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The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature was established in 2003 as a non-profit civil society organisation to contribute to the protection of the environment and natural resources of Arab countries, in coordination with both Arab and international organisations, against all hazards, including the destructive impacts of war and foreign occupations.
Our Mission

APN seeks to reinforce the capacity of the Arab people to sustain their natural resources and gain sovereignty over their food, especially in areas under occupation and conflict, and to mobilise civil society organisations to advocate for regional and global environmental issues.

Our Goals

01 Contribute to the rehabilitation and sustainability of natural resources in Arab regions affected by war and armed conflicts, with a particular focus on Jordan and Palestine.

02 Influence the drafting and implementation of environmental, agricultural, and food policies through effective partnerships.

03 Mobilise efforts of civil society to contribute and respond to local, regional, and global environmental issues.

04 Build the capacity of APN to achieve its mission with professionalism, effectiveness, and institutional sustainability.
General Assembly 2022

APN held its annual General Assembly on 2 August 2022, with a majority of its members present, during which the financial and administrative reports were discussed. The meeting began with a review of the projects and activities completed during the year 2021 and ended with the approval of the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ending on 31 December 2021, presented by a representative from the auditing company.

Auditors
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Razan Zuayter</th>
<th>Humam Mufti</th>
<th>Nicola Billeh</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rami Barhoush</td>
<td>Zina Kawar</td>
<td>Saad Hijjawi</td>
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<td>Asem Shehabi</td>
<td>George Mushahwar</td>
<td>Humam Darwaza</td>
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<td>Eman Abu Alrous</td>
<td>Inas Bseisou</td>
<td>Fouad Srouji</td>
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<td>Hassan Al Jaajaa</td>
<td>Lubna Irsheid</td>
<td>Mutaz Al Afifi</td>
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<td>Sameeh Kawar</td>
<td>Sari Zuaiter</td>
<td>Sami Nabulsi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subhia Al Maani</td>
<td>Dina Abu Alrous</td>
<td>Sima Alami</td>
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Board of Directors

Razan Zuayter
Chair of the Board

Rami Barhoush
Vice Chair

Zina Kawar
Treasurer

Nicola Billeh
Secretary

Humam Mufti
Board Member

Omar Shegem
Board Member

Fouz Shocair
Board Member
APN Staff

Mariam Al Jaajaa
General Manager

Ibrahim Manasra
Representative of APN in Palestine

Asmaa Awwad
Media Coordinator

Aya Al-Obaidi
Campaigns and Partnerships Coordinator

Lisa Shahin
Advocacy and Research Officer

Theeb Al-Ghanem
Visual Content Creator

Walaa Dabash
Administrative Assistant

Maha Qawasmi
Awareness and Mobilization Officer

Mohannad Jariri
Accountant
APN relies on the participation of a large volunteer community working in a horizontal structure. Over the years, thousands of volunteers of all ages have joined together to spread and act on the organisation’s message.
**APN is a Member of the Following Networks and Institutions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network/Institution</th>
<th>Position/Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS)</td>
<td>Founder and Executive Committee Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)</td>
<td>Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Committee on the Eradication of Hunger affiliated with the League of Arab States</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples’ Mechanism (CSIPM)</td>
<td>Coordinator of the Working Group on Protracted Crises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)</td>
<td>Co-Chair of the Working Group on Conflict &amp; Fragility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</td>
<td>National and Regional Committee Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR)</td>
<td>Member of the Partners’ Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Network of Jerusalem Institutions</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordanian Federation for Environmental NGOs</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Campaign to Return to Palestine</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International League of Peoples’ Struggle (ILPS)</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APN Maintained the Following Accreditations:

- Special Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Observer Status at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Actor for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UN-Decade)

APN Collaborates With the Following Regional and International Institutions:

- **UN-Habitat**
  - The United Nations Human Settlements Programme

- **FAO**
  - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- **CFS**
  - Committee on World Food Security

- **ESCWA**
  - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

- **LAS**
  - The League of Arab States

- **AOAD**
  - Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
In Palestine:

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

In Jordan:

- Al Numeira Environmental Association
- Al Balqa Creativity Institute
- Madaba Women’s Charity Association
- Thara Charity Association
- Jordanian Agricultural Workers’ Union
- National Agricultural Research Center (NARC)
- Greater Amman Municipality
- Al Hussein Youth City – Sports City
APN Donations are Deductible from Taxable Income

Jordanian donors can fully deduct donations made to APN from their taxable income. This deduction is authorized by Cabinet Resolution No. (8933), which recognizes the environmental nature of the donations, and is subject to the conditions and restrictions outlined in paragraph (b) of Article (10) of the Income Tax Law No. (34) of 2014.
Donations to APN’s Million Tree Campaign in Palestine are Eligible for Zakat

“Paying Zakat for the provision of fruit trees to be cultivated on lands threatened with confiscation or annexation to nearby settlements affirms the ownership of these lands and preserves the right of Palestinian citizens to their land and country”.
Grand Mufti of Jerusalem
Summary of Achievements in 2022

APN continued its work within its 4 programmes during 2022, resulting in quality achievements at the local, regional, and international levels.
The Million Tree Campaign (MTC)

The MTC started in 2001 to preserve Palestinian land in the face of an ongoing Israeli campaign to destroy the agricultural sector and seize land. In 2022, the MTC cultivated 82,178 fruit trees on 2,789 dunams belonging to 598 farmers and 3,749 of their family members. The MTC also constructed 6 new water-collecting wells. The total number of trees planted since the launch of the MTC until the end of 2022 is 2,676,666 trees in all governorates of Palestine, in addition to the implementation of many agricultural development projects.
Achievements of the Million Tree Programme from 2001 to 2022

- Greenhouses rehabilitated: 110
- Fishing nets: 170
- Beneficiary family members: 225,076
- Beneficiary farmers: 30,721
- Fruit-bearing trees: 2,676,666
- Vegetable seedlings: 519,520
- Bees: 49
- Birds: 13,420
- Water tanks: 576
- Dunums rehabilitated: 414
- Collection wells constructed: 90
- Sheep: 87
- Area of cultivated land: 134,785 dunums
- Local seeds: 49,966 kg
- Length of installed water systems: 10,500 meters
The Green Caravan Programme

The Green Caravan was founded in 2003 with the goals of expanding Jordan's green cover, combating desertification, highlighting the value of the agricultural sector, and supporting small-scale farmers, who are the foundation of Jordan's food basket. The programme also aims to support food security and establish food sovereignty. In 2022, the programme continued its tree-planting activities throughout Jordan, where 14,535 trees were planted on more than 732 dunums, benefiting 568 farmers and 3,114 of their family members. Thus, bringing the total number of trees planted since its inception in 2003 until the end of 2022 to approximately 166,069 fruit trees.
Achievements of the Green Caravan programme from 2003 to 2022

- Fruit bearing trees: 166,069
- Beneficiary family members: 49,505
- Vegetable seedlings: 6,543
- Water reservoir: 8
- Sheep: 12
- Area of cultivated land: 4,429.5 dunums
- Planting activity: 421
- Length of installed water systems: 274 km
- Volunteer opportunity: 8,317
The Food Sovereignty Programme

The programme seeks to influence environmental, agricultural, food, and development policies at the national, regional, and international levels by collecting and analysing data, organizing dialogues between stakeholders, advocating for priorities, and leading negotiations at global platforms on behalf of civil society organisations. This is in addition to participating in technical work groups and organizing fact-finding missions, and campaigns.
In 2022, APN maintained its active and influential presence by taking the initiative to address and promote numerous issues. At the international level, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), APN organised a consultative workshop that brought together civil society organisations from across the Arab region. The objective was to gather recommendations prior to FAO's 36th Regional Ministerial Conference for the Near East. The workshop resulted in significant recommendations, which were presented by APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, during the Ministerial Conference held in Baghdad.

Furthermore, APN held a series of meetings with FAO officials at the international, regional, and local levels. These meetings involved prominent figures such as FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, Abdul Hakim Al-Waer, and FAO Representative in Jordan, Nabil Al-Assaf. The aim of these meetings was to enhance FAO's presence and role in the region while fostering collaboration with Arab civil society and embracing its priorities.

APN persisted in shedding light on the research it carried out in partnership with UN-Habitat on "Land and Conflict in the Arab Region" through active participation in various meetings and lectures. APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, took part as a speaker in a meeting organised by the Arab Land Initiative – Reference Group and attended by 30 land experts. Moreover, she delivered a lecture at a training workshop organised by UN-Habitat in Jordan for an official Palestinian delegation. The lecture served as a comprehensive overview of the completed study, with a particular emphasis on one of the case studies concerning Palestine.

In regard to the same topic, the year 2022 marked the official release of the first case study on Lebanon, which was also part of the comprehensive study "Land and Conflict in the Arab Region". The case study revealed that the July 2006 war in Lebanon aimed at causing starvation and displacement among the Lebanese population. It is worth mentioning that the extensive study encompassed 12 case studies from various Arab countries. UN-Habitat also extended an invitation to APN to partake in the report writing workshop focused on studies related to land and conflict in Egypt.
APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, was invited to speak at a session at the 9th Global Land Forum. The event, organised by the International Land Coalition (ILC) in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, and with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, provided a platform for Al Jaajaa to present APN's perspective on food sovereignty and the right to land.

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, was invited to participate in a dialogue with member states of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The purpose of the dialogue was to provide a civil society perspective on environmental action and combating climate change in countries suffering from protracted conflicts and crises.

APN participated in a meeting within the Working Group on Conflict and Fragility affiliated with the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), facilitated in partnership with the Organization of Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-determination and Liberation (IPMSDL). At the meeting, APN delivered two lectures, outlining its vision and proposing an action plan for the group.

Moreover, in 2022, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) welcomed APN as an official actor of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2030 – 2021 (UN-Decade). This designation marked APN as the first partner organisation from Jordan to join the UNEP - Regional Office for West Asia.

Regarding APN's work with the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS), APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, was re-elected as the Co-Chair of the Executive Committee during the fifth conference held in Uganda. This appointment followed several meetings of the coalition's secretariat, as well as Asia regional meetings, along with various seminars and dialogues addressing the global and regional food crisis and its underlying causes.
To address the issue of the right to food amidst the global food crisis and climate change, APN organised numerous meetings while also participating as a keynote speaker in various events. These included meetings with the International League for Peoples Struggle (ILPS) and an awareness workshop for the "A Growing Culture" team at Darat Al-Funun in Amman, Jordan, where APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, delivered a lecture. Furthermore, Al Jaajaa presented a digital seminar titled "Reparation and Resilience: Decolonising Climate Financing", organised by the Australian webinar series "Aid Talks". Additionally, APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuyayter, delivered a speech at a symposium organised by the Global Association of Muslim Women and participated in a dialogue session on sustainable development hosted by Umniah Telecom's blog. APN also attended the Arab National Conference and various other events on this topic.

At a regional level, APN displayed remarkable dedication in its involvement with the Sub-Committee on the Eradication of Hunger affiliated with the League of Arab States (LAS) throughout 2022. This commitment was demonstrated through active participation in crucial meetings, including a significant session focused on drafting a paper addressing the food crisis in the Arab region. As a result, APN was able to integrate recommendations on behalf of Arab civil society in the paper which were subsequently adopted by LAS. The Secretary-General, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, presented these recommendations during the 31st Arab Summit in Algiers, where they were endorsed by the attending leaders of Arab countries.

During the expert group meeting on mobilizing youth to combat desertification and drought, convened in Beirut by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), APN Chairperson of Board, Razan Zuyayter, delivered a speech presenting her recommendations on engaging youth in the fight against desertification.

APN maintained its strong media presence, effectively sharing its scientific expertise through various platforms. Rami Barhoush, APN Vice Chairperson of the Board, was featured as a guest on episode 356 of the Green Dreamer Podcast, hosted by Canadian journalist Kamea Chayne. Additionally, Hassan Al Jaajaa, the Co-founder and Agricultural Advisor of APN, was invited as a guest on the news program "Al-Hassad Al-Ikhbari" on the Iraqi Al-Sharqiya Channel, where he discussed the impacts of desertification and climate change.
“If Only You Knew” Campaign

The campaign began its activities in 2012, targeting thousands of university and school students in Jordan, to raise awareness about the significance of agriculture and its advantages, as well as to familiarize students with the environmental challenges faced by Jordan and the wider Arab region. The campaign also sheds light on the solutions pursued by communities and civil society organisations in addressing these challenges. In 2022, APN recommenced its activities for the "If Only You Knew" campaign as life gradually returned to normal following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program's activities resumed with the delivery of awareness lectures at various schools, including Amman Baccalaureate School, Modern Montessori School, Arab Model Schools, Khalil Al-Rahman Academy, Al-Raed Al-Arabi School, Ahliyyah and Mutran School, and Omareyah Schools. Additionally, APN participated in an exhibition that brought together prominent non-governmental organisations, hosted by the American Community School (ACS).
Razan Zuayter
Chairperson of the Board | The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

As 2023 approaches, APN is on the brink of celebrating its twentieth year, while the Million Tree Campaign is entering its twenty-second year. APN embarks on this milestone, carrying the tremendous achievement of planting 2.7 million fruit trees in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon, symbolizing a glimmer of hope for a brighter future.

Our hearts still dance with joy whenever people respond to our appeals, contributions, and initiatives, each according to their capabilities and capacities. We stand united in our affection for the land that unites us, transcending our differences. This shared love strengthens our green resistance, fostering hope, and steadfastly guiding us towards our homeland. In this Arab land, we find the strength to defy injustice and marginalization, both in our actions and words, as we continue to plant trees.

Leaving behind the illusions of normalization, despair, and submission, we stand united, proudly hoisting a banner that proclaims, “As long as we remain united... Victory is certain”.

Thank you to every member of the APN family, thank you for every tree.
Mariam Al Jaajaa

General Manager | The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature

The years quickly pass by, and the APN family continues to grow with the addition of new supporters who embrace our consciousness and mission. Each day, we witness the emergence of everyday heroes, the custodians of the land in Palestine, Jordan, and across the Arab region. United in purpose, we work hand in hand to safeguard the lands we call home and protect our resources.

As we approach this exceptional year, we eagerly anticipate celebrating two decades of accomplishments with a team that has grown stronger and bigger. With unwavering determination and innovative thinking, we have overcome various challenges, paving the way for the creation of new bridges of solidarity. Our sights are set on a global campaign that will resonate across continents, as we aspire to surpass the milestone of planting 3 million trees in Palestine and Jordan by the year's end.

We are an autonomous civil society movement driven by distinct objectives and principles, we do not simply conform our actions to trendy issues and funding conditionalities. Our mission reflects the will and priorities of the people, as we strive to offer scientific alternatives and solutions. Our vision is rooted in the pursuit of genuine sustainable development throughout the region, built upon a robust agricultural sector, civil harmony, and justice.

We invite you to spread the sincere word and trust in our work and approach, for with trees we live and with trees we resist.
Back in 2012, APN and a group of Arab civil society organisations established the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) in Beirut, Lebanon, as an independent civil coordinating body based on the principles of food sovereignty, strengthening resilience strategies, and confronting the underlying causes of social, economic, agricultural, and environmental vulnerabilities facing Arab societies. The network encompasses over 35 NGOs, and unions of farmers, fishermen, shepherds, workers, women, and youth, in addition to consumer associations located in 13 different Arab countries. APN is a member of the network’s executive committee.
Why the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty?

The Arab region stands as one of the most reliant on food imports and bears a significant impact from the global food crisis as it imports up to %50 of its caloric intake and is the largest importer of cereal globally. Several factors contribute to regional agricultural deficiencies. Environmental factors, particularly water scarcity and climate change undoubtedly play a role in reducing productive potential, while population growth rates of >%2 add pressure to increasingly scarce resources. Food, environmental, and agricultural policies play a key role in shaping food security levels in the region. The decline of investment in agricultural productivity and resource efficiency, coupled with the absence of governmental support for infrastructure and extension services has lowered production and weakened resource sustainability. The high import dependency ratio has dire consequences for food stability, considering the likelihood of trade disruption due to persistent regional conflicts and crises. The sector requires targeted national and regional investment in agriculture, research and development, and technology. Governments must empower smallholder farmers and work to reduce losses and waste. New policies are needed to bring about a sustainable agricultural sector that manages and protects essential natural resources, including water, land, and seeds. The region, the birthplace of agriculture, has incredible productive potential to enhance food security. The Arab Network for Food Sovereignty was initiated to actualize that potential.

What is Food Sovereignty?

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples, communities, and nations to define their policies on agriculture, labor, fishing, food, and land, appropriate to their unique environmental, social, cultural, economic, and political circumstances. This includes the right to healthy and nutritious foods and their sources of production. Food sovereignty places the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute, and consume food at the center of food systems and policies, rather than large companies and market demand.
ANFS Strategic Goals:

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

- Promote concepts, practices, and strategies for food and natural resource sovereignty in the Arab world.
- Improve institutional and community capacity to enhance the role and effectiveness of civil society organisations working in the fields of agriculture and food security.
- Encourage and mobilise innovative initiatives in the areas of food security and food sovereignty at the community and institutional levels.
- Strengthen the cooperation and coordination of regional and global networks to serve the ANFS vision.
- Influence governmental and non-governmental policies and regulations on the local, national, and international levels to achieve food and natural resource sovereignty.

Executive Committee:

The General Assembly of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty voted for the following executive committee on 22 September 2021:

Razan Zuayter from Jordan, Munjed Abu Jaish from Palestine, Hanada Sadat from Syria, the late Haidar Dekmak from Lebanon, Abbas Rahi from Iraq, Laith Ben Bishr from Tunisia, Abdullah Al-Balihi from Morocco, Abla Ahmed from Sudan, and Sayed Ahmed Obeid from Mauritania.
The People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty is a growing international network of organisations and popular movements concerned with food sovereignty—comprising farmers, fishers, food producers, and allied NGOs. The coalition’s work focuses on the right to food and the means of its production. It was officially launched in Asia in 2004, and while it has expanded globally, its leadership remains, and must remain, centered in the Global South.

APN is a member of the PCFS Global Steering Council and the Global Executive Committee representing West Asia. During the 2022 General Assembly in Thailand, APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, was elected PCFS Co-Chair along with Chennaiah Poguri, Chairperson of the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) – India.
PCFS Mission:

- Promote food sovereignty as an orientation for global food and agricultural policies.
- Establish the “People’s Convention on Food Sovereignty” as a means to articulate the concept of food sovereignty and unify efforts between organisations and civil society across the world.
- Organise regional and international activities on food sovereignty, including research and capacity building.
- Exchange knowledge and expertise within the realm of food sovereignty.
- Push for the ratification of a binding global convention on food sovereignty at the national and international levels.

Executive Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chennaiah Poguri</td>
<td>Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) – India</td>
<td>Global Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Razan Zuayter</td>
<td>Arab Group for the Protection of Nature</td>
<td>Global Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hakim Baliraine</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum</td>
<td>Africa Steering Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chathurika Sewwandi</td>
<td>Vikalpani Women’s Federation – Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Asia Steering Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Smit</td>
<td>PCFS – Luxembourg</td>
<td>Europe Steering Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alejandro Barrios</td>
<td>Instituto Politécnico Tomás Katari Bolivia –</td>
<td>Latin America Steering Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leïth Ben Becher</td>
<td>ANFS - Tunisia</td>
<td>West Asia and North Africa Steering Council</td>
</tr>
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APN's active participation in the 36th session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East

APN mobilizes speakers across the Arab Region to gather recommendations before the conference.

APN organised a consultative meeting on 30 – 31 January 2022 for civil society organisations in preparation for the 36th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East. The goal of the meeting was to develop civil society positions and to bring together its organisations; views, experiences, knowledge, and technical capabilities to be presented during the next FAO ministerial meeting. Additionally, the meeting encompassed a process to identify priorities, which would contribute to shaping FAOs work agenda in the region.

The meeting brought together 66 organisations from 24 countries, in which 32 experts and specialists representing civil society organisations from the relevant sectors of different countries in the region, presented their perspectives and assessed FAO’s work during the past two years as well as addressed items on the agenda of the ministerial meeting. It is noteworthy that APN Chairman of the Board, Razan Zuayter, Chairperson of Emirates Environmental Group, Habiba Al-Marashi, and Vice-President of the Tunisian Union of Agriculture, Laith Bin Bishr, were invited to be representatives of Arab civil society in ministerial meeting that was held in February 2022. According to Zuayter, the meeting came out with several recommendations submitted to the FAO ministerial meeting related to: food sovereignty and the farming sector, wheat and other strategic crops, traditional fishing, pastoralism, and beekeeping, women and womens cooperatives, agricultural workers, food waste, seeds, land management, regional integration, climate change, natural and health crises, conflicts and occupation, culture, education and research, and the civic space of civil society organisations.
APN delivers a statement to agriculture ministers from 36 countries in Baghdad on behalf of civil society

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayer, delivered a statement on behalf of civil society organisations on the first day of FAO’s ministerial meeting held in Baghdad on 7 February 2022.

“As the world’s largest food importer, we as 99 men and women from 24 countries and 66 organisations and networks, and members of national and regional platforms consisting of farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, consumers, workers, CSOs, and movements that include academics, women, and youth declare a genuine political will embodied by our right to establish our food systems commensurate with our environmental, economic, social and political conditions”, the statement said.

Zuayer added, “We meet today for the first time in several years in our great Arab homeland. The symbolism of our meeting today in Iraq is great and inspiring, where we planted the first wheat fields in history. It was in Iraq that the first transition in humanity took place from collecting fruits and hunting to agriculture and stability, as well as the first documented presence of palms. Just as Iraq embraced the first agricultural revolution in history, we all hope that today will mark the beginning of a new start for us to end hunger and help the 141 million hungry people in our countries.”
Zuayter and Al Waer discuss sustainable development and the eradication of hunger in the Arab region

The Founder of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty and APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, met with FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, Abdul Hakim Al Waer, on 13 October 2022. This meeting took place in Cairo and centered on exploring avenues for enhancing collaboration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on addressing hunger and poverty in the Arab region.
Zuayter calls on FAO’s Director-General for greater attention to the Arab region

APN Chairperson of the Board and President of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), Razan Zuayter, was invited by FAO to attend a closed meeting on 8 November 2022. This meeting, which was hosted by Jordanian Princess Basma Bint Ali, was attended by FAO’s Director-General, QU Dongyu, Jordanian Minister of Agriculture, Khaled Al Henefat, Regional Representative of the Near East and North Africa in the FAO, Abdul Hakim Al-Waer, Chief Scientist of the FAO, Ismahane Elouafi. Zuayter presented the missions and objectives of APN and ANFS, expressing hope and calling for greater attention to be paid to the Arab region, seeing that it is the biggest food importer in the world and most affected by the absence of food security. Zuayter further called for expanding partnerships with grassroots civil society organisations because of their crucial role in influencing relevant policies; especially organisations that work closely with small farmers and seek to actively empower them through national plans and strategies. For his part, Dongyu expressed his aspirations that FAO will cooperate with the Arab Civil Society to find solutions for the food crisis.
APN presents a unique perspective on conflict and land at UN-Habitat’s meeting

APN participated as a speaker in the meeting held by the Arab Land Initiative - Reference Group at ESCWA's headquarters in Beirut on 13 – 14 July 2022. This event, organised by UN-Habitat, brought together participants and collaborators from the Arab Land Initiative to deliberate on the current state of land management in the Arab region. The meeting served as a platform for sharing overarching insights on accomplished efforts and advancing the future vision of the Arab Land Initiative. At the meeting, which was attended by about 30 land experts, APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, gave a presentation during which she explained APN's perspective on land and conflict in the Arab region by presenting the first study of its kind on Arab land, which was developed by APN in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The study showcased genuine local representations of conflicts by drawing on the direct knowledge of experts and relevant local communities. The significance of this study lies in the fact that it reflects the priorities and aspirations of Arab civil society.

Al Jaajaa concluded her comprehensive presentation with a set of recommendations that centered on tackling the root causes of conflicts, along with their contributing and enabling factors. Her foremost recommendation emphasized the strengthening of land management and administration by policy reform. These reforms should acknowledge diverse forms of land tenure, encompassing customary and collective land systems. It should also entail safeguards against capital penetration and land commodification, which can inflate its value beyond its productive worth, dispossessing local farmers and pastoralists. Moreover, these reforms should work towards ensuring equitable land access, safeguarding rural and agricultural livelihoods to attain food sovereignty, and establishing mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, which incorporate bottom-up assessments and early warning systems.
UN-Habitat invites Al Jaajaa to speak about land and conflict to a Palestinian delegation

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, delivered a speech about land and conflict at a training session organised by UN-Habitat in Amman on 22 October 2022 for a formal Palestinian delegation from the Palestinian Land and Water Settlement Commission. The presentation summarized the latest study conducted by APN and UN-Habitat on “Land and Conflict in the Arab Region”. The study included 12 case studies from several Arab countries including Palestine, which was the focus of the presentation. As for recommendations presented to the commission, Al Jaajaa underscored the significance of registering collectively owned lands, emphasizing that this registration should not be limited to individual holdings. The rationale behind this lies in the historical context, as individual land ownership, while beneficial in certain aspects, stems from the colonial era when colonizers aimed to undermine collective ownership by promoting land privatization, a move that rendered land more vulnerable to expropriation.
UN-Habitat published the first case study, among 12 case studies prepared by APN on “Land and Conflict in the Arab Region”. The drafting team, which is made up of APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa, Dr. Rami Zurayk, Elle Ambler and Minerva Sadek, sought to expose the sinister intentions of Israel during the 2006 Israel-Lebanon War which lasted for two months until the UN-brokered ceasefire went into effect on the morning of 14 August 2006. According to the study, the war was a means by which the occupation sought to cause long-term damage to the area by targeting agricultural lands (particularly in Southern Lebanon) with munitions, mines, and cluster bombs with the aim of establishing an empty “buffer area” through the displacement of families, the majority of whom were working in the agriculture sector.

The Lebanon case study found strong evidence that the Israeli occupation used starvation as a military tactic. This was done by undermining food security for Lebanese people as the violent disruption coincided with the peak harvest season in areas where the contribution of the agricultural sector to the gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to 80%. This was in addition to leaving long-lasting damage due to the intensified bombing immediately prior to the ceasefire announcement.

The study also pointed out changes in land use where access had become dangerous and life-threatening even after the ceasefire was announced due to cluster bombs and land mines exploding. Dozens died and were injured by these cluster bombs and mines mainly farmers, shepherds, and children, who are particularly vulnerable because most mines and unexploded bombs do not appear dangerous and are often disguised with ribbons to look like children’s toys or as canned drinks to entice people to pick them up.
Furthermore, the study highlighted intensive demining efforts and the clearing of 68% of the affected land before the end of 2017, despite Israel's refusal to hand over maps of mines to international bodies, associations, and organisations working on this issue.

APN participates in the first workshop on report writing and editing related to land which took place

APN attended the first workshop on writing and editing reports on land which was organised by UN-Habitat/Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and held in Fayoum – Egypt from 19 – 25 March 2022. This workshop took place during the last stages of the study entitled “Land and Conflict in the Arab Region”, a study that APN has diligently worked on during the past two years.
UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

APN becomes an official Actor for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) welcomed APN as an official actor of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030 (UN- Decade). This designation marked APN as the first partner organisation from Jordan to join the UNEP - Regional Office for West Asia. As an Actor, APN will continue its active participation to help “prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide”. APN and the UN Decade will collaborate to bolster communication initiatives and activities at both the national and sub-national levels. Additionally, they will jointly coordinate public events aimed at raising awareness and highlighting the advantages of tree planting. APN also participated in a meeting held on 7 April 2022, alongside the Regional Coordinator and Science Advisor from the West Asia Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Abdelmenam Mohamed, and UNEP Sustainable Lifestyle Expert, Sarah Asmar. The purpose of the meeting was to present APNs initiatives and to submit project proposals focused on ecosystem restoration.
People’s Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)

Zuayter to PCFS members: “Food security is a priority for our social, economic, and political security”

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, was invited to give a speech at the Asia regional meeting of the People’s Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS) on 31 July 2022, as Co-Chair of the coalition, and Founder of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty. During her address, she discussed the consequences of escalating food prices and inflation on food producers, including farmers, agricultural laborers, and landless peasants. It’s worth noting that these groups constitute over two-thirds of the world’s population living in extreme poverty, a trend that has persisted since 1990.

Zuayter emphasized our need to diagnose the fundamental causes of the food crisis by answering two questions; the first is whether this crisis is a coincidence and the second is whether it is new. She emphasized that the causes of the crisis are not coincidental but man-made and certainly not new as their causes and effects were present long before the Russian-Ukrainian war. If the same root causes of high fuel prices, financial speculation, and imperialist wars led to the previous crises in 2008 and 2011, then these root causes will inevitably lead to other escalating crises in the future if we fail to address them now.
She pointed out that epidemics and wars increase the state of fragility and vulnerability in marginalized societies, and that their painful repercussions will continue until we realize our strengths as movements to change this narrative towards sovereign food systems. She also added that the impending crisis is just a reminder that food sovereignty must be a priority for our social, economic, and political security.

In order to prevent the crisis from worsening, Zuayer stated that people should protect and strengthen local food systems by owning and managing resources such as land, water, seeds, energy, etc., in parallel with the urgent need to cultivate basic foodstuffs such as wheat in order to improve food security and give it priority over crops intended for export. Local food reserves should be increased, and regional projects supported. However, this requires vigorous efforts to end wars, conflicts, and occupation. Zuayer urged participating members of PCFS to mobilize unions of farmers, workers, food producers, women, and youth to unite and take leadership to drive the urgently needed economic and social transformations.

PCFS Secretariat prepares to convene a conference in Uganda

PCFS Secretariat, with the presence of Co-Chair, Razan Zuayer, conducted an organisational meeting on 27 August 2022. The meeting aimed to deliberate on preparations for the forthcoming Coalition’s conference scheduled to take place in Uganda in mid-October 2022.

Invitations were extended to all partners, organisations, and associations that are members of the PCFS General Assembly. The objective was to reach a consensus on a shared vision to be incorporated into the conference documents and papers, which will be crafted by the dedicated committee.
Zuayter re-elected as PCFS Global Co-Chair during its 5th General Assembly

PCFS held its 5th General Assembly (GA) themed: “Advance the movement for people’s Food Sovereignty, defeat neoliberalism, and radically transform our food systems!” in Uganda on 18 October 2022. The GA meeting spanned over 2 days and welcomed 41 individuals (24 physical, 17 online) representing 25 delegates and observer organisations from 14 countries.

Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board, was reelected by PCFS as Global Co-Chair.

The new Global Executive Committee is currently composed of the following:

Chennaiah Poguri / Asian Peasant Coalition, India
Hakim Baliraine / Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers’ Forum, Africa
Chathurika Sewwandi / Vikalpani Women’s Federation, Sri Lanka
Alejandro Barrios / Instituto Politécnico Tomás Katari, Bolivia
Leith Ben Becher / Arab Network for Food Sovereignty, Tunisia
Julie Smit / PCFS Europe, Luxembourg
Razan Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board and Co-Chair of the People’s Coalition for Food Sovereignty (PCFS), spoke at a webinar organised by PCFS entitled “On Just Grounds: Land, Food, and Rights Crisis and Conflict”, which was held on 15 December 2022. In her speech, she addressed the double standards of the global human rights system, as the world’s largest imperialist powers, such as the United States and the European Union, continue to exert influence in shaping the global food agenda, while continuing to instigate many wars that starve millions of people, especially in the Global South. She also touched on the Triple Nexus approach “the Humanitarian-Development- Peace Nexus”, which has not been developed and implemented effectively and is therefore devoid of any real value, prioritizing only short-term goals. It lacks specific plans and procedures to achieve coherence between these three pillars and more importantly, the peace pillar is largely missing from policy and action. The current interpretation of the Triple Nexus is ambiguous in its treatment of human rights obligations. Without addressing the underlying causes of conflict, affected people will continue to live in subjugation.
Global Land Forum

Our speech and recommendations to the Global Land Forum 2022

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, was invited to speak at the 9th Global Land Forum, organised by the International Land Coalition, the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Environment, which was held on 23 May 2022.

During the presentation, Al Jaajaa emphasized that the concept of food sovereignty constitutes a fundamental right and should be regarded as a strategic imperative. This viewpoint was substantiated by the various political, health, and economic crises that have unfolded, particularly over the last two decades. Among her recommendations, Al Jaajaa stressed the urgency of countering the marginalization and liberalization of the agricultural sector, safeguarding small farmer access to productive resources, including in situations of conflict and occupation. She also urged international collaboration to stop civil wars, and settler colonialism, mobilize support for adherence to international law, and remove obstacles to access to resources and food.
On the sidelines of the Global Land Forum held in Jordan, APN hosted a dialogue session on food security in the Arab region with a group of experts, including Jordan’s Minister of Culture, H.E. Haifa Al-Najjar, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhry, FAO Representative in Jordan, Nabil Al-Assaf, Programme Manager at UN-Habitat, Ombretta Tempra, Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL), Beverly Longed, and Senior Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan, Christina Miniki, as well as representatives of grassroots agricultural organisations in Jordan and Palestine, and a team of volunteers and administrative staff. The session was held on 23 May 2022. The attendees agreed on the need to discuss the root causes of the food crisis, especially in light of the challenges posed by the Ukrainian war on the future of food in the region and the world.
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

Our clear vision in CPDE meetings

APN participated in a meeting held by the Working Group on Conflict and Fragility affiliated with the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), facilitated by CPDE in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-determination and Liberation (IPMSDL). The meeting aimed to develop a comprehensive work plan for the working group. Commencing with a warm welcome from APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, the session continued with a presentation titled “Food Security in the Context of War, Occupations and Sanctions: Frameworks and Concepts”, delivered by APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa. Within this context, Al Jaajaa conveyed APN’s recommendations by advocating for increased cooperation across international platforms to promote and implement the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA). This framework, developed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2015, plays a crucial role in interpreting and clarifying the Triple Nexus approach (humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus).

Additionally, she emphasized the significance of prioritizing affected communities in the discussion process including identifying challenges, developing interventions, and executing action plans while providing support for their efforts to enhance food production. Furthermore, the recommendations highlighted the necessity for governments to establish specialized food security units responsible for overseeing food security initiatives.
In April 2022, APN conducted a series of meetings with global partners to deliberate on the implications of the Russia-Ukraine War. The discussions were particularly centered around the effects on global food supply and food security, specifically on vulnerable and marginalized communities. These sessions aimed to formulate action plans and outline the collective measures to be taken by various alliances in response to these circumstances. APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, attended several meetings via Zoom, including one with the Peoples Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) on 17 April 2022, the International League for Peoples Struggle (ILPS) on 27 April 2022, and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) on 29 April 2022. Subsequently, on 22 July 2022, ILPS hosted Zuayter, PCFS Co-Chair, as a keynote speaker at a symposium entitled “The Global Food Crisis”. The symposium aimed to delve into and identify the impacts of the crisis on countries of the Global South, particularly highlighting that the food crisis in these regions is not a random occurrence.
APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, was invited to speak in a dialogue on 6 July 2022 with member states of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Her participation aimed to give a civil society perspective on environmental action and combating climate change in countries suffering from protracted conflicts and crises. In her presentation, Al Jaajaa commenced by introducing APN and subsequently addressed various topics. First, she emphasized the importance of safeguarding natural resources and green spaces from damage during conflicts and occupations, which can occur either as a direct consequence of war or as method of collective punishment. Additionally, she underscored the significance of securing tenure and access to resources for affected communities. She asserted that the meaningful integration of environmental and peacebuilding programmes hinges on their adherence to a rights-based approach and their capacity to tackle the underlying causes of conflict rather than merely addressing its outcomes or manifestations. She clarified that combining these two aspects without a clear definition of peace strengthens the status quo and prolongs conflict and its root cause. Conversely, she emphasized the significance of incorporating objectives concerning food security and the rehabilitation of livelihoods through environmental and reforestation initiatives. These programmes involve the cultivation of tree varieties that provide environmental, nutritional, and economic benefits. Al Jaajaa also emphasized the consequences of failing to adopt a comprehensive approach to address food insecurity. She gave the case of Syria as an example, where providing water assistance is permitted, but aid for the rehabilitation of water infrastructure is prohibited. This situation detrimentally affects environmental conservation and exacerbates conflicts.
In response to an invitation from the “A Growing Culture” team, APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, conducted an awareness lecture on 27 June 2022, at Darat al Funun. During the lecture, she discussed the challenges as well as the opportunities for achieving food sovereignty in the Arab World, with a specific focus on Jordan and Palestine. While discussing Jordan, Al Jaajaa pointed out that agriculture made a significant direct contribution to the country’s gross domestic product in the 1950s, accounting for 40%. However, this percentage has seen a substantial decline, dropping to just 4% in 2022. Furthermore, she emphasized that the proportion of agricultural land utilization compared to Jordan’s total agricultural land area, which includes horticulture and animal husbandry, is currently a mere 11% according to the Ministry of Agriculture.
This serves as an indication of inadequacies in natural resource management concerning food security—an issue widely discussed but often without effective measures to address food sovereignty. Furthermore, Al Jaajaa provided an overview of statistics specifically related to wheat cultivation. Despite Jordan’s history as a wheat exporter in the 1930s and 1960s, the nation currently produces only 3-5% of its wheat needs.

According to Al Jaajaa, the marginalization of the agricultural sector and its decline will lead to food insecurity, poverty, and unemployment, rendering the country vulnerable to global or regional crises. This is particularly true since agriculture constitutes a major source of income for 75% of rural and Bedouin communities in Jordan.

In relation to Palestine, Al Jaajaa referred to the implications of the 1993 Oslo Accords on the economy’s liberalization. This resulted in a flood of Israeli products into Palestinian markets. Today, approximately 75% of imports in Palestinian territories originate from Israel. Additionally, she highlighted the Israeli control over the Jordanian and Egyptian borders, which are the main outlets for Palestinians to the Arab region. Moreover, she discussed the restrictions imposed on the development of a Palestinian currency or central bank, and Israel maintaining monetary control over Palestinians through tax collection (confiscation). The Oslo Accords further dimmed economic prospects for Palestine, compelling it into a customs union with its colonial power. This arrangement compels exporters to utilize Israeli pathways as obligatory entry points to the Palestinian market, leading to significant financial gains that Palestinians do not fully benefit from, as outlined in the US Department of Agriculture Report for 2020. Regarding recommendations, she underscored the importance of strengthening participation mechanisms, empowering farmers through institutions, bolstering local food systems, avoiding excessive meat consumption that surpasses the capacity of regional food systems, safeguarding agricultural lands, and enhancing productivity.
Al Jaajaa discusses decolonising climate finance on the Australian webinar series ‘Aid Talks’

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, gave a presentation during a digital seminar organised by the webinar series ‘Aid Talks’ under the heading “Reparation and Resilience: Decolonising Climate Finance”, on 3 November 2022.

How does the current aid structure further perpetuate colonialism and neoliberalism?

• The same capitalist system that encourages profit accumulation by some
• Advocates to down-size agriculture in the Global South as opposed to the main damaging sectors
• Lack of sovereignty and agency in the global south
• Focus on mitigation by South rather than supporting adaptation,
• Disregard the imbalance in responsibility between the global north vs. global south
• Disregard the Global South’s “Right to development!”
• Marginalization of local communities, and exclusion of genuine movements and CSO vs. co-opted NGOs
• Disregard structural causes of communities’ vulnerability to climate change

Climate change intersects with other political and social injustices
Al Jaajaa presented APN’s perspective on how the current aid structure perpetuates neoliberalism and colonialism by ignoring the differences in who is responsible for environmental damage and carbon emissions between the countries of the North and the South. Additionally, donor countries have called for diminishing the agricultural sector in the Global South as one of the key solutions to reducing carbon emissions instead of focusing on resolving the problem in their own countries and in sectors that have a greater impact on climate. Al Jaajaa emphasized the necessity for the Global North to bear the responsibility of climate change mitigation, funding adaptation efforts, and providing compensation to the most vulnerable and heavily impacted nations for losses and damages. Moreover, she stressed that we should not view the issue solely through the lens of carbon emissions and to acknowledge the broader environmental context, encompassing a critical element – the human component – which also requires the protection of rights. She emphasized that the solutions put forth must include sovereignty over local food systems, cultivating climate-resilient productive crops, efficient water resources management, and preserving and storing climate-resilient local seeds. The Australian Aid/Watch Groups webinar series, “Aid Talks”, aims to reduce inequality and poverty by raising public awareness of the most effective methods to leverage development aid from donor nations for the benefit of vulnerable nations.
APN succeeds in putting forth recommendations from Arab civil society in the presence of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter attended the signing ceremony of a statement for the “Initiative for the Eradication of Hunger in the Arab Region”. The statement emphasized the need for rapid tackling of the new food security challenges in the Arab region. His Excellency the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul Gheit and several Arab & international organisations were present at the ceremony which was held on 31 October 2022. Moreover, the statement presented by the Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit during the Arab Summit in Algiers. The importance of this statement is rooted in its responsiveness to the longstanding appeals put forth by APN in collaboration with its partners who share a commitment to achieving food sovereignty and enhancing Arab food security. The link between food security and conflicts, wars, and enduring crises highlights a dimension that international organisations have overlooked in their engagements with our region. Furthermore, Zuayter emphasized that this statement marks the first recognition of the autonomous and influential role played by civil society organisations as partners in shaping strategies and processes derived from the League of Arab States.
Razan Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board and the Founder of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), took part in a task force meeting on 15 August 2022. The meetings objective was to contribute to the paper being prepared by the Sub-committee for the Eradication of Hunger in the Arab Region regarding the global food crisis. Zuayter underscored the significance of the preliminary paper, stressing that the ongoing global food crisis is nothing new. She pointed out that during the last two decades, global food prices have risen, and the underlying factors behind these increases remain consistent with those that led to the food crises in 2008 and 2011. These factors include rising energy costs, financial speculation, conflicts, and more recent developments such as the impact of COVID-19 and climate change.
Exceptional efforts in the Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Hunger in the Arab Region

An important intervention at the 7th meeting

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, provided an important intervention during the 7th meeting of the Sub-committee for the Eradication of Hunger in the Arab Region affiliated with the League of Arab States, on 19 June 2022. In her intervention, Zuayter advocated for convening an expert meeting, not solely for analysis, but with the aim of presenting concrete recommendations and well-defined measures to ministers and policymakers.

She highlighted that recommendations have remained consistent over time. They encompass designating the agricultural sector as a strategic priority, engaging civil society organisations in the formulation of practical implementation strategies, establishing a regional fund to bolster crucial staple crops like wheat, barley, and other grains, setting up early warning systems, and reinforcing food reserves.

Zuayter emphasized the importance of applying good governance for administering land and water resources coupled with the necessity of Arab economic integration through promoting internecine and integrated trade. Finally, she highlighted the importance of putting an end to wars, occupation, and settler colonialism.
Zuayter calls the Sub-committee to conduct field visits during the 8th meeting

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, attended the 8th meeting of the Sub-committee for the Eradication of Hunger in the Arab Region affiliated with the League of Arab States (LAS) on 28 November 2022. During her intervention, Zuayter underscored the significance of acquiring funding for the endorsed projects and establishing partnerships with nations that champion green initiatives. Among these initiatives is the “Arab Tree Path” a proposal put forth by APN that has garnered a preliminary endorsement from LAS. Finally, she suggested undertaking field visits to Arab countries as a practical step to disseminate the meeting’s outcomes to member states.

Advancing the implementation of the “Arab Tree Path”

The potential for the “Arab Tree Path” project to thrive is notably promising, as affirmed by Razan Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board, during the 7th and 8th meetings of the sub-committee, alongside several related sessions and dialogues throughout 2022, in which Zuayter actively took part. Furthermore, the statement by the Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Hunger in the Arab Region, which recognises the role and significance of civil society organisations, was endorsed by the League of Arab States (LAS), and presented by Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the Secretary-General, during the Arab Summit. APN pushed for prioritizing the project on the agendas of the Sub-committee and LAS, especially in meetings with funders, including the upcoming meeting scheduled for 2023, to which Zuayter was invited.
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Our recommendations for engaging youth in efforts to combat desertification

At the invitation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Razan Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board, delivered a speech during the expert group meeting convened in Beirut on 23 June 2022. The meeting centered on exploring strategies to engage youth in the efforts to counter desertification and drought.

Within her address, Zuayter emphasized that within APNs green movement, which has been a source of pride due to its achievements and impact over the past two decades, the approach taken was not to treat young people as a separate group from the broader community movement, but rather as an integral component, equally important as all the diverse components required to achieve the sustainable development goals including combating desertification. The youth sector cannot fully carry out its responsibilities and harness its maximum potential without an established collaboration and exchange with other age groups. This collaboration should encompass all phases, starting from setting priorities, formulating strategies, executing plans, and monitoring and evaluation.
The Million Tree Campaign

They Uproot One. We Plant Ten.
In 1897, the First Zionist Congress was held in Basel, Switzerland, 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, wrote a letter known as the Balfour Declaration to one of Britain’s most influential Jewish citizens, Baron Rothschild. This letter expressed the government’s support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This 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 nationwide ethnic cleansing, land and resource dispossession and the internal and external displacement of over 800,000 Palestinians. All of these events enabled 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.
Since assuming control in 1917, the British Mandate played a significant role in the confiscation of Palestinian land. Through the implementation of various legislations and laws, such as the Land Ownership Rights Settlement Law in 1928, the mandate aimed to privatize the 12 million dunums of communal lands (Salhia, 2009). These measures facilitated the Zionist acquisition of large tracts of land from the newly established land market. Despite the favorable conditions provided for Zionist colonizers, by the late 1940s, they only controlled approximately 7% of Palestinian territories.
Discriminatory Laws Enacted by Israel to Seize Private Palestinian Land:

Following the conclusion of the British Mandate, the Zionist occupation proceeded to endorse new laws and distort numerous previous legislations to facilitate theft of Palestinian lands, established regulations include:

01 The Absentee Property Law, 1950

The law gives Israel the “right” to seize, administer, and control land owned by individuals who have been forcibly displaced or left their land due to war-related concerns, even if their absence was brief and they relocated to a nearby village. This law extends its reach to even those who continue to reside as lawful citizens under the occupying authority (Abu Arafa, 1981). Israel has transferred property to the Israel Development Authority and the Jewish National Fund (Bishara, 2009), and the law prohibits non-Jewish residents from using or purchasing these lands (Falk; Tilley, 2017).

02 The Land Acquisition Law, 1953

The law legalizes the seizure of land based on security and development (Forman; Kedar, 2004; Liston, 2013).

03 Ottoman Land Law, 1858

In the 1980s, Israel began 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 under Israeli application, to the colonial state (Matar, 1997). While the Ottoman law was originally enacted to encourage farmers to use their land, whereby acquired lands are granted to other Palestinian farmers to cultivate, it has been manipulated by Israeli occupation authorities to facilitate mass land grabbing, the expansion of illegal settlements, the building of settler-only roads, and the extension of the Israeli Apartheid wall (El-Jazairi, 2010).
1948  1967  Today

- Palestinian land
- Zionist settlements
To facilitate the expropriation of occupied land, thousands of acres of Palestinian agricultural land have been razed and uprooted by Israeli authorities and citizens. Since 2006, 70% of the attacks on the agricultural sector in the West Bank have targeted olive and fruit trees, for their high cultural, economic, and political significance to the Palestinian people.

01 Approximately 3 million trees have been uprooted or destroyed since the year 2000, the majority of which are olive trees (according to APN’s monitoring).

02 The construction of the Apartheid wall resulted in the uprooting of an estimated 100,000 trees, along with the displacement of hundreds of families and the severance of vital roads (Mair & Long, 2003).

03 Settlers continually attack Palestinian lands, resulting in the burning, vandalism, and poisoning of trees (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2016).

04 An estimated 90% of Palestinian communities own olive groves within or around Israeli settlements and are frequently denied access to them by Israeli occupation authorities under the pretense of “security rationals” leading to land deterioration and confiscation (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2012).
The Significance of the Palestinian Agricultural and Olive Sectors

Palestinians have relied on olives for centuries, and the strategic targeting of their emblematic olive groves is an attack on Palestinian identity, culture, heritage, and livelihoods.

- 94% of agricultural lands in Palestine are cultivated (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Agriculture, 2022).
- One-third of all women in the West Bank are employed in the agricultural sector.
- The olive industry—table olives, oil, and byproducts—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).
- 85% of cultivated area in Palestine is planted with olives cultivated (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Agriculture, 2022), constituting about 14% of the Palestinian economy.

Restricted land access and land destruction are a direct threat to the many Palestinian families who rely on agriculture as a source of food and income (UNRWA, 2013). As a result of these impediments, many farmers no longer have the financial means to replant their uprooted trees. The ongoing and systematic violence by settlers has been a driving factor in the confiscation of Palestinian agricultural land and pastures in the West Bank (Report of the ILO Director-General, 2022), in addition to the series of wars on Gaza and the systematic targeting of agricultural land to isolate farmers from it.
The Current Situation in the West Bank

- Palestinian communities now own less than 15% of the land of historic Palestine, represented by the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, press release 30 March 2022).
- Of the remaining land, 60% 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% is located within the West Bank, annexing 1,200 km² (21%) of land in the West Bank.
- Palestinians are subject 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).

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 areas differed in the amount of self-governance Palestinians would have through the Palestinian Authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Area A</th>
<th>Area B</th>
<th>Area C</th>
<th>Natural Reserves</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governance Structure</td>
<td>Palestinian Authority civil and security control</td>
<td>Palestinian Authority civil control; Israeli security control</td>
<td>Full Israeli civil and security control - no Palestinian access</td>
<td>Israeli Military</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of West Bank Land</td>
<td><strong>17.7%</strong></td>
<td><strong>18.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>60.9%</strong></td>
<td><strong>3%</strong></td>
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The Exploitation of Palestine’s Natural Resources (Water)

The land allocation according to Israel's classification facilitates continuous exploitation of Palestine's natural resources, namely through the restriction of Palestinian access to water (The World Bank, 2008).

- Israel exercises control over the quantity of water available to Palestinians, monopolizing the collection of spring water and rainwater for its exclusive use.
- Palestinian water extraction is limited to 17% of the share of the aquifers’ water, while Israel extracts the remaining 83% for settler use, consumption in Israel, or for sale back to Palestinians at inflated prices (The World Bank, 2008).
- These discriminatory policies result in alarming disparities in water access between Palestinians and Israelis; settlers receive four times more water than Palestinian citizens (Amnesty International, 2009).
The Implications of the Siege on Gaza

In 2007, the Israeli occupation of Gaza’s land, air, and sea, transformed into a blockade locking 2 million people away from the outside world (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2017). The blockade has destroyed public infrastructure, devastated food and agricultural imports, halted people’s movement, and has severely limited the delivery of basic utilities including water and electricity,

| The Israeli military has imposed “buffer zones” inside Gaza rendering 30–40% of the arable land inaccessible. |
| Israel restricts clean water from entering Gaza, while 97% of drinking water isn’t potable due to Israel’s bombing of water infrastructure and sanctions that ban building material for its rehabilitation (Agha, 2019). |
| Despite the Oslo Accords giving them access to 20 nautical miles, the occupation imposed a similar buffer zone on fishermen, restricting them to 3-6 nautical miles, thus undermining the livelihoods of more than 4,000 fishermen (Palestinian Farming and Civil Society Organizations, 2013). |

Due to the persistence of various factors, including those mentioned earlier, food insecurity in the Gaza Strip has risen to 68.5%. (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, 2022).
Israel has violated decisions made by the International Court of Justice and a plethora of international laws including the 4th Geneva Convention. Three UN resolutions breached by Israel include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution 194 (III), 1948</th>
<th>Resolution (ES-14/10), 2004</th>
<th>Resolution 2016 ,2334</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 (United Nations General Assembly, 1948).</td>
<td>Following the submission of resolution ES-1014 by the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel is obliged to return the land and olive groves seized for the construction of the wall to the Palestinian owners with full compensation (El-Jazairi, 2010; International Court of Justice, 2004).</td>
<td>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 flagrant violations of international law and have no legal validity (UN Security Council, 2016).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A UN-ESCWA study on “the Question of Apartheid” stated that the system of racial discrimination enforced by the state of Israel is a threat to regional peace and security (Falk; Tilley, 2017).

On 31 December 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the Court of Justice on Israel's violation of the Palestinians’ right to self-determination, nearly two weeks after the UN Assembly voted overwhelmingly on a resolution endorsing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Years earlier, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs highlight in 2012 that despite Israel's obligations as an occupying power to protect civilians and Palestinian territories under international law, the Israeli occupation authorities and illegal settlers persistently carry out violations without facing consequences.

References can be found on page 227
Since 2000

More than 3 uprooted by the Israeli Occupation

More than 2.6 planted by the The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
Achievements of the Million Tree Campaign
2001 – 2022
Trees planted as part of the Million Tree Campaign from 2001-2022

- Guava: 41,745
- Pomegranate: 40,283
- Grapes: 470,568
- Olives: 1,322,920
- Other Trees: 54,874
- Citrus: 280,633
- Stone fruits: 371,207
- Fig: 69,971

Total: 2,676,666
### Distribution of trees planted as part of the Million Tree Campaign from 2001 to 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number of trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>281,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulkarem</td>
<td>240,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramallah</td>
<td>146,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>281,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jericho</td>
<td>123,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenin</td>
<td>259,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside the Green Line</td>
<td>39,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qalqilyah</td>
<td>175,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubas</td>
<td>61,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nablus</td>
<td>209,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebron</td>
<td>298,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salfit</td>
<td>101,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>459,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,676,666</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Achievements of the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine 2022
Number of Farmers: 598
Family Members: 3,749
Dunums: 2,789
Collection Wells: 6
Number of Trees: 82,178

- Olive: 15,083
- Grape: 10,940
- Pomegranate: 5,326
- Guava: 2,000
- Fig: 8,616
- Stone Fruits: 38,213
- Citrus: 2,000
With the support of its friends and partners, APN plants 82,178 fruit trees in Palestine

APN launched the "Trees of Dignity" project to plant 82,178 trees in various governorates, towns, and villages of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The project supports the steadfastness of hundreds of Palestinian farmers in the face of continuous Israeli attempts to seize land to build settlements.

The project, which began in the final months of 2022, will conclude by mid-2023, covering an area of 2,789 dunums of agricultural land.
APN takes pride in all its partners who contributed to the launch and implementation of this project:
Immediately upon the announcement of the martyrdom of Shireen Abu Akleh, APN launched an appeal to plant fruit trees in her memory. Within a few days, APN raised donations for 4,000 trees to be planted across Palestine.

The location where the esteemed journalist lost her life, known as the "Journalist Tree" near the gates of Jenin Camp, held great significance for APN. This is largely because the tree, which symbolises APN’s mission ever since its establishment, shielded Shireen's colleague, Shatha Hanaysheh, from a similar fate. In honor of the Martyr's spirit, which united all Palestinians and people, APN launched a campaign entitled "Your Tree Protects Them" as part of the broader Million Tree Campaign in Palestine.

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayer, expressed gratitude to the donors: “Your trees will be deeply rooted in the land to tell the story of the Martyr Shireen who will remain a testament to the steadfastness and heroism of our people.”
First tree-planting in memory of Shireen in Beit Hanina

In response to our appeal, our supporters in Palestine actively participated in planting 1,500 trees as a tribute to Shireen Abu Akleh and all the martyrs, forming part of the larger campaign to plant 4,000 trees. This event occurred on 21 May 2022, in Beit Hanina, through a collaborative effort involving the Beit Hanina Municipality and the Rural Renaissance Society. People of varying ages and from every governorate in Palestine gathered at the initial station in Beit Hanina to engage in tree planting, with a notable media presence, including Al Jazeera, capturing the event. The activity was attended by Tony Abu Akleh, Shireen’s brother, and the Parish Priest of the Greek Melkite Catholic Archbishopric, Father Abdullah Yulio, who had travelled from Ramallah.

In terms of selecting Beit Hanina as the campaign's launch site, APN General Manager Mariam Al Jaajaa highlighted that "Beit Hanina in occupied Jerusalem is the Martyr's hometown. We also aimed to fulfill our ongoing commitment at APN to bolster the resilience of Palestinians there." She further pointed out how the Apartheid Wall had partitioned the land and seized over 30% for constructing settlements, while simultaneously channelling wastewater from these settlements onto farmers' lands. Al Jaajaa also referenced the threat posed by the occupation's barbed wire fence, which silently encroaches upon Palestinian land in Jerusalem, disguising its actions as the establishment of a so-called "National Park".
In parallel with the event in Beit Hanina, the Archbishop of Sebastia, Atallah Hanna, joined APN’s team in Palestine for a symbolic planting of an olive tree in Jerusalem as a tribute to the late journalist.
Tree-planting activities across Palestine in memory of Shireen Abu Akleh

In Jericho

Ayla Oasis paid tribute to the martyred journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by contributing 500 trees. APN planted the trees in Jericho on land belonging to 3 farmers. These farmers and their communities are currently grappling with

In Jenin

APN planted trees in Jenin in memory of Shireen Abu Akleh, contributed by APN’s friends and supporters. Jenin holds significance as it the location where Shireen was killed and the landmark called the "Journalist Tree" protected her colleague Shatha Hanaysheh.

In Beit Jala

APN’s team in Palestine carried out the second round of tree-planting for the "Your Tree Protects Them" campaign in memory of the martyr Shireen Abu Akleh and all martyrs. Supporters, volunteers, and whole families gathered on a farmer’s land in Beit Jala to plant stone fruit trees.
We planted 3,820 trees amidst 14 settlements near Jerusalem contributed by the Jerusalem Committee at the Jordan University of Science and Technology

With the noble support of the Jerusalem Committee at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, APN extended a bridge of resistance connecting Gaza with Jerusalem by planting 3,820 trees on lands that were either destroyed by bombings in the Gaza strip or under the threat of confiscation near Jerusalem. These trees will break the Zionist siege on farmers in Jerusalem. It will also prevent the use of starvation as a war tactic in Gaza by providing affected farmers with essential production inputs, ensuring their access to a sustainable source of income.
APN completes planting 2,900 trees in Gaza contributed by Nabil Qaddumi

APN completed a series of events in the central region of the Gaza Strip, which included planting 2,900 olive and guava trees, generously contributed by Mr. Nabil Qaddumi. Some of these fruit trees were allocated to farmers whose lands had suffered from Israeli aggression, while the bulk of the trees were contributed to the Islamic University of Gaza. The generated financial proceeds from these trees will be utilized to support underprivileged students in covering their tuition fees.
APN planted 2,000 fruit trees on the lands of numerous farmers in the governorates of Salfit and Nablus with the generous support of Hikma Pharmaceuticals. Through this partnership with Hikma Pharmaceuticals, APN was able to support 33 farmers in the two governorates. In Salfit, 900 olive trees were planted on 43 dunums, benefiting 18 farmers who support 180 people. As for Nablus, 1,100 trees were planted on 79 dunums belonging to 15 farmers who support 90 people.
2,000 fruit trees planted in 3 Palestinian governorates contributed by Ideal Solutions

Ideal Solutions contributed 2,000 fruit trees to APN’s Million Tree Campaign to be planted across 3 Palestinian governorates. This collaborative effort involved partnering with local farmers on 59 dunums of land and had a positive impact on 24 families and 145 family members. APN's dedicated team conducted tree planting activities in Bethlehem and Hebron, successfully planting 1,530 olive, grape, and stone fruit trees across 40 dunums. Additionally, 470 olive and fig trees were planted on 19 dunums of land in Tulkarm.
Palestinian farmers whose lands border the Gush Etzion settlement south of Jerusalem face systematic attacks by settlers. After learning of recent attacks, APN planted 1,680 trees with the support of the Nabd Al-Quds Committee under its slogan "They Uproot One, We Plant Ten". The initiative will strengthen the farmers' resistance to colonial annexation of their lands.
1,600 fruit trees challenge settler attacks in Turmusaya and Sinjil

APN’s team and volunteers from Turmusaya and Sinjil villages responded to escalating attacks by settlers on nearby towns and villages close to Ramallah by carrying out a tree-planting campaign. They planted 1,600 fruit trees on 64 dunums belonging to 17 farmers from the two villages, supporting a community of 148 individuals. The activity aims to enhance the resilience of the farmers who face threats of land expropriation while also serving as a strong response to these unsettling circumstances.
APN plants 1,165 trees near Jerusalem with support from Al-Hassad Al-Tarbawi School

APN with support from students from Al-Hassad Al-Tarbawi planted 1,165 fruit trees in the village of Beit Zakariyyah on the outskirts of Jerusalem on a land surrounded by Zionist settlements. These trees will play a significant role in asserting and preserving Palestinian rights and preventing the expropriation of land.
The construction of Highway 60, one of Israel's colonial infrastructures, led to the annexation of vast areas of Palestinian land. This highway spans the West Bank, extending from the Naqab region in the south to Nazareth in the north.

In Al-Khalayel area near Jerusalem, APN's mission was to support landowners affected by the highway construction, preventing potential confiscation. With determination and resources from APN and Al-Ridwan School's generous contribution, the debris was cleared, and 1,065 fruit trees were planted in its place.
1,000 trees in Kafr al-Labad contributed by Mohammad Barhoush

APN planted 1,000 olive and fig trees in the village of Kafr al-Labad in Tulkarm governorate, contributed by Mohammad Barhoush, a local from the village.

Barhoush's initiative remained true to the spirit of cooperation among village members, providing crucial support to local inhabitants who depend on agriculture as their main livelihood. This initiative served to confront the two settlements surrounding the village that seek to oppress residents and coerce them into leaving. The initiative successfully planted trees on 46 dunums for 26 Palestinian farmers from Kafr al-Labad, supporting 299 individuals.
APN plants 1,000 olive trees in Gaza contributed by a generous donor

APN planted 1,000 olive trees on 25 dunums owned by small-scale farmers in the central region of the Gaza Strip. The initiative aims to assist farmers whose lands were entirely devastated in the 2014 war, providing them with much-needed support.

The trees were planted on lands belonging to 12 farmers who support 83 dependents in several locations, including Al-Qarara, Juhor ad-Dik, Wadi as-Salqa, Maghazi, and Deir al-Balah. Those trees will contribute to restoring destroyed agricultural lands and empower farmers after an 8-year hiatus due to the disruption of their agricultural activities.
APN plants 1,000 olives trees in Gaza with support from Abu Shakra

Continuing their annual tradition, APN partnered with Abu Shakra Trading Company to plant 1,000 olive trees in Gaza, ensuring a sustainable source of income and supporting the endeavors of the Rawahel Charitable Society.

This initiative holds great significance as it provides crucial support to farmers in Gaza who have suffered from Israeli aggression and addresses the devastating impact it had on the agricultural sector. It focuses on lands that were destroyed and whose owners faced challenges in restoring them. APN had previously issued an appeal to support the agricultural sector in Gaza.
We erase the traces of Israeli aggression on Gaza, and cultivate with support from Suwwan, al-Hudhud, Latuf, and Ishtiyyah

The destructive 11-day war on Gaza's agricultural lands in May 2021 caused immense material losses reaching millions of dollars. The bombing devastated trees and crops, and resulted in the tragic fatality of numerous animals, birds, and bees. APN's progress under its mission to support farmers affected by Israeli aggression brought a beacon of hope to farmers like Marwan. It revitalized their spirits, igniting a renewed sense of hope and revival.

With the generous contribution from Ḥamzah Suwwan, Najib al-Hudhud, Wafaa' Latuf, and Wael Ishtiyyah, Marwan's 10 dunums were cultivated with cabbage. Cabbage, a seasonal crop favored by the residents of Gaza, plays a significant role in enhancing the income of families who have recently lost their primary source of livelihood due to the war.
Abu Issa Holding sponsors 1,000 fruit trees on land belonging to Burj Al-LuqLuq Social Centre Society

APN demonstrated its support for development projects in Jerusalem and the resilience of its inhabitants by planting 1,000 grape trees on land belonging to the Burj Al-LuqLuq Social Centre Society.

With a generous contribution made by Abu Issa Holding, APN planted these trees in Jericho, south of the Palestinian Valley. This initiative is part of an annual contribution by the company to APN. Both parties take great pride in this partnership and look forward to its continuation.
APN plants 1,000 diverse fruit trees in Jenin with support from Ayla Oasis

In a joint effort between APN and Ayla Oasis, 1,000 fruit trees including almonds, figs, pomegranates, and grapes were planted on 50 dunums in Jenin, benefitting 23 farmers who provide for a total of 66 individuals. This accomplishment resonates with the objective of fostering community development while also capitalizing on the economic gains stemming from the newly cultivated trees.
PSUT responded to the call launched by APN for the 4th “Plant Your Resilience” campaign in collaboration with Radio Husna FM. The university’s administration and students demonstrated their generosity by making a substantial contribution to sponsor 830 fruit trees. APN planted these trees in Khallet Umm Al-Fahem, an area engulfed by settlements and the Israeli Highway 60.
Zumot contributes 700 trees to support Palestinians remain steadfast on their lands near Jerusalem

For the second year in a row, with the generous contribution from Vivian Zumot-Dimond, APN has successfully planted 700 fruit trees on Palestinian lands near Jerusalem. These lands are under threat of being confiscated by the occupation and are subject to daily harassment from neighboring settlements. As articulated by farmer Mohammed, these trees will serve as an essential pillar of support for him and his family, empowering them to endure and stand steadfast on their land. This land signifies their foundation, purpose, and source of livelihood.
APN facilitated the return of fisherman Ulwan to sea with support from Hussien Barhoush

Fisherman Ulwan of Khan Younis didn't neglect his duty to provide for his family's sustenance for over four decades, relying on the riches of the Gaza Sea. Yet, the 2021 war waged by Israel compelled him to stay away from the sea. Zionist missiles destroyed his sole fishing vessel, which was his exclusive means of catching fish.

In accordance with the motto "We are present where we need to be present," APN fulfilled its responsibility by supporting Ulwan and his family of 12. With the support of Mr. Hussein Barhoush, the damaged fishing boat underwent rehabilitation to enable its return to the sea and restore the family's means of livelihood. Moreover, Ulwan was supplied with new fishing equipment and gear to compensate for the destruction of the boat. Through this action, the Million Tree Campaign demonstrated its unwavering support for both the farmers of the land and the sea, confronting every obstacle imposed by the occupation in order to uplift the
Demonstrating unwavering determination, optimism, and progress, APN persists in its Million Trees Campaign, which stretches along the Green Line. Notably, 6 collection wells have been constructed near Wadi Fukin, adjacent to Jerusalem. These wells, collectively possessing a capacity of 450 cubic meters, are poised to supply irrigation to 50 dunums of land, collectively owned by 6 resilient Palestinian families.
1,000 trees from A.M. Qattan Foundation (AMQF) in Jerusalem

In a bid to strengthen the initiatives of the Burj Al-Luqluq Social Center Society in Jerusalem and elevate the quality of community services for its inhabitants, the A.M. Qattan Foundation (AMQF) contributed 1,000 grape trees. APN undertook the planting of these trees in Jericho, on the land owned by Burj Al-Luqluq in the Jordan Valley.
In collaboration with Al-Quds Committee of the University of Jordan, APN extended its assistance to Fadi, a long-standing landowner near the Gush Etzion settlement near the occupied city of Jerusalem.

In line with APN’s mission of cementing the presence of Palestinian farmers on their lands that are threatened with confiscation, 685 fruit trees were planted on Fadi’s land. Determined to safeguard his land from settler encroachment, he expressed his unwavering commitment, stating, "We refuse to let the settlers seize our land, and we will persevere in our ongoing struggle. We dedicate our efforts to cultivating the land and preventing its confiscation by the occupation".
APN supports 3 brothers by planting 675 trees in Gaza

Thanks to the support of several contributors, APN provided 675 olive trees to households living in the Al-Masdar area of Central Gaza. Muna and her siblings were filled with profound happiness as APN aimed to rejuvenate their 15-dunum plot, which had been ruthlessly bulldozed by the occupation during the 2014 war in Gaza. The family was unable to regain access to their land for 8 years, until now.
APN selected the Tebah Reform and Rehabilitation Center in the Gaza Strip as the venue for a remarkable agricultural event. Held under the theme "With Hope and Love, We Rehabilitate Our Society and Cultivate Our Future," the event aimed to provide the center with economic returns to aid its reform and rehabilitation programs.

A diverse group of supporters, consisting of civil society members, inmates, center administrators, and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Farmers' Society of Central Gaza came together to plant 200 trees.
Proceeds from “Music for Palestine” concert support the cultivation of 645 trees in Gaza

After the resounding success of the "Music for Palestine" concert on 19 June 2021, the concert's profits were contributed to APN's Million Tree Campaign to restore and recover agricultural lands devastated by the Israeli occupation. APN's committed team in Gaza planted 645 olive trees in Wadi al-Salqa area within the central part of the Gaza Strip.

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, expressed her gratitude to all who participated in the campaign to preserve and revitalize the agricultural sector in Gaza. She commended the exceptional creative contributions of the organising team and participants, who ingeniously utilized music to advance the Palestinian cause. Al Jaajaa also extended her heartfelt appreciation to the resilient inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. She also emphasized that APN would continue its unwavering efforts to support farmers and those affected by the recurrent aggressions targeting agricultural and livestock resources in the region.
600 guava trees challenge the Apartheid Wall in Qalqilya contributed by the inheritors of the late Humam Darwazeh

Near Qalqilya, in close proximity to the Green Line, the Apartheid Wall could not impede APN’s progress in planting 600 guava trees on 45 dunums, previously devastated by the occupation due to its location. These trees were planted in memory of the late Humam Darwazeh. The proceeds generated from these trees provide support to 27 farmers, benefiting 140 individuals.
Muna Al-Aref supports APN in rehabilitating an agricultural pond and planting 200 trees in Gaza through Al Tumayr Initiative

APN initiated a project in Gaza in collaboration with the Al Tumayr Initiative, which is led by Muna Al-Aref and is committed to fulfilling its obligations to Palestine. This project centered on the restoration of an agricultural pond that had suffered significant damage during the 2014 war in Gaza. This rehabilitated pond is set to play a crucial role as a water source for a nearby family's farm, mitigating the scarcity of water resources that Gaza contends with due to the Israeli blockade.

In addition, Al Tumayr Initiative contributed 200 olive trees, which APN planted on a farmer’s land to support his livelihood and enhance his food security.
“Women for Jerusalem” contribute 522 trees near Jerusalem

A few meters away from settlers’ houses lie the lands of farmers who refuse to surrender to the Zionist sprawl in the area. With the support of the “Women for Jerusalem” society in Jordan, APN planted 522 fruit trees which will act as a shield in the face of occupation.
The family of the late Mohammed Eid Arar immortalizes their father's name with 500 trees in Bayt Surik

Located in the northwest of Jerusalem, the village of Bayt Surik faced its first wave of demolition by the occupation during the Nakba. Then, in 1967, more than two-thirds of the village experienced a second devastating demolition, leading to the displacement of over half of its residents. To contribute positively, APN undertook the initiative to plant 500 trees on 20 dunums of land within the village. These trees were generously sponsored by the family of the late Muhammad Eid Arar. The 20 dunums of land are collectively owned by four farmers who provide support to more than 20 individuals.
500 trees in Qalqilyah contributed by Dar Al-Handasah

A remarkable event organised by APN brought together farmers from Qalqilya and their families and dedicated volunteers to plant 500 fruit trees contributed by Dar Al-Handasah. Through its endorsement of APN’s Million Tree Campaign, Dar Al-Handasah emphasizes the crucial role that construction engineering plays alongside agricultural engineering in bolstering the resilience of Palestinian communities. This support aims to address threats of expropriation, provide Palestinian farmers with essential production resources, and enhance their economic well-being.
Hand in hand, APN and the farmers of Sinjil confront Israeli violence

Located in the northern region of the West Bank, Sinjil and its neighboring villages are confronted with ongoing and systematic assaults from settlers. These assaults have been consistently escalating in both frequency and intensity over the recent months.

The farmers of Sinjil and their lands recently endured targeted attacks by 20 settlers under the protection of the occupation forces. These farmers were ambushed and shot at while making their way to their agricultural lands, resulting in the injury of 6 unarmed Palestinians. In addition, 6 vehicles were destroyed, and a number of fruit trees were damaged.

APN coordinated a visit to affected lands, providing support to the affected farmers by distributing 400 olive seedlings. The team also visited those injured at the Istishari Hospital in Ramallah.

APN diligently monitors repeated attacks carried out by the Israeli army and settlers. The organisation actively strives to support the farmers and reinforce their resilience in the face of these recurring assaults and the persistent threats of land expropriation.
APN cultivates 500 trees on 12 dunums in Gaza with support from Samir Abdel Hadi

In a noteworthy agricultural endeavor, APN carried out a major activity in the heart of Gaza in Al-Masdar area. The initiative involved planting 500 olive trees, generously sponsored by Senator Samir Abdel Hadi. Al-Masdar area was severely affected by the Israeli aggression in 2014. The occupation forces bulldozed agricultural lands, reducing them to rubble. This devastating act compounded hardships faced by local inhabitants whose livelihoods depended solely on farming. Senator Abdel Hadi's initiative significantly impacted the lives of Al-Masdar farmers, Ma`zouzah and Ibrahim, who support 39 individuals. The cultivation covers 12 dunums and is expected to yield fruits in the upcoming seasons.
Muhammad Arar supports planting 500 fruit trees near a settlement in Jerusalem

APN's team accompanied farmer Maher who hails from the southern outskirts of Jerusalem, as they ventured to his land near the settlements. His land faces constant threats from projects aimed at Judaizing the area. The farmer, who has inherited the land over several generations, holds a profound bond with it, valuing it even more dearly than his own life. He makes a heartfelt plea to all, urging for assistance due to the land's significant location and the necessity to oppose the occupiers' schemes. In direct response, APN launched a campaign within the vicinity, planting 500 fruit trees. This endeavor was made possible through the generous support of Mr. Muhammad Arar.

It's important to note that this particular piece of land, along with others in the nearby area, faces the imminent threat of expropriation due to Israel's exploitation of an old land law, which is used to justify the confiscation of uncultivated Palestinian lands. Tree planting is the only effective measure to resist confiscation and preserve these lands.
Despite repeated attacks by both settlers and the occupation, targeting farms and gardens near Jerusalem, Palestinian landowners remain determined to replant trees on their properties despite efforts to demolish and seize them. APN and its supporters persist in offering their support to bolster the resilience of these landowners on the ground.

In a new activity under the Million Tree Campaign, in collaboration with farmers from villages near Jerusalem, APN planted 405 trees that were contributed by Omareyah school. The trees were planted only meters away from the Apartheid Wall and a Zionist military camp.
The family of Haj Said Haddad eternalize his name by sponsoring 400 orange and olive trees.

In a remarkable tribute to their late father, Haj Said Sayyed Haddad, his family sponsored 400 orange and olive trees which were planted by APN in the village of Anabta near Tulkarm.

This generous act serves as an exemplary model of transforming grief into hope by supporting the resilient farmers of the village. These farmers persistently face threats from the occupation to confiscate their lands.
Philadelphia Solar contributes 400 trees to protect Palestinian land from confiscation near Jerusalem

APN has extended its support to farmers locked in a crucial battle against colonialism near Jerusalem. These farmers' lands are positioned close to the Apartheid Wall, with access hindered by rugged pathways. The presence of settlers further compounds the challenges, as they consistently subject the landowners to harassment in an effort to drive them out of their lands.

The steadfastness of the people in that area inspired APN’s team to support them in safeguarding their lands by planting 400 fruit trees that were graciously contributed by Philadelphia Solar Energy Company.
Only trees break the settlements’ siege with support from Radi Alnatsheh

Amidst the encroachment of settlements surrounding villages near Jerusalem, farmer Ali stands firm in his resistance. With unwavering conviction, he raises the victory sign and his voice, urging the farmers of Jerusalem to cultivate and plant trees on their lands, ensuring they are not left vulnerable to settlers. His call reached APN which responded by planting 400 trees on his land and several other farmers, providing support to 14 individuals. The tree-planting activity was only possible with the support of Mr. Radi Shaker Alnatsheh.
Anonymous contribution to plant trees near Jerusalem

In the pursuit of reinforcing the resilience of those requiring support, names hold little importance, so long as we collectively acknowledge Jerusalem as our ultimate destination.

In alignment with this sentiment, APN received an anonymous contribution of 400 trees to defy the occupation’s orders to confiscate 320 dunums of Palestinian lands in Sakhneh, north of Jerusalem, near the Elazar settlement. With these trees, the landowners can resist confiscation and remain steadfast on their land.
APN plants 400 trees with support from Abu Shkheidem, helping farmer Jaafar remain on his land

APN’s team in Palestine helped farmer Jaafar and his 10-year-old daughter Jude plant 400 fruit trees on their land, contributed by Mr. Abdel Muhsen Younis Abu Shkheidem.

The plot of land, inherited by Jaafar, is located in Al-Khader village in southern Jerusalem and is threatened with expropriation. He considers the land the primary focus of his life and the foundation of his existence. Planting trees represents a gate of hope for him, given that it will protect the land from expropriation.

Jaafar conveyed that he and his family actively fought to safeguard this land, exerting effort to drive away the settlers and their livestock by building a fence around it. A generous contribution made by Abu Shkheidem and the hard work of APN will help the family remain resilient on their land and live from the income of its produce.
370 trees contributed by Haitham Attia challenge the threat of confiscation near Jerusalem

The farmers residing in villages near Jerusalem recognize the significance of revitalizing and cultivating their lands. They acknowledge the pivotal role of trees in enhancing resilience, fortifying their food security, and providing a defense against land confiscation. Consequently, every tree planted by APN is seen as a protective shield, especially within regions consistently affected by the occupation's presence.

In the area near Jerusalem, where lands are under constant threat, APN has undertaken its recent endeavor to plant 370 trees. This undertaking has been made achievable through the gracious contribution from Mr. Haitham Attia, providing him a role in fostering the resilience of the land's rightful proprietors.
In a generous act, Mrs. Um Baker contributed 300 olive trees to the Gaza Strip. Carried out by APN, this noteworthy project is set to support the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Gaza. The abundant yields in the upcoming seasons will bolster the hospital's income, enhance its services, address equipment and staffing shortages, and improve its capacity to treat more patients. The consistent economic benefits stemming from the agricultural sector have demonstrated their efficacy in both the short and long term, constituting the cornerstone of APN and fueling the momentum of the Million Tree Campaign throughout Palestine.
APN plants 300 trees using Majd and Walid's wedding presents

Demonstrating an exceptional act of generosity, newlyweds Majd Muhsin and Walid Daher, made the remarkable decision to contribute their wedding gifts to support the Million Tree Campaign in Palestine. APN wholeheartedly embraced their inspiring gesture and, in response, planted 300 olive trees in their honor within the Gaza region. This celebration brought tremendous happiness to two siblings, Mu'min and Munther, residing in the Al-Masdar area, responsible for a family of 16 members. The planted trees serve to rejuvenate their 8-dunum land, and they are eagerly anticipating the upcoming harvest that will bring economic benefits. This harvest will play a pivotal role in enhancing the income of their family in Gaza, a region that still grapples with the restrictive blockade imposed by Israel.
Palestinians in Jerusalem and nearby areas are engaged in a race to affirm their rightful ownership of the land. These lands face constant threats of confiscation as Israeli authorities exploit an old land law, particularly in areas situated amidst Israeli settlements. APN chose to focus on one such land, where the owners participated in planting 270 olive trees. This initiative was made possible through the sponsorship of Women for Jerusalem Society - Bahrain, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to supporting Palestinian resistance and their inherent right to the land. This sponsorship marks the second consecutive year of their dedicated support.
273 trees planted under the watch of the Neve Daniel settlement surveillance cameras near Jerusalem

APN demonstrated solidarity with farmer Mousa as he navigated arduous paths to access his land, positioned close to the boundaries of the Neve Daniel settlement near Jerusalem. To support his steadfastness, APN planted 237 stone fruit trees under the watch of the Neve Daniel settlement surveillance cameras. The trees were generously contributed by Alhijaz School.
APN plants 205 trees to honor the memory of Abdul Rahim family

Whether in life or in death, our spirit of resistance persists. Across generations, we stand unwavering against the challenges of occupation. This resolute conviction has inspired the planting of 205 trees in villages near Jerusalem. This initiative, carried out by APN, was made possible through the gracious contribution of the Abdul Rahim family. As a tribute to their departed loved ones and as a testament to their unyielding support, these trees serve as an emblem of unity with the steadfast farmers of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas. Grief is transformed into resistance, and through the growth of trees, the spirit of charity is fostered.
APN plants 200 fruit trees in Sa`ir with support from Iyad Ghaleb Younis

Iyad Ghaleb Younis generously contributed 200 fruit trees to support the Million Tree Campaign, which is committed to planting fruit trees throughout Palestine. APN meticulously identified a piece of land belonging to Hazem, a teacher from Sa`ir town in Hebron governorate, for this purpose. Referred to as "Teacher Hazem" by the local community, he is fully committed to both teaching and farming, providing for a family of 15 members, which includes two university students. Collectively, they put in a tremendous effort on their 6-dunum land located in one of Palestine's oldest towns, plagued by ongoing tension as settlers consistently seek to uproot Palestinians from their rightful lands.
The family of the late Nada and Khaled Zureikat honor their memory by planting 200 trees in Jerusalem

APN planted 200 trees in memory of the late Nada and Khaled Zureikat in southern Jerusalem. The organisation deliberately selected a location where the occupation obstructs roads that connect Palestinian lands and are surrounded by settlements. Local inhabitants of the area face daily harassment intended to displace them.
APN plants 200 trees adjacent to a settlement’s wall near Jerusalem

With the support of Yousef Barghouti, APN's team in Palestine ventured to Beit Zakariyyah to shed light on the remarkable story of farmer Atallah and his unwavering resilience on his land in a village near Jerusalem. Despite the neighbouring settlement's wall encroaching on his land, Atallah has defied ongoing harassment and attempts to displace him.

Challenging the court's expropriation rulings, Atallah persisted by filing multiple appeals. Finally, on his fifth attempt, he successfully reclaimed his rightful ownership of the land. In recognition of his determination, APN planted 200 trees on his land, which were contributed by Barghouti.
In the village of Beit Zakariyyah, amidst the daily threats posed by settlers and the occupation, APN selected the land of farmer Nidal for an important tree-planting activity. The activity was carried out with support from Hashem Huneidi, who generously contributed 200 fruit trees. These trees will serve as a shield against land confiscation and provide economic support to the farmer's family. This area was specifically chosen, as it is located near occupied Jerusalem in close proximity to the Israeli Civil Administration and is besieged by settlements.
Farmer Khalil confronts a multitude of challenges as his land, situated in a village near Jerusalem, is encircled by settlements on three sides. Despite these daunting challenges, he remains committed to safeguarding and cultivating his land. In a remarkable display of support, the family of the late Tarek Jadallah stepped forward to generously sponsor the planting of 200 trees, carried out by APN. This initiative aims to counteract the efforts of settlers seeking to confiscate the land. Khalil expressed his profound gratitude and drew a poignant comparison between his family and the trees firmly anchored in the soil, symbolizing their profound connection to their land.
200 trees sponsored by Haifa Qabbani and Fawzi Abu Riyal support a farmer’s determination to stay on his land near Jerusalem

Farmer Muhammad and his family rely on a deteriorating house that has stood for over 70 years as their sole testament to continued habitation of their land. Amidst this, they find themselves encircled by the occupation and settlers on all sides, placing their land at constant risk of confiscation.

Determined to safeguard his land, the farmer warmly received APN's team, who planted 200 trees to fortify his presence on the property. These trees were generously provided by Ms. Haifa Qabbani and Mr. Fawzi Abu Riyal. Muhammad recognized the significance of this endeavor, emphasizing that the presence of trees signifies one's existence, while their absence implies the opposite.
Abdel Rahman Nobani cements the presence of a Palestinian family on their land near Jerusalem

On the outskirts of Jerusalem, Palestinian farmers face the constant threat of land expropriation by expanding settlements. However, they steadfastly defend their land, refusing to yield. They view tree planting as a means to protect Palestinian land, which the occupation aims to confiscate by exploiting an old land law.

In a generous gesture, Mr. Abdel Rahman Nobani contributed 200 trees on behalf of himself and his loved ones. APN successfully planted these trees in villages near Jerusalem, serving as a symbol of a Palestinian family's enduring existence in the region.
APN plants 200 trees on a land surrounded by 5 settlements contributed by Samir Qarman

Despite facing arduous colonial challenges in the Palestinian village of Shushahla, situated near Jerusalem, the local community remains unwavering in their determination to safeguard their land. Positioned within an archaeological site, this ancestral land is consistently under threat of confiscation by settlers from five neighboring settlements.

Overcoming the challenges of accessing the area and navigating rugged bypass roads, APN reached one of these lands. With the generous support of Samir Qarman, they planted 200 trees, symbolizing an unwavering commitment to preserving Palestinian heritage and resilience in the face of adversity.
APN plants 200 trees near Jerusalem contributed by Anan Saadeddin Company

In the villages near Jerusalem, lies a location highly targeted by the occupation for expropriation and expansion. In this critical area, APN planted 200 fruit trees with the generous support of Anan Saadeddin Company.

APN’s team is working tirelessly to intensify agricultural activities, empowering local farmers to enhance their production inputs. Through these efforts, their resilience on the land is fortified, safeguarding it from annexation and further expansion.
APN and Globitel reconnect a Palestinian farmer with her land by planting 200 trees

APN planted 200 olive trees on the land of farmer Hanan in Al-Masdar in the Gaza Strip. They planted the trees on 5 dunums with generous support from Globitel - Global Modern Telecom Solutions. Organised in collaboration with APN, the event stands as an embodiment of the company's social responsibility to bolster the food security of Palestinian farmers and ensure their steadfast presence on their land. It also sought to empower Palestinian women and recognize their vital role in enhancing resilience. This initiative holds special significance for the farmer who supports a family of 7 and relies on farming as her primary source of income.

Al-Masdar is an agricultural area that has witnessed extensive bulldozing by the occupation in the 2014 war. Families have not been able to reclaim their lands for years. This drove APN to launch its call for their support to replant the orchards and farms.
200 trees cultivated in Sa’ir with support from Wael Al-Safouri

With the help of Palestinian children and their cheerfulness, APN planted 200 trees in the town of Sa’ir, northeast of Hebron, with the support of Wael Al-Safuri. The trees were cultivated on the Farroukh family’s 4-dunum land, providing vital support for a family of 12 members. The planted trees included a variety of grapes, stone fruits, and olives.
183 trees, contributed by Alrawabi and Qurtuba Schools, refuse to submit to the occupation’s restraints

In an exceptional event, APN accomplished a remarkable feat by planting 183 grape trees on farmer Khalil's land, despite the occupation's restrictions on Palestinian presence in the area. The land is located 40 meters away from the so-called "security buffer zone" along Highway 60. The initiative, sponsored by Alrawabi and Qurtuba School, symbolizes the resilience of farmer Khalil and his unwavering determination to preserve his land against all odds.
Shuqom strengthens the steadfastness of a Palestinian family near Jerusalem by contributing 115 trees

Farmer Ibrahim remains steadfast on his land in an area targeted by the occupation for land confiscation as part of efforts to colonize Jerusalem and its vicinity.

APN was able to reach the farmer’s land to plant 115 fruit trees, generously contributed by Omar Shuqom.
Family and friends of the late Ghadir Walid Al-Sous contributed 100 trees in her memory which were planted by APN in Wadi Fukin in Bethlehem governorate.

Grief did not impede the acknowledgment of the love that Ghadeer spread during her lifetime; instead, it has transformed into fruit trees that will give blessings to the village's farmers. In their efforts to counteract the threat of land expropriation, the village residents are planting trees, thereby strengthening their resilience in the face of colonialism.
As part of the Million Tree Campaign, APN's dedicated team planted a vast expanse of land spanning 265 dunums across the governorates of Jenin, Nablus, and Bethlehem. A total of 6,644 olive, stone fruit, fig, pomegranate, and grape trees were planted. This initiative, aimed at fostering genuine development, is expected to yield substantial benefits for 71 farmers, who collectively provide for 347 individuals, offering them a sustainable source of income.
A successful “Plant Your Resilience” campaign for the fourth year in a row

In collaboration with Husna Radio, the "Plant Your Resilience" campaign has entered its 4th season to support the Million Tree Campaign. The campaign aims to compensate Palestinian farmers for the trees unjustly uprooted by the occupation. Additionally, it seeks to contribute to planting trees on fallow lands, serving to anchor farmers on their lands and counter the manipulation of an old land law. The occupation exploits this law as a pretext for confiscating lands not cultivated for 3 consecutive years. The campaign received remarkable engagement from citizens, local institutions, grassroots organisations, and national frameworks. Furthermore, private sector schools actively participated through direct communication with Husna FM. Generous donations were collected, enabling the planting of 32,000 trees and construction of 6 collection wells.
Several farmers supported by APN participated in agricultural festivals held throughout 2022. These farmers showcased the fruits of their labour as their trees yielded abundant produce, which contributed to their steadfastness on their lands and played a vital role in achieving food sovereignty for their families. The cultivated fruit trees included a diverse range of varieties, such as olive, grape, peach, fig, and guava.
The Current Status in Jordan

Thousands of years ago, the Fertile Crescent was known as the cradle of civilization, lauded for its incredible fertility and advanced agricultural development, from extended irrigation networks to the domestication of livestock. In the 1930s, WANA was a net exporter of wheat, 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 region’s renowned agricultural conditions. Consequently, WANA is considered one of the most food-insecure regions globally (Center for International and Regional Studies, 2012). Jordan, in particular, has fallen 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 (Jabarín, 2005; El Saadi, 2017). As such, ASAP led to a major decline in governmental support 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; Jabarín, 2005). The agricultural reform also led to the adoption of an export-led and trade-based food security strategy, along with a heavy reliance on foreign labour for domestic productivity (Woertz, 2014).

The budget cuts and misallocation of resources have not ceased. Between 2011 and 2012, the salaries of Ministry of Agriculture employees saw a significant rise of 46%, whereas investments experienced a notable decrease of 27%. As a result of neglect, Jordan has weak post-harvest storage and processing infrastructure 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 direct contribution to the national GDP stands at a mere 5.6% (Jordan National Food Security, 2021), a considerable decline from roughly 40% in the 1950s (EuropeAid, 2012).

In 2022, the Jordanian government allocated 72,327,000 Jordanian dinars to the Ministry of Agriculture, accounting for 0.67% of the total annual expenditures (Jordanian Ministry of Finance, 2022). However, the governments spending on agricultural projects amounted to 16,738,000 Jordanian dinars, which represents only 23% of the Ministry of Agricultures allocations (Jordan General Budget Department, 2022).
Trade Imbalances

In the 1960s, Jordan’s wheat self-sufficiency was at 70%, whereas today, the country imports 80% of its food needs than 98% of its cereal needs (Santos & Ceccecci, 2015). The over-reliance on such food imports among many others 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 2011 global food crises and faces high fiscal and political pressures as a result of its soaring food import bill (Harrigan, 2015). According to Jordans National Food Security Strategy 2030-2021, the country relies heavily on food imports, which amount to approximately $4 billion. This represents around 32% of Jordans budget revenues for 2022. Notably, these imports account for 95% of the nations wheat and barley requirements, as well as 100% of its rice and sugar needs.

Foreign Labour

The agricultural sector presents significant potential for employment, offering opportunities to accommodate a large workforce. This, in turn, can help alleviate poverty and unemployment rates. In 2021, the unemployment rate stood at approximately 37% for individuals aged 15-24 and 46.9% for those aged 25-39 (Department of Statistics, 2021). However, due to low returns from the sector, many workers in the agricultural sector gradually migrated into other sectors, namely services, and industry (UNDP, 2013). The agricultural sector witnessed a continuous decline in the share of formally registered employment from one third in the 1960s to less than one-tenth by the 1980s, and approximately 2% in 2010 (UNDP, 2013; Baylouny, 2008). It is worth mentioning that the official number of formally registered Jordanian workers in the agricultural sector was approximately 26,271 individuals in 2021 (Department of Statistics, 2021).
Environmental Challenges

Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, with an average rainfall of only 150 mm/year on 90% of the Kingdoms area (Ministry of Agriculture, 2020). The limited area fit for cultivation is slowly declining due to urban sprawl and other biophysical constraints, including excessive groundwater extraction, the depletion of soil quality, soil salinization, and frequent droughts. The country also suffers from inefficient water use and management.

Furthermore, the progression of climate change in the region and nationally is expected to significantly affect local production. The domestic agricultural sector will rely on the country’s ability to adapt to rising temperatures, a reduction in rainfall, and more frequent and intense climatic events, all of which place greater pressure on natural resources. Hence, it is crucial to provide support for initiatives that promote the expansion of green spaces and the development of agricultural projects tailored to Jordan’s unique conditions and requirements.
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. While climatic challenges add pressure to Jordan’s natural resources, 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 began transferring water from the Sea of Galilee to the Negev mainly for irrigation projects (Bleier, 1994), diverting the flow of water from the Jordan River into the Sea of Galilee. This resource appropriation left Jordan and Syria with brackish, saline water, and has substantially affected local agricultural activity. Moreover, the annual fires systematically set by the Zionist occupation annually pose a significant challenge to the agricultural sector in the Jordanian Jordan Valley. Jordan has long depended on Syrian and Iraqi markets as major export destinations and gateways to European markets. The closures of these borders and markets have had dire consequences on agricultural exports.

Since the onset of the war, Jordans trade with Syria has experienced a significant decline, with national exports plummeting by 75%. In 2021, exports accounted for only 0.93% of Jordans total exports, a sharp contrast to the 3.77% recorded in 2011 (Jordan Department of Statistics, 2011, 2021). As for Jordanian exports to Iraq, they constituted 20.03% of the total exports before the occupation in 2002, reaching 6.82% in 2021, recording a decrease of about 66% (Jordanian Department of Statistics, 2002, 2021).
The Green Caravan

In light of these pressures on the agricultural sector, APN launched the Green Caravan in 2003 to protect the land and increase national green cover. The Green Caravan targets vulnerable smallholder farmers across Jordan, who have fallen victim to harsh economic conditions and agricultural policies marked by neglect and marginalization of the agricultural sector. The programme aims to supply Jordanian farmers with fruit trees that bring an additional source of sustainable income. Additionally, the programme aims to enhance food sovereignty, strengthen food security at the national level, and support endeavors to mitigate the impacts of climate change in Jordan.

As such, the programme seeks to reinvigorate the farming culture in Jordan and revive the connection of local communities with their land, encouraging them not to sell them for the benefit of large enterprises that use them for non-agricultural purposes.
2022 Achievements of The Green Caravan
14,535 Trees
568 Farmers
3,114 Family members
732 dunums Area of cultivated land
83 Agricultural activity
20 Beehives
6 Collection wells
142,000 meters Length of installed water systems
The Green Caravan 2022
Empowering farmers and enhancing food security in partnership with the International Islamic Charity Organization in Kuwait

APN’s Green Caravan headed to the southern Jordan Valley to carry out the “Economic Empowerment and Supporting Food Security” project funded and supervised by the International Islamic Charitable Organization in Kuwait.
The selection of this region was based on the intensifying socioeconomic challenges it faces, exacerbated by the fact that many farmers are burdened with losses and debts. The project empowered 181 farmers through the provision of essential production tools, with a specific focus on supporting the irrigation process – a critical concern in the area. Six agricultural ponds were constructed that collectively hold around 10,000 m³ of irrigation water. Additionally, new irrigation networks were installed for 120 farmers, irrigating a total of 250 dunums. Moreover, 20 new beehives were distributed to 5 beekeepers, and 10 farmers were provided with half a ton of high-quality jute mallow seeds. Finally, 1,600 citrus and guava trees were cultivated in cooperation with the local community. It is noteworthy to mention that many of the farmers used the revenue generated from our previous projects to support their children's university education.
Housing Bank inaugurates first activity as a diamond sponsor of APN

In support of the Green Caravan programme, and small-scale farmers, particularly in the Jordan Valley – Jordan’s food basket, the Housing Bank launched the first of its activities for the 2022-2023 season under its diamond sponsorship of APN. The bank sponsored 2,000 fruit trees to be planted on the lands of 5 farmers. The first milestone of this campaign took place in Abu Sido region of the northern Jordan Valley. APN’s team and volunteers from the Bank planted 500 citrus trees on the land of farmer Abu Jaafar which will provide income for his family of seven.
APN plants 1,000 trees sponsored by Airport International Group (AIG)

As part of their fruitful partnership, the Airport International Group (AIG) and APN planted 1,000 fruit trees, including olive, stone fruit, and grape trees, in Al-Jizah area, south of Amman. This activity was key to AIG's commitment to fulfilling its social responsibility. APN implemented the tree-planting activities with support from AIG volunteers in two phases, the first on 30 March 2022, and the second on 13 October 2022. The trees were cultivated on lands belonging to 19 farmers who support more than 115 people.
Zain supports the Green Caravan in 2022 by planting 1,320 trees in 3 Jordanian governorates

350 trees contribute to greening Zarqa
In two events, 350 Melia azedarach trees were planted: 150 trees in cooperation with Zarqa Municipality on 6 July 2022, and 200 trees along Al-Sharq city’s main road on 22 September 2022.

A lemon-scented partnership
APN’s Green Caravan made its first stop in the central Jordan Valley to plant 700 lemon trees on 28 July 2022. The planting activity took place on 3 lands owned by low-income farmers.
APN plants 270 fruit trees in Sawalha

Back in the Jordan Valley once again, Zain provided the Green Caravan programme with 270 fruit trees. On 30 March 2022, Zain volunteers and APN’s team planted guava and citrus trees, specifically lemon trees whose prices have skyrocketed in the local market due to a lack of supply from local farms. This comes as part of APN’s mission to strengthen, encourage, and support farmers to cultivate their lands and expand agricultural spaces to meet national food needs.
Together with Bank of Jordan, we support sustainable development in central Jordan Valley

A special event organised by APN in the central Jordan Valley on 1 October 2022 featured volunteers from the Bank of Jordan. The event marked the first phase of a two-part initiative to plant 1,000 fruit trees as part of the banks gold sponsorship of the Green Caravan programme.

For a span of 9 years, the Bank of Jordan and APN have maintained a collaborative partnership, marked by their joint effort to plant 5,000 trees. This milestone celebration reflects the Bank's dedication to fulfilling its social responsibility by endorsing initiatives that improve Jordan’s green cover and bolster small-scale farmers across Jordan. Beyond their economic significance and role in ensuring food security, the act of planting trees effectively tackles environmental issues, reduces environmental degradation, and contributes to the enrichment of biodiversity and green areas.
Under the slogan “Together Act Now”, International Volunteer Day was celebrated by planting 1,000 trees with UN-V

APN and the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UN-V) celebrated International Volunteer Day (IVD) under the patronage of the Jordanian Minister of Culture, H.E. Haifa Al-Najjar, who was represented by the director of the National Library, Dr. Nedal Alayasrah. Around 1,000 citrus trees were planted in the Al-Balawneh area in the central Jordan Valley. International Volunteer Day is celebrated each year on the 5th of December. This year’s focus was on solidarity through volunteer work under the slogan “Together Act Now” to shed light on the value and ability of volunteers to make a positive change. Around 50 volunteers, employees, members from UN-V, APN, several international and local organisations, and a number of university students participated in the activity. The event was met with positive reactions from civil society volunteers and farmers who participated in planting 26 dunums belonging to 3 small-scale farmers. The produce will go towards supporting their families, including a person with a disability. This initiative will improve their income and promote sustainable development for their families and the environment.
Ivy Company joined the golden sponsors of APN by contributing 1,000 fruit trees to support the Green Caravan programme. The new partnership commenced with planting 200 citrus trees in Sawalha area in the central Jordan Valley to bolster food security and provide families with production inputs. Ivy Company will support additional agricultural activities in other regions in the near future. Approximately 20 volunteers from the company actively engaged in the event, which aligns with the company’s vision to implement sustainable initiatives for the local community in Jordan.
Royal Jordanian celebrates its 59th anniversary by planting 500 trees in support of the Green Caravan programme

Royal Jordanian Airlines and APN collaborated for the first time as the national airline celebrated its 59th anniversary by planting 500 fruit trees as part of the Green Caravan, an initiative launched by APN in 2003. The tree-planting activity took place in the Al-Amiriyah area in Al-Jizah district south of Amman. The Vice Chairman/CEO of the Board of Directors of Royal Jordanian Samer Majali was present at the activity along with APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, and a large number of volunteers from the company’s employees.
APN plants 600 trees in As-Subayhi and Madaba with support from Jordan Ahli Bank

As part of its commitment to combat climate change and promote sustainable development, Jordan Ahli Bank has renewed its silver sponsorship for an additional year and has commenced the initial phase of planting 500 fruit trees in the Bayouda/As-Subayhi area. A dedicated team of the banks employees participated in the banks volunteering program in a second activity organized by APN in Al Faiha’a – Madaba. Along with APN’s team, they planted 100 olive trees, benefiting 24 family members.
Jordan Commercial Bank plants 200 citrus trees in the central Jordan Valley

Employees from the Jordan Commercial Bank took part in a tree-planting activity alongside APN's team on the land of a small-scale farmer in the central Jordan Valley. This is part of the bank's vision to contribute to environmental and community development activities. The bank’s contribution included sponsoring and planting 200 citrus trees, which absorb 4.4 tons of carbon dioxide and release 23 tons of oxygen annually. Beyond their ecological impact, these trees strengthen farmers’ food security and provide a sustainable income source.
Jordan Kuwait Bank and APN plant 200 fruit trees in central Jordan Valley

In a generous contribution to the Green Caravan, employees of Jordan Kuwait Bank spearheaded planting 200 citrus and guava trees on the land of an economically disadvantaged farmer in the central Jordan Valley. These trees contribute to combating desertification and improving the overall living conditions within the community.
APN replants Jordan’s natural heritage in Sports City with support from Umniah

To preserve Jordans natural heritage and expand green spaces, APN planted 100 Melia azedarach trees in the forest of Al-Hussein Sports City, a location renowned for its sports and recreational activities. The activity was attended by His Excellency the Director of Al-Hussein Sports City, Mr. Bassam Al-Khalayleh, and the Sports City’s technical team. This significant effort was made possible through sponsorship from Umniah Telecom Company. The objective of this activity is to replant trees that were destroyed during last years snowstorm.
APN and PwC launch their partnership by planting 100 trees in Bayouda

APN and PwC have established a new partnership, highlighted by a notable volunteer activity in the As-Subayhi region of As-Salt on 20 October 2022. This initiative is part of the Green Caravan programme, which aims to support small-scale farmers by providing them with agricultural inputs. Around 50 volunteers from the company's employees gathered to plant 100 trees on a plot of land belonging to 7 people. The event was filled with positive energy, teamwork, and productivity. It was followed by a nourishing breakfast made by the local community.
Al-Nisr Al-Arabi Insurance Company plant trees with APN in central Jordan Valley

The Green Caravan travelled to the central Jordan Valley with employees of Al-Nisr Al-Arabi Insurance to plant 80 lemon trees on the land of a low-income farmer. The trees are expected to produce lemons every few months and support the farmer financially.
On 22 October 2022, APN and a group of 100 students from the New English School collaborated to plant 60 Melia azedarach trees at Sports City. This endeavor aimed to enhance the synergy between academic, educational, and volunteer activities. Remarkably, the trees were contributed by the students themselves.
APN plants olive trees in Abu Nseir in collaboration with Madrasati Initiative

In collaboration with Madrasati Initiative, APN planted 26 olive trees within Princess Basma Secondary School for Girls, located in the Abu Nseir district. This initiative extended its reach to the northernmost sector of Amman, fostering meaningful interactions with the students and faculty in a truly enriching manner.
In a bid to revitalize regions affected by snowstorms, APN undertook tree planting in Ghamdan Park, collaborating with students from Amman Academy School. Positioned to the south of the capital, Ghamdan Park holds significance as one of the limited green spaces in Amman. In partnership with the Greater Amman Municipality, APN’s team, along with the enthusiastic participation of students and teachers, successfully planted 200 trees to enhance Jordans green cover.
APN plants trees in a public park with Cairo Amman Bank

Through the “Leaf a Mark” initiative, Cairo Amman Bank and APN strengthened their partnership by planting 75 trees, including stone fruit, fig, eucalyptus, and Melia azedarach in Al-Sharq City in Zarqa in collaboration with the bank’s employees. This is the first activity organised by APN in cooperation with the bank’s initiative.
Trees sponsored by Bahraini-based Palestine Support Society signify return to Palestine

In a powerful display of solidarity bridging Al-Manama, Jerusalem, and Amman, APN collaborated with a team of women from the Palestine Support Society based in Bahrain to plant 36 fruit trees on the Jordanian side of the central Jordan Valley. This significant effort was made possible through a partnership involving APN, Jeddi Canaan Foundation, and Palestine Support Society-Bahrain.
955 citrus trees in southern Jordan Valley contributed by APN’s supporters

APN, with contributions from its supporters and the assistance of volunteers and local communities, planted a total of 955 citrus trees in the southern Jordan Valley. These tree-planting efforts were focused on the lands of small-scale farmers, especially in marginalized and underserved regions.
APN and DHL support food security in the Jordan Valley by planting 200 trees

In a collaborative effort, APN and DHL employees joined forces to plant 200 plum trees, breathing new life into the land of farmer Abu Ahmad. Welcoming both teams with immense delight, Abu Ahmad shared in the spirit of the endeavor. The initiative was initiated by DHL’s management, driven by their commitment to support local initiatives like APN’s Green Caravan and foster meaningful ties within the local community such as Madaba’s Women Association which organised this activity.
How 300 trees changed Mukhlis Al-Sqour’s life

After a five-year period, APN's team and volunteers from Zain Telecom revisited the orchard of farmer Mukhlis Al-Sqour in the northern Jordan Valley, providing their support during the citrus tree harvest. These visits to previously planted areas are a crucial component of APN's Green Caravan. On 24 February 2017, the Green Caravan made its first stop at Al-Sqours land, where 300 citrus trees were planted. This date holds special significance for Al-Sqour, symbolizing a new beginning for him. Al-Sqour welcomed his guests with a heartfelt speech, reflecting on the transformation he has since experienced. “I was unemployed once,”; Al-Sqour continued, “but since then, I have a sustainable source of income from the produce of this land, which has also created 10 new job opportunities for the local community”.
Awareness and Mobilisation 2022
Introducing “Green Resistance” at a session hosted by the Global Association of Muslim Women

The Global Association of Muslim Women invited APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, to give a speech via Zoom on 28 April 2022. In her address, Zuayter shed light on the APN’s mission and commitment to strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. She presented an overview of the organisation’s programmes including the Million Tree Campaign (MTC). Zuayter discussed the impacts of false “peace” on food security, referencing Palestine as an example. She illustrated that in 1967, Palestinians had a food security rate of 90%. However, it significantly dropped to just 20% in 1993, coinciding with the signing of the Oslo Accords. Currently, the figure stands at 30%.

“Green Dreamer” hosts Barhoush to talk about occupation, identity, and Palestinian olive trees

Canadian journalist Kamea Chayne hosted Rami Barhoush, APN Vice Chairperson of the Board, on episode 356 of the Green Dreamer Podcast. During the episode, Barhoush spoke about APN’s vision and role in strengthening the capacity of Arab people, especially those living under occupation and armed conflict. He explained the organisation’s mission to support communities in protecting, preserving, and establishing sovereignty over their natural resources and food systems. He also highlighted APN’s contributions to bolstering advocacy efforts of regional civil society organisations to respond to global environmental issues.
APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, participated in the 31st session of the Arab National Conference held in Beirut on 23 June 2022. The conference covered a wide range of subjects, including discussions on “normalization with the Zionist occupation” and presentations related to the Arab Renaissance project. Furthermore, updates were provided on the initiatives and activities carried out since the previous conference.

During her intervention, Zuayter expressed her pride with her recent membership in the conference, which steadfastly endures despite challenges. She particularly highlighted the conferences self-financing nature, making it deserving of support.

Zuayter then engaged the audience by posing a question regarding the translation of significant analyses and recommendations into practical action plans. Zuayter recommended that the conference play an essential role in promoting agricultural and economic integration among Arab countries. This integration bolsters regional sovereignty and actively contributes to reconciliation efforts and ending civil wars and conflicts – essential elements for achieving genuine and sustainable development.
On the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 23 June 2022, APN organised a field tour for journalists and media experts to the central Jordan Valley. The event featured the participation of Dr. Muna Hindiyeh, a water and environmental expert, who provided valuable insights during the tour. The attendees also included both local and international media personnel, as well as representatives from various news channels. Before the tour, APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of conducting such tours. She highlighted their role in spotlighting the issue of desertification in Jordan and its interconnection with fundamental challenges to the agricultural sector, particularly in the Jordan Valley, the country’s food basket. Al Jaajaa further pointed out that the tour aimed to shed light on the cumulative challenges faced by the Jordanian agricultural sector, which has contributed to the reluctance of farmers to cultivate their lands.

Al Jaajaa indicated that APN remains committed to advocating for food sovereignty in regional and global platforms to address farmers’ challenges and contribute to solutions.
Participants spoke with a group of farmers in Deir Alla who described their daily challenges including the difficulty to access markets side by side with subsidized, competitively priced imported goods. They also grappled with challenges such as water scarcity, the division of land ownership among multiple inheritors, and the impacts of regional crises that impede exportation due to high transportation costs. Notably, and despite the challenges, small-scale farmers reiterated their unwavering commitment to continue practicing their inherited agricultural profession, with no plan of abandoning it.

The tour included visiting lands belonging to small-scale farmers who received support from APN in the form of production inputs or irrigation networks.
Unraveling the ambiguity of sustainability on Umniah’s blog

Umniah’s 8Log Blog hosted a discussion session titled “Environmental and Social Sustainability: A National Priority, and an Individual and Collective Responsibility”. The event featured contributions from Razan Zuytter, APN Chairperson of the Board, as well as a panel of experts and specialists in the field. In her intervention, Zuytter clarified the ambiguous aspects of sustainability at both regional and global scales. She emphasized the distinct priorities between the Global North and Arab nations, highlighting that the prevalence of wars and proxy intraregional conflicts significantly hinder the establishment of the foundations of sustainability. Furthermore, she underscored that effective implementation of sustainability demands accountability and monitoring – components that are largely missing. Finally, Zuytter emphasized the need to integrate political development with the principles of sustainability, which includes environmental, social, and economic dimensions.
The Arab and International Organization to Construct in Palestine invited APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, to attend the 10th meeting of its Board of Trustees in Istanbul, on 21 May 2022, with the presence of more than 200 participants from Arab countries, European countries, Malaysia, Turkey, and Canada. During her address, Zuayter highlighted APN’s achievements concerning land reconstruction and rehabilitation. She also discussed the organisation’s programmes aimed at enabling farmers to cultivate their lands. The overarching goal is to establish food sovereignty which is targeted by the Israeli occupation through tactics such as uprooting trees, as well as carrying out airstrikes and bulldozing operations on agricultural areas.

Zuayter stressed that the ‘reconstruction’ of land and agriculture is no less important than that of infrastructure and that they must be integrated, an approach adopted by APN. Participants expressed willingness to cooperate to support APN’s Million Tree Campaign in Palestine.
The Lebanese Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Abbas Al Hajj Hassan, met APN Chairperson of the Board and the Founder of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), Razan Zuayter, and APN Co-founder and Agricultural Advisor Hassan Al Jaajaa. Zuayter provided an overview of APNs achievements in both Palestine and Jordan, as well as their recently launched project in Lebanon. She also discussed the advocacy and awareness programme that enables APNs active engagement in international and regional platforms, advocating for food sovereignty, a concept that transcends food security.

Al Hajj Hassan expressed his readiness to forge genuine partnerships with Arab civil society organisations, and to mobilize action by organising an Arab conference for agricultural development in the coming fall under the patronage of the League of Arab States and in collaboration with APN.
An agricultural tour in Beirut

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, and APN Agricultural Advisor, Hassan Al Jaajaa, attended several meetings and agricultural tours in different regions in Lebanon on 27 June 2022. Zuayter and Al Jaajaa were briefed on the agricultural experience, plans, and projects of LOYAC-Lebanon, the Agricultural Movement in Tripoli, and Zadat al-Khair in the Bekaa, which established a successful project in food manufacturing using aromatic plants. Zuayter expressed APN’s readiness to strengthen collaboration with Arab civil society organisations to exchange experiences and implement joint agricultural projects with a unified vision towards Arab integration and advancing the agricultural sector in the region.

Our partnership with LOYAC bears fruit in Lebanon

One year after the partnership between APN and LOYAC-Kuwait was established, the two organisations embarked on their inaugural tree-planting activity through LOYACs Beirut branch. On 30 June 2022, they planted the first batch of fruit trees for small-scale farmers in the village of Halloussiyeh near the city of Tyre. APN provided technical support to LOYAC, ensuring the projects success. This collaboration forms a part of APN’s contributions to the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS).
Another year of solidarity with the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS)

ILPS Conference in Thailand

APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, and APN Agricultural Adviser, Hassan Al Jaajaa, participated in the coordination committee meetings of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) in Thailand over two days, starting on 26 September 2022. The meetings involved fruitful discussions and preparations for launching the International Peoples Front (IPF) conference. APN joined several agricultural tours, including participating with a small delegation hosted by the Southern Peasants Federation of Thailand (SPFT).
Addressing the attendees of ILPS – US National Assembly

APN General Manager, Mariam Al Jaajaa, delivered a recorded speech at the ILPS – US National Assembly, where she pointed out the influence of neo-liberal policies imposed by states and international financial institutions on Arab countries. These impositions have forced the region to partake in a global market system based on double standards and unequal power balance between the Global North and the Global South. Al Jaajaa further emphasized the importance of developing a resilient food system and economy parallel to the fight against political hegemony and imperial wars, seeing that it will be difficult to attain political sovereignty without first attaining sovereignty over food and natural resources.
APN Agricultural Advisor, Hassan Al-Jaajaa, delivered a statement at a symposium held by the French Institute of Jordan (IFPO) in Amman, titled “Agriculture and the Environment: The Importance of Protecting the Soil”. He focused on the importance of soil for ecological balance, and he warned of the danger of pollution where humanity could be reaching a point of no return unless it preserves ecological and environmental balance. In his statement, he addressed the impact of desertification on the soil, coupled with the risks of pollution from plastics, industrial products, and waste from manufacturing nuclear weapons and plants, which together lead to soil poisoning and the destruction of its fertility. He concluded his statement by emphasizing the need for profound change in the sense of responsibility and how humanity is managing life on the planet. He pointed out that most damage is caused by major industrial countries and multinational corporations, which exert dominance and power over other countries.
APN turns down invitation to organise Sadhguru’s lecture

After a thorough examination of his work and consulting with partner organisations in India, APN turned down an invitation to organise and attend a lecture for Indian activist Sadhguru, which was held in Amman on 4 May 2022.

Accordingly, APN advised the organisers not to host Sadhguru until he cancels his visit to occupied Palestine and defines his moral stance regarding Zionist attacks on the Palestinian people and environment. The later request was posed due to his earlier unclear answer concerning his position of the uprooting of over 3 million fruit trees in Palestine by the Zionist occupation, where he said, “We need to seek what unifies us, for we all are children of mother earths soil”. The situation worsened significantly when he failed to keep his promise of not visiting the occupied territories and subsequently conducted a lecture in “Israel” and published a video promoting its responsible agricultural practices.

Addressing the attendees at the PKMT Conference

Razan Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board, presented a prerecorded address to the participants of the Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) general conference on 25 November 2022. During her speech, she underscored the significance of global solidarity in support of common causes of resistance, highlighting the Palestinian cause. Zuayter expressed her solidarity with Pakistan following the latest flood disasters, which caused immense human and material losses. Zuayter condemned the double standards of the imperialist countries in their response to the disaster, stating that Pakistan received 100 million dollars in financial aid, while Ukraine received over 94 billion dollars.
Al Jaajaa: “The future of the environment is bleak if we do not collectively take action”

On World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 17 June 2022, APN Co-founder and Agricultural Advisor, Hassan Al Jaajaa, was a guest on the news program “Al-Hassad Al-Ikhbari” of the Iraqi Al-Sharqiya Channel to talk about the effects of desertification and climate change.

Al Jaajaa explained that the problem of desertification is not country-specific but is rather a global problem. Al Jaajaa highlighted that approximately 10 million hectares of agricultural land are lost annually. Concurrently, the rate of desertification and soil degradation has escalated to around 30 to 35 times higher than historical levels. This signals a cautionary alert, emphasizing the ecological challenges that the planet is confronting. The figures are frightening, given that the tropical and rain forests, which are regarded as the earth’s lungs, are declining due to logging and replacement with pastures to produce meats that surpass human needs merely to enhance profits of international organisations. This is in addition to the climate effects caused by the main industrial powers usage of fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and others.
“We want to cultivate what we eat”, that is how APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, summarized APN’s vision and mission, which was established in 2003. This came as part of an interview with Zuayter and APN Co-Founder and Agricultural Advisor, Hassan Al Jaajaa, in August 2022. Zuayter explained the role of the Million Tree Campaign (MTC) in protecting Palestinian land from confiscation and compensating Palestinian farmers whose lands are being attacked under the campaign’s slogan “They uproot one, we plant ten”. The war APN is waging alongside Palestinians with the occupation is an agricultural war, and APN’s team of employees, volunteers, and supporters are in constant clash with the occupation. Hassan Al Jaajaa highlighted APNs programme “If Only You Know”, an awareness campaign targeting schools and universities to raise awareness of the importance of the agriculture sector and environment in new generations.

Zuayter recalled APN’s efforts to support farmers in the Jordan Valley affected by the fires instigated by Israel by planting fruit trees on their lands and providing them with irrigation networks to replace the damaged ones. In parallel, APN raised awareness about the incident through media coverage, newspapers, and various social media platforms. Finally, Zuayter highlighted APN’s role in influencing local, regional, and international policies related to food production. This mainly concerned efforts to prioritise and advance discussions on food security amid conflict and occupation.
Participation in the “Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association” forum

Razan Zuayter, APN Chairperson of the Board, was invited to participate in the HIMAM Forum held on 9 May 2022, under the theme “Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association”. Among the attendees was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, Clément Nyaletsossi Voulé, along with the Senior Human Rights Advisor to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan, Christina Meinecke. Discussions mainly dealt with challenges and opportunities for peaceful assembly, freedom of association between law and practice, Jordans position regarding international standards that govern the right to peaceful assembly and associations, and international best practices.

Zuayter pointed out the importance of having a free and independent civil society that does not consent to donors’ conditions. She underscored the paradox of solely criticizing government agencies for their influence on organisations, especially considering that conditional funding fosters subservience.
With great sadness, APN lost one of its most important supporters and advocates in 2022, Dr. Haidar Dekmak, a passionate activist for Palestine. Dr. Dekmak was one of the founders of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS) and the Global Campaign for the Return to Palestine. He played a prominent role in the development sector in Lebanon and the Arab world, where his noble efforts and support were witnessed. Despite losing Dr. Dekmak as an administrative, executive, and volunteer, we pledge to remain committed to our green resistance movement until liberation.
Hosted by the Jordanian Democratic People’s Party (HASHD) to speak on the food crisis and its impacts on Jordan

The editorial board of Al-Ahali newspaper, published by the Jordanian Democratic Peoples Party “HASHD”, and the Workers Unity Bloc in the party, hosted APN Chairperson of the Board, Razan Zuayter, to speak at a seminar about the food crisis and its impact on living conditions in Jordan. Zuayter highlighted the factors contributing to the Arab region being the largest food importer in the world, where it imports 92 million tonnes of wheat compared to 66 tonnes in East Asia. Accordingly, the region is considered the least food secure globally as it imports 50-60% of its caloric needs. This heavy reliance on external wheat imports to fulfill energy and protein needs renders the region highly vulnerable to crises, exacerbated by consumption levels falling below the global average. At the local Jordanian level, Zuayter analyzed the demand for 730,000 tonnes of wheat annually. In contrast, the yearly wheat production is a mere 20,000 tonnes, sufficient to meet local consumption needs for only two weeks. This indicates that a substantial 97% of the yearly demand must be imported. She pointed out that Jordan used to be a wheat exporter during the 1960s; however, by 1975, the wheat cultivation area had decreased by half, dropping from 2 million to 1 million dunums. During the 1980s and 1990s, the government initiated an economic reform programme in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, leading to a further reduction in the wheat cultivation area to half a million dunums. In 1995, an agricultural policy document was released, asserting that wheat cultivation in Jordan was unnecessary. As a result, the current wheat cultivation area in Jordan now stands at 250,000 dunums.
APN signed an open letter to the German Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir, regarding the legal ban on exporting German-manufactured and EU-banned pesticides to countries around the world, particularly those in the Global South. The letter comes in support of Ozdemir's statements, made on September 11, acknowledging that it is unacceptable for Germany to continue to produce and export pesticides that have been banned in its own territory to protect its peoples health, and that people throughout the world have the same right to health.

The letter points to Germany's role in exporting 8,525 tonnes of unauthorised active pesticide substances exported in 2021 alone. Pesticides are known to cause acute poisoning among farmers and chronic illnesses like cancer and have the potential to disrupt peoples' endocrine systems, specifically putting unborn babies at risk. Some of these pesticides are also water contaminants. They harmfully impact and even eradicate populations of beneficial insects, which endangers biodiversity, pollination, natural pest control, and consequently, people's food security and health.
“If Only You Knew”
Campaign
2022
“If Only You Knew” campaign resumes in schools

With life slowly returning to its usual pace, APN is back to presenting school lectures as part of its “If Only You Knew” campaign. These schools include Amman Baccalaureate School, Modern Montessori School, Arab Model Schools, and several others. The presentations received positive feedback as schools showed interest in taking part in APN’s tree planting activities. The lectures highlighted environmental and agricultural issues in the region and introduced the concepts of food sovereignty and sustainable development to students. Some of these lectures were held alongside BDS Jordan to stress the importance of supporting the agricultural sector in occupied Palestine, which strengthens the resistance and resilience of Palestinian farmers.
The Social Security Investment Fund (SSIF) hosted APN on the occasion of World Environment Day and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to present a lecture to a group of the Fund’s employees. The lecture comes as part of the Fund’s commitment to implementing environmental, social, and institutional standards (ESG and sustainable development goals). At the end of the lecture, the Security Funds Investment Fund presented an honorary plaque to the organisation in appreciation of its efforts.
Hala contributes the proceeds of her book to planting 100 fruit trees

After being introduced to APN’s programmes through her mother, Deema Hamdan, Hala Al-Qaimari, an eighth-grader at the International Academy – Amman (IAA), decided to elevate her community project into a meaningful initiative. Hala took concrete steps by directing the proceeds from her book sales towards supporting the Green Caravan. This programme supports small-scale Jordanian farmers by providing them with essential production resources, including fruit trees, irrigation systems, and collection wells. What started as a fundraising effort evolved into an awareness campaign that spotlights the vital role of agriculture in Jordan's economy, the environmental significance of this sector in our daily lives, and the concept of food sovereignty.
APN presented a series of lectures as part of the “If Only You Knew” campaign for 130 fifth-graders at the Modern Montessori School (MMS). During collaborative brainstorming sessions involving students and teachers exploring diverse strategies to encourage involvement in volunteer activities with APN, several positive ideas emerged. Among these, fifth-grade students collectively opted to contribute from their pocket money for the planting of 137 trees in both Jordan and Palestine.
APN’s team delivered a presentation to 11th graders at the Ahliyyah and Mutran School. The presentation included a brief background about APN and its 4 interconnected programmes, in addition to highlighting the importance of planting trees to promote the resilience of Palestinian farmers and to protect their lands from confiscation. The lecture also demonstrated how planting trees actively supports small-scale farmers in Jordan by generating income and helping them sustain themselves with their produce. The presentation was delivered in partnership with BDS Jordan.
Speaking about “Green Resistance” at Al-Raed Al-Arabi School

APN’s team delivered a presentation to middle-school students at Al-Raed Al- Arabi School. Students and faculty members attended the presentation, which focused on the importance of planting trees in Jordan and Palestine. The presentation shed light on how planting trees affects national, economic, and environmental landscapes and strengthens farmers’ resilience in both countries. The presentation was delivered in partnership with the BDS Jordan.
APN lectures about food sovereignty at Khalil Al-Rahman Academy

APN was invited to give a lecture to 120 middle and high school students at Khalil Al-Rahman Academy towards the end of the 2021-2022 school year. The students interacted positively and showed an interest in learning about the importance of supporting farmers in Jordan and Palestine and how this is tied to enhancing food security and improving economic conditions. APN's lecture followed another informative lecture by BDS Jordan.

Speaking about connection to the land with students at Omareyah School

Omareyah school hosted APN's “If Only You Knew” campaign in line with the start of APN’s agricultural activities in Palestine and Jordan. The presentation included an overview of APN's diverse activities and forthcoming campaigns, including the “Plant Your Resilience” campaign. It also delivered insights into the significance of engaging in tree planting, whether for the purpose of enhancing food security, improving livelihood, mitigating climate change, or safeguarding our planet. APN's lecture was met with excitement and interaction from the 10th graders.
The American Community School (ACS) invited APN to participate in a fair featuring representatives from leading NGOs in Jordan. This event offered an opportunity to introduce students and faculty to APN and its four programmes, all of which advocate for people’s sovereignty over their food and natural resources. These programmes empower small-scale farmers by providing them with essential production inputs. During the fair, APN also elaborated on how these activities contribute to enhancing the resilience of farmers on their lands. APN’s participation was met with great enthusiasm and engagement from students, teachers, and other participants.
We are 99 women and men, from 24 different countries and 66 organizations and networks, who are members of regional and sub-regional social platforms, made up of farmers, shepherds, fishermen, consumers, workers, NGOs, movements, women, youth, and academics. The meeting was to prepare for the 36th session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC 36), to be held in Iraq on February 7th-8th, 2022.
Throughout the meeting several issues related to the agenda of the Ministerial Conference were discussed. Among the most important recommendations are the following:

Considering agricultural sector (plant, animal, and fish) as a strategic priority for countries, and their economic, social and political security, and placing rural development ahead of common national and regional policies, in addition to defending food systems that depend on national and regional capabilities within the concept of integrated food sovereignty.

Adopting an integrated view of the structural social, environmental, cultural and economic causes that lead to the loss of food security, especially within the fragile social classes.

Working to radically change the unhealthy consumption of food by adopting the revival of traditional nutritious and diversified diets compatible with the environment and the culture of the community and through the establishment of short local and seasonal supply chains along with improving local capacities in storage and processing to ensure food safety and supporting urban agriculture projects.

Enhancing the cultivation of basic food crops as wheat, establishing an Arab Monetary Fund to support these crops, preparing agricultural research and marketing studies, investing in modern agricultural techniques, setting plans to invest untapped agricultural lands in the Arab region to increase production, as the areas suitable for agriculture in the Arab region are estimated at 197 million hectares, while only 36% of it is being exploited, and allocating budgets to support wheat cultivation (subsistence farming), especially for smallholder farmers or landless, through the provision of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.
Training the farmers on the overall production chain of dates, including choosing high quality varieties, appropriate irrigation, and giving them grants and loans.

Ensuring all the economic and social rights of the rural population, which prevents the migration of these communities to the cities.

Providing financial incentives to farmers to promote sustainable agricultural systems, rescheduling the debts accumulated on small farmers, exempting them from taxes, encouraging the integration of farmers into agricultural associations, union frameworks and cooperatives, and enhancing their work through:

   Establishing assembly centers, and manufacturing, sorting, packaging and storage units, also by providing agricultural machinery at a nominal fee, and preparing refrigerated transport that leads to the products' marketing.

   Guiding and training farmers on food safety and quality, supporting them to obtain quality certificates, and helping them access markets.

   Involving them in preparing national and regional agricultural policies and plans.

Providing governmental policies protecting women's right on land and production requirements, and training them on cooperative businesses management, projects improvement, market's needs analysis, financial management, raise productivity, risks management, in addition to involving them in decision-making and policies, and supporting them through concessional loans, also finding marketing means alongside with supporting the connections between women's cooperatives in the region to exchange experiences, expertise and integration in the process of coordination and marketing.

The necessity of supporting voluntary work financially, organizationally, and legislatively, also supporting civil and voluntary agricultural institutions that have humanitarian, regional and national values and principles.

Ensuring fair wages for farmers, standardizing their work hours, ensuring their safety and health at work, protecting them from material and sexual exploitation, and giving them their right in social security funds, union activity and legal support.

Considering the fisheries sector as an important economic, social and nutritional component, and protect it through the development of policies and procedures in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Fisheries Tenure.
The commitment of all sectors to building and protecting small-scale (traditional) fisheries which are the source of livelihood for thousands of families in the region, and to combat the dominance of industrial fishing companies over the fisheries, especially those companies producing fish flour due to the burning of millions of tons of pelagic fish (pélagique) for the purpose of making fodder.

Protecting workers in the fisheries sector under occupation and wars, especially in Gaza, who suffer from the arrogance of the Zionist occupation which prevents them from their rights to access their fisheries.

Developing programs to address the effects of climate change on the fisheries sector.

Developing national, regional, and international strategies that can assess and develop the vital role of the pastoral sector in food, economic and social fields, including establishing a coordinating framework, disseminating information and securing adequate infrastructure, fodder and high-quality veterinary medicines, as well as supporting their adaptation to climate change, and promoting markets and trade exchanges from the region in this sector and its products.

Supporting beekeeping in the region due to its role in enhancing agricultural income and production as well as protecting biodiversity.

Developing programs that promote the use of the latest technologies to conserve resources, reduce food waste, decrease the price of about to be expired food and redistribute them to the poor people, in addition to monitoring and fining large food companies for waste food and pollution.

Supporting good governance and social justice in water management and establishing national councils for water in which various government departments and sectors, especially civil society and small producers, participate, which ensures complementarity in planning for water management, in addition to raising the effectiveness of the Arab Water Council.

Supporting water harvesting projects and raising the efficiency of water use through technology, irrigation, and regional cooperation in joint water projects, with the need to discuss how to confront the takeover of regional water resources by the Israeli occupation.

Using renewable energy in desalination, purification, and irrigation. Moreover, “criminalizing” those who cause water pollution in all its forms.
Protecting, promoting, evaluating and documenting local seeds that have proven their ability to withstand the risks of climate change, in addition to establishing mechanisms for cooperation and integration of research programs in the region, mutual recognition of registries of plant varieties for countries in the region, exchanging germplasm and facilitating private investment in the development of varieties.

Using chemical fertilizers and pesticides in a rational way, encouraging organic fertilization alongside with controlling them, which reduces production costs and improves the quality and taste of agricultural crops.

Striving towards Arab agricultural economic integration, by promoting complementary inter-Arab trade to preserve their economic interests and sovereignty over food and to preserve their security while exchanging knowledge, encouraging and supporting the establishment of joint Arab agricultural investment companies and exempting them from taxes and fees. With the need to insist on the full representation of civil society networks committed to independent Arab issues in their decisions and work, and to involve them in setting priorities and policies and in enhancing their oversight capacity.

Evaluating the impact of climate change on productive capacity, promoting the risk management system, building capacity and disseminating information, especially for small farmers, women and youth. Making the most of climate support funds, by presenting national and Arab regional projects, implemented by local institutions, including civil society institutions, away from administrative exploitation.

Supporting fruitful and non-fruitful greening projects and selecting non-fruitful varieties that are nutritionally, medically and economically useful, which can also feed livestock, in addition to using plant and tree residues to extract fertilizers and household energy.

Disseminating the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) and working on addressing the root and underlying causes of food insecurity in light of crises, wars and occupation, and identify them through national participatory platforms that respect the principle of countries’ ownership.
Encouraging Arab cooperation aimed at stopping civil wars and occupations, building civil peace, removing obstacles to accessing food and water, developing early warning systems, building strong local food systems, promoting food reserves, and enhancing the capabilities of local organizations connected with communities in a sustainable manner and with a higher effectiveness in humanitarian and development work and peace-building.

Developing an Arab Fund for Agricultural Development and Health and Environmental Disasters such as the Coronavirus, and providing, in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), developmental relief support to affected rural families.

Creating a strategic stockpile of major food commodities, especially grains.

Land is a limited resource, and for a fair distribution of land, collective tenure systems must be protected, including communal and traditional ones, so that they are not a root cause of conflict.

Adopting land reform, publishing Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), ensuring participatory mechanisms for resolving land grievances, and developing regional frameworks to address urbanization.

Restoring the agricultural productive culture, preserving the environment through binding curricula in schools and universities and supporting research that suits the priorities of the region while not adopting modern agricultural techniques promoted by major companies such as “Hydroponics” without studying its effectiveness in supporting food security in the region and its social, environmental and economic impacts.
Dear honourable Agricultural Minister Cem Öezdemir, We, the signing 274 organisations from 54 countries, would like to express our appreciation and support for Germany’s move forward to prohibit the export of EU-banned pesticides that endanger our people and the planet, our livelihoods and wellbeing.

We thank you, Minister Öezdemir, for your statement, made on September 11, acknowledging that it is not acceptable that Germany continues to produce and export pesticides that have rightly been banned on its own territory to protect people’s health and that people throughout the world, including farmers, have the same right to health.

In our countries, our peoples’ health and livelihoods are threatened by Highly Hazardous Pesticides, such as those that are banned in the EU, but are nonetheless allowed to be exported to countries outside the EU. In those exports, Germany plays a relevant role with 8,525 tonnes of unauthorised active pesticide substances exported in 2021 alone. These pesticides are known to cause acute poisonings amongst farmers as well as chronic illnesses like cancer, or have the potential to disrupt peoples’ endocrine systems, putting especially the unborn, children, and women at risk. Some of these pesticides are also known water contaminants or are known to harm and even eliminate populations of beneficial insects, which endangers biodiversity, pollination, natural pest control, and consequently people’s food security and health.

With the prohibition of the export of Highly Hazardous Pesticides already banned in the EU, Germany will take the necessary steps to fulfil its extraterritorial state obligations to protect people abroad from human rights violations.

The states’ obligations under international human rights law derive from the international human rights covenants (ICESCR and ICCPR), and have been detailed more recently in “UNDROP” specifically for the case of peasants and other people working in rural areas. In UNDROP the German government has a clear legal basis for adopting laws designed to ban the commercialization of the most hazardous pesticides.

We appeal to you, your colleague ministers and coalition partners, to ensure that the legislation you are working on will prevent future exports of banned pesticides in a comprehensive and consistent manner.

We urge you to ban the export of all pesticides that are not approved in the European Union – no matter if they are exported as products or active ingredients.

The mere export ban of formulated pesticide products will not be sufficient to prevent harm, as exporters could just shift to exporting active ingredients, which would then be formulated and used in the importing country. Additionally, to ensure a meaningful impact, we ask that the export ban includes pesticides that are considered to be too dangerous both for people’s health and for the environment and biodiversity.

Furthermore, we would like to stress that the export ban of EU-banned pesticides can only be a first step towards a global phase-out of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and a broader structural transition towards organic agriculture and agroecology to ensure that food systems support the wellbeing of people and planet, based on the fulfilment of basic human rights. The signing 274 organisations from 54 countries appeal to Germany to make a courageous move. We express our support and we are convinced that if Germany upholds its commitment to reduce unsustainable double standards in pesticide trade with the planned new legislation, it will set a model for other countries and regions to follow and will be an important step to reduce the harm from highly hazardous pesticides suffered by all people and the planet.


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