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Kingdom of the Netherlands

Inclusive access to and sustainable management of land and water resources

400000025

**Annual Report N°:
1**

Prepared By:

PMU - UAWC

Period covered:

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A- BACKGROUND

A.1- SYNOPSIS

A.2- DESCRIPTION

A.3- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A.1- SYNOPSIS

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION	
Project title	Inclusive access to and sustainable management of land and water resources
Activity number	4000000025
Name of the applicant	UNION OF AGRICULTURE WORK COMMITTEES (UAWC)
Date of financing agreement	January, 31 st 2017
Project duration	47 months
Project total budget	15,261,293 \$
NRO financial contribution	13,000,000 \$
Amendment(s)	July, 10 th 2017

PROJECT CONTACT	
Organization in charge of Project	Union of Agricultural Work Committees
Telephone [Office]	+970 2 242 1713
E-mail	Info@uawc-pal.org
Web site	www.uawc-pal.org

A.2- DESCRIPTION

A.2.1- Title**Inclusive access to and sustainable management of land and water resources****A.2.2- Location**

Cluster	# Localities
Jerusalem	10
Ramallah	14
Nablus	25
Hebron	17
Bethlehem	3
Dora	10
Jenin	5
Tubas	4
Qalqilya	9
Tulkarm	12
Jericho	2

A.2.3- Cost of the project and NRO contribution

Total cost of the project	15,261,293 \$
Commission contribution	13,000,000 \$

A.2.4- Summary

The program encompasses three interrelated and complementary components that contribute to the increasing of food security of Palestinians living in the West Bank; the three components which will be displayed respectively are:

- A. Land & Water Resource Development and Access to sustainable agricultural infrastructure.
- B. The Development of the Local Seed Bank, to help Palestinian farmers adjust to climate change and to preserve local genetic resources.
- C. The Socio-Economic and Food Security (SEFSec) survey, which is conducted by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) with support from FAO and UAWC.

These components reflect a deeper investment into the eradication and fight against food insecurity in the Palestinian context. As it covers a wide scope of activities from providing agricultural infrastructure to also support research into the status and causes of food insecurity with prominent Palestinian research institutions and the FAO. The importance of carrying out research into the root causes of food insecurity in the Palestinian context lies in the heart of the efforts to formulate programs and activities that address food insecurity.

Another component entailed to the activity is the inclusion of the local seed bank as part of the program. As the preservation of local seeds varieties plays an important role in food security and climate change adaptation.

The following paragraphs will display the progress in implementation of activities of the project according to component over the first year of implementation.

A: LAND & WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

The project interventions over the first year were focused on selecting beneficiaries, communities and localities to work with, and preparing for the interventions on the ground.

The first year of implementation of activities faced many obstacles on the ground, which delayed the implementation of some of the activities, but the main activities of Land Reclamation, Main Agricultural Water systems and Opening Agricultural roads were completed without major deviations.

The implemented activities in the first year were done via a mixed approach where both a holistic and individual participatory community based approaches that placed every stakeholder in the optimum position to ensure both collective and individual ownership of the achieved results.

Towards increasing developed land for agricultural productivity contributing to increasing food security, reducing poverty and increasing income of targeted farmers, heavy work was started on (519) dunums of non-utilized agricultural lands in 2017. The heavy reclamation works include leveling (bulldozer, large and small hammer), and building retaining walls where a total of 12,825m² were built. Furthermore, 24 cisterns were completed for selected farmers in the communities with a total capacity of 1,681m³.

Farmers started to clean and plow their lands, a total of 138 donums were cleaned and 135 donums were plowed. The Plowing is a continuous process that has to be done at least twice annually.

A total of 7,510 dunums of land became more accessible to owners, equipment and markets, as well as surrounding areas by opening 75 km of agricultural Roads. The roads will be maintained and developed further by local government units as they integrate the costs into their annual

budgets. For improved agricultural productivity of lands, availability of water supplies is very important. The project addressed this through options of construction/ Rehabilitation of cisterns, earth ponds, springs rehabilitation, and construction of main irrigation networks (Supply Pipes, Water Tanks and Booster Pumps).

The project ensured women's participation by utilizing different measures most importantly the increased score given to women applicants for participation in land reclamation/ rehabilitation. This measure which was adopted in the manual of the program aims to reduce the disparities between women and men in access to land resources.

The project consortium itself is a grouping of 4 Palestinian NGOs with a strong outreach and well-connected into communities through farmer committees, farmer cooperative and women specific groups/associations. The consortium is led by Union of Agricultural work committees (UAWC), in partnership with Land Research Center (LRC), Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG), and the Palestinian Economic and Social Development center (ESDC).

Over the first year of the program, the program succeeded in opening over 75 km of agricultural roads which provided access to 7,510 dunums, benefiting 1,043 farmers (974M, 69 F). The program also started the reclamation work in over 519 donums, which benefited 108 farmers (100 M, 8 F). Started land rehabilitation work on 20 donums, which benefitted 3 farmers. Provided 3.1 Km of main irrigation pipes, a 500m³ circular steel water tank, and a booster pump that benefitted 237 farmers (223 M, 14F). The program also provided rehabilitation work for 4 earth ponds that benefitted 160 donums. A total of 1,000 donums benefitted from the climate change adaptation work done in Al-Dahiriyah, while another 244 donums benefitted from water harvesting techniques and plant coverage techniques.

The program succeeded in improving the infrastructure of the irrigation system in the targeted communities which resulted in the decrease in the amount of lost water and decreased the cost of water on the farmer. While also providing farmers with 16,081 m³ of water harvesting capabilities for the farmers.

Overall the program was successful in serving over 2,006 beneficiaries with different agricultural production inputs (1,690 M, 316f).

B: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL SEED BANK

As for the Development of the Seed Bank component, the first year of implementation saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UAWC and Al-Quds university to cooperate in implementing a master's program that will provide the necessary research to help protect and develop local seeds.

The first year of implementation saw the launch of the first group of masters' students which consisted of 15 students. These students started their first semester and are expected to finish it by mid-January 2018. Also 5 interns were hosted at the seed bank to develop their capacities in handling, classifying and preserving local seeds.

A total of 4 awareness raising workshops were conducted targeting over 120 volunteers and students. The workshops focused on raising the awareness of the volunteers and students on environmental issues, including the local seed bank, preserving local varieties and helping protect the environment.

A cooperation agreement was also signed with Rizkwaan seed company, to help develop the skills and competencies of the seed bank staff, and help them determine the development needs in terms of equipment and processes for the bank.

C: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY (SEFSEC) SURVEY

The Socio-Economic and Food Security survey was also integrated as part of the Baydar project.

Several meetings with Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Food Security Cluster (FSC) were held with experts from all sides including the program management unit, which resulted in agreeing upon a plan on how to implement SEFSEC 2018 which can give an accurate information on the situation of Food Security in Palestinian HH's.

A.2.5- INTERVENTION LOGIC

Overall Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sustainable access and management of land and water resources for food production of Palestinian agricultural producers, including smallholders, and their organizations, and promoting women's land rights. • To contribute to the protection and conservation of local seeds in Palestine, to protect local seeds from the risk of extinction, and to distribute the seeds among Palestinian farmers. • Identify changes in the living conditions of Palestinian households by monitoring key socio-economic and food security indicators
Program Purpose (Specific Objective)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve inclusive sustainable agricultural production through land resource management, enhancing ISFM, and creating platform knowledge of climate change adaptation 2. Improve efficient collective water resource management and increase inclusive access to water resources to enhance the productivity of the agricultural lands 3. Working with different Stakeholders including the PA, consortium member organizations, and civil society organizations, to promote and lobby for an inclusive and sustainable Agricultural Policy. 4. Improve local seed varieties conservation and promotion in the West Bank through upgrading the local seed bank, opening a new branch in the north, and promoting the use of local seed varieties among local farmers. 5. Improve farmers' capacities to adapt to climate change, through identifying different types of local seeds, and studying local crop productivity in cooperation with local Palestinian universities, and the P.A 6. To provide data related to the food security situation in Palestine at household level, in continuity with the previous surveys, allowing trend analysis.

A.3- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the reporting period Feb 01 2017 – December 31st, 2017. During the mentioned period; achievements can be summarized as following:

- **Database:** 11 new localities have been added to the database.
- **Land Reclamation and land Rehabilitation:** Heavy works started in 539 dunums, 13,233 m² of stone retaining walls constructed, and 1,681 m³ of water cisterns completed. As of the light works; 147 dunums were cleaned and ploughed, 51 dunums fenced, 190 seedlings planted and 51 dunums planted with seeds. These developed and reclaimed lands will increase the production of farmer and contribute in improving food security in the vulnerable areas.
- **Build agricultural Roads:** 75 Km of agricultural roads newly opened which will improve the access of farmers to their lands.
- **Water supplies and irrigation for agricultural lands:** 3,100 m of irrigation network installed, one circular steel balance water tanks of 500m³ capacity completed, 1 online booster pumps installed. Two springs were rehabilitated, and 4 earth ponds were rehabilitated.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** 1,000 donums for climate change adaptation were completed. Including 290m² of Stone Block construction, 2,808m² of retaining walls built, 800 m³ of cisterns were constructed. 151 donums were implemented in water harvesting techniques, 93 donums benefited from plant coverage techniques.
- **Awareness workshops:** during the reporting period 4 awareness workshops were conducted to increase the knowledge of volunteers and students on the environment and the preservation of local genetic resources(seeds).
- **Seeds Bank Development:** 15 students have been selected as part of the first group to study a master's degree at Al-Quds university. 5 interns were offered internship at the local seed bank.
- **SEFSEC Survey:** The SEFSEC survey committee was created and a road map was set to carry out the SEFSEC in 2018.

A.3.1-Progress in implementation all 2017:

Activity	Planned [unit]		On-going [unit]	Completed [unit]	Cancel led [unit]
	Program	Reporting period			
Database					
Updating Localities	48	11	48	11	
Land development					
Preparation					
Project announcement workshops	20	10	10	10	
Revision of operational manual	4	1	0	1	
Brochures (development & printing)	5,000	2,000	0	2,000	
Promotional Material	5,000	2,000	0	2,500	
Land reclamation					
Heavy work					
Leveling (dunum)	2,000	450	143	519	
Stone Retaining walls (m ²)	140,000 m ²	31,500	10,010	12,825	
Cisterns (m ³)	16,000 m ³	1,000	2,471	1,681	
Light work					
Ploughing	4,000 h	0	768	271	
Cleaning	15,000 trolah	0	2,857	1,032	
Fencing	2,000 dunum	0	468	51	
Seedlings	93,000 seedling	0	23,250	190	
Seeds	1,000 dunum	0	500	19	
Land rehabilitation					
Heavy work					
Leveling (dunum)	1,000	250	200	20	
Stone Retaining walls (m ²)	30,000	7,500	7,100	398	
Light work					
Ploughing	1,500	0	300	22	
Cleaning	4,000 trolah	0	400	20	
Seedlings	46,000 seedling	0	0	0	
Seeds	500 Donum	0	0	0	
Agricultural roads (km)	300 km	60	15	75	
Water Supply and irrigation					
Construction of Irrigation Development System					
Irrigation networks and Supply Pipes	25,000 m	5,000	2,000	3,100	
Circular, Steel Balance Water Tank 1000 m ³	6	1	1	0	
Circular, Steel Balance Water Tank 500 m ³	9	2	1	1	
Online booster pumps	8	2	0	1	
Earth Ponds	4	2	0	4	
Rehabilitation of Springs	8	4	2	2	
Cisterns Rehabilitation	20	10	10	0	
Well artificial recharge	2 wells	1	0	0	
Mobile Solar Energy Unit	3 Units	0	3	0	
Use of solar energy – water pumping	3 water well	0	3	0	

Establish a Learning Space for Solar Energy use in Water Pumping	1	0	1	0	
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Watershed management /climate change	1,000 dunum	600	0	1,000	
Water harvesting techniques	200 dunum	150	156	244	
Planting deep-rooting crops techniques	200 dunum	0	200	0	
Helping Farmers Register Their Lands	100 Farmers	0	0	0	
Soil Samples	100	40	60	20	
Demonstration Farms	4	0	0	0	
Build Capacity for Cooperatives, Farmers and CSOs					
Beneficiaries	1,070 h	0	300	0	
Consortium members	OD (M&E, ISO 9001 2015, Electronic Arcieving)	1	1	0	
Summer Camps	4	1	1	1	
Farmers Conferences					
Woman empowerment					
Awareness	270 h	0	80	0	
Women Groups	15 Groups	0	0	0	
Seed Bank					
Masters Students	30 Students	15	15	15	
Internships	15	5	5	5	
Donums Planted with Local Seeds	5,000 Donum	0	1,500	277	
New varieties of Local Seeds Conserved	10	0	8	2	
Farmers Trained	300	0	100	62	
Production & Breeding Unit Upgraded	90	0	30	2	
Seed Bank Equipment Upgraded	1	1	1	0	
Pilot projects	2	0	2	0	
Establish a Branch of Seed Bank in North	1	1	1	0	
Produce Morphological classification manual	2,000 copies	0	0	0	
SEFSEC Survey	2	0	1	0	

A.3.2- Achievements of the indicators 2017

Indicator	Plan	Achievement
Specific Objective 1		
Improve inclusive sustainable agricultural production through land resource management, enhancing ISFM, and creating platform knowledge of climate change adaptation		
Outcome Level Indicators (Will Be mostly Captured in the Endline)		
* 70% of targeted Lands have an increase in productivity by at least 20%.	2100 Donums Target	Still early
*Increase HH average income by at least 15% (M/F head households)(Females Males)	15% increase	Still early
* Increase average number of dunoms which have access from the agricultural roads per household by at least 15% (Households Disaggregated By Gender)	26.5 Donums are accessible By Families	1,685 HH (1407M, 277F) have access to 27.5 Donums on Average
* 70% of beneficiaries use new sustainable methods for ISFM, IPM and adaptive to climate change techniques	500 Farmers	Still Early
* Average Amount of water provided per donum	8 M ³	5.8 M ³
* Reduction in time for access to lands through agricultural roads	Baseline 30	Still Early
* Soil erosion is decreased by 25% in targeted lands		Will be measured in the Endline
Result 1.1		
Conduct land development and land reclamation initiatives for 3000 Donums		
3000 dunums benefited from the leveling/ machinery work	650	539
150,000 meter square retaining walls built	39,000	13,223
12,000 cubic meters communal cisterns	1,000	1,681
3,000 dunums ploughed	0	147
3,000 Dunums Cleaned	0	149
3,000 Donums Planted With Seedlings	0	8
1,500 Donums Planted With Intercropping seeds	0	19
3,000 Donums Fenced	0	51
50,000 Working Days	7,500 WD	8,418 WD
# of Beneficiaries		2,006 Farmers (1,690 M, 316F)
Average # of Donums ready to be planted per household	6	Still Early
100% of Reclaimed land has access to Water Resources	2,000	286
Result 1.2		
Opening agricultural roads to improve access to agricultural lands		
300 KM newly opened agricultural roads	60 km	75 km
30,000 dunums have new access by the newly opened roads	6,000	7,510
12,000 Working Days are created	2,400	2,411

Result 1.3		
Enhancing on-farm ISFM, soil productivity, IPM and plant productivity.		
Number of farmers who received training. (disaggregated by gender)		No training was implemented for farmers
Number of guidance visits by agricultural engineers to farmers		No Visits done
Result 1.4		
Integrate climate change principles, practices and establish a knowledge exchange platform		
500 farmers, students and volunteers received training.(disaggregated by gender)	100 (60 F, 40M)	120 (80 F, 40M)
1,500 donums which benefited	600 Donums	1,000 Donums
8 studies conducted	0	0
Specific Objective 2		
Improve efficient collective water resource management and increase inclusive access to water resources to enhance the productivity of the agricultural lands		
At least 500 agricultural jobs created through water interventions (disaggregated by gender)	500	Still Early
25% Decrease in production costs		Still Early
Number of farmers benefited from enhanced agricultural water systems.(disaggregated by gender)		Still Early
20% Increase in Productivity of Water Kg per M3 water		Still Early
Average Value Added per Irrigated crop		Still Early
Quantity of Harvested Water		13,600
Average Water provided per donum of agricultural land		28
Result 2.1		
Increase availability of Water Resources through the installation of main water pipes, construction of steel water tanks, rehabilitation of springs...etc. to provide inclusive access to water resources for marginalized communities.		
Number of cubic meters of water provided annually		13,600
Price decrease in water costs		Still Early
Number of farmers benefited from enhanced agricultural water systems (disaggregated by gender)		258 (14F, 244M)
Number of dunums benefited from the new access of water supply systems		490
Number of working days created(disaggregated by gender)		687
Result 2.2		
Implement innovative irrigation technologies, while using opportunities for using renewable energy sources		
Number of farmers benefited per type of initiative (F/M)		Still Early
Number of dunums benefited per type of initiative		Still Early
Number of workdays created (disaggregated by gender)		Still Early
Quantity of Compost produced		Still Early

Quantity and value of Electricity Produced		Still Early
Water User Associates are able to manage the water supply systems effectively		Still Early
Quantity of Harvested Water		Still Early
Result 2.3		
Improve technical and financial management of water resources by different stakeholders.		
# Water User associations display an understanding of Key Financial and operational issues.		Still Early
# of farmers supplied with equipment (F/M)		Still Early
Specific Objective 3		
Working with different Stakeholders including the PA, consortium member organizations, and civil society organizations, to promote and lobby for an inclusive and sustainable Agricultural Policy.		
25 % increase in the ratio of women who claim their inheritance rights in the targeted areas		Still Early
at least 70% of women solidarity group members display knowledge of women inheritance rights and legal extension services		Still Early
# of farmers targeted.(Disaggregated by gender)		Still Early
400 donums registered		Still Early
Farmers insurance fund is established		Still Early
Establishing a fair Selling price for water		Still Early
Farmers issues and voices are heard by decision makers.		Still Early
Result 3.1		
Lobbying and advocacy activities are conducted to promote farmers rights and environmental awareness		
5 issues concerning farmers lobbied with the government to take action on.		1
40 Farmers committees are established in different areas	10	
At least 70% of Farmers committees participate in the conference	70%	85%
At least 30% of the farmers committees are women	30%	20%
40 new localities entered in the database	11	11
Result 3.2		
Build the capacity of consortium member organizations		
Number of trainings conducted	-	-
Evaluation of Each training.	-	-
Transfer of partners into Electronic management and M&E system	4	Still Early

All partners reduce their paper work by at least 40%	40%	Still Early
All partners are upgraded to ISO 9001/2015	4	Still Early
Result 3.3		
Help Women Claim their rights in Land ownership		
500 Women Targeted with sessions	500	Still Early
20 Women Solidarity Groups formed	20	Still Early
25% of targeted women claim their land rights after the training	125	Still Early
Overall Objective (2)		
To contribute to the protection and conservation of local seeds in Palestine, to protect local seeds from the risk of extinction, and to distribute the seeds among Palestinian farmers.		
Specific Objective 4		
Improve local seed varieties conservation and promotion in the West Bank through upgrading the local seed bank, opening a new branch in the north, and promoting the use of local seed varieties among local farmers.		
70% of targeted Lands have an increase in productivity by at least 20%		Still Early
# of local seeds varieties that have been stockpiled in safe amounts according to conservation standards		Still Early
The local Seeds Banks are able to provide at least 70% of local demand for main local seed varieties.		Still Early
Result 4.1		
Local seed bank is able to conserve and breed local seed varieties in sufficient quantities to meet local demand.		
# of Local Seeds that are Well Preserved	2	2
# or Weight of Each Kind of Seed Provided for local farmers	-	-
Quality of Preserved seeds According to conservation standards.		Still Early
Knowledge and Compliance of Staff with conservation standards		Still Early
Result 4.2		
Plant 5000 Donums with Rain fed local Seeds		
# of Donums Planted		277
Productivity Per Donum		Still Early
# of Farmers Trained (disaggregated by Gender)	-	-
Knowledge of farmers in Local Seeds management and farming	-	-
# of Beneficiaries (Disaggregated By Gender)		60 (49M, 11F)
* Quantity of Produced Seeds		Still Early
Result 4.3		
Promote The Use Of local Seeds Among Farmers		
Knowledge of participants on the Importance of Local Seeds, and the Dangers of Synthetic Biology and GMO'		
# of reached participants (disaggregated by Gender)	Still Early	Still Early
# of Beneficiaries (disaggregated by Gender)	Still Early	Still Early

Productivity of new agricultural Techniques	Still Early	Still Early
Local Seed Bank achieves 5 Tons of Produce Sales	Still Early	Still Early
Local Seeds Bank achieves 700 Kg of Seeds Sales	Still Early	Still Early
Local Seeds Bank Achieves 150,000 Seedlings Sales	Still Early	Still Early
Specific Objective 5		
Improve farmers' capacities to adapt to climate change, through identifying different types of local seeds, and studying local crop productivity in cooperation with local Palestinian universities, and the P.A		
* # of Beneficiaries (Disaggregated by Gender)	Still Early	Still Early
# of Local Seeds identified.	Still Early	Still Early
Productivity of Local Crops.	Still Early	Still Early
Result 5.1		
Introduce new seeds for preservation to increase the available options for local farmers		
# of new Local Seeds that are Identified	-	-
At least 70% of New Local Seeds are Well Preserved in Local Seed Bank	-	-
Result 5.2		
Cooperation with Local academic institutions is strengthened		
15 Agronomists are trained (at least 60% Female)	5	5 (1M, 4F)
New Specialization is Accredited by MoEHE	Done	Done
30 Masters Students are supported (at least 60% Female)	15	15(4M, 11F)
30 academic papers on issues relevant to local seeds are produced		Still Early
Result 5.3		
Capacity Building		
# of trainings Conducted	-	-
# of Trainees (disaggregated by gender)	-	-
# of Trainees who pass the Post Test	-	-
Result 5.4		
Produce a Morphological classification manual for local crops		
A Morphological classification manual is produced covering at least # varieties of local crops	-	-
2 Workshops are conducted and the recommendations of the Workshops are incorporated into the manual	-	-
# of copies of the manual that are circulated	-	-
Specific Objective 3		
Identify changes in the living conditions of Palestinian households by monitoring key socio-economic and food security indicators		
Specific Objective 6		
To provide data related to the food security situation in Palestine at household level, in continuity with the previous surveys, allowing trend analysis.		

The Underpinning Causes of Food Security are Identified	-	-
Data Related To food Security on the HH level are provided	-	-
SEFSEC Survey IS Conducted	-	-

B- IMPLEMENTATION ENVIRONMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS

B.1- PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

B.2- PROGRESS TOWARDS STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION

B.3- BENEFICIARY(IES) ANALYSIS

B.4- IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

B.5- MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

B.1- PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

B.1.1- Project macro-environment :

There has been a substantial increase in Israeli violation in area C in the West Bank. The rate of settler attacks has increased since the Trump administration declared Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel. These incidents were accompanied by attacks from the Israeli settlers against the Palestinians in general, and in some of our working areas in specific such as Samoi, Aqraba, Asira Alshamaliyeh, Qabalan and Sabastiya.

During the reporting period the project received 16 violations were committed against the project activities by Israeli settlers . Three expropriation orders were issued to three farmers in Qusra after their land has been reclaimed, in addition to a confiscation order for 500 dunums in Qusra; in which 53 dunums among the 500 were reclaimed by our program.

B.1.2- Main problems encountered during the implementation period:

During the reporting period the following problems encountered:

- The stopping orders and machines' confiscations.
- The verbal stopping orders; especially in Qusra, Bani Naim and Al-Samoui.
- Hesitation of farmers to present the needed documents that prove land ownership which resulted in delays to the project.
- The inability of some municipalities and village council to provide the necessary contribution for the implementation of activities which resulted in time loss.

B.2- PROGRESS TOWARDS STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION

The project design and its outlined governance require substantial and pro-active participation of communities and other stakeholders. With regard to the communities, as it is stipulated in the proposal, those have been engaged in the design of the project and they have a clear role in the project implementation; the community and beneficiaries engagement in the implementation goes from the announcement, applications collection, selection of locations and beneficiaries, collection of contributions and/or cash guarantee and follow up on activity implementation on the ground.

With regard to institutions (local and national), their participation includes responsibilities related to steering the project strategically and technically. Furthermore, the MoA staffs at governorates level are working closely with the program' team and the local authorities; while VCs and/or municipalities are acting as promoters and owners of the agriculture roads; this entails responsibility related to community contribution and to their annual budget in terms of contribution and maintenance.

The coordination which is a crucial element for the project is insured through the governance structure of the project. The coordination responsibility is given to the PMU. The PMU also coordinates with different government structures such as the Palestinian Water Authority and the Palestinian central Bureau of statistics.

The implementation of the activities is coordinated among the partners and the processes related to the implementation are managed via the technical committee, where experience is shared and all relevant issues are discussed and agreed upon. The active committees of the project are the following:

Steering Committees, Members are:

Institution	Position
NRO	First Secretary of Economical Affairs
NRO	Advisor
MoA	Director General of Water and Irrigation.
UAWC	Acting General Director, Director Of Operations And Development Department
PHG	Co-Director General
ESDC	General Manager
LRC	Deputy Director
PMU	Senior Program Manager
PMU	M&E Officer
MoA	Director General of Land Development

Technical Committee, Members are:

Org.	Role
PMU	Senior program manager
PMU	M&E Officer
MoA	Land Reclamation department
MoA	Soil and water department
PMU	Technical Coordinator
UAWC	Team Leader
PHG	Team Leader
LRC	Team Leader
ESDC	Team Leader

Procurement committee, Members are:

As for tendering process; it is managed and handled by a procurement committee representing the 4 organizations and the PMU. The procurement committee members are:

Institution	position
PMU	Senior program manager
PMU	Financial officer
ESDC	Procurement officer
LRC	Financial officer
UAWC	Procurement officer
PHG	Financial officer

For each tender there is a tender document with its general conditions, specific conditions, legal components and BOQ. The procurement members review every tender document before it is advertised by any of the partnering organizations. The committee's members agree on a date for opening the tender at the PMU office.

The criteria for selection is (1) Financial and (2) technical. Any tender that needs to be evaluated technically; a technical committee is formulated including the PMU's technical coordinator, MoA representative and one technical representative of the partnering organizations who was not

involved in the tender preparation process. The technical committee sends their technical recommendations to the procurement committee to compile with the financial. The technical committee decision is prioritized and is given top priority in the final decision of selecting the vendor. The ToR of the tendering committee is drafted in the operation manual of the Baydar program.

Role of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA):

The ministry of agriculture plays a crucial role in the project; in fact, at central level the MoA is co-chairing the Steering Committee, member of the technical committee and the MoA technical staff participates in all tenders' technical evaluation. While at the local level the MoA branches are members of the local committees and their technical staff is involved in all steps of the implementation from selection of locations and beneficiaries, cost estimation, works supervision and handover.

B.3- BENEFICIARY(IES) ANALYSIS

beneficiaries reached as per Dec 31, 2017								
Partner	Activity	clusters	Location	# Application received	# Responsive application	# Beneficiaries (total)	# Beneficiaries (female)	
UAWC	Land reclamation	Hebron		170	170	42	0	
		Nablus		35	35	11	1	
		Nablus		45	45	18	0	
		Dora		-	-	-	-	
				-	-	-	-	
	Land rehabilitation	Hebron		30	30	14	0	
		Nablus		0	0	0	0	
		Nablus		0	0	0	0	
	Roads	Hebron		8	4	142	35	
		Hebron		13	2	50	20	
		Hebron		24	13	450	100	
		Nablus		6	2	108	24	
		Nablus		5	5	98	34	
				-	-	-	-	
				-	-	-	-	
	Water harvesting techniques							
	Level Terraces/counter techniques				-	-	-	-
Graded Terraces techniques (Half-moon)		Hebron		50	48	48	13	
Stone Terraces techniques		Hebron						

beneficiaries reached as per Dec 31, 2017							
Partner	Activity	clusters	Location	# Application received	# Responsive application	# Beneficiaries (total)	# Beneficiaries (female)
ESDC	Land reclamation	Nablus		35	22	3	3
		Ramallah		43	23	5	
	Land Rehabilitation	Nablus		17	13	5	
		Ramallah		8	5	0	
		Tubas		0	0	0	0
	Roads	Ramallah		13	5	90	12
		Nablus		5	2	57	4
		Tubas		0	0	0	0
	Mobile Solar Energy Unit for Cistern						
	Establish Learning Space For Solar Energy Use in Water Irrigation						
	Conduct Training	West Bank					

LRC__beneficiaries reached as per Dec 31, 2017							
Partner	Activity	clusters	Location	# Application received	# Responsive application	# Beneficiaries (total)	# Beneficiaries (female)
LRC	Land reclamation	Nablus		109	44	9	2
				32	19	1	0
		Hebron		93	70	18	5

			81	22	4	0
	Dora					
Land Rehabilitation	Nablus					
Roads	Nablus		5	(4)		
			4	3	128	10
			9	6	111	11
	Hebron		10	6	91	0
			14	13	360	27
		Dora				
Experimental Pilot Farms	West Bank					
Training for Beneficiary Farmers	West Bank					
Watershed Management in Southern Part of Hebron	Hebron		4	1	35	4
Database and GIS training	West Bank					
Update the Database with New Localities	West Bank					

beneficiaries reached as per Dec 31, 2017

Partner	Activity	clusters	Location	# Application received	# Responsive application	# Beneficiaries (total)	# Beneficiaries (female)	
PHG	Water irrigation schemes	Nablus						
		Tulkarem		1	1	53	8	
		Qalqilyia		2	2	77	10	
		Jenin						
	Roads	Tulkarem						
		Qalqilyia						
		Hebron						
	Springs Rehabilitation	Ramallah			2	2	19	
		Hebron						
	Earth Ponds	Jericho			9	4	13	
	Rehabilitation / construction Cisterns	Hebron			100	12	12	2
		Bethlehem						
	Install 3 solar energy system for irrigation water pumping	Tulkarem						
	Construct artificial groundwater recharge wells	Jenin						
supply farmers with tools and equipment	West Bank							

Totals	Land reclamation	643	450	116	11
	Land rehabilitation	55	48	19	0
	Agriculture Roads	98	52	1408	277
	Water Interventions	114	21	174	20
	Climate Change Adaptation/ adh Dhriya	4	1	35	4
	Water Harvesting Techniques	50	48	48	13
	Earth Ponds	9	4	13	
	Rehabilitation / construction Cisterns	100	12	12	2

The number of beneficiaries included in the table above reflects the selected beneficiaries for the reporting period of interventions in the various project locations.

The beneficiaries of the **land reclamation** are farmers - land owners, socio-economically eligible, rely on agriculture as main source of income, interested and willing into developing their businesses (**116** application were selected by project committees from **643** application had been received, furthermore **116** agreements are signed with beneficiaries out of which **11** are females).

Agriculture roads, **52** applications were selected from **98** applications which were received, and the total number of beneficiaries from the agricultural roads over the reporting period is **1,408** where **277** are female beneficiaries.

Water interventions, where **21** applications were selected from **114** applications had been received. Total number of beneficiaries from water interventions for irrigation is **174** out of which **20** are females.

B.4- IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

B.4.1- Strengths and weaknesses of the implementation strategy:

Strengths:

1. High ownership of the beneficiaries on implemented activities.
2. Both macro level and Micro level approaches ensures significant success for the implementation of agricultural activities.
3. The commitment and the hard work of the field and technical staff of the consortium members' organizations to their work.
4. The project governance that insures stakeholder effective participation, equity among partners and proper coordination and information/experience sharing;
5. Constructive dialogue among partners through the various project committees;
6. Standardized procedures via developed manuals (financial, procurement, M&E, and HR & Administration manuals) in addition to operation manual which is updated on a yearly basis.
7. Quality control through proper reporting and M&E;
8. Program management monitoring role on the follow up on the implementation on all project activities;
9. Community contribution that insures ownership

Weaknesses:

1. The absence of youth engagement in the project.
2. The one solution fits all in land reclamation which is not always proper.
3. The inexperience of farmers in managing heavy machinery work on the Micro level approach.

B.4.2- Organizational and implementation procedures:

1. Continued land reclamation/ rehabilitation.
2. Ongoing heavy machinery works for over 500 dunums.
3. Signing agreements with the beneficiaries and village councils.
4. Preparation of tenders and tendering of activities.
5. Signing contracts with vendors to implement activities including land reclamation, opening agricultural roads, water interventions, pilot projects and training for beneficiaries and consortium member organizations.
6. Monitoring the implementation of activities
7. Receive the activities by a joint committee of the institution, project committee and the project management
8. Filing for financial claims for implemented activities for payment
9. All process performed in line with best practices and in accordance with the project implementation manual

B.4.3- Success and constraints in the use of technology (ies):

The use of GIS data including Land Suitability map for choosing the targeted clusters as an effective tool which was developed in the previous phase and incorporated in the Land Suitability map in the Database. In fact, the GIS allow considering all layers necessary for the selection without incurring in inconsistencies and/or mistakes of approximation. There are plans to introduce composting, and innovative ways to use solar energy in Agriculture in the coming period.

B.5- MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The monitoring arrangements for the project can be described as following:

Monitoring of day to day activities:

As a standard monitoring for day to day activities is done by project staff, with planned and surprise visits from the M&E officer and Senior Project Manager to all locations and partners. In these visits the M&E officer meets with field supervisors, direct beneficiaries and indirect ones, where their views, impressions and complaints are followed up. Coupled with this field work the following measures are also adopted to insure the timely progress of activities:

- All Partners presented an annual plan on their expectations for the progress of the activities.
- All partners present a monthly work plan, derived from the yearly plan, where any variation as a result of changes on the ground is communicated on time to the PMU. The monthly plans are in compliance with the agreed action plan.
- All monthly work plans are reviewed by the PMU staff and amended according to program needs.
- Monthly monitoring reports that are filled by the field staff of each of the partners and validated by their technical coordinator. These reports are rechecked by the M&E officer and the figures are validated against the field. The results of these reports are discussed in the monthly technical meeting and steps to correct any deviations in the work or overcome any obstacles are suggested.
- Monthly progress report by each of the partners; indicating the achievements, obstacles...etc.
- Documentation of all project activities including meetings' minutes.

Added to this are the field audits which were done by the M&E officer and the Technical Coordinator for activities that were implemented in the field. The M&E officer takes random samples of documents, beneficiaries, activities implemented and checks them against reports, financial claims and operational manual to ensure proper implementation.

Evaluation of Project activities and Interventions:

The M&E officer with the support of the Technical Coordinator and Senior Project Manager continuously evaluates the quality of the interventions and activities related to the project, this evaluation is done through field visits, reviewing relevant project documents and meeting with beneficiaries. The project outputs are evaluated against best practices and beneficiary satisfaction, and solutions to problems are suggested and followed up where needed. An annual evaluation will be carried out in the next reporting period.

Monitoring plan and achievement 2017

Planning Item	⊙ Activities	⊙ Verifications
⊙ Field visit	⊙ Follow up on the progress and quality of the work with technical project coordinator and field	⊙ Field reports
⊙	⊙ Visiting project locations and following up with partners, and beneficiaries.	⊙ Field reports
⊙	⊙ Conduct several interviews with beneficiaries, project committee and other stakeholders.	⊙ Field reports
⊙	⊙ Collect the comments from the Colleagues visits.	⊙ Report

⊙	⊙ Attending the handing over for certain activities	⊙ Report
⊙	⊙ Circulate Project Reporting Documents to PMU and Partners	⊙
Monitoring sheet	⊙ Review the monthly monitoring sheet and follow up with comments on the progress of work with partners.	⊙ Monthly Monitoring sheet
⊙	⊙ Provide the comments to partners	⊙ e mails and technical meeting minutes
⊙	⊙ Discuss the monthly monitoring sheet with PMU	⊙
⊙ Technical Committee Meetings	⊙ Discuss monthly achievements, obstacles with team leaders and PMU staff. ⊙ Take decisions on issues to be resolved	⊙ Minutes of meeting
⊙ Steering Committee	⊙ Attending the meeting of Steering Committee,	⊙ Minutes
⊙	⊙ Present the monitoring status of the project	⊙

Annual Evaluation of Partners:

The "inclusive Access to and sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources" Program is now one year underway, and almost all of its planned activities are being implemented. As stated in the review's Terms of Reference (ToRs), the assessment aims to assess both the organizational settings and project's management performances related to the partners' performance relative to program's goals and objectives. More specifically, the assessment aims to support partners in assessing the following:

- Revision and assessment of the role of the governing bodies in the partners' organization.
- Revision of its regulations, management and financial systems, as well as its monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Measuring the degree to which the organizations' progress in achieving the intended results (outcomes). This will include addressing the following issues: To what extent did the activities and outputs, achieve their objectives? The extent, to which the planned benefits and results have been delivered and received, as perceived by all key stakeholders (including women and men and specific vulnerable groups). Whether actual and expected results match the performance targets set out initially (as far as it is feasible in this stage). Whether intended beneficiaries participated in the intervention. And beneficiary satisfaction of the achieved results. Reasons for deviation.
- Measuring the efficiency in term of the partner organization in the optimization of using the project resources in yielding the outputs, implementing the project. the quality of day-to-day management, for example in: and to assess if the used resources and outputs are appropriate and justifiable? Assess operational work planning and implementation (input delivery, activity management and delivery of outputs), and management of the budget and the adherence to the operational manual and work plans submitted to the PMU. Reasons for deviation.
- Revision and assessment of the human and financial management systems.

- Developing Recommendations

Main Findings PHG

Despite the overall positive aspects; however; there are possibilities for further improvements. The following points summarize the recommended improvements in the various field of organizational aspects, operations and project management, these points were developed based on the review of the PHG programs during the month of February 2018:

On the level of organizational and management functions

- Since it was observed that the currently operating organizational structure is slightly different than that stated in the manual (PHG), in addition the organizational structure does not include strategic areas in the work of the organization. Such as lobbying and advocacy, research it is recommended that the PHG to do the following:
 - Review and update the organizations structure.
 - To rethink the lobbying and advocacy function because of its importance to the work of the organization and determine what is required for its activation in a way that effectuating the role of PHG on influencing the policies, regulations and practices relevant to water resources and utilization. This should also include the identification of the key issues that will be tackled by the advocacy function, staff required for its activation, required training.
- As it was observed the project management is conducted by the branches managers whom supervised by the executive director. It is strongly recommended to create a project's manager who should focus and be the focal point in following up the projects implemented by the PHG and respond quickly and take measures in case of any delay or deviations from the planned deliverables or in-adherence to the procedures, in addition to cooperate with partners and various stakeholders, this is important for effectuating the project management of the PHG.
- It is recommended to develop the role of the public relations department in PHG to go beyond the secretarial and administrative tasks to be a focal point to make the PHG's role and accomplishments are well-known by governmental and non-governmental organizations, public opinion leaders and the community in general. And to enable the organization to secure funding to sustain and develop its activities and programs.
- The development of a salary scale and incentive systems that would ensure the greatest motivation, as permitted by the potential resources and values of the organization. These systems should constitute a reference for the management of organization and other units.
- Detailed information related to project implementation between partners is taking place through the coordination meetings and reports, however, still important details need to be exchanged with partners especially those related to deviations from the planned deliverables (example, the cisterns in Al Dahria)

On the level of efficiency

- PHG is important partner in implementing all of the water related components of the "Inclusive Access to and Sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources" program, hence it has a crucial role in the achievement of outputs and use of resources, as the assessment findings indicated to a significant deviation between the planned activities and the implemented on the ground. In addition to the serious increase in the actual expenditures compared to the planned budget for the rehabilitated cisterns in Al Dahria. The assessment team strongly recommend the PHG to adhere to all details of the project operational manual despite of any time pressure or farmers' instances. The adherence of the manual should include:

- Conduct initial visits for the beneficiaries' cisterns, before starting the work to have clear cost indication of the rehabilitation, and to take the proper measures if the required budget extremely above the approved budget per cistern
- Insist on the compliance of the farmers with the contributions of the farmers in the cisterns' rehabilitation, particularly the condition of cleaning the cistern completely before starting the rehabilitation process.
- Since, the farmers may be in a hurry to use the rehabilitated cistern, it is important to call the technical monitors for quality checkup and measurement as binding monitoring procedures. PHG team need to call the monitoring team to conduct the check up immediately after the cleaning is completed by the farmers

Financial Management

Upon concluding the financial review, it is believed that the accounting department is working according to modified accrual cost accounting principles, and the financial staff possess the necessary skills to manage the daily operations of the PHG, report to various internal and external stakeholders and apply adequate control procedures. However, we noted that the following improvement recommendations are necessary:

- It is recommended to separate the admin department and a financial department, so each is managed by different persons according to the Organizational structure.
- It is recommended that the internal auditor provides quarterly or semi-annual reports to give the organization a chance to amend its work through the year.
- To use a book of the financial payment request document with clear serial number on each request sheet, this will improve the following up and matching with financial supporting documents.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- To guarantee that the projects implementation is on track to meet the expected outputs, outcomes and objectives. It is strongly recommended that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are improved by effectuation the role of M&E function, including indicator monitoring, adherence to the standards and procedures, providing feedback for the organization and project managers, in order to avoid significant deviations and hedging against potential risks.

Main Finding ESDC:

Despite the overall positive aspects; however; there are possibilities for further improvements. The following points summarize the recommended improvements in the various field of organizational aspects, operations and project management, these points were developed based on the review of the ESDC programs during the month of February 2018:

On the level of organizational and management functions

- There is significant delay in implementing the activities of ESDC, there is some doubts on their ability to catch up. It is recommended for UAWC to conduct an achievement review with the aim to ensure that by June 2018, ESDC must produce output that covers 40% of the allocated budget.

On the level of efficiency

- ESDC is important partner in implementing all of the water related components of the "Inclusive Access to and Sustainable Management of Land and Water Resources" program,

hence it has a crucial role in the achievement of outputs and use of resources, as the assessment findings indicated to a huge deviation between the planned activities and the implemented on the ground. It is strongly recommended to do the following:

- Although ESDC has an M&E unit but it needs to also monitor the progress of staff in implementing the activities

ESDC has a central project management unit which also needs to accelerate the momentum in order to meet the set milestones. The following Recommendations are important for ESDC:

- Accelerate the supervision and the momentum of the project implementation in order to achieve results.
- In linkage to the above, ESDC needs to assess the role and work load of the project team in order to conduct the work according to the required timetables.

Financial Management

Upon concluding the financial review, it is believed that the accounting department is working according the accounting principles, and the financial staff possess the necessary skills to manage the daily operations of the ESDC, report to various internal and external stakeholders and apply adequate control procedures. However, it is believed that the following recommendations are necessary:

- The organizational structure has a single financial and administrative department, with a unit for administrative affairs and a unit for financial. There is an accountant and a procurement officer in the department but they are not assigned all of the respective duties of the head of finance unit and the head of the administrative unit. Which in fact means that the key administrative responsibilities and the key financial responsibilities are concentrated in the hands of the financial and administrative manager.
- It is recommended to separate the admin department and a financial department, so each is managed by different persons.

Monitoring & Evaluation

As the assessment findings pointed out, part of the delays in the project implementation could be influenced by poor monitoring system, the M&E should effectuate the monitoring process to ensure the implementation is on track to meet the expected outputs, outcomes and objectives.

Main Findings LRC

Despite the overall positive aspects; however; there are possibilities for further improvements. The following points summarize the recommended improvements in the various field of organizational aspects, operations and project management, these points were developed based on the review of the LRC programs during the month of February 2018:

level of organizational and management functions

- Review and update the organizations structure, considering the establishment of research and advocacy department,
- The organizational structure has separate financial and administrative departments. Although there is an employee who handles both accounting tasks and administrative tasks most notably procurement. This puts the organization in higher risk of corruption and the tasks need to be reassigned.
- The development of a salary scale and incentive systems that would ensure the greatest motivation, as permitted by the potential resources and values of the organization. These systems should constitute a reference for the management of organization and other units.

On the level of efficiency

- Increase the margins of deviation, to tailor the services according to specific needs, sometime this needs higher or lower efforts or/and budgets, such the case of LRC in building the blockage against torrent in Inab-Al Dahria, where the last blockage was not completed because the budget was exhausted.
- Some of the operational deficiency are attributed to the noncompliance with the project operational manual, such as the adherence to the beneficiaries' scoring selection criteria, and the evaluation of the cost form per beneficiary was missed, it is strongly recommended the LRC to adhere to all details of the project operational manual

Financial Management

Upon concluding the financial review, it is believed that the accounting department is working according the accounting principles, and the financial staff possess the necessary skills to manage the daily operations of the LRC report to various internal and external stakeholders and apply adequate control procedures. However, we noted that the following improvement recommendations are necessary:

- As it was observed imbalance of the salaries in comparison to the type and volume of work. It is recommended to revise and update the salary scale and incentive system considering the following:
 - The first is concerned with moral and ethical aspects. As the organization work along with its inferred development and patriotic values represents significant factors for staff motivation. In addition, the nature of relationships and the internal culture are considered very healthy in LRC.
 - The second is concerned with the financial incentives. And here lies the problem as the salaries of are significantly influenced by the post-graduate academic degrees which has weak correlation with the employees' performance in the developmental organizations.
- It is recommended to separate the admin department and a financial department, so each is managed by different persons.
- It is recommended that the internal auditor provides quarterly or semi-annual reports to give the organization a chance to amend its work through the year.
- To use a book of the financial payment request document with clear serial number on each request sheet, this will improve the following up and matching with financial supporting documents.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Despite of the well documented monitoring and evaluation function, still the M&E specialist needs to follow up on the selection of the beneficiaries, ensure the match between the contracts and actual achievements on the ground.

C- PERFORMANCE

C.1- MEANS PLANNED AND USED

C.1- MEANS PLANNED AND USED

C.1.1- Equipment, works, Contracts and supplies:

Activity	Item	Contract Value [USD]	Contracting methods	# evaluation	Date of contracting
Opening Agriculture Road -	Roads	\$ 48054.6	Tender	5	01/10/2017
Opening Agriculture Road -	Roads	\$ 40750	Tender	5	10/10/2017
Opening Agriculture Road -	Roads	\$ 60939	Tender	5	05/12/2017
Opening Agricultural Roads	Agricultural Roads	57380.00 \$	Tender	3	27/08/2017
Opening Agricultural Roads	Agricultural Roads	97551.95 \$	Tender	5	18/10/2017
Opening Agricultural Roads	Agricultural Roads	54385.00 \$	Tender	4	29/10/2017
Climate Change	Rent Heavy Machine	72839.40	Tender	3	25/10/2017
Opening Agricultural Roads	Agricultural Roads		Tender	3	
Climate Change	Seeds	5305.15	Price quotation	3	17/12/2017
Opening Agricultural Roads	Agricultural Roads	35686.60 \$	Tender	3	19/12/2017
Water Supply and irrigation	Irrigation networks and supply pipes	95106	Tendering	5	1/8/2017
Water Supply and irrigation	Circular steel tank 500 m3	25000	Tendering	5	1/8/2017
Water Supply and irrigation	Booster pump	24980	Tendering	5	1/8/2017
Water Supply and irrigation	Irrigation networks and supply pipes	126260	Tendering	5	8/1/2018
Water Supply and irrigation	Circular steel tank 500 m3	30000	Tendering	5	8/1/2018
Water Supply and irrigation	Circular steel tank 1000 m3	47000	Tendering	5	8/1/2018
Water Supply and irrigation	Booster pump	33592	Tendering	5	8/1/2018

Water Supply and irrigation	Rehabilitation of 4 earth ponds	53800	Tendering	5	23/8/2017
Water Supply and irrigation	Rehabilitation of two springs	51890	Tendering	5	24/8/2017
Water Supply and irrigation	Rehabilitation of 10 cisterns	35500	Tendering	5	20/10/2017
Construction of agricultural road	Roads	113,670.13	Public tender	5	19 th of July 2017
Construction of agricultural road	Roads	81,930	Public tender	5	18 th of July 2017
Construction of agricultural road	Roads	258,405	Public tender	5	9 th of August 2017
Construction of agricultural road	Roads	77,368.5	Public tender	5	11 th of October 2017
Construction of agricultural road	Roads	36,341.30	Public tender	5	25 th of October 2017

D- PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

D.1- OWNERSHIP BY BENEFICIARIES

D.2- LEGAL COMPONENT

D.3- INSTITUTIONAL AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

D.4- ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY

D.5- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

D.1- OWNERSHIP BY BENEFICIARIES

The project approach is both community based and individual based; where beneficiaries, local authorities and project local committees are working hand in hand with the project team.

The beneficiaries took a very active role in implementing the activities, were they got guidance from the project staff on the ground while also building up their own experiences and knowledge of land reclamation/ rehabilitation and best agricultural practices.

With regard to land reclamation, the beneficiaries are acting as supervisors in the field together with the project team. With regard to the roads, farmers and village councils are working together in the identification of the roads and the collection of local contribution; while the village council's technical staff acts as supervisor in support to the project team. Both beneficiaries and local authorities are convinced of the project relevance and of its strategic importance for them. Nevertheless, in some cases, individual farmers did oppose the opening of the roads believing that the road is going to be opened in their lands; in those specific cases the project team, other beneficiaries, local committees and village councils had to work closely in order to clarify the issue for the farmer in consideration; which proved the effectiveness of this approach.

D.2 LEGAL COMPONENT:

In case of Farmer's receiving a stopping order, the legal advisor does the following

- 1- Visits the location where the land is subject to a stopping order
- 2- Holds a meeting with the person who uses the land usually he/she is the owner of the land to offer him/her legal advice.
- 3- The legal advisor asks the farmer to provide him with the following
 - a- Documents proving that he\she owns the land subject to stopping order
 - b- Certification of succession if the land was part of an inheritance
 - c- Land survey if needed
- 4- The legal advisor submits an objection during the period mentioned in the order and follows up the case.

D.3- INSTITUTIONAL AND MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

All consortium members maintained their certification in ISO 9001/2008 certificate of Quality for their continuous work toward improving the services they offer their beneficiaries, the past year featured a number of surveillance visits by the quality assurance auditor to make sure the institutions are adhering to ISO 9001/2008 regulations, which was indeed validated.

The project manual was updated through a participatory process that included all the team leaders and the project technical coordinator and the MoA representatives. The new manual was circulated among partners and the respective team leaders circulated it to their own team members.

All project activities are combined either with requirements at application stage that insures the sustainability of the specific activity (see water interventions) and/or include a substantial technical support and capacity development of the beneficiaries. As mentioned above the project is "community based project" and it relies on developing social cohesion, participation and exchange of experience among the farmers through their cooperatives and/or association. Furthermore, the active cooperatives/ farmers' committees within each of the project areas are targeted by the project in order to enhance their ability as service providers within their communities.

The implementation consider and acts in a way that beneficiaries, local authorities, farmers cooperatives are involved in all steps of the project; which represent an important element in terms of on-job training. Meetings are regular within the various project areas, where all issues are put on the table for discussion prior any move forward to insure a substantial by-in of the farmers from one hand and insure the concept of ownership.

D.4- ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY:

The Economic viability of the project is quite noticeable from today; as farmers have started to invest in their reclaimed land in order to prepare it for planting and cultivation. This can be seen in various locations of land reclamation activities where the contribution of many farmers has exceeded the expected amounts which farmers were obliged to do under program. This extra contribution is quite noticeable from the extra size of the cisterns provided and from the increased investment in machinery hours and agricultural infrastructure.

Some of the farmers didn't even wait for the program to procure seedlings for them, as they went on and bought a very high quality of seedlings to insure greater yield in their farms. Other farmers who were not eligible to reclaim their lands started their own works of land reclamation in areas which were targeted, this is a clear multiplier effect in such an early stage of the project.

D.5- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Environmental improvement as effects of the program: The reservation of water, plantation of trees, and fighting climate change are all interventions that contributed slightly to the improvement of the environment in targeted communities.

Through this project, the partners plans to ensure reduction of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and will use alternative methods that will not harm the environment, such as organic fertilizers, bacterial pesticides, and sterilization for the soil. Moreover, during the training component for farmers, those topics will be emphasized. Topics in this regard include:

- Agricultural Diversity, Marketing: Emphasizing on crops with high income generating value, like almonds, and encouraging organic farming that does not use chemical ingredients.

Introducing farmers to packaging procedures and display techniques in the market. Importance of organizing farmers in order to increase the general income and improve the quality of their products.

- Modern Agricultural Practices and Extension: introducing new crops, and introducing new techniques such as biological control technologies, and organic cultivation.

The project includes pilot elements that have major environmental impact, such as solar energy use in water abstraction, the recharge wells, the watershed management, the soil protection intervention against desertification and the use of compost. All elements that have as core value environment protection.

Overall in addition to the mentioned specific activities; the implementation will go through environmentally sound approaches; while the other project activities such as land reclamation (terracing) have the positive impact of eliminating soil and land deterioration, agriculture roads will ease access to agriculture land thus reduce gas emission of agriculture vehicles and will open the door for people to use their land and even to invest into developing it thus further contributing to reduce land deterioration.

Furthermore, soil protection, where building of stony retaining walls and seedlings plantation prevented the soil erosion in the sloppy marginal land and it raises the increase of water storage capacity of the reclaimed lands. Additionally, the increase of the cultivated area is an environmentally sound tool to fight against climatic change and accompanying degradation in the agricultural lands.

This coupled with the interventions from the seed bank that help preserve local genetic varieties will help protect the local environment and spread environmentally safe procedures.

E- FINANCIAL REPORT

E.1- PAYMENTS

E.2- INTERESTS

E.1- PAYMENTS

FROM NRO TO THE APPLICANT		
Payments	Date	Amount in USD
1 st payment	12/03/2017	1,125,000.00
2 nd payment	20/11/2017	2,580,236.00
Total		3,705,236.00

CHANGE TO LOCAL CURRENCY			
Transaction	Rate	cy	Amount
1 st transaction	3.62	\$	3,000
2 nd transaction	3.635	\$	3,000
3 rd transaction	3.58	\$	3,000
4 th transaction	3.52	\$	4,000
5 th transaction	3.525	\$	3,000
6 th transaction	3.47	\$	5,000
7 th transaction	3.56	\$	3,000
8 th transaction	3.59	\$	5,000
9 th transaction	3.49	\$	7,000
10 th transaction	3.53	\$	5,000
11 th transaction	3.505	\$	3,000
12 th transaction	3.5	\$	3,000
13 th transaction	3.505	\$	2,000
14 th transaction	3.51	\$	3,000
15 ^h transaction	3.50	\$	5,000
16 th transaction	3.50	\$	3,000
17 th transaction	3.47	\$	3,000
TOTAL		\$	63,000

E.2- INTERESTS

⊙ Have interests been generated on NRO instalments? Yes No

TOTAL INTERESTS ON €
-0.00

TOTAL INTERESTS ON \$
0.00

TOTAL INTERESTS ON NIS
0.00

F- CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

F.1- OVERALL CONCLUSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION

F.2- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

F.1- OVERALL CONCLUSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION

The first year of implementation faced many challenges as it was evident that since the trump declaration the situation on the ground escalated. It was evident that the settler attacks and Israeli Forces attacks on Palestinian civilians has increased. On the program level this caused some delay in implementing the activity but it didn't cause catastrophic delays or destructions of project implemented assets.

Lessons Learnt:

The program staff was able to identify a number of lessons learnt throughout the implementation of the first year of the program.

- The program's team members are more aware of the sensitive areas in area "C" and know how to judge and classify the areas to low, medium or high sensitivity and once this is known a proper mechanism for implementation is to be set.
- In some cases the local community contribution was a barrier in face of some communities to participate in the project, this needs some flexibility in managing of the local community contribution which would make it easier for localities to participate.
- The individual approach encouraged farmers to work the lands in a more constructive manner which allowed for a tailoring of agricultural development to suit the needs of each farmer.

F2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

After the end of the first year of implementation it was evident that the following recommendation would help in implementation of activities:

- 1) The need to make a decision on the Auja Dam rehabilitation, as further delay does not help in implementing the program thus a clear decision needs to be taken to rehabilitate it or the change the activity into other types.
- 2) It is recommended to hold a training for all Field supervisors and Team leaders in order to raise their abilities in reporting on the progress of implementation.
- 3) It is recommended that a new review of the project manual to be carried out with the participation of two members in the technical committee from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 4) Its recommend to start implementing some models of land reclamation avoiding using heavy machines the idea is to creat new models that can reduce the land reclamation cost .
- 5) It is recommended to form a committee from the project team to assess the sensitivity of the sites to be selected for work before starting (this includes agriculture roads & land reclamation)