APN to Palestinian villages and farmers under Israeli occupation. Lands in eleven villages northwest of the city of Jerusalem have been planted with 5,500 olive trees' saplings. The planting work is intended to support farming on a 644 dunum area owned by 175 farmers with 1,292 household members. It was carried out in cooperation with the local Al-Nahda Rural Society.



### Bringing life to Al-Sawaherah and Beit Hanina

In lands in Al-Sawaherah and Beit Hanina, two neighbourhoods of Jerusalem, 600 saplings of fruit trees were planted by APN volunteers in cooperation with Al-Nahda Society.

Beit Hanina is 6 km from the old quarters of Jerusalem and is surrounded by the Separation Wall on three sides. Its population is decreasing significantly.

The village of Sawahera lies 6.3 km from the old city and is surrounded by two Israeli settlements stretching from Sheikh Jarrah and Mount Mukaber west to the Dead Sea in the east.



### Planting in Beit Safafa, Encircled by Four Israeli Settlements

In Beit Safafa, four kilometers southwest of the old city and working with Al-Nahda Rural Society, around 1000 olive and fruit trees saplings have been planted by APN volunteers in 32 dunums of lands owned by 58 families. The Palestinian village is surrounded by four Israeli settlements.



### APN Plants 2500 Trees in Al-Judeirah

Twenty-nine Palestinian farmers were to benefit after APN and Al-Nahda cooperated in planting 2,500 trees' saplings of olives, almonds and grapes in Al-Judeirah village.

The farmers' lands lie close to the Separation Wall built by Israel in the region. The cultivation of trees is designed to help them generate income and hence hold on to their lands.



### Planting 2000 Trees in Jaba' for 38 Families

Northwest of Jerusalem and in the village of Jaba', 86 dunums of land owned by 38 families were cultivated with 2000 saplings of olives, grape and almond trees by APN and Al-Nahda.

It is worth noting that a major part of the village amounting to 95% of its area (estimated at 12,883 dunums) is classified by Israel as area C where construction or use of land is prohibited unless a permit is obtained.

The village previously suffered a major loss of land, when 1,700 dunums were seized by the Israeli occupation army to build two Israeli settlements on the land.



### Construction of 3 Water Wells in Jerusalem

Planting trees in Palestinian lands to help farmers has been coupled with efforts to maintain, provide or increase water supplies diminishing as a result of Israeli diversion of more water amounts from Palestinian villages to Israeli settlements.

APN and Al-Nahda Rural Society worked to construct a water collection well on the land of a farmer with 24 household members in Beit Sureek, in the Jerusalem area. The village is surrounded by three Israeli settlements and lies 50 metres from Israel's Separation Wall.

An agricultural well with an 80 cubic meter capacity was also constructed in Khirbet Hamdan-Beit Eksa on land where five families with 40 members live. Beit Eksa lies 10 km northwest of Jerusalem.

A 3rd collective well with 80 cubic meter-capacity was constructed to serve an 8-dunum land owned by a farmer in Burqa, in Nablus governorate. The village is surrounded by four Israeli settlements and around a third of its lands have been seized by Israel.





# Green Caravan Program

## 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 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).

### 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.

### **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).

#### **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

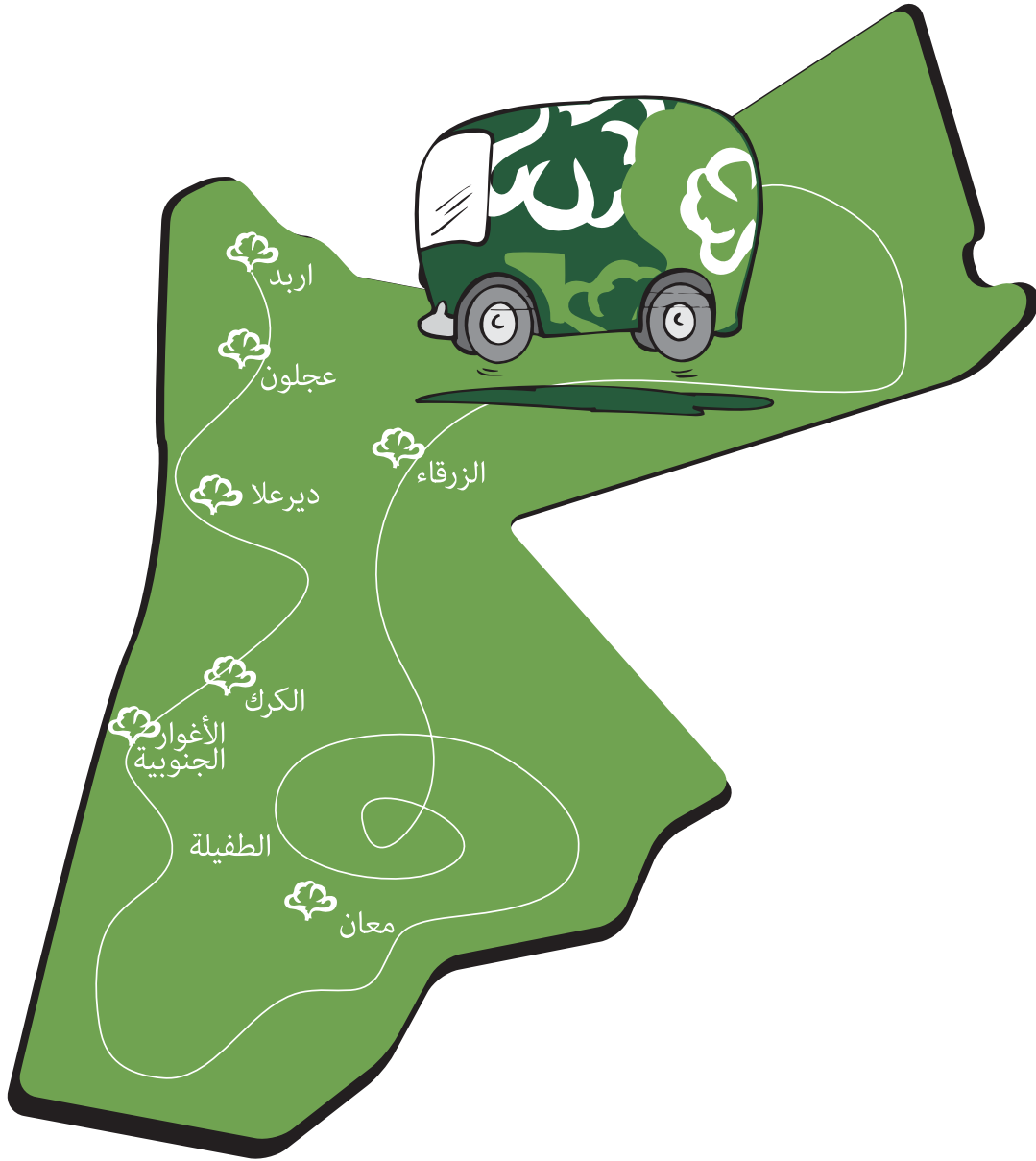
In light of these constraints degrading the agricultural sector, the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature decided to launch the Green Caravan in 2003 with the aim to protect the land and increase national green cover.

The Green Caravan primarily targets vulnerable smallholder 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.

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 2018, a total of 6,490 fruit trees were planted on a total of 110 dunums of land.

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 32 activities that were joined by 993 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.

# برنامج القافلة الخضراء





## **Achievements of the “Green Caravan” program During 2018**



**6,490 fruit trees planted**

**187 farmers targeted**

**822 family members benefited**

**110 dunums of land planted**

**32 agricultural activities  
organized**

**993 volunteers participated**

## Green Caravan Activities for the year 2018

### APN Grows 550 Citrus and Guava Trees in the Southern Jordan Valley

APN has planted 550 citrus and guava trees in the South of the Jordan Valley (Al-Mazra'a and Al-Safi Valley) with the participation of 31 volunteers on 24/2/2018, and in cooperation with the Numeira Environmental Association.

The activity came as part of the "Enhancing Food Security for Poor Families" initiative supported by the Jordanian Ministry of Environment.



### APN and Zain Grow 500 Trees in Support of Small Farmers

APN, sponsored by Zain, planted 500 fruit trees including guavas and olives in support of two small farmers in the Central Jordan Valley. The Customer Service Team at Zain participated in the agricultural activity which took place on 14/5/2018.



## APN and National Paints Plant 500 Citrus Trees in the Central Jordan Valley

Sponsored by National Paints, APN and Al Ahliyya for Agriculture cooperated to grow 500 citrus trees in the Central Jordan Valley on Saturday April 14th. 40 girls from Redwan Scouting Group volunteered in the planting activity. APN selected Abu Haroon's farmland, who has suffered a great loss from the drop of lettuce prices in the market. The fruit of the trees will hopefully assist him cover his 3 children's university tuitions.



### Green Caravan and Bank Al Etihad Plant 500 Lemon Trees in Central Jordan Valley

APN in cooperation with Al Ahliyya agriculture planted 500 lemon trees in the central Jordan Valley with the support of Bank al Etihad. APN targeted a land owned by a widow that supports 12 people.



### APN and the Housing Bank Plant 500 Trees in the Jordan Valley

In the latest efforts, the land of a family of four children supported by a widowed mother in Mallaha in the Central Valley was planted with 500 fruit tree saplings. The cultivation of the land was carried out on December 15, 2018 by APN and the Ahliyya Agricultural Cooperative Society supported by the Housing Bank.



### **The Green Caravan Plants 450 Fruit Trees in Ibser Abu Ali and Dhleil**

APN volunteers, with support from Tamam Company planted 450 tree saplings in Dhleil village in Zarqa governorate. The work was carried out in cooperation with “AhelDhleil” local group on November 22, 2018. Thirty-six families in the area will benefit from the fruit-bearing trees.

On December 14, 2018 the village of Ibser Abu Ali in al-Taybeh region, north of Jordan woke up to the entry of young volunteers from APN and Zain company who worked to cultivate 200 olive tree saplings in the area. Nine families will benefit when the trees bear their fruit.



### **Planting 300 Trees with students from Al-Omariyya School**

The Arab Society for the Protection of Nature and Agricultural Afforestation organized an activity for the students of the Omariya schools with the aim of planting 300 citrus trees in the Central Valley region. On 3/3/2018, 80 girls from the age schools and the community participated in the activity. The activity aimed to enhance food security and create sustainable income for the agricultural families in the Jordan Valley.



### APN grows 300 trees on Umm Saleem's Land with NI and IAA

On Friday 23/3/2018, APN grew 300 trees, including guava and citrus, on Umm Saleem's land in Central Jordan Valley. This activity was supported by Network International, which donated 200 trees, in addition to support from other volunteers including students at the International Academy Amman (IAA), who collectively donated 100 trees.



### The “Green Caravan” and Bank of Jordan Enhance Food Security with the Participation of 80 Volunteers

APN planted 300 citrus trees in the Central Jordan Valley in cooperation with Al Ahliyya for Agriculture and support of the Bank of Jordan. 80 volunteers participated in the planting activity which aimed to support a female farmer and widow that owns an 8 dunam farmland.



### **The Green Caravan and the Tamam Poultry Company Grow 300 Trees in Zarqa**

APN, sponsored by Tamam Poultry Company grew 300 fruitful trees ranging from almonds, grapes, olives, guava, and pears targeting 30 families in the village of AlTabah in Zarqa. Tamam Poultry has set aside a sum from each product sold to support the Green Caravan program.



## Planting With Students from the University of Jordan with “Sanfur Muhandes” Initiative

APN and Al Ahliyya for Agriculture organized an activity in support of Abu Saddam in the area of central valley, 40 students from the University of Jordan volunteered in this activity and planted 250 citrus trees on 10/02/2018



## APN and Cambridge Highschool Plant 200 Citrus Trees in Support of Farmers

APN and Al Ahliyya for Agriculture organized an activity for students at Cambridge high school to plant 200 citrus trees in Dirar Bin Al-Azwar area in the central valley 40 students volunteered in this activity, which aimed at fortifying food sovereignty and guaranteeing a sustainable source of income for agricultural families in valleys. The activity came as part of the “Green Caravan” project which APN launched in 2003 with the aim of expanding green spaces in Jordan and fortifying food sovereignty.



### APN Plants 200 Citrus Trees with the Support of the Jordanian Kuwait Bank

Employees from the Jordanian Kuwait Bank planted 200 citrus trees in the Central Jordan Valley on 4/4/2018. The activity, organized by APN in cooperation with Al Ahliyya for Agriculture, targeted an agricultural family that suffered immensely due to the drop of cabbage and lettuce prices in the market.



### Students from the Amman National School Join APN and Grow Trees in Honor of- Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, APN and Al Ahliyya for Agriculture organized an activity for students at Amman National School to plant 200 citrus trees dedicated to their mothers in the area of central valley. 30 students and parents have participated in this activity on 24/03/2018.



### Planting with the Students of Al-Khansaa Group

70 scout girls and instructors from Al Khansaa Scouts Group participated in Green Caravan project. 200 lemon trees were planted in Abu Alaa's farmland in the area of Central Valley in cooperation with Al Ahliyya for Agriculture.



## Celebrating Teacher's Day by Planting 200 Citrus Trees

APN volunteers have worked to plant 200 citrus trees' saplings in the Central Jordan Valley area. More than 45 male and female teachers took part in the planting event on October 5, 2018 in cooperation with Queen Rania Award for Excellence in Education.



## Planting with the students at Al-Tazkiya School

Aiming to raise awareness of the importance of tree planting and preserving lands, as a cultural sustained wealth for future generations, APN in coordination with Al Ahliyya for Agriculture organized an activity to plant 100 citrus trees for a less fortunate family in the area of the Central Valley. 30 students at Al-Tazkiya School participated in this activity.



## Planting with the Committee of Young Engineers in the Jordanian Engineers Association

APN volunteers have worked to plant 200 citrus trees' saplings in the Central Jordan Valley area. More than 45 male and female teachers took part in the planting event on October 5, 2018 in cooperation with Queen Rania Award for Excellence in Education.



### Planting with Absher Initiative

APN and Absher Initiative organized an activity 06/04/2018 to plant 120 fruitful trees including lemon, pomelo and clementine in small farmland in Al Arda. 20 volunteers participated in this activity.



### **Planting with the Kased Center for Learning Arabic**

APN organized an extracurricular activity for the non-Arabic speaker students at Kased Center for Learning Arabic. 50 citrus trees were planted in the area of Southern Valley.



### **Green Caravan and the Agricultural Plastic Industrial Co Rehabilitate a PlasticHouse in Ajloun**

In support of a rural family in the less fortunate areas of Jordan, APN and the Agricultural Plastic Industrial Co rehabilitated a 0.5 Dunam plastic house in the village of Aswara in Ajloun. The plastic house will hopefully provide an additional income for the family of seven.



## **APN and the Business and Professional Women Association Support Families in Ajloun**

The Green Caravan carried 40 volunteers from the Business and Professional Women Association to plant 40 fruit trees in the homes of 3 families in Ajloun.



### APN and Al-Nisr Al-Arabi Insurance Plant Trees in the Jordan Valley

Al Nisr Al Arabi Insurance Company sponsored the planting of 100 fruit trees in the Central Jordan Valley. APN organized two activities on 25/3/2018 and 23/10/2018 with the participation of its employees.



### Wadi Al-Rayyan takes part in the Green Caravan Campaign

In cooperation with Masar Initiative, APN has executed an agricultural activity to plant pomegranate and citrus trees in Abu-Mohammed's (Zaid al-Zaqeeli) garden in Wadi Al-Rayyan. More than 30 volunteers were involved in the activity with the cooperation of Masar initiative under the "Tourism for All" slogan. Green Caravan is moving from one area to the next to make Jordan greener, especially where people are less fortunate, and support food sovereignty through the planting of fruitful trees. APN was able to plant more than 100,000 trees in several municipalities in Jordan.



## The Planting of Guava Trees in Support of Farmers in Central Valleys

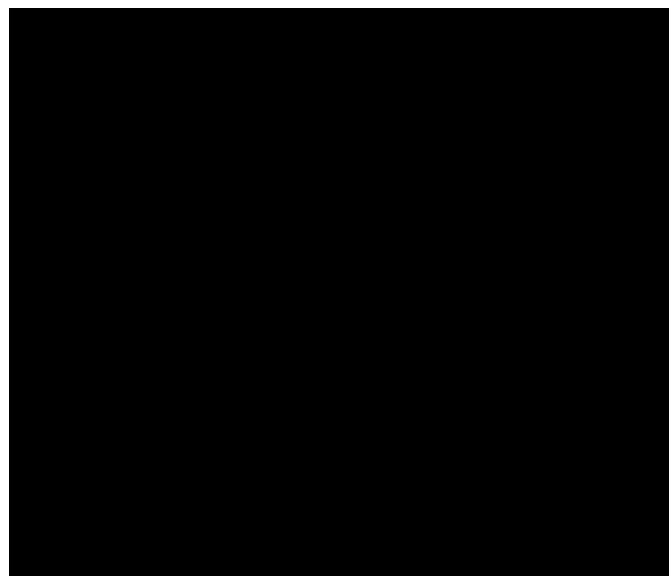
APN, Al Ahliyya for Agriculture organized on 24/03/2018 an activity to plant Guava trees to support farmers in the area of Central Valley with the participation of 35 volunteers from Al Salsabeel Quran Center. This activity is within the “Enhancing Food Security for Poor Families” initiative supported by the Jordanian Ministry of Environment.



### Honouring Dead Sea Martyrs with Tree Planting

Ten days after the Dead Sea disaster on October 25th, the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) planted two hundred and ten trees in the Jordan Valley, ten for the spirit of each martyr. It was a message to spread life and hope versus death and despair. The trees were planted in late October with the support of Tamam Company.

It was carried out on the land of a poor farmer from the village of “Tel al-Mentah”, a Jordanian village that was destroyed in 1967 by Israeli warplanes and was rebuilt by its people. It was one of the most affected villages in Jordan.





# Awareness and Mobilization

## Seminar on Agricultural Resistance and Strategies for Survival within the Israeli Apartheid Week

Multiple events took place in Jordan as part of the 2018 Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) or “HaserHisarak”, organized by BDS -Jordan, APN, and several other partners. IAW is an international series of events that seek to raise awareness of Israel’s apartheid system and settler colonial project over the Palestinian people and to build support for the growing Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

APN organized a seminar entitled “Agricultural Resistance and Strategies for Survival” on the 20th of March at the Professional Associations Complex. Speakers included agricultural expert Saad Dagher; activist Fadia Alwahsh from Jub Altheeb; APN President Rami Barhoush, and Project Manager Mohammad Qteishat.



Saad spoke about the techniques he is transferring to Palestinian communities to enhance self-reliance and sovereignty over natural resources, including water collection systems, solar energy, solid waste management, recycling and the use of organic fertilizers. Fadia Alwahsh, president of the Women Council at the village spoke of the struggles that confront her village which is surrounded by four settlements, and how women in the village play a key role to maintain its survival. Most recently, the Women Council succeeded in retrieving the solar panels that the occupation forces had confiscated.

APN President Rami Barhoush and Project Manager Mohammad Qteishat explained APN’s work to rehabilitate agriculture and enhance food sovereignty through the 3rd Million Tree Campaign in Palestine.

### University of Jordan Events in Commemoration of Nakba

APN was invited to give a presentation on “Green Resistance” on 5 September, 2018 as part of International Conference:» The Palestinian Cause - Where to?» organized at the at the University of Jordan (UJ).

The 3-day conference coincided with the 70th anniversary of Nakba and included papers that focus on 4 main themes: Jerusalem; the political, legal and economic aspects of the conflict; culture and heritage; and mobilization and civic pressure.

Zeena Al Jaajaa spoke about APN’s work to rehabilitate agriculture and preserve land from being annexed by occupation authorities.



### A Tribute to APN Co-Founder on International Women’s Day

On March 8, 2018, marking International Women’s Day, Khalil Salem Charity Society celebrated the achievements of APN Co-Founder Razan Zuayter, as well as three other influential women. Zuayter was honoured for her unceasing contribution to the protection of nature and support of agriculture in the Arab region. The other women included: Hadeel Abu Soufeh, founder of ‘Comester’ initiative which aims to integrate people with disabilities in social events and provide them with volunteer opportunities; Rawan Barakat, blind entrepreneur and founder of “Raneen Initiative” that produces Arabic audio books to engage children, especially those with visual impairments; and Dr. Najma Abu Osbaa’ who completed her PhD at the age of 73.



## APN Gives a Lecture on how to Resist Normalization within Agriculture at the Islamic Action Front

On 20/01/2018, APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa and Nisreen Haj Ahmed from BDS were invited to speak at the 2nd meeting on Resisting Normalization which was organized by the Women Constituency at the Islamic Action Front.

Al Jaajaa spoke about means of resisting normalization in the agricultural sector and revealed the decline in fruit and vegetable imports from Israel; from 5957 tons in 2013, to merely 196 tons in 2017. She noted that “This was largely due to the heightened public awareness on the significance of economic boycott, and as a result of activists pushing for laws that require traders to disclose the area of origin of fruits and vegetables”. However, Al Jaajaa was quick to point out that there is still a degree of forging whereby “Made in the West Bank” is used in situations where the fruits and vegetables are produced in settlements. This is used to bypass the law that restricts importing food products from illegal settlements. Therefore, she calls on buyers to submit complaints to the Ministry of Industry when traders are found not to comply with national legislation.



### **The Fifth Annual Forum for the Right of Return**

Raje' Association invited APN Co-founder Razan Zuayter to speak at the 5th Annual Forum for the Right of Return in Amman, Jordan which was held on 3rd of February 2018. Zuayter spoke about the role the Million Tree Campaign has played in supporting Jerusalemites through planting 178,234 fruit trees (79,010 olive trees; 51,169 stone fruit trees; 17,719 grape trees; 15,909 fig trees; 3,608 citrus; 50 walnut trees; 100 pine trees; 2,834 pear trees; 5,169 apple trees; 1,230 pomegranate trees; 899 berry trees; and 537 custard apple trees). The trees were planted across 26 villages in Jerusalem in collaboration with APN's partners; the Rural Development Association, the Palestinian Farmers' Union and the Agricultural Development Association (PARC).

Zuayter noted that the Million Tree Campaign has planted 5,370 dunams of land and targeted 5,062 farmers in Jerusalem, supporting approximately 9,881 of their family members. She stressed the importance of harmonious collaboration between all associations active in Palestine.

### **APN Co-Organizes a Beekeeping Workshop**

On 14-15 January 2018, APN, in collaboration with the Ahliyya for Agriculture and Deir Alla Directorate of Agriculture, organized a two-day beekeeping workshop for 25 small farmers in the Jordan Valley. APN General Manager, Project Manager, and Advocacy Officer participated in the workshop that was given by honey-making expert Hani Al Nueimi.



## Raising Alarm about Tree Cuttings

APN, keen to protect the environment in the country, has raised alarm about the cutting down of old trees in the boundaries of Jordan University in Amman.

On December 1, 2018, after visiting the site and taking photos of the tree cutting, APN lamented in messages across the social media outlets a move by the University allowing Amman Municipality officials to cut the trees on the pretext of widening routes for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The messages alerted the media and nature lovers to the issue. APN co-founder Mrs. Razan Zuayter was hosted on Al-Mamlaka TV, Husna and Hayat FM radios to explain the civil society stand on the issue.

She proposed, as an alternative, moving the bus route several meters away to prevent felling the trees. The environment should be considered a priority, she said, in planning and implementing projects.

Zuayter emphasized the need to consult with specialized civil society groups before taking any decisions that affect the nature and the public interest.





## **APN Objects to the Workshop on GMOs Organized by the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers' Association**

A coalition of civil society groups, institutions and experts opposed to licensing and trading of genetically modified (GM) food seeds raised their objections in a workshop organized by the Jordanian Agricultural Engineers' Association on September 24, 2018. Many experts on GM food, mainly ones opposing it, were not invited to the workshop to prevent them from bringing evidence against these products.

It was found that the aim of the workshop was not to provide participants and citizens with an objective dialogue on this sensitive subject. It was a workshop promoting the dictates of the US Department of Agriculture to pass approval of the importation of genetically modified seeds and food in spite of the Jordanian laws and regulations concerned which ban the entry of such products into the country.

## **A Workshop on Farming as Resistance**

A group of youth has taken part in a summer camp organized by BDS- Jordan and Ya'arub Society in Amman during which they listened to a lecture by volunteer Mo'ath Qatanani on APN's activities, mainly supporting 'farming as resistance' in Palestine.

The group consisted of 31 male and female youngsters between 14-17 years old. The goal of the camp—the third of its kind is to instill and develop the concept of effective citizenship and the sense of leadership and initiative among young men and women by enhancing teamwork and skills of interaction, communication and acceptance of the other.

It also sought to promote the concept of social intelligence, respect for nature, in addition to critical thinking and solving problems strategically.



## Articles, Statements and Speeches

## International Solidarity Appeal: Stop Starving Yemen

The people of Yemen suffer human-made starvation. According to UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mark Lowcock, 14 million people are now at risk of famine. Of a population of 29 million, more than 22 million are in need of humanitarian assistance, and nearly half of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Red Sea ports, notably that of Hudaydah, have been subject to recurring blockades, searches, and restrictions by Saudi-led coalition forces. Hudaydah is by far the most important port in Yemen which before to the war received 70-80% of imported food supplies.

Delays, fear of attacks, and general uncertainty have deterred many commercial vessels from docking in Hudaydah. The World Food Program (WFP) estimates that in November 2018 food shipments decreased by 50% as many commercial ships did not dock there due to fighting. At the port, vessels confront a lack of basic services: coalition airstrikes destroyed cranes used to lift containers off ships, and the severe fuel shortage results in delays to transport shipments within Yemen. WFP, for example, currently holds 58,434 tonnes of cereals in silos in Hudaydah but is unable to access 51,000 tonnes of those stocks.

Delivery of humanitarian assistance has also been obstructed within the country by the de facto powers in Sanaa (the Ansarallah and allied forces) through excessive bureaucratic procedures, attempts to control the delivery of aid, interference as to who receives it, and toleration of bribery.

Coalition airstrikes have systematically targeted agricultural land, poultry farms, extension services, food processing plants, rural markets, fishing boats, and small ports. By the end of 2017 nearly every fish-offloading port on the Red Sea coast had been struck, 220 fishing boats destroyed, and 146 fishers killed. Agricultural land and infrastructure have been heavily targeted. This has been devastating to Yemen, a country where before the war, 73% of the population relied on fishing and agriculture for their livelihoods.

Bearing in mind International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Article 54 of Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions that states:

1. Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited, and,
2. It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works, for the specific purpose of denying them for their sustenance value to the civilian population or to the adverse Party, whatever the motive, whether in order to starve out civilians, to cause them to move away, or for any other motive, and Article 70 of Protocol I Additional:

The Parties to the conflict and each High Contracting Party shall allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of all relief consignments, equipment and personnel provided in accordance with this Section, even if such assistance is destined for the civilian population of the adverse Party,

We demand:

1. An end to all delays and obstructions impeding delivery of humanitarian aid (both in-cash and in-kind), and a firm guarantee that ports will remain operational and free from attack;
2. An immediate end to military operations, especially targeting of essential food and agriculture infrastructure, including fishing vessels and markets;
3. Resumption of payment of salaries to government employees suspended for the last two years and support for the Yemeni Riyal through a professionally managed central bank;
4. Mobilization of funds for humanitarian assistance and recovery programmes to help Yemenis to

rebuild their millennial systems of food production;

5. Support for efforts to build national dialogue and to formulate a peace agreement that respects Yemeni sovereignty.

We welcome the peace negotiations convened by UN envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths. These can only bear fruit if the causes of today's imminent famine conditions are brought to an end.

To that end, we call upon members of the international community, particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Australia, Spain, Brazil, and Finland, to immediately halt all arms sales to parties in this conflict.

We urge countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, and Sudan to terminate their military engagement and to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

In spite of the repeated calls by civil society organizations over the years of the war, the suffering in Yemen has grown. We hereby renew the call to the international community to halt the starvation of the Yemeni people.

#### Signatories

1. Arab Network for Food Sovereignty – ANFS – Arab Region
2. Al Hekma Organization
3. Arab Group for the Protection of Nature – Jordan
4. Jordanian Women's Union – Jordan
5. La Fédération Nationale Du Secteur Agricole (FNSA) - Morocco
6. Iraqi Society for Nutrition and Food Safety – Iraq
7. National Confederation of Traditional Fishing in Morocco (CNPAM) – Morocco
8. National Observatory of Participatory Citizenship -Tunis
9. Iraqi Association for the Defense of Consumer Rights- Iraq
10. Energy Conservation Society- Jordan
11. Coalition of Lebanese Civil Society Organizations – Lebanon
12. Al Nahda Rural Society - Palestine
13. National Palestinian Heritage Association – Lebanon
14. Réseau Maghrebin D'associations De Développement Local En Milieu Rural – Tunisia
15. Association Pour Le Développement Durable Médenine – Tunisia
16. Bethlehem Farmers Association – Palestine
17. Stop the Wall- Palestine
18. People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) - International
19. La Via Campesina – Global
20. Palestinian Agricultural Farmers' Union – Palestine
21. Salam for Yemen – France
22. Al-Amal Association - Iraq
23. Al-Mashreq Institute for Geopolitics Studies - Jordan
24. Al-Mustaqbal Association - Yemen
25. Al-Sadakah Roma Capitale - Italy
26. Arab Commission for Human Rights - France
27. Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development - Mena
28. Arab Women Organization of Jordan - Jordan
29. Arcade - Senegal / Africa
30. Association Marocaine des Droits Humains– Morocco
31. Association Youth for the "Right to Live" – Moldova
32. BadrAdduja– Jordan
33. Balkan Civil Society Development Network – Macedonia

34. Centre for Human Rights and Development – Mongolia
35. Centre for Research and Advocacy – Manipur
36. Centro InternazionaleCrocevia– Italy
37. Civil Society forum of Tonga - Tonga
38. Coalition for Grassroot People - Tanzania
39. Coalition of Civil Society - Lebanon
40. Cordillera Peoples Alliance - Philippines
41. Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) - Eastern and Southern Africa
42. Fian - Colombia
43. Fian - International
44. Food4humanity – Yemen
45. Food Sovereignty in Action – Europe
46. Forum of Tomorrow for Culture and Creativity - Yemen
47. Gasp Vimodrone - Italy
48. Human Environmental Association for Development - Lebanon
49. Human Life Foundation - Yemen
50. Human Unity Movement (HUM) - Pakistan
51. Improve Your Society Organization - Yemen
52. Indigenous Community - Cambodia
53. Institute for National and Democracy Studies (INDIES) - Indonesia
54. Instituto HumanitasUnisinos (IHU) - Brazil
55. International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation - Philippines
56. International Jurists Forum - Italy, Norway and Arab World
57. Iraqi Firdaws Society - Iraq
58. Iraqi Organization for Rehabilitating Society and Environment (IRAQIOFRSE) - Iraq
59. Jerusalem Forum - Jordan
60. Jordanian Women Association (JWA) -Jordan
61. Journalists Association and Creators - Yemen
62. Kuwaiti Social Work Association - Kuwait
63. La Casa Del Pan - Mexico
64. Labor>s Union for Change and Construction - Yemen
65. Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre - Nigeria
66. Lebanese Communist Party - Lebanon
67. MaanNartaqi - Yemen
68. Mobadron Foundation for Social Development - Yemen
69. Moroccan Forum of Environmental Initiatives - Morocco
70. Moubarak Establishment for Agriculture – Lebanon
71. Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People – Niger – Ogoniland
72. MtüAndalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies - Middle East
73. Musaala Organization for Human Rights - Yemen
74. Nataj Organization - Libya
75. National Organization for Humanitarian Action (NOHA) - Yemen
76. New Horizon Conference - Iran
77. Observatoire De La SouverainetéAlimentaire Et De L'environnement (OSAE) - Tunisia
78. Organización De MujeresCampesinas E IndígenasConamuri - Paraguay
79. Palestinian Forum for Immigration, Asylum and Return - Palestine
80. Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD) - Palestine
81. Pembaru - Indonesia
82. Progress for Development - Yemen

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83. Relief and Development Peer Foundation (RDP) - Yemen
  84. Roots for Equity - Pakistan
  85. Sada Foundation (SFBD) - Yemen
  86. Sanid Organization for Releif& Development - Yemen
  87. Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights - Yemen
  88. Society for International Development (SID) - International
  89. Soqotra Organization for Biodiversity and Sustainability (SOBS) - France
  90. SOS Faim– Luxemburg
  91. Sri Lanka Nature Group – Sri Lanka
  92. Studies & Economic Media Center - Yemen
  93. Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) - Uganda
  94. Syrian Women Organization - Syria
  95. Tanzania Organization for Agricultural Development (TOFAD) - Tanzania
  96. The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc. - Florida
  97. Together to Protect Human & Environment Association - Iraq
  98. Transnational Institute - Global
  99. Tunisian League for Human Rights - Tunisia
  100. UAF - Morocco
  101. Union of Agricultural Work Committees - Palestine
  102. Unionists Against War - Canada
  103. Unissons-Nous Pour La Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA) - Burundi / Africa
  104. Welfare Togo - Togo
  105. Wogood for Human Security - Yemen
  106. Women Cultural and Social Society - Kuwait
  107. Women for Palestine – Lebanon
  108. World Peace Foundation – USA
  109. Yemen International Trade Union Confederation – Africa
  110. Yemen Organization for Womens Policies - Yemen and Netherlands
  111. Yemen Social and Solidarity Economy Centre (YESSEC) – France
  112. YLRD Foundation - Yemen
  113. Youth Spirit Foundation for Human and Community Development (YSFHCD) - Yemen
  114. YWCA - Jordan
  115. Zambia Social Forum - ZAMSOF – Zambia




**Intervention by APN's General Manager Mrs. Mariam Jaajaa on behalf of CSM at the the CFS Advisory Group and Bureau meeting  
23 November 2018**

As a matter of extreme urgency, and due to the unprecedented humanitarian crises in Yemen, we come forward to you with this very important message within the mandate of the CFS. We believe that the horrific situation of food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen is a deep concern to all of us.

According OCHA half of the population of Yemen, which is nearly 14 million people are at the risk of famine, 5 million of which are children. The latest figures shown by Save the Children indicate that 85,000 children have already died from starvation. Tragically a hundred thirty children per day are dying. The situation is so dire that humanitarian workers have stated that “the children are too weak to cry.”

According to the UN Children's Fund half a million of Yemeni children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, these children will also die if there is not a rapid response to the causes of this starvation. It is clear, that in this war the most affected are the ordinary Yemeni people, and I once again stress mainly children.

We suggest that the CFS responds rapidly to this as the current largest food insecurity emergency in the world. We have a number of requests but invite others to suggest other steps. CFS should draft an immediate message or a statement, in line with its mandate, to contribute to raise global awareness and promote action on the root causes of this ongoing catastrophe. In addition to this message, which should go to all concerned parties and the General Assembly and Security council in New York, a discussion should be scheduled for the next Joint meeting which would be informed by the information and analysis provided by CFS Advisory Group members on the situation in Yemen. We believe the CFS, the Committee on World Food Security, of all committees, cannot be silent in such situations! The process could follow the example from April 2017 when CFS Chair Amira Gornass called an emergency meeting and led a CFS Chair message on the situation in Yemen, South Sudan, North East Nigeria and Somalia.



## **Address by Mrs. Razan Zuayter to the Meeting of the Stakeholders on Implications of Protracted Crises on Food Sovereignty and Nutrition in Jordan**

### **5th of April 2018**

I would like to thank all participants with their rich diversity on behalf of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) and the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) which consists of 30 non-governmental groups and unions of farmers, fishers, workers, women, youth and consumer societies from 13 Arab countries.

I would also like to thank the Minister of Agriculture Dr. Khaled Hneifat and his representative Dr. Nizar Haddad, government delegates and embassy officials. Thanks also to representatives of the male and female farmers, food producers and local and international civil societies, to members of the private, educational and research sectors and the World Food Program (WFP) representative Dr. Majid Yehia.


We are also grateful to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for our partnership that began since we decided to pursue our efforts in the international arena in 2002. Both UN agencies agreed in the years that followed to place the issue of agriculture and food security under conflicts, wars, and occupation on the list of their priorities, welcoming our participation in their world forums on behalf of Arab communities.

So, what is sovereignty of food? We believe that sovereignty over our food and production and our natural resources is the way to our desired sovereignty over our political decision. Without that, our destinies will not be ours, and we can only remember Kissinger's statement: «If you control the food supply, you control the people”.

The sovereignty of food is the right of peoples, communities, and states to determine their policies concerning agriculture, labor, fishing, land, and food suitable for their own environmental, social, economic, and cultural conditions. This includes the right to food and its production, which inevitably means the right of everyone to have healthy, nutritious and appropriate food which means sovereignty over their sources of production and its sustainability.

The most important means of achieving sovereignty over food in the Arab world is to raise strategies from the level of regional cooperation to the level of an integration strategy. The definition of complementarity is to make loose parts integrated through interdependence between the economies of the Arab countries in different degrees based on certain foundations with different approaches to increase and strengthen the socio-economic capacity of member states without harming the sovereignty of any of them.

The most important achievements of our network relate to the subject that we will discuss today. The Network led the negotiating team of global civil society leaders in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) negotiations, the world's largest food organization, to develop a conceptual framework on food security in protracted crises (wars, conflicts, occupation). The negotiations lasted 3 years, and all states ratified the final version. This was preceded by a continuous 6-year effort to convince the United Nations, especially FAO and the United National Environment Programme (UNEP), of the necessity to dare to discuss the issue of wars and occupation when talking about agriculture or the environment.




In the second session, the director general of the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN), Mariam Al Jaajaa will present this framework, which she has worked on intensively and I followed its preparation since the first moments. She will present it before we split into groups to answer the important question: How to benefit from this framework and how can we share it for the benefit of our peoples?

It is important to say that the framework is fair to our priorities and that thanks to the real Arab civil society, which rejects any conditional foreign financing for we were able for the first time to pinpoint the occupation as a major cause of poverty.

We included the need to search for the root causes of wars and the need to stop them and hold accountable those who stand behind them. We also included the need to prevent the use of water and food as a weapon to put pressure on peoples and nations and the need for food support to disaster-stricken peoples to come from the production of small farmers.

We emphasize in the network that there is no room for achieving real development or food security in any territory in this region without civil peace. It cannot be achieved without the immediate cessation of the senseless wars, the aim of which is to sustain them, not to win them or without uprooting fear, dependency, despair, hostility, and indifference from our minds and hearts or without guidance to unite our efforts to liberate Palestine. This is the only way to save us from the madness of war and sedition and the only way to restore the respect we deserve for our nations and peoples.



## **Intervention by Mrs. Razan Zuayter on behalf of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty at the FAO Regional Conference 10th of May 2018**

I call for encouraging agricultural processing, crisis absorption, waste prevention, and the support of agricultural cooperatives in the agricultural transformation program. In general, since we are in a regional meeting, I am calling to look at the transformation from a regional perspective.

I hope that the countries of the region will move towards agricultural integration and raise the level of regional cooperation to a level of a strategy of integration. It should be based on the interdependence of regional economies in different degrees based on certain foundations with different incomes to increase and strengthen the region's socio-economic capacity without affecting the sovereignty of any of them.

We call for supporting and strengthening decentralization and flexibility in the adoption of partnerships in regional offices, especially as regards the networks of Arab civil society recognized by member states, according to local, national, and regional priorities, while maintaining international follow-up and partnerships.

We are glad that FAO has taken a serious interest in the priority to deal with the issue of food security under wars. We hope the civil society will be able to join in institutionalizing such efforts. We are proud that the Arab civil society played a serious role over the years to highlight this priority in FAO and other international and regional forums such as UNEP, ESCWA, the Arab League, and the WFP.

It has also played a key role in the negotiations of the important framework to address food insecurity in the face of protracted crises. We support the proposal of Yemen to set up a forum for this issue to involve us also.



## Be Part of the Change

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