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ANNUAL REPORT



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Towards a Sustainable Palestine



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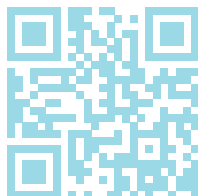


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Introduction

2023 witnessed an unprecedented sequence of events that impacted the work of ARIJ. The Palestinian issue was not on the agenda of the Israeli elections, which brought to power the extreme ultra-religious parties who advocate for annexation, deportation and restructuring the legal system, A high turnover of settlers voters resulted in 8 seats for the extreme right wing. Israel's "facts-on-the-ground" policy to annex Palestinian territory and establish demographic realities through settlements continued its acceleration impeding any attempt to reach a resolution of the conflict. The Two-State Solution started fading through settlements expansion and the indoctrination of the Israeli public claiming that the Palestinian territory is not occupied but rather disputed. Following the Hamas assault on October 7, 2023 and the ensuing Israel war on Gaza, the world is wrestling with instituting a cease-fire to stop the massive loss of human lives resulting from the Israeli killing of civilians in Gaza and the assault on the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Pictures and reports coming from Gaza show massive, indiscriminate destruction and genocide committed by the Israeli army. Carpet bombing in Gaza led to the total destruction of more than 70,000 housing units and collapse of the infrastructure.

After 173 days of Israel's war on Gaza, more than 32,200 Palestinian civilians have been killed including 14,280 children and 9,340 women. More than 74,600 have been injured and thousands more (+7,000) are unaccounted for as their bodies are still under the wreckage of their homes which were bombed by Israeli planes.

The Israeli army tanks defiled more than 1500 of Gaza Strip graves. 70,000 housing units were completely destroyed or considered unsafe to dwell in the Gaza Strip, and 290,000 others were partially destroyed due to the constant heavy Israeli bombing. Around 2 million Gazans were forcibly moved to the south where they are living in tents under extremely harsh conditions.

32 of Gaza hospitals were destroyed, 53 health centers ran out of service and the work of 158 other medical institutions was disrupted due to the constant Israeli bombing. 126 ambulance cars were completely targeted. 405 schools, universities and other educational institutions were destroyed (100 of which are out of service and 305 others are unsafe to use due the damage). 3 churches and 514 mosques were targeted (of which, 224 were completely destroyed and 290 others were partially targeted). More than 200 archaeological sites were destroyed by the Israeli war planes and tanks.

168 Governmental buildings were heavily targeted and destroyed. Humanitarian aid is trickling to Gaza with less than one fifth of the needs. Gaza's 3 desalination plants are out of service due to shortage in fuel supply and power cuts. (scarce clean water access). All 6 wastewater treatment plants have been completely shut down due to power outages and fuel shortages. (Sewage is flowing in the streets). The Israeli war planes have caused the destruction of approximately 55% of the water and sanitation sector's infrastructure.

Solid waste collection service has decreased to 20%. Large quantity of wastes has piled in the streets, around shelter centers, schools, and landfills. The estimated waste resulting from Israel's bombing on Gaza (destruction of buildings & infrastructure) amounted to more than 1.8 million cubic meters.

The region is in tatters and the potential of a regional war is plausible. While world attention is focusing on a deal between Hamas and Israel that will reduce the casualties and promote an exchange of prisoners and hostages, it is vital to adopt practical measures to end the Israeli occupation and implement the two-state solution formula to end the Israeli Palestinian conflict. Palestinians trusted the righteousness of their cause and relied on the international community to help them achieve their inalienable rights for self-determination and its sovereignty over its natural resources. Regrettably, the politics of power and global interests have failed the Palestinians so far and Israel continues its unilateral actions to colonize Palestine relying on its military power and the blind support of its actions from the American administration. At the international level,

there is a consensus that a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies in a viable and independent State of Palestine living in peace and security alongside the State of Israel. However, 99 Knesset members voted against state. In spite of prevailing shadows and dims, an ever increasing and upbeat change is taking place on stages of the international arenas in support of the Palestinians inalienable rights for self-determination and its sovereignty over its land and natural resources. The PNA is facing a serious financial crisis. 200,000 Palestinian workers in Israel are jobless. The tourism sector has collapsed. Israel imposed severe restrictions on mobility in the West Bank with more than 740 barriers and checkpoints. It is under these conditions that ARIJ was obliged to continue its work. ARIJ employees from Hebron were hosted by ARD organization and Green Palestine arranged to accommodate employees in its premises, in addition to ARIJ office in Tubas. To cope with the lack of funding, and the prevailing uncertainty ARIJ adopted austerity measures to maintain its human resources hoping that conditions will improve.

Executive Summary

In 2023, the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) at ARIJ demonstrated a focused drive to integrate cutting-edge, eco-friendly agricultural practices and technologies, all in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Amid the challenges of environmental adversity and occupation-induced restrictions, the program made notable strides, directly impacting 1,087 rural families bolstering five key institutions across nine West Bank governorates, and engaging 75 localities. This effort was especially crucial for small-scale farmers and communities within Area C, significantly boosting their agricultural productivity and resilience. The SAP carried out 25 specifically designed agricultural interventions to directly address the needs within the Palestinian agriculture sector, with a keen focus on enhancing food security and transitioning small-scale farming from subsistence levels to sustainable income-generating activities. A pivotal component of these interventions was a comprehensive suite of training and capacity-building sessions, particularly emphasizing the empowerment of women within the agricultural sector. These educational initiatives aimed to equip women farmers and cooperative members with the necessary skills and knowledge to adopt safer, more sustainable farming practices, and effectively process and market their agricultural products.

By promoting gender equality and prioritizing the inclusion and active participation of women in all its activities, SAP underscored the critical role women play in the agricultural development of Palestine. Through targeted support to women-led families and cooperatives, the program not only fostered an environment conducive to learning and growth but also leveraged women's unique contributions to drive forward the agenda for a more resilient and sustainable agricultural future.

The Water and Environment Research Department (WERD) resumed its efforts to actively contribute to the conservation of Palestinian natural resources. The primary focus remained on safeguarding the environment as a crucial element for ensuring human health and promoting the sustainable utilization of these resources. Moreover, the WERD dep. worked to enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, enabling them to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change and environmental degradation. Throughout 2023, the WERD department dedicated considerable efforts to this cause.

In the year of 2023, ARIJ continued to foster partnerships and collaborations with other Palestinian Civil Society Organizations acting as the Secretariat of The Palestinian Agricultural Institutions Coalition (PAIC) with a vision to achieve sustainable development in Palestine. PAIC was established in 2018 and is a coalition of six Palestinian environment, climate, and agricultural non-governmental organizations- Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committee (PARC), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG), Land Research Centre (LRC), MA'AN Development Centre, and the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ). PAIC uses a gender mainstreaming and human rights based approach linking the rights of marginalized community members especially women, youth and smallholder farmers with the obligations and commitments of duty bearers when it comes to environmental governance and rights, access to information and natural resources.

The Urbanization Monitoring Unit - continued its usual activities to monitor the Israeli unilateral actions in Palestine and regularly update the database concerning (settlements' construction, houses demolitions, land confiscation, uprooting trees, Israeli military orders, restrictions on movement, Israeli settlers' violence). And despite the project funding was not renewed by the EU, ARIJ continued the project activities based on the importance of the topic and accumulating the data in ARIJ.

The Urbanization and Monitoring unit cooperated with Information Technology Department and the Geographic Information System Department to complete and launch the “mobile application- “iPalestine” to provide an online interactive map with GIS layers and information related to the Israeli activities in oPt provided by the project.

The Information Technology Program continues the development of information technology in Palestine, through effective dissemination of information and knowledge. In its work, the program improved ARIJ capabilities in computing technologies and applications. In addition to providing technical assistance to ARIJ different departments, the IT program develops and programs web-based information systems and creates efficient logical databases for the different projects for the institute. These programs support research staff in interpreting and presenting data analysis and evaluation findings. ARIJ also keeps up with the latest remote sensing and geographical information system applications.

ARIJ IT Program has been also responsible for creating and managing of Geospatial databases and Meta data that are used to develop web-based mapping applications.

Furthermore, the IT program has extended its work to include video editing and publishing all of ARIJ work. The program is responsible for recording, editing and finally publishing the videos on social media accounts such as YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/arijvideos>), Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/arij.org>) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/ARIJ_Institute).

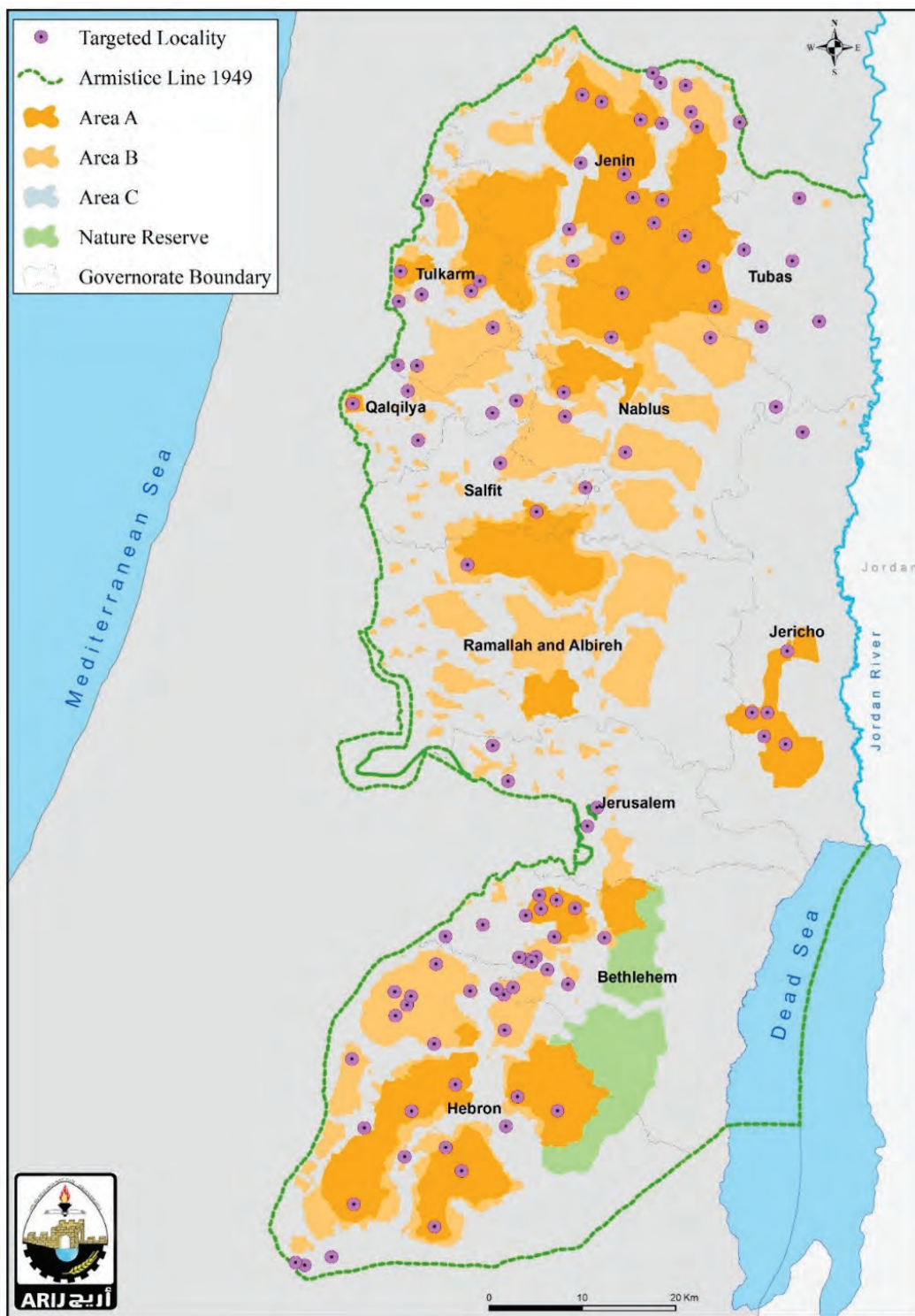
ARIJ Good Governance Program continued to promote good governance principles in Palestinian society. Activities implemented by the Good Governance program aimed to promote values of integrity, principles of transparency and systems of accountability in various Palestinian sectors (Municipalities, Ministries, Cooperatives, Civil Society Organizations, and Community-based Organizations).

ARIJ Good Governance Program works on the ground towards contributing to ensuring that political, social and economic priorities are based on board consensus in Palestinian society and that the voices of all rights-holders are heard in decision-making over the allocation of development resources in line with SDGs 5, 8, 10, 13 and 16.

Realizing the importance of participatory, transparent and accountable, efficient and equitable approaches to development, ARIJ Good Governance Program worked to increase the accountability of local and national authorities; develop the participatory capacities of local and national authorities to become more responsive to community needs, and ensure fairness and equity in distributing available resources.

At the heart of its mandate is work with community-based organizations and grassroots. Accordingly, ARIJ Good Governance Program directly target and collaborate with grassroots to build their capacities and empower them. This year the Program, enhanced awareness and capacities of community-based organizations in the protection of human rights, and the involvement of rights- holders in claiming their water rights.

Locality Map of ARIJ's Key Interventions



Section 1: Organizational Structure and Management

General Assembly and Administrative Committee










































ARIJ enjoys the service of 41 professionals and 2 honorary members (of which 44% are females) constituting the General Assembly of the institution covering a wide range of specializations providing ARIJ Administrative Committee with policy and strategic guidance. The General Assembly held a meeting on July 26th, 2022 where they discussed and approved ARIJ financial and technical reports.

The Administrative Committee is committed to achieving financial sustainability and success through effective management, transparency, good governance and strategic planning. ARIJ Administrative Committee is responsible for implementing and following up on the strategies and policies set by the General Assembly.

Seven meetings were held during the year of 2023 as follows:

Administrative Committee meetings during 2023
February 14th 2023
March 9th 2023 – with Staff
May 18th 2023
June 12th 2023 – with Staff
August 15 th 2023
September 12th 2023
September 30th2023
October 28rd 2023
November 21st 2023
December 19th 2023
December 21st 2023 – with Staff

General Assembly

 Dr. Abeer Istanbuli (Entrepreneurship and Management)	 Mr. Ahmad Rwaidy (Lawyer)	 Mr. Anton Salman (Lawyer)	 Dr. Bishara Abu Ghannam (Electrical Engineer)	 Dr. Bisher Marzouqa (Cardiac Surgeon)	 Dr. Fadi Kattan (Accounting & Business)	 Dr. Ferdooos Allssa (Mental Health, Psychotherapy)	 Ms. Fida' Abed Allatif (Urban Planner)
 Mrs. Ghada Hazboun (Pharmacist)	 Mr. Ghassan Andoni (Physicist)	 Dr. Ghassan Handal (Parasitology)	 Mr. Hamed Al Qawasme (Human Rights)	 Dr. Hasan Dweik (Chemist)	 Mrs. Hind Khoury (Business Administration)	 Mr. Husam Wahab (Accountant)	 Dr. Jamal Saif (Toxicologist)
 Eng. Jarasmous Kharroub (Food Scientist)	 Ms. Jihan Anastas (Interior Architect)	 Dr. Suhair Abu Hamameh (Chemistry)	 Mrs. Minerva Qassis-Jarayseh (Gender Law and Development)	 Mr. Mohammed Khaled (Rural and Forest Areas Development)	 Dr. Mona Matar (Information Technology)	 Dr. Nabeel' Edely (Pharmacist)	 Ms. Ursula Mukarker (Clinical Psychology)
 Dr. Nael Salman (Member)	 Dr. Norma Hazboun (Social Scientist)	 Mrs. Roubina Ghattas (Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources)	 Mr. Ramzi Zananiri (Executive Director of Near East Council of Churches)	 Dr. Saleem Zoughbi (Computer Scientist)	 Mr. Salah Elian (Business and Economy)	 Dr. Simon El Araj (Mechanical Engineer)	 Dr. Spiro Tams (Dermatologist)
 Mr. Suleiman Abu Dayyeh (Social Science)	 Ms. Sylvia Mukarker (Environmental Studies)	 Dr. Ziad'Abdeen (Molecular Biologist)	 Ms. Ruba Masrouji (Business Administration)	 Dr. Kifah Manasra (Criminology)	 Ms. Hannan Musleh (Civil Engineering)	 Ms. Arda Aghazarian (Communication)	 Ms. Fadwa Khader (Education)
 Dr. Hanadi Younan (Comparative Literature)							

Honorary Members












Archbishop Attalah Hana
(Archbishop of Orthodox Church of Jerusalem)



Bishop William Shomali
(Bishop of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)

Administrative Committee

 Mr. Suleiman Abu Dayyeh (President)	 Mrs. Hind Khoury (Vice President)	 Dr. Fadi Kattan (Treasurer)	 Ms. Hannan Musleh (Secretary)	 Mr. Ghassan Andoni (Member)
 Dr. Spiro Tams (Member)	 Dr. Ghassan Handal (Member)	 Mrs. Roubina Ghattas (Member)	 Dr. Abeer Istanbuli (Member)	

Organizational Chart

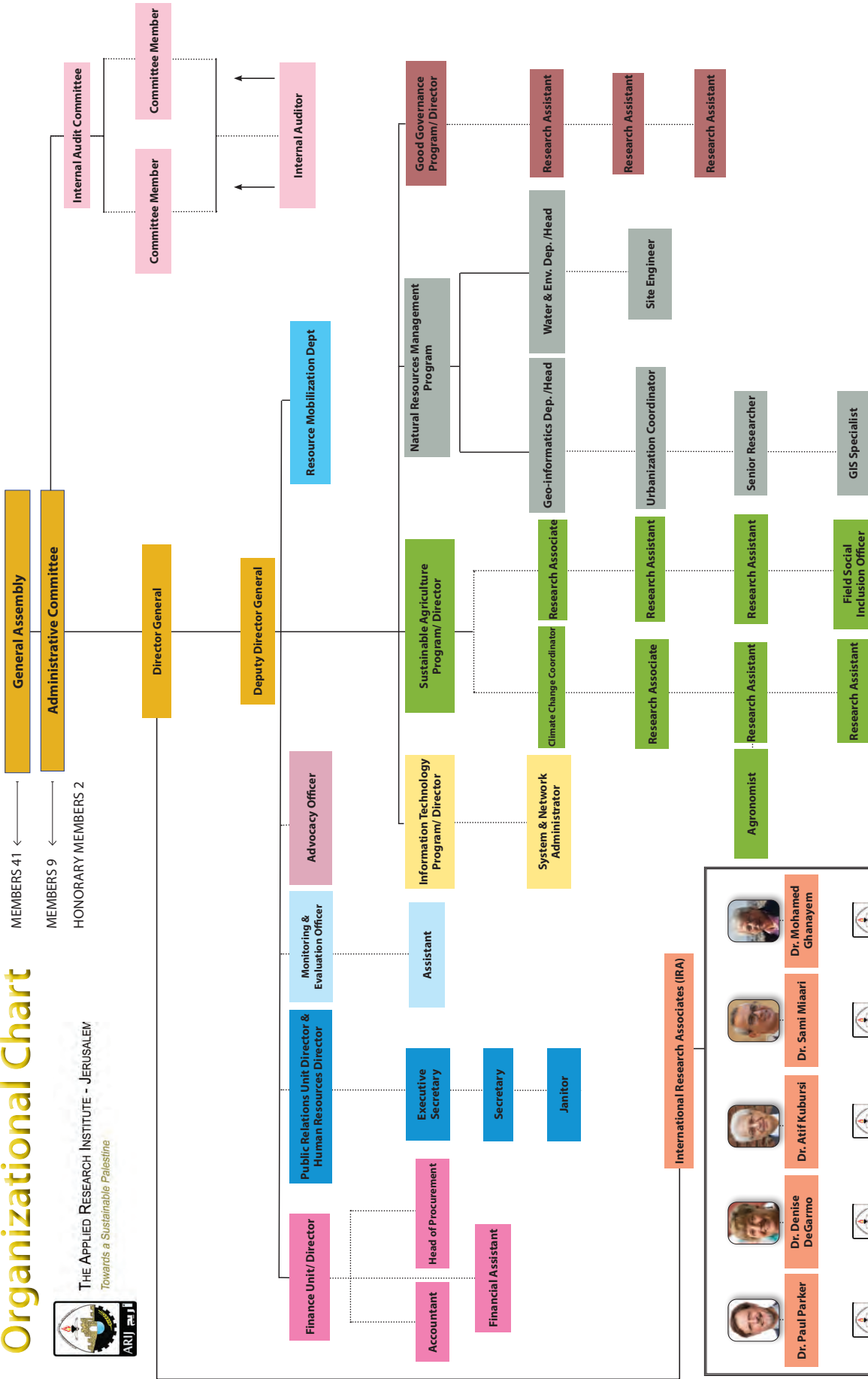


THE APPLIED RESEARCH INSTITUTE - JERUSALEM
Towards a Sustainable Palestine

MEMBERS 41

MEMBERS 9

HONORARY MEMBERS 2



International Research Associates (IRA)

	Dr. Paul Parker	
	Dr. Denise DeGarmo	
	Dr. Atif Kubursi	
	Dr. Sami Maaari	
	Dr. Mohamed Ghanayem	

European Commission
CARE international
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
The World Food Programme (WFP)
We Effect
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
Institut français
OCHA United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO")
United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)
Welfare Association – Taawon
Spanish Cooperation
The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
Medcities
Partners:
Joint Services Council for Planning and Development / Eastern Rural – Bethlehem
Cesvi Fondazione Onlus (CESVI)
The Union of Charitable Societies-Jerusalem (UCS)
Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Engineering (HPI)
Women Media and Development (TAM)
Palestine Child's Home Club-Youth Development Resource Centre
Palestinian Agriculture Institutions Coalition (PAIC)
Al'ard for Agricultural Development
Hasso Plattner Institute - Germany



Section 2: ARIJ Programs and Activities

2.1 Sustainable Agriculture Program

In 2023, the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) at ARIJ demonstrated a focused drive to integrate cutting-edge, eco-friendly agricultural practices and technologies, all in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Amid the challenges of environmental adversity and occupation-induced restrictions, the program made notable strides, directly impacting 1,087 rural families bolstering five key institutions across nine West Bank governorates, and engaging 75 localities. This effort was especially crucial for small-scale farmers and communities within Area C, significantly boosting their agricultural productivity and resilience. The SAP carried out 25 specifically designed agricultural interventions to directly address the needs within the Palestinian agriculture sector, with a keen focus on enhancing food security and transitioning small-scale farming from subsistence levels to sustainable income-generating activities. A pivotal component of these interventions was a comprehensive suite of training and capacity-building sessions, particularly emphasizing the empowerment of women within the agricultural sector. These educational initiatives aimed to equip women farmers and cooperative members with the necessary skills and knowledge to adopt safer, more sustainable farming practices, and effectively process and market their agricultural products.

By promoting gender equality and prioritizing the inclusion and active participation of women in all its activities, SAP underscored the critical role women play in the agricultural development of Palestine. Through targeted support to women-led families and cooperatives, the program not only fostered an environment conducive to learning and growth but also leveraged women's unique contributions to drive forward the agenda for a more resilient and sustainable agricultural future.

1. Introduction:

In Palestine, there is a need to Empowering and Revitalizing Palestinian Agriculture through Developing Effective Strategies for Sustainability, Innovation, and Community Resilience. Integrating and adapting strategic opportunities for the development of the agricultural sector in Palestine requires a comprehensive approach that considers the unique socio-political and environmental challenges of the region. By leveraging new agricultural technologies, empowering small-scale farmers and rural women, implementing sustainable land management practices, and fostering community-based approaches, Palestine can enhance its agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability. Additionally, addressing market access, enhancing value chains, focusing on risk management and crisis preparedness, engaging in international collaboration and support, and advocating for supportive policies and investments are crucial steps toward achieving a more sustainable agricultural sector.

Key Potential Strategies for developing the agriculture sector in Palestine:

Adoption of Smart Farming Technologies: Given the restrictions on water access, integrating precision agriculture and water-efficient irrigation techniques can significantly improve crop yields and resource use efficiency. Technologies such as solar-powered irrigation systems, and drip irrigation with balanced pressure could be particularly beneficial, considering the region's ample sunlight.

Empowerment of Small-Scale Farmers and Rural Women: Offering training in modern agricultural practices, coupled with access to financial services and markets, are crucial. These programs should be designed to ensure participation in decision-making processes and access to the economic benefits of agriculture, thus building resilience and sustainability in the sector.

Sustainable Land Management: Practices like crop rotation, organic farming, and reduced tillage that are suited to Palestine's agricultural conditions can protect against land degradation and improve food security. These practices should be promoted through training programs and incentives for farmers to adopt them.

Community-Based Approaches: The strong community ties in Palestinian society can be harnessed to form cooperatives and associations that can strengthen community resilience, improve access to markets, and provide a support network for sharing knowledge and resources.

Enhancing Market Access and Value Chains: Development of infrastructure and logistics to improve access to local and international markets is essential. This involves processing and branding agricultural products to increase their market value and open new markets, taking into consideration the challenges posed by restrictions on movement and access.

Risk Management and Crisis Preparedness: Establishing early warning systems for natural disasters and disease outbreaks, along with comprehensive insurance schemes, can protect farmers from catastrophic losses. This requires collaboration with local and international research institutions to develop climate-resilient and disease-resistant crop varieties.

International Collaboration and Support: Forming partnerships with international organizations, NGOs, and research institutions can provide the necessary technical expertise, financial support, and global best practices. These partnerships are crucial for overcoming the challenges posed by restrictions and limited resources.

Advocacy for Policy Support and Investment: Policies that support sustainable agriculture, protect land rights, and facilitate access to resources and markets are essential for the development of the agricultural sector. Advocacy efforts should focus on policies that prioritize sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. By focusing on these strategic areas and tailoring them to the specific context of Palestine, the region can harness the potential of its agricultural sector to improve food security, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability despite existing challenges. Ensuring the inclusion and empowerment of small-scale farmers, youth and rural women in these efforts is key to achieving lasting change and development in the agricultural sector. Collaboration with local communities, governmental bodies, and international partners will be crucial in implementing these strategies effectively.

2. Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) Achievements in 2023

The Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) at ARIJ has been at the forefront of implementing strategic initiatives, advancing knowledge, and adopting innovative, eco-friendly agricultural technologies and practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Aimed at enhancing resilience against food insecurity and the impacts of climate change, SAP's activities in 2023 marked significant advancements in supporting small-scale farmers and those in Area C, despite facing occupation-induced challenges like mobility restrictions, limited resource access, and environmental adversities, compounded by settler encroachments on agricultural lands.

Despite obstacles, such as the refusal by the Israeli occupation authorities to issue permits for land owners to harvest olives in Area C—leading to a loss of 20% of olive production—ARIJ's SAP conducted 25 diverse agricultural interventions. These interventions were meticulously designed to meet the direct needs and demands of the targeted groups: farmers, herders, cooperatives, and special care institutions.

Leveraging partnerships and funding from the World Food Program, Care International, Mennonite Central Committee, OCHA, Spanish Cooperation, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, European Commission, and UNDP, SAP supported 1,087 rural families, including 210 women-headed households, and 5 institutions (schools, cooperatives, and other entities) serving 750 individuals. The interventions spanned nine West Bank governorates—Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nablus, Tubas, Salfit, Tulkarm, Jenin, and Jericho—covering 75 localities, demonstrating ARIJ’s commitment to sustainable agricultural development amidst complex socio-political challenges. In addition to the refusal of issuing permits for harvesting olives in Area C lead to a loss of 20% of olive production.

ARIJ’s SAP conducted 25 diverse agricultural interventions. These interventions were meticulously designed to meet the direct needs and demands of the targeted groups: farmers, herders, cooperatives, and special care institutions. Leveraging partnerships and funding from the World Food Program, Care International, Mennonite Central Committee, OCHA, Spanish Cooperation, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, European Commission, and UNDP, SAP supported 1,087 rural families, including 210 women-headed households, and 5 institutions (schools, cooperatives, and other entities) serving 750 individuals. The interventions spanned nine West Bank governorates - Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nablus, Tubas, Salfit, Tulkarm, Jenin, and Jericho—covering 75 localities, demonstrating ARIJ’s commitment to sustainable agricultural development amidst complex socio-political challenges. The implemented interventions were carefully selected and in responding to the actual needs of the targeted families, communities and institutions taking into consideration the available resources and the existing experience in agriculture and the level of beneficiary readiness to take the responsibility to make these interventions functioning and sustainable. These are the reasons beyond the diversified types of implemented interventions to meet with needs for performing interventions to enhance food insecurity resilience. In addition to increasing the small-scale farmers’ production capacities to shift from self-sufficiency production towards income-generating agriculture to improve not only their access to food but also to generate income from the sold commodities to assist in improving their livelihood.

In 2023, efforts were directed toward supporting five women’s cooperatives to enhance the processing and marketing of agricultural food products. This initiative emphasized safer vegetable production by enhancing farmers’ capacities to supply raw materials to these cooperatives. Additionally, training was provided to minimize using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. To promote resilience to climate change, composters were provided to enable the conversion of organic waste into organic soil and fertilizer. The improved products from these cooperatives were successfully marketed through a newly established company run by Palestinian youth, utilizing both traditional selling points and an e-commerce digital platform. Furthermore, SAP prioritized women’s equality and participation, focusing on supporting women-led families in all SAP activities.

Table (1): the types of implemented interventions and distributed inputs for the benefited families in 2023 by SAP.

Intervention	No. of benefited families
Home gardens	30
Wicking beds	50
Open Irrigated vegetable farms	15

Greenhouses vegetable farms (Rehabilitation)	141
Greenhouses (mesh coverage) vegetable farms	4
Small-size greenhouse (154 m2)	51
Distribution of seeds and seedlings	9
Agricultural roads rehabilitation	189
Distribution of drip irrigation networks	88
Rainwater harvesting cisterns rehabilitation	156
Rehabilitating irrigation water bonds	30
Rehabilitation of sheep barns and supply of production supplies	178
Barley growing green fodder hydroponic	3
Provision of Powdered milk	8
Distributing stainless steel jar for milk transport	16
Provision of automatic milk feeders	8
veterinary bag distribution	80
Beehives distribution	4
Electric mixer for dairy processing	5
stainless steel white cheese press	5
Electric milk shaker	8
Provision of milk cooling tank	2
Distributing electric milking machine	4
provision of food processing tools	2
Provision of biogas units	1
Total	1,087

3. The relationship between SAP activities and SDGs:

The Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) in 2023 interventions align with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets, demonstrating a multifaceted approach to enhancing agricultural resilience, supporting small-scale farmers, and fostering sustainable development amidst socio-political challenges. Below, each intervention is matched with relevant SDGs and specific targets:

- * Home Gardens, Greenhouses, Barley Growing Green Fodder Hydroponic & Beehives Distribution: Supports and aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), Target 2.4 for sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices.
- * Wicking Beds & Open Irrigated Vegetable Farms: Supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Target 6.4 to substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors.

- * Distribution of Seeds and Seedlings: Falls under SDG 15 (Life on Land), Target 15.3 to combat desertification and restore degraded land.
- * Agricultural Roads Rehabilitation: Relates to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), Target 9.1 to develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure.
- * Distribution of Drip Irrigation Networks & Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns: Matches SDG 13 (Climate Action), for integrating climate change measures into policies and planning.
- * Rehabilitation of Sheep Barns & Provision of Veterinary Bags: Ties to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all.
- * Provision of Powdered Milk, Stainless Steel Jar for Milk Transport, & Electric Milk Shaker: Aligns with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Target 12.2 by achieving the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
- * Provision of Biogas Units: Supports SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Target 7.2 to increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
- * Supporting five women's cooperatives for the processing and marketing of agricultural food products: emphasize SDG 5 (Gender Equality), promoting women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making.

4. SAP's Activities in 2023 and Alignment with ARIJ Strategy 2023-2027:

1. Improving Agricultural Production: SAP aims to enhance the quality, quantity, and cost-effectiveness of agricultural production through new practices and technologies. This aligns with ARIJ's strategy to introduce and scale up eco-friendly and financially viable agricultural techniques, directly supporting SDG targets related to sustainable agriculture and food security.
2. Introduction of Green Smart Agricultural Techniques: SAP's focus on urban agriculture techniques, hydroponic systems, and the use of treated wastewater for irrigation matches ARIJ's goal to promote sustainable management of natural resources and the utilization of alternative energy sources, contributing to water efficiency and energy sustainability.
3. Enhancing Agricultural Self-sufficiency and Food Security: Through the provision of agricultural inputs and support to farmers, SAP works towards increasing agricultural self-sufficiency and food security, reflecting ARIJ's objective to ensure access to food and promote sustainable agriculture as per SDG targets.
4. Empowering Marginalized Groups: SAP places a strong emphasis on building the capacities of women, youth, and small-sized farmers using smart technologies and practices. This effort is in line with ARIJ's commitment to gender equality, youth empowerment, and the effective participation of marginalized groups in agricultural development.
5. Supporting Small and Medium Agro-entrepreneurs: By co-financing initiatives and entrepreneurs, SAP seeks to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agricultural sector. This is consistent with ARIJ's strategy to promote economic empowerment, job creation, and income generation, contributing to sustainable economic growth.
6. Improving Market Accessibility and Competitiveness: SAP's activities to enhance market access and competitiveness for agricultural products align with ARIJ's strategy to strengthen the resilience of Palestinian communities and preserve their character using technology, including improving access to markets and digital platforms.
7. Land Rehabilitation: Efforts by SAP to rehabilitate and revive agricultural lands support ARIJ's objective for sustainable environment management and conservation of natural resources, addressing land

degradation and promoting sustainable land management practices.

8. **Climate Change Resilience:** SAP's initiatives to build resilience to climate change through smart solutions align with ARIJ's strategy to minimize climate change impacts and promote environmental and climate justice, emphasizing the importance of sustainable resource management and climate-smart agriculture.

5. *The strategic objectives and key actions of the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) for 2024:*

The following strategic objectives and actions aim to solidify the program's commitment to sustainable agriculture development, fostering resilience, inclusivity, and environmental responsibility among rural communities in the West Bank:

1. **Expand Agricultural Interventions:** Introduce new sustainable and green agricultural practices to scale up successful interventions.
2. **Increase Support to Rural Families and Institutions:** Extend support to additional rural families and institutions, prioritizing those in areas of greatest need.
3. **Enhance Food Security and Climate Resilience:** Develop and implement comprehensive strategies to bolster food security and resilience against climate change among small-scale farmers and cooperatives.
4. **Strengthen Women's Cooperatives:** Provide targeted support to more women's cooperatives, enhancing their capabilities in agricultural product processing and marketing.
5. **Expand Organic Waste Conversion Programs:** Increase the distribution of composters and biogas digesters to additional farming households for organic waste conversion, thereby reducing waste, improving soil quality, and generating renewable energy.
6. **Support Youth and Women's Cooperatives in Establishing Circular Economy-Based Businesses:** Create supportive environments (physical, technical, and financial) for youth and women's cooperatives to launch new businesses leveraging circular economy principles, including conducting awareness campaigns for communities and consumers.
7. **Broaden Market Access for Improved Products:** Utilize both traditional and digital platforms to market agricultural products, with an emphasis on expanding reach and boosting sales.
8. **Foster Women's Participation and Equality:** Roll out specialized programs to enhance women's participation in agricultural activities and their presence in decision-making processes.
9. **Sustainability and Community Engagement:**
 - Actively engage with community members, local authorities, and other stakeholders to ensure the sustainability and ownership of interventions.
 - Build and maintain partnerships with both local and international organizations for resource sharing, knowledge exchange, and technical assistance.
 - Seek funding opportunities to support planned activities, continue aiding vulnerable populations, small-scale farmers, and women's cooperatives, and improve their resilience to socio-economic hardships, natural crises, and climate change.

2.2 Information Technology Program

ARIJ Information Technology Program aims to contribute to the development of information technology in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, through effective dissemination of information and knowledge. In its work, the program improved ARIJ capabilities in computing technologies and applications. In addition to providing technical assistance to ARIJ different departments, the IT program develops and programs web-based information systems and creates efficient logical databases for the different projects for the institute. These programs support research staff in interpreting and presenting data analysis and evaluation findings. ARIJ also keeps up with the latest remote sensing and geographical information system applications. ARIJ IT Program has been also responsible for creating and managing of Geospatial databases and Meta data that are used to develop web-based mapping applications.

Furthermore, the IT program has extended its work to include video editing and publishing all of ARIJ work. The program is responsible for recording, editing and finally publishing the videos on social media accounts such as YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/arijvideos>), Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/arij.org>) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/ARIJ_Institute).

Achievements & activities during 2023

Projects

- EU East Jerusalem Project *“Towards Social Inclusion in Community Development by Providing Platforms for Planning and Advocacy”* SDG- Article 19 Freedom of Opinion & Information



The projects aim at empowering the Palestinian communities and civil society in EJ to claim their rights and their political and developmental space through collective actions at community level, advocacy actions, and participatory planning. All outputs are available online on the project website www.alquds.info

Objectives:

1. Increase the national and international stakeholders addressing the challenges and hardships faced by Palestinian EJ residents for adequate housing, infrastructure, and services (educational, health, and environmental) are empowered by providing advocacy, analysis, and decision support tools.
2. Increase national and international awareness and understanding of the situation in EJ.
3. To provide donors and others with the required information in various sectors in East Jerusalem in order facilitate interventions and especially in the educational sector.
4. Promotion of the Palestinian cultural and heritage identity of the city and of Palestinian businesses related to local and international tourism.
5. Empower the Palestinian communities and civil society in EJ to defend their rights and promote sustainable development by providing an inclusively developed and coherent framework of priority needs for the Palestinian Neighbourhoods in EJ.

Outputs:

- * A 3D data model and geospatial monitoring system of: (a) geopolitical conditions in EJ; (b) gender disaggregated demographic and socioeconomic indicators; and (c) the quality and accessibility to educational, environmental, recreational (tourism) and health services.
- * A 3D visualization system of Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem (EJ) linked to the Geospatial database.
- * Tourism information System (TIS) for EJ.
- * EJ community profiles assessing communities' needs and developmental priorities.

■ **The Environmental and Climate Justice Programme (ECJP)**

The IT Program oversees the implementation of the Knowledge Management System and the Content Management System in cooperation with Ma'an Development Center. The intended systems are used for both public and internal use in which the public would serve the community and researchers that are interested in the project while the backend knowledge management system would server the project partners in sharing, editing and publishing internal content.

■ **Monitoring Israeli Colonizing activities in the Palestinian West Banks & Gaza**

The IT Program overseen the implementation of the mobile based interactive map of the current geopolitical status (iPalestine). The app is currently available on both iOS and Android based mobiles The functionalities include the ability to select the required layers to view and query the data that are linked to the layers.

Application Development:

Social Media & Movie Production:

The IT Program is responsible for producing documentaries for ARIJ work and mainly movies in regards to the

Israeli colonization activities in the West Bank. All movies produced are uploaded on ARIJ YouTube channel for people to view. Currently we have more than 300 movies that are uploaded on our YouTube channel. The program is also in charge of filming, interviewing, and photo shootings for workshops that are accomplished by ARIJ. The program is also in charge of managing ARIJ social media accounts (ie.. Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter) there has been growing numbers of people following ARIJ news the past few years. Moreover, the IT program was in charge of advocacy plans for the institute, the process includes video creation, posting on the social media platforms and banners and flyers designing.

Digital Printing & Design:

The IT program has equipped a small print shop that includes a small digital printer, paper folding machine, binding machine, electrical paper cutter and a small paper laminating machine. The print shop is responsible for printing small numbers of ARIJ publications. We have printed hundreds of publications for ARIJ including books, brochures, posters and booklets.

System Administration & Security:

The IT program main focus is to provide technical support and assistance to the different departments at ARIJ through developing applications, installing software's, maintaining hardware, and maintaining and updating the local area network. ARIJ has around 11 physical servers, 20 virtual instances and over 100 computers to maintain.

Cooperation & Communication:

Meetings with the different stakeholders and beneficiaries of the EU East Jerusalem Project. These meeting include focus group meeting with the education, health, environment, water & sanitation, and tourism sectors in East Jerusalem.

Initiated cooperation with GeoKomm which is a network of German institutions that works in the field of R&D projects aimed at promoting technology-based solutions.

Technopark: The IT Program have been involved in the tourism sector hackathon event implemented by Technopark as a speaker on Geospatial data and member of the judging panel in charge of choosing the winning start-up ideas.

Activities planned for 2024

- 1.** The IT program will submit a project proposal with GeoKomm called ECOBOTICS in which the objective of project to foster innovation and knowledge transfer, international cooperation beyond academia, and Frontier research in all fields by exchanging staff members between project partners for short periods of time.
- 2.** A joint project with PalVision has been submitted to the EU East Jerusalem Project im which the IT program will use GIS technology to map and identify houses, properties, and ownership in the Old City of Jerusalem, while considering the constraints that may arise when collecting data on property ownership for Palestinians. This will help maintain a comprehensive and accurate record of the ownership of properties in the Old City, which can be used for various purposes, such as urban planning, preservation, and rehabilitation.
- 3.** The IT program in cooperation with the GIS & remote sensing department will in the year 2024 work to implement and develop an internal interactive web-based mapping solution which can be used by the different units and projects.

4. ARIJ e-office suite version 2: The IT Program has in 2005 developed an E-office system for ARIJ that is currently used by all employees at ARIJ. The current system is very old and requires many updates as new internal manuals have been published therefore, we are planning to develop new version of the system to take in consideration all the changes that have been implemented on our HR, Financial, Project and Administration manuals.
5. ARIJ Fauna & Flora web information system: The IT Program has started in the last of month of 2020 the development of the Fauna Flora database which will be accessible through the web.
6. Designs: The IT Program will go on with its work in designing and printing materials related to ARIJ work and the projects implemented by ARIJ.
7. Advocacy: The IT Program will continue its work in publishing on the different social media tools available to increase the number of followers and connections to be able to promote ARIJ work around the world. The program will also be responsible for creating documentaries related to ARIJ work and mission and publish all materials on our YouTube channel.

2.3 Good Governance Program

Accomplishments and achievements for the Year 2023:

ARIJ Good Governance program continued to enable good governance principles in Palestinian society. Activities implemented by the Good Governance program aimed to promote values of integrity, principles of transparency and systems of accountability in various Palestinian sectors (Municipalities, Ministries, Cooperatives, Civil Society Organizations, and Community-based Organizations).

ARIJ Good Governance Program works on the ground towards contributing to ensuring that political, social and economic priorities are based on board consensus in Palestinian society and that the voices of all rights-holders are heard in decision-making over the allocation of development resources in line with SDGs 5, 8, 10, 13 and 16.

Realizing the importance of participatory, transparent and accountable, efficient and equitable approaches to development, ARIJ Good Governance Program worked to increase the accountability of local and national authorities; develop the participatory capacities of local and national authorities to become more responsive to community needs, and ensure fairness and equity in distributing available resources.

At the heart of its mandate is work with community-based organizations and grassroots. Accordingly, ARIJ Good Governance Program directly target and collaborate with grassroots to build their capacities and empower them. This year the Program, enhanced awareness and capacities of community-based organizations in the protection of human rights, and the involvement of rights- holders in claiming their water rights.

ARIJ Good Governance Program awarded initiatives to 13 CBOs in the following localities: Ar-Rihiya, Al-Sawahreh al-Sharqiyeh, Al-Kum, Al-Masara, Umm Salamuna, Battir, Beit Fajjar, Khalet al-Maiyya, Dura, Anata, Marah Rabah, Wad Rahal, and Yatta/Massafer Yatta.

Across the above localities, the initiatives' activities contributed to the above objective and results in the most marginalized and disadvantaged geographical areas. Each initiative included a mix of activities to increase awareness of rights-holders and engage them in the protection of their rights and items to procure to protect the right to water for rights-holders, especially that the target is the most vulnerable in relation to access to water and sanitation. Under the initiatives, targeted CBOs engaged with 1,215 RHs (M: 493, F: 722) in the awareness raising and accountability activities.

ARIJ Good Governance Program also increased CSOs participation in promoting the PA's obligations to introduce human rights and gender sensitive oriented policies and mechanisms to promote and protect the rights of rights- holders.

ARIJ Good Governance Program completed an evidence-based report that documented and reported on human rights violations against water right linking it to rights to movement, education, protection and health in West Bank and Gaza Strip. This report was followed by presenting one Oral Statement at the United Nations Human Rights Council¹ (under item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.) In this Oral Statement, ARIJ called on the International Community to firmly uphold their responsibility and exert pressure on Israel to immediate seize its systematic violations of water rights to restore and protect Palestinian Water Rights. Moreover, ARIJ engaged with and presented the report to 30 international and national bodies.

1 <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1h9u0kl7k>, starts at minute 20:34.

At the international advocacy level, ARIJ Good Governance Program conducted series of meetings in Geneva and Brussels at the final stage of the project to present the findings of the evidence-based report, and to lobby the international human rights bodies such as international community, UN agencies and other international human rights and women organizations in favor for Palestinian water and sanitation rights. They are World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Water Network, Cairo Institute for Human Rights, The European Middle East Project (EuMEP), UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Eight Members of European Parliaments, Irish Permanent Representation in Brussels, European External Action Service (EEAS).

ARIJ Good Governance Program strives for the inclusion of young people in public decision-making through creating an environment that fosters the civil participation of young people, and the creation of spaces for dialogue between young people and the public authorities. Accordingly, the Program is also part of Safir. Safir is an ambitious program in favor of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) achievement and in favor of the economic inclusion of youth in nine Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia). It supports Arab youth and culture by creating an environment conducive to the citizen engagement of youth, and to promote the development of projects, which have a social, cultural and environmental impact. As part of Safir, the Good Governance Program trained Palestinian Youth in advocacy for the achievement of the sustainable development goals to enable them of participating fully in decision-making processes.

Since its foundation, ARIJ believed in the significant contribution of strong resilient cooperatives towards sustainable resilient development. Accordingly, ARIJ targets cooperatives in the Sustainable Agriculture Program and in the Good Governance Program.

In this period, ARIJ Good Governance Program continued its role as We Effect's strategic advocacy partner, and continued to play its role as a platform for cooperatives and their members (to the best of its ability under the circumstances). The overall vision is strengthening cooperatives and unions so they can act as the voice of their rights-holders and members to have more influence over their own lives and communities.

ARIJ Good Governance Program can report some achievements in:

Advocacy plan to advocate Palestine Monetary Authority and Association of Banks in Palestine to ease banking restrictions on cooperatives:

ARIJ Good Governance Program intends to continue its efforts to promote the role of women and youth in rural development by responding to an issue that directly plays into the enabling environment of the cooperative sector. This issue was the 'financial accreditation for cooperatives' or the relationship between banks and cooperatives. Targeted rights-holders have always presented this challenge to the project team and Cooperative Work Agency (CWA) acknowledged this dilemma and confirmed that it receives annual complaints in this regard. To this end, ARIJ planned to advocate Palestine Monetary Authority and Association of Banks in Palestine to ease banking restrictions on cooperatives.

ARIJ Good Governance Program planned to influence the practices or beliefs of Palestine Monetary Authority and Association of Banks in Palestine in regards to Palestinian cooperatives towards increasing their awareness of cooperatives as socio-economic entities (for-profit entities) that should have same/equal access to banking

services as for-profit entities. This would be especially beneficial to rural cooperative members and youth/women members who generally lack the same/equal access to knowledge, practices, facilities and resources as other groups. As a starting point, in this reporting period, ARIJ Good Governance Program prepared and printed two awareness leaflets to use in the engagement and lobbying with Palestine Monetary Authority and Association of Banks. The first leaflet explained the differences among non-profit entities (charities), cooperatives and for-profit companies. The purpose of this leaflet is to emphasise cooperatives as socio-economic entities different from charities and companies.

الشركات	الجمعية الخيرية	الجمعية التعاونية	هدف تأسيسها
تطبق أكبر قدر من الأرباح لتعود على مالكي الشركة فقط	تلبية احتياجات المجتمع وسعادة الفقراء، والمحتاجين من خلال تقديم خدمات اجتماعية وإسكانية	تلبية احتياجات اقتصادية اجتماعية، لأعضاء التعاون	تكون من أشخاص يؤمنون ببادئ وقيم العمل التعاوني
تتكون من أشخاص رأسمال يسعون لتربح	تتكون من أشخاص لديهم الإهتمام لمساعدة ودعمه الأخرين بدون مقابل	تتكون من أشخاص يؤمنون ببادئ وقيم العمل التعاوني	حياة العمل التعاوني
وزارة الاقتصاد الوطني	وزارة الداخلية	البنك المركزي	الفرق القانوني لها
قرار بقانون رقم (17) لسنة 2011 بشأن الشركات	قرار بقانون رقم (16) لسنة 2011 بشأن الشركات الخيرية والهيئات الأهلية ونشاطها	قرار بقانون رقم 20 لسنة 2017 بشأن الجمعيات التعاونية ونشاطها	طبيعة العمل
أهم معقدة يجوز تداولها في السوق المالي	يوجه رسوم التأسيس بسيطة فقط	أهم بسيطة غير قابلة للتجزئة والتداول	الهيئة المصنفة
المستحقين	للجميع لمصلحة (غير الأرباح)	الأرباحية لأعضاء، ثم غير الأرباح	ألية التصويت
تحتسب الأرباح بناء على عدد الأسهم	صوت واحد لكل عضو وعدد الأسهم المتراكمة	صوت واحد لكل عضو بغض النظر عن عدد الأسهم التي يمتلكها العضو	توزيع الأرباح والمفدى
يوزع الربح والمفدى	لا يوجد ربح والمفدى	المفدى يوزع على الأرباح بناء على عددهم مع الجمعية التعاونية	حذود الملكية
يوزع الربح بناء على عدد الأسهم	لا يوجد ملكية لأعضاء	لا يجوز لتعضو أن يمتلك ما يزيد عن (10%) من رأس مال الأسهم المتراكمة، كما لا يجوز لتعضو التصاريح امتلاك ما يزيد عن (10%) من رأس مالها الأسهمي، على ألا يزيد ملكية الأعضاء الإجماليين مجتمعين على (10%) من رأس مال الجمعية	

Differences among non-profit entities (charities), cooperatives and for-profit companies

The second leaflet is a financial leaflet containing important legal and financial information that cooperatives must comply with, also to emphasise that cooperatives comply with different legal requirements than charities and companies.

أول صورة مالية

تتمثل الصورة المالية للجمعية التعاونية من خلال:

- 1- رأس المال المخصص من قبل الأعضاء.
- 2- الأرباح المتراكمة.
- 3- الأرباح الموزعة.
- 4- الأرباح المحتجزة.
- 5- الأرباح الموزعة.
- 6- الأرباح المحتجزة.
- 7- الأرباح الموزعة.
- 8- الأرباح المحتجزة.

رؤية توضح الفرق بين الأرباح والمفدى:

- 1- الأرباح: هي الأرباح التي تحصل عليها الجمعية من خلال نشاطها الاقتصادي.
- 2- المفدى: هي الأرباح التي تحصل عليها الجمعية من خلال نشاطها الاجتماعي.

الفرق بين الأرباح والمفدى:

- 1- الأرباح: هي الأرباح التي تحصل عليها الجمعية من خلال نشاطها الاقتصادي.
- 2- المفدى: هي الأرباح التي تحصل عليها الجمعية من خلال نشاطها الاجتماعي.

Legal and Financial Leaflet for Cooperatives

Started a 5-year collaboration with for Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit (UCACS):

ARIJ Good Governance Program started a partnership with UCACS to strengthen its capacities to achieve their vision and strategic plan in socio-economic empowerment for rural women. In the West Bank, SCC are usually women-owned and led. Rural SCCs are more successful because they respond to and address lack of

accessibility and availability of finance (access to finance) for rural women and youth.

Strengthen the institutional capacity of SCCs and UCASC in order to enhance their effectiveness, sustainability, and impact through the development of comprehensive manuals, institutionalization processes, governance structures, and the writing of procedures and policies. This intervention supported UCASC to develop comprehensive manuals for each of the 11 SCC and UCASC, encompassing all relevant operational areas.

ARIJ Good Governance Program supported UCASC to provide some additional resources and support to UCASC and its affiliated cooperatives, which will help to enhance their daily operations in the saving and credit cooperatives.



UCASC Operational Manual

The project and rural cooperatives in Hebron Governorate created two trial models (pilot schemes) to control raw material prices for rural cooperatives in Hebron Governorate:

At the heart of ARIJ belief that cooperatives are at the heart of smallholder farmers' success in agriculture aligned with natural ecosystems. ARIJ Good Governance Program addressed vital issues like availability, access, utilisation, and stability of nutritious food in rural families in a sustainable manner aligned with natural ecosystems.

ARIJ Good Governance Program and rural cooperatives in Hebron Governorate created two trial models (pilot schemes) to control raw material prices for cooperatives. The trial models centred on self-production of raw material to control costs.

In southern Hebron, the primary livelihood is livestock and animal husbandry. Rural cooperatives highlighted the high costs of livestock feed, which affects the prices of milk and dairy products in the area, affecting all stages of the supply chain and all cooperatives. They agreed that controlling the costs of livestock feed, one

of the main raw materials in animal husbandry, is the primary priority for them. They proposed the self-production of the feed crop to control costs (Panicum for grazing livestock).

The two pilots were implemented in As Samu' city by As Samu' Cooperative for Livestock Development (41 members: 40 males, 1 female) and As Samu' Agricultural Cooperative (129 members: 91 males, 38 females). Forecasted results from the initiatives are:

1. Increase green fodder production by 35%-40%.
2. Increase green fodder quality, as the protein content is 20% in the feed crop "Panicum".
3. Reduce the costs of procuring green fodder by 20% by locally producing it.
4. Create four job opportunities (year-long but part-time)

Noteworthy, the directorate is very supportive of the efforts of ARIJ and the two cooperatives. The project focal point, Eng. Agricultural Qamar Hawamda said "As a first-hand witness to hardships faced by small farmers to provide adequate nutrition to their livestock (feed crop prices doubled after COVID-19 pandemic), I am very hopeful that the pilot schemes will lessen the economic burden on farmers and encourage them to sustain their livelihood"

In Jerusalem Governorate, agricultural cooperatives stressed the resilience (sumud) of Palestinian Jerusalemites in their lands. Therefore, cooperatives wanted to utilize public communal lands sustainably for the benefit of the community.



Planting feed crop type "Panicum" in Samu' city

Abu Dis Cooperative for Livestock (Al-Nahda) piloted planting of 30 dunums of public lands with field corps (like wheat and barley) and fruit trees (like grapes, figs, and olives). In Abu Dis 90 farmers engaged in the initiative by planting the 30 dunums, 60 cooperative members and 30 non-members. The results for field corps (yield) will be available in June of 2024, while the fruit trees needs 2-3 years to produce fruits. The chairperson of the cooperative, Ghazi Jawhar expressed his happiness at the success of the initiative to increase the green areas and agricultural land in Abu Dis, and admired highly the positive interaction and feedback from local small farmers. He said "This success reflects commitment of the cooperative to participate in green agriculture and land revitalization towards promotion of sustainable development in the local Abu Dis community and achieve economic development" .



Images from pilot in Abu Dis Al-Nahda Cooperative

For Updates on Cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, NGOs and Institutions OR Cooperation with Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs:

ARIJ Good Governance Program maintained its strong cooperation ties with several local and international bodies, including:

- ***Palestinian Authority Bodies:*** Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Labor, Cooperative Work Agency.
- ***Local NGOs and Institutions:*** National Team to Support the Transparency of the Public Budget, Cooperative Sector Advocacy Task Force, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Land Research Center (LRC), The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), Women Media and Development (TAM), Youth Development Resources Center-Hebron (YDRC- Hebron), and Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC), Legal Clinics in Hebron University and Palestine Ahliya University.
- ***Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs:*** EU, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Institut Français, We Effect, Oxfam International, and UNDP.

2.4 Natural Resource Management Program

Activities and achievements in the year 2023:

In 2023, the Water and Environment Department (WERD) sustained its efforts to actively contribute to the conservation of Palestinian natural resources. The primary focus remained on safeguarding the environment as a crucial element for ensuring human health and promoting the sustainable utilization of these resources. Moreover, the WERD dep. worked to enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, enabling them to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change and environmental degradation. Throughout 2023, the WERD department dedicated considerable efforts to this cause:

Improving access to sanitation services at different level:

By enhancing the accessibility of equitable, affordable, and sustainable safely-managed (WASH) services, the (WERD) Dep successfully concluded initiatives aimed at meeting the urgent basic needs of vulnerable Palestinians residing in Al Aqaba village, Tubas, located in Area C. This area lacked a sewage network, resulting in challenges related to poorly managed wastewater for the affected population. Consequently, a sewage network and household connections were established, with total length of 2200 m. This infrastructure improvement benefited approximately 273 individuals, including 74 women and 119 youth.

This effort was supplemented by an awareness-raising campaign aimed at fostering understanding of wastewater as a valuable resource, promoting personal health and safety, and imparting hygiene best practices. A total of 559 beneficiaries, comprising 273 males and 286 females from Al Aqaba and Tayasser Village, benefited from the training and awareness program. The campaign included 12 awareness sessions, three field visits to the Tayasser wastewater treatment station, and 120 door-to-door engagements. Notably, this This project is funded by oPt Humanitarian, and implemented in partnership with Al'ard for Agricultural Development



The sewage network and household connection at Al Aqaba- Tubas

As part of the ongoing cooperation between ARIJ and Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), the WERD Dep worked in the project to develop an inclusive master plan for industrial wastewater management and strengthen the governance and capacity of regional Palestinian authorities to perform managerially and technically sound pollution control to protect water resources. The project is funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the implementation Organization: IHE Delft Institute, PWA, ARIJ, House of Water and Environment (HWE), Joint Service Council for Wastewater Services, and Wageningen University Department of Environmental Science (WU-DES).

Environment and Climate Justice program

In the year 2023, as part of a three-year Consulate General of Sweden funded program, the WERD dep has continued its work on the program “Environmental and Climate Justice in Palestine (ECJP)” with the overarching goal “To contribute to improving environmental and climate justice in Palestine”. ECJP is a 36-month programme started on 2021, and implemented in the most climate vulnerable rural communities in Palestine (Gaza, West Bank Specifically Area C, Hebron District, East Jerusalem and Jordan Valley). (www.facebook.com/PalECJP),

The (ECJP) is a SIDA supported programme implemented by WeEffect in partnership with the Palestinian Agricultural Institutions Coalition (PAIC). PAIC was established in 2018 and is a coalition of six Palestinian environment, climate, and agricultural non-governmental organizations- Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committee (PARC), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG), Land Research Centre (LRC), MA’AN Development Centre, and the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ).

ECJP adopts a gender mainstreaming and human rights-based approach, linking the rights of marginalized community members—especially women, youth, and smallholder farmers—with the obligations and commitments of duty bearers in environmental governance, access to information, and natural resources.

In alignment with our commitment to fostering environmental and climate justice in Palestine as well as increasing the resilience of marginalized communities, the following highlighted the significant achievements in the implementation of climate change resilience initiatives during the third year of the (ECJP) program.

Two pivotal climate change resilience pilot projects and 6 GIAs aim to develop innovative solutions in the fields of environment, agriculture, renewable energy, and climate change in the targeted communities were completed. These environmental and climate change GIAs and grants were implemented in partnership with the targeted CBOs and the village councils. The implementation of the six Green Initiatives (GIAs) and the two pilot projects has yielded a diverse range of impactful measures aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability and protection. At the household level, five units with varying capacities have been provided to convert 26 kg organic waste into 16 hours per day biogas for (cooking) and 68 l organic fertilizer.

Additionally, the adoption of solar energy is evident through the installation of six solar systems with capacities ranging from 5 to 25 kwt, effectively convert sunlight to generate power. The transition to solar energy extended to street and building lighting, with 64 LED street lighting units and 72 LED building lighting units being installed in different locations within the communities. The initiative to enhance green cover involved the planting of 245 forest trees and 427 local seeds, contributing to the beautification and ecological

balance of the targeted areas.

Sustainability practices have been integrated into an Eco-friendly Park in Al Jab'a and an Eco-friendly building in Bardalah, showcasing a commitment to environmentally conscious urban development.

Efforts to manage solid waste include the distribution of 43 solid waste handling containers in public places for efficient collection and separation. Addressing water-related challenges, a wastewater treatment plant was constructed in Al Jab'a Eco-friendly Park, facilitating the reuse of treated effluent for irrigation. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) green tools have been implemented through the supply and installation of 28 water-saving devices in schools, kindergartens, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) buildings in the targeted communities.

Furthermore, the initiative has extended beyond infrastructure development to community engagement and resilience planning. Four Climate Resilience Plans have been developed for the vulnerable rural communities of Jab'a, Nuba, Bardalah, and Al Aqaba, with active participation from community members. The establishment of four gender-inclusive Youth Pressure Groups (YPG) and an environmental team underscores a commitment to advocacy for environmental protection at both local and national levels. Overall, these comprehensive initiatives have not only contributed to ecological sustainability but have also fostered community participation and awareness in the pursuit of a greener and more resilient future.



Adopting Sustainable Green Practices: A Step Towards Environmental Responsibility: Solar Systems, Wicking Beds, Eco Parks, Biogas system, and Climate-Smart Agriculture

More than 3141 people directly benefited from the ECJP interventions during the third year and 5386 people indirectly, among them 4544 young,

Awareness and knowledge transfer

As part of its work to transfer knowledge and to increase awareness of the Palestinian people towards environment, climate change WASH behaviors and practices, WERD Dep. succeeded in conducting:

GEF Stakeholders Workshop: With the aim of sustaining support for the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Program (GEF/SGP) under the United Nations Development Program (UNDP/PAPP) for Palestinian community-based organizations (CBOs), the WERD Dep in collaboration with Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG), successfully concluded a series of training programs. These trainings were specifically designed to enhance the capacities of Palestinian civil society organizations and grassroots institutions (target cooperatives, CBOs, NGOs) operating in the domains of environment, energy, water, and community development.

A mapping exercise was carried out by WERD Dep. to identify and categorize the community-based organizations (CBOs) operating in Hebron and Bethlehem governorates based on their respective areas of focus. As a result of this mapping exercise, a detailed list was created, encompassing a total of 30 CBOs. Subsequently, a comprehensive needs assessment survey was conducted for the identified 30 CBOs. This comprehensive approach ensured a well-rounded and inclusive representation of the CBOs, providing valuable insights into the specific needs and challenges faced by different organizations. Each identified CBO was intervened, and a set of questionnaires specifically designed for this purpose was administered to gather relevant information regarding their specific needs and priorities. The findings revealed that the CBOs exhibited a lack of capacities in several key areas, including: Project management and implementation, Proposal writing, Community needs assessment, Monitoring and evaluation, Fundraising, and Innovation and creativity. A comprehensive training materials specifically tailored to address the identified capacity gaps were developed.

A series of Six training days were successfully conducted in the Hebron and Bethlehem governorates, with **a total of 68 participants representing 16 different CBOs. Among the participants, there were 56 women and 12 men**, reflecting a diverse and inclusive representation. The training sessions focused on providing participants with valuable knowledge and skills related to project proposal development for the Small Grants Program aimed at preserving and revitalizing Palestine's natural environment.



A Series of Training Days on Proposal Development for Palestine's Natural Environment

The content of the training aligned with local sustainable development priorities, offering tools for environmental conservation and community well-being. The goal of the extensive training sessions was to empower participants to actively contribute to sustainability and socio-economic development in their communities. The training equipped them with diverse skills and knowledge to effectively address environmental challenges in their respective fields. It's important to highlight that the project team distributed all the developed training materials to participants. Additionally, a WhatsApp group was created for both the Bethlehem and Hebron groups, serving as a platform for sharing and exchange of ideas, data, and information. It also enabled prompt responses to participants inquiries.

Different training sessions which benefited 1286 persons (51.5% females, and 48.5 % males). For example, On August 17, 2023, WERD Dep participated in Bruqin's Environmental Festival, focusing on raising awareness about solid waste in Palestinian territory. The campaign emphasized recycling and eco-friendly practices to address environmental challenges, preserving wildlife, and natural resources. A detailed explanation on plastic recycling highlighted the process of reusing plastic scraps to create new products, aiming to minimize pollution and promote environmental preservation.



The Awareness-raising campaign

Producing, and sharing awareness material: to raise communities' member's awareness for more effective energy consumptions, waste reduction, protect the biodiversity, reuse and recycling behaviour reinforces how were produced and included, but not limited to:

- 4 spots to share the environmental and climate challenges and to documented the sustainable solutions "green practices" to inspire others to take action toward their environment.
- 3 leaflet, 3 success story, bags, 1 infographas, I case study .
- a documentation of women's and indigenous knowledge, and best practices for adaptation and application of green approaches and tools to climate change.



leaflet as mean of raising the awareness of the public

Furthermore, the department delivered presentations on the status of the environment in the oPt to both local and international audiences and appeared in a number of television and radio interviews. The Department was involved in numerous workshops, conferences and lectures which focused on various topics including; Palestinian water rights and the impact of Israeli practices on the Palestinian environment, amongst other issues relating to the water and environment sector.

For Updates on Cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, NGOs and Institutions OR Cooperation with Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs

WERD Department maintained its strong cooperation ties with state-, and non-state-based institutions especially PWA, WSSA, MoA, PCBS, EQA, Municipality of Bethlehem, Municipality of Saiir, Jericho Directorate of Education, Jenin Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Ma'an network, and MoLG Ministry of Higher Education, the Department also cooperate with several regional and international organizations including but not limited to UN-Habitat, SCP/RAC, DTD, CENTA, UNCTAD, EU, Belgian Development Agency, Oxfam ,ACTED, UNRWA and IUCN.

Publication

Monthly & Quarterly Reports

- Final, report of the project entitled “Improving the Access of Vulnerable People in Al Aqaba to equitable, affordable and sustainable safely-managed WASH services
- Final Report for GEF Stakeholders Workshop
- Semi-annual and second narrative report of the program entitled, “Environmental and Climate Justice in Palestine”.

- Completion Report for the 2 Pilot Project and 6 GIA ““Environmental and Climate Justice in Palestine (ECJP)

Report

- Environmental and Climate Justice in Palestine
- Monitor Israeli violations against the Right to Water and Sanitation (Right to Water) and their association with other human rights violations
- واقع وتحديات استمرار الهجمات الإسرائيلية على قطاع غزة يلقي بظلاله على مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة الـ 28 لتغير المناخي

Brochure and Infographs

- منتزه الجبعة المجتمعي و الصديق للبيئة: قصة نجاح و نموذج لتعزيز الإستدامة واستخدام الموارد الطبيعية في حديقة صديقة للبيئة
- جمعية بردلة التعاونية لتنمية الثروة الحيوانية الإستثمار الأخضر للتكيف مع التدهور البيئي و التغير المناخي
- نشرة توعوية «كيف نحافظ على نظام الصرف الصحي
- نشرة توعوية أهمية تصريف المياه العادمة من خلال شبكات الصرف الصحي

Planned activities for the year 2024

ARIJ Strategic Goals and Objectives	Planned activities for the year 2024
<p>1. Goal 1: To collect, analyze and disseminate information related to sustainable development in the Israeli occupied Palestine</p> <p>A. Objective 1.1: Enhanced accessibility to reliable environmental, socio-economic, and geopolitical information and knowledge in the Israeli occupied Palestine</p> <p>B. Objective 1.2: Improved dissemination of ARIJ’s reports and data to the various stakeholders.</p> <p>2. Goal 2: To foster initiatives that lead to clean and healthy environment through improving natural resource management in the Israeli occupied Palestine.</p> <p>A. Objective 2.1: Improved conservation, management, and utilization of land, environment and water resources in the Israeli occupied Palestine.</p> <p>3. Goal 3: To play an active role in advocating for the Palestinian human development and security at local, regional and international levels.</p> <p>A. Objective 3.1: Increased international community knowledge on the of Palestinian human security level</p>	<p>Funded projects:</p> <p>1. Environmental and Climate Justice Programme in Palestine</p> <p>2. Enhance Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala” for 30 families</p> <p>3. Master Plan for Wadi Zomer.</p> <p>4. EcoLeaders: Youth-Driven Climate Resilience, Empowerment, & Advocacy for Sustainable Change and Development in Palestine</p>

The following activities from the WERD action plan for 2023 can be interlinked with the ARIJ strategic objectives for the years 2023-2027:

- **Foster initiatives that lead to clean and healthy environment - Linked to SO1:** New techniques, sustainable green technologies (Eco-Friendly and financially viable tools) to help in protecting and sustaining the natural resources, are adopted, developed, replicated, and scaled up. In addition, building the resilience of the most vulnerable communities to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change and environmental degradation.
- **Improved Sustainable management of the environment and utilization of natural resources (land and water) is through adopting Nature-based approaches. Linked to SO2:** WERD will works to increase the access to improved sanitation at households' /community level, promote the safe use of treated waste (non-conventional water) in agriculture and industry, rehabilitate and increase the capacity of the surface water resources such as springs, roman wells, and cisterns, as well as to support actions for ecosystems resilience to natural or human disturbances.
- **Enhance the resilience of vulnerable Palestinian communities:** WERD will continue it efforts to minimizing the impact of the Climate change linked to SO3 and SO8: contributing in minimizing the impact of the Climate change by promoting environmental and climate justice through active participation of all members of the community.
- **Raise Awareness, knowledge and the capacities of Palestinian communities, rights holders and stakeholders on environmental rights and WASH linked to SO4.** The capacities of the Palestinian people are raised and strengthened at both levels local and national through conducting training programs, onsite training and knowledge exchange visits, awareness campaigns and Producing and disseminating educational materials on the protection of natural resources, and WASH practices.
- **Environmental governance among the Rights holders, grassroots and civil society organizations (CSOs) linked to SO5:** contributing in building resilient institutions and strong leadership capabilities and Empowering women and youth to advocate for the protection of the environment, engage and participate in environmental actions and decision-making processes on national and local levels
- **Enhance accessibility to reliable environmental, climate, socio-economic, and geopolitical information and knowledge linked to SO6:** the main environmental performance Indicators to monitor progress towards the improvement and protection of the natural resources is ccollected, analyzed, assessed and disseminated.
- **Promote research and development (R&D) in the field of environment linked to SO7:** research and development (R&D) projects are implemented and published
- **Play an active role in advocating for the Palestinian human development and security at local, regional and international levels linked to SO9.** Increasing international community knowledge on the of Palestinian human security level.
- **Foster partnerships and collaborations linked to SO 10.** WERD will maintained its strong cooperation ties with state, and non-state-based institutions.

2.5. Urbanization Monitoring

The Urbanization Monitoring Unit - continued its usual activities to monitors the Israeli activities in the occupied Palestinian territory and regularly update the database concerning (settlements' construction, houses demolitions, land confiscation, uprooting trees, Israeli military orders, restrictions on movement, Israeli settlers' violence).; pending the European Union open call for the new stage of the project.

The Urbanization and Monitoring cooperated with Information Technology Department and the Geographic Information System Department to complete and launch the "mobile application- "iPalestine" to provide an online interactive map with GIS layers and information related to the Israeli activities in oPt provided by project. Overall, the Urbanization Monitoring Unit activities are summarized in the following:

- Participation in a workshop organized by the European Union in Jordan between May 29 and June 1 on strategies and methods for building peace.
- Prepare and deliver lectures "presentations" on the impact of Israeli settlement on the geopolitical situation in the occupied territory.
- Provided support to the Water Department while preparing the OCHA project.
- Working with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Department regarding amending the Code on Sexual harassment Conduct.

2.6. Geo-informatics Department

The GIS and RS Research Unit at the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) is using state of the art data and mapping technology in its research studies on land use analysis and planning, environmental, and water management and sustainable development in Palestine. Over the past 25 years, ARIJ has diligently worked on promoting its technical and human resources capabilities in the field of GIS and RS. ARIJ has a well developed GIS and RS unit based on ArcGIS 10.8, manifold 6.0, ArcVlew, Ecognition and open source GIS software for the GIS mapping technology (QGIS), besides acquiring the professional image processing software ERDAS Imagine 10.0, Er Mapper 7.2, and PCI 9 to accurately analyze and interpret satellite images and aerial photos.

The GIS is continuing to act as a service provider, in which it constantly supports the other projects at ARIJ with statistical data, maps and geographic records needed for their research and projects. The GIS at ARIJ is involved in variety of applications, these applications as diverse as natural resource sciences, urban development and analysis, automated mapping and facility management (AM/FM) systems, land information systems (LIS), agriculture and geopolitics.

Geopolitical level

The Geo-Informatics (GIS&RS) Department along with Urbanization and Monitoring; perform mapping communities targeted by Israeli activities on the ground to help assess the magnitude of the occurred damages and derive conclusions. The scope of work also includes monitoring and documenting expansion in settlements, identifying outposts' locations; detecting the development of other colonization activities, the most visible of which the under construction Segregation Wall throughout the occupied Palestinian Territory. The information synthesized and produced in the form of case studies containing the information related to the violation showing targeted location reinforced with the military orders (if available) and also with the related map that shows the situation on the ground.

Ongoing Projects

- **Endurance -Smart Agriculture Practices for Sustainable Land Development and Irrigation Water Management in Palestine.**

Project Objective:

The project aims to promote sustainable community land development, water management and agricultural practices, through enhancing the enable inclusive socio-economic development with sustainable management of natural resources in Area C, it will be conducted by the Palestinian Agricultural Institutional Coalition (PAIC) formed a consortium of six non-governmental organizations (PARC, ARIJ, Al Ard, MA'AN, LRC, PHG)

Project outcomes:

1. PAIC' s Consortium influential role in policy design, investment decisions, accountability and good governance enhanced.
2. PAIC consortium will be capacitated in the field of policy influence and will target a wide spectrum of beneficiaries at community and national level and will work closely with different stakeholders for inducing change at community and national levels.
3. Effectively promote local ownership and empower PAIC Consortium capacities and legitimacy within territorial approach.

4. Communities in Area C are empowered through territorial approach mainly in the field of natural resources (e.g., Land, water, energy).

■ **Field Data Collection for Two Crop Mapping Seasons in Jericho Governorate- West Bank – Palestine”.**

Objective:

The main objective of this task is to develop field reference data for the land cover and crop map of a pilot area in the Jericho and Jordan Valley governorate to fulfil with the overall objective of project which aims to increase food production by increasing production per unit resources (land and water). The crop map will eventually be used in support of the land and water productivity assessment in the pilot area of in the Jericho and Jordan Valley governorate.



2.7 ARIJ Partnerships and Agreements

ARIJ continued fostering its relationships with the related Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations activities includes the following but not limited:

- WERD Department maintained its strong cooperation ties with state-, and non-state-based institutions especially PWA, WSSA, MoA, PCBS, EQA, Municipality of Bethlehem, Municipality of Saiir, Jericho Directorate of Education, Jenin Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Ma'an network, and MoLG Ministry of Higher Education, the Department also cooperate with several regional and international organizations including but not limited to UN-Habitat, SCP/RAC, DTD, CENTA, UNCTAD, EU, Belgian Development Agency, Oxfam ,ACTED, UNRWA and IUCN.
- ARIJ Good Governance Program maintained its strong cooperation ties with several local and international bodies, including:

Palestinian Authority Bodies: Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Labor, Cooperative Work Agency.

Local NGOs and Institutions: National Team to Support the Transparency of the Public Budget, Cooperative Sector Advocacy Task Force, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Land Research Center (LRC), The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), Women Media and Development (TAM), Youth Development Resources Center-Hebron (YDRC- Hebron), and Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC), Legal Clinics in Hebron University and Palestine Ahliya University.

Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs: EU, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Institut Français, We Effect, Oxfam International, and UNDP.

- Al-Quds University and ARIJ has agreed to partner together in order to introduce a bachelor's degree in the field of geoinformatics part of the university dual studies program. The IT program has been in charge of the communication between the two organization and the designing of program. On the other hand, ARIJ has agreed to host university students that are willing to implement their graduation projects on systems that ARIJ is currently using. Accordingly, the first project which was agreed with the students and their supervisor is to enhance the aquaponics system at ARIJ and to integrate a number of sensors (light, temperature, PH) and connect these systems wirelessly with a mobile app the sends notifications to the owner of the system.
- Meetings with the different stakeholders and beneficiaries of the EU East Jerusalem Project. These meeting include focus group meeting with the education, health, environment, water & sanitation and tourism sectors in East Jerusalem.
- Meeting with GIZ to coordinate and cooperate on the work being done in East Jerusalem.
- Technopark: The IT Program have been involved in the tourism sector hackathon event implemented by Technopark as a speaker on Geospatial data and member of the judging panel in charge of choosing the winning start-up ideas.
- ARIJ signed an MoU with Karama Solidarity & Karama Solidarity Palestine Branch. The collaboration will be focused towards improving the quality of living and achieving sustainable development.

2.8 Human Resources Department

In terms of administration, ARIJ is continuously identifying the possibilities of new positions and reviewing the current roles and responsibilities, internal manuals , procedures and recommending the necessary changes while ensuring compliance with the local laws, the reliability and integrity of the financial information - Internal controls ensure that management has accurate, timely and complete information, including accounting records, in order to plan, monitor and report the projects. Moreover, ARIJ is reviewing the policies in place while sharing them with the staff.



Section 3: Estimated Budget 2024

Expenses	Amount in USD	Percentage
Office Rental	4,184	0.20%
Audit Fees	4,292	0.20%
Office Supply & IT Equipment	6,998	0.33%
Utilities	7,211	0.34%
Printing and Publications	7,315	0.35%
Travel	9,709	0.46%
Administrative Project Cost (7%)	26,563	1.26%
Communication	31,860	1.51%
Training Workshops	57,543	2.73%
Transportation	89,393	4.24%
Administrative/ support staff (Human Resource)	143,660	6.82%
Technical / Extention (Human resource)	446,541	21.19%
Direct Implementation	1,271,852	60.36%
TOTAL Amount in USD	2,107,121	100.00%

# of Project	Funder	Abbreviated name	Budget Amount in USD
1	EU	Land & Water	18,859
2	Oxfam	Oxfam - Small Grant	19,773
3	IHE Delft Institute	Wadi Zomer	22,500
4	MCC	MCC - Emergency	28,176
5	PCUSA	PCUSA - Emergency	34,496
6	FAO	FAO	37,189
7	UPA	UPA	49,949
8	MCC	MCC Live Stock	50,000
9	Save the Children	Save the Children	56,209
10	Oxfam	Oxfam	75,242
11	UNDEF	UNDEF	76,760
12	SIDA	CIVSAM	97,205
13	UNDP	Tarabot	97,710
14	SIDA	ECJP	139,956
15	Arab Fund	Arab Fund	250,000
16	Spanish Cooperation	Spanish Cooperation	450,000
17	WFP	WFP	603,096
	TOTAL		2,107,121

Section 4: Publications

4.1 Special Reports

- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – September 2023
- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – August 2023
- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – July 2023
- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – June 2023
- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – May 2023
- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – April 2023
- Monitoring Report on the Israeli Settlement Activities in the occupied State of Palestine – December 2022

4.2 Papers

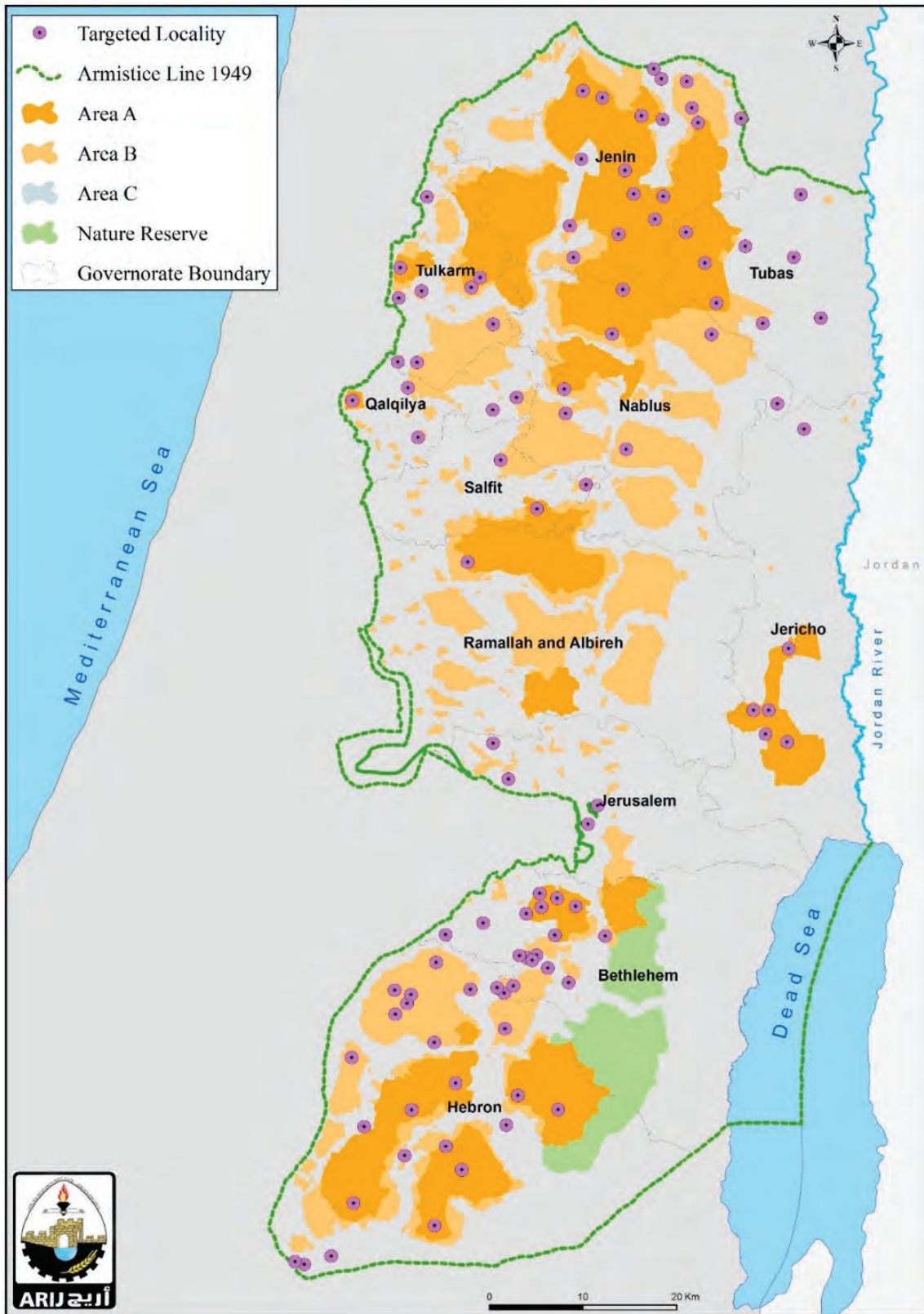
- The consequences arising from the reduction in the daily water supply to Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates by the Israeli national water company, “Mekorot”.
- It might look “Far-off”; the Two-State Solution remains the optimal solution for addressing the conflict.
- The Instigation of Apartheid Roads Era: Israel blocks Palestinian movement inside West Bank Governorates.
- Between “Ben Gavir” and Netanyahu Not Oblivious but Vindictive, The reality of Israeli Apartheid Stands in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- (ARIJ) Commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Palestinian ‘Nakba Day’.

4.3 News Articles and Media outlet

- حصيلة 2023 – غزة سيدة المشهد الفلسطيني في ظل همجية حرب الاحتلال الإسرائيلي عليها وتسارع الاستيطان وعنف المستوطنين في الضفة الغربية المحتلة
- استمرار الهجمات الإسرائيلية على قطاع غزة يلقي بظلاله على مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة الـ 28 لتغير المناخ
- It might look “Far-off”; the Two-State Solution remains the optimal solution for addressing the conflict
- قد يبدو بعيد المنال في خضم الحرب الإسرائيلية على قطاع غزة المحاصر، يبقى حل الدولتين الأمثل لتحقيق سلام عادل ودائم
- الحرب على قطاع غزة وتأثيرها على محافظة الخليل جنوب الضفة الغربية
- Olive Tree Production in occupied Palestine Amidst Israeli occupation and climate change
- معاناة شجرة الزيتون الفلسطينية بسبب الاحتلال والاستيطان في العام 2023
- قرابة 2500 دونما من الأراضي الفلسطينية، بذريعة “المحميات الطبيعية والغابات”، سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلي تستهدف المزيد من الأراضي الفلسطينية غرب البحر الميت وشمال الضفة الغربية
- الذهب الأخضر (زيت الزيتون) الأكثر ندرة هذا الموسم في ظل الاحتلال الإسرائيلي والتغير المناخي
- الواقع البيئي في قطاع غزة المحتل في ظل الحرب الإسرائيلية المسعورة
- تطبيق سياسة الفصل العنصري على استخدام الطرق الرئيسية في الضفة الغربية وتقييد حركة وتنقل المواطنين الفلسطينيين
- The Instigation of Apartheid Roads Era: Israel blocks Palestinian movement inside West Bank Governorates
- إسرائيل تقرر بناء جدار على الحدود الشرقية مع المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية
- سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلي تصادر 64 دونما شمال مدينة بيت لحم لإقامة موقفا للحافلات
- Between “Ben Gavir” and Netanyahu Not Oblivious but Vindictive, The reality of Israeli Apartheid Stands in the occupied Palestinian territory
- -- “Weaponizing” archaeology in the occupied West Bank, a step towards thwarting Palestinian

sovereignty in Area C”

- Position Paper: The consequences arising from the reduction in the daily water supply to Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates by the Israeli national water company, “Mekorot.”
- A “de facto annexation” of the West Bank’s Nature Reserves
- لغرض ربط البؤرة الاستيطانية “مزرعة شهاريت”، قرارا عسكريا يستهدف أكثر من 1500 دونما من الأراضي الفلسطينية في محافظة سلفيت
- (بواقع 58 أمرا عسكريا)، سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلي تستهدف القطاع المائي في الضفة الغربية المحتلة (2020-2023)
- حكومة نتنياهو اليمينية تمهد لإعادة الاستيطان شمال الضفة الغربية المحتلة
- Israeli Settlements in the Occupied West Bank: from “outposts” to urban blocks
- (ARIJ) Commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Palestinian ‘Nakba Day’
- تستهدف ما يزيد عن 6900, تسجيل الأراضي في القدس في خدمة مشروع الاستيطان الإسرائيلي وشرعنة الاستيلاء على الأرض
- ما يسمى “بالمسؤول عن أملاك الحكومة وأملاك الغائبين”، يعطي الاذن بالتخطيط ل 321 دونما من أراضي محافظة بيت لحم
- الطرق الالتفافية الاسرائيلية وأثرها على البيئة الفلسطينية
- سلطات الاحتلال الإسرائيلي تستحوذ على 85 ألف دونم قبالة شواطئ البحر الميت
- “الفلسطينيون بين سندان حكومة اليمين المتطرف وتخاذل المجتمع الدولي”



وعلى المستوى الجيوسياسي، واصلت وحدة رصد التوسع الحضري أنشطتها المعتادة في مراقبة الأنشطة الإسرائيلية في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة والتحديث المنتظم لقاعدة البيانات المتعلقة بـ (بناء المستوطنات، هدم المنازل، مصادرة الأراضي، اقتلاع الأشجار، الأوامر العسكرية الإسرائيلية، القيود على الحركة، عنف المستوطنين الإسرائيليين). وبالرغم من عدم توفر الدعم لهذا المشروع إلا أننا في المعهد في انتظار الإعلان من قبل الاتحاد الأوروبي للإعلان عن المرحلة الجديدة من المشروع. كما وتعاونت وحدة رصد التوسع الحضري مع دائرة تكنولوجيا المعلومات ودائرة نظم المعلومات الجغرافية لاستكمال وإطلاق تطبيق الهاتف المحمول «iPalestine» لتوفير خريطة تفاعلية عبر الإنترنت مرتبطة بنظم المعلومات الجغرافية والمعلومات المتعلقة بالأنشطة الإسرائيلية في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة التي يوفرها المشروع.

يهدف برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات في أريج إلى المساهمة في تطوير تكنولوجيا المعلومات في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة، من خلال النشر الفعال للمعلومات والمعرفة. وساهم البرنامج في عمله في تحسين قدرات معهد أريج في تقنيات وتطبيقات الحوسبة. بالإضافة إلى تقديم المساعدة الفنية لأقسام المعهد المختلفة، يقوم برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات بتطوير وبرمجة أنظمة المعلومات على شبكة الإنترنت وإنشاء قواعد بيانات فعالة ومنسجمة مع المشاريع المختلفة التي ينفذها المعهد والتي توفر الدعم لطاقت البحث في تحليل البيانات لعمل التقارير وعرض نتائج التقييم. بالإضافة إلى أن البرنامج يواكب العمل على أحدث تطبيقات الاستشعار عن بعد ونظم المعلومات الجغرافية ومن ناحية أخرى فإن برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات مسؤولاً أيضاً عن إنشاء وإدارة قواعد البيانات الجغرافية المكانية والبيانات الوصفية المستخدمة لتطوير تطبيقات رسم الخرائط على شبكة الإنترنت. علاوة على ذلك، توسع برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات في عمله ليشمل تطوير وعمل ومنتجة الفيديوهات بالإضافة إلى نشر جميع أعمال معهد أريج ويعتبر البرنامج مسؤول عن تسجيل وتحرير ونشر الفيديوهات على حسابات وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي مثل قناة اليوتيوب (<http://www.youtube.com/arijvideos>) والفيسبوك (<http://www.facebook.com/arij.org>) وتويتر (https://twitter.com/ARIJ_Institute).

واصل برنامج أريج للحكم الرشيد على تفعيل مبادئ الحكم الرشيد في المجتمع الفلسطيني حيث هدفت الأنشطة التي ينفذها برنامج الحكم الرشيد إلى تعزيز قيم النزاهة ومبادئ الشفافية وأنظمة المساءلة في مختلف القطاعات الفلسطينية (البلديات، الوزارات، التعاونيات، منظمات المجتمع المدني، ومنظمات المجتمع المحلي).

ويعمل برنامج الحكم الرشيد في المعهد على أرض الواقع من أجل المساهمة في ضمان أن الأولويات السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية مبنية على توافق مجالس إدارة المؤسسات في المجتمع الفلسطيني بالإضافة إلى أن أصوات جميع أصحاب الحقوق مسموعة في عملية صنع القرار فيما يتعلق بتخصيص موارد التنمية بما يتماشى مع أهداف التنمية المستدامة 5 و8 و10 و13 و16. وإدراكاً لأهمية النهج التشاركي والشفاف والمسؤول والفعال والمنصف للتنمية، عمل برنامج أريج للحكم الرشيد على زيادة مساءلة السلطات المحلية والوطنية في عملية تطوير القدرات التشاركية للسلطات المحلية والوطنية لتصبح أكثر استجابة لاحتياجات المجتمع، وضمان العدالة والإنصاف في توزيع الموارد المتاحة والذي يقع في صلب صلاحيتها (وحدة الحكم الرشيد) العمل مع المنظمات المجتمعية والقواعد الشعبية وعليه، فإن برنامج الحكم الرشيد في معهد أريج يستهدف ويتعاون وبشكل مباشر مع القواعد الشعبية لبناء قدراتهم وتمكينهم. وقد ساهم البرنامج هذا العام في تعزيز وعي وقدرات المنظمات المجتمعية في مجال حماية حقوق الإنسان، وإشراك أصحاب الحقوق في المطالبة بحقوقهم المائية.

ومعالجة مياه الصرف الصحي والبيئة والطاقة المتجددة والتمكين الاقتصادي والحكم الرشيد والبحوث والتنمية ومراقبة الأنشطة الاستيطانية الإسرائيلية وتكنولوجيا المعلومات ونظم المعلومات الجغرافية. راجع الخريطة الموجزة التي توضح صفحة تدخلات أريج (65).

واصل معهد أريج تعزيز الشراكات والتعاون مع منظمات المجتمع المدني الفلسطينية الأخرى مثل سكرتارية ائتلاف المؤسسات الزراعية الفلسطينية (PAIC) الذي يحما رؤية تحقيق الإدارة المستدامة للموارد الزراعية والطبيعية والبيئية في بيئة متكاملة وشفافة ومدارة بشكل جيد وضمن إطار عمل مرن ومبتكر ومنظم يعتمد على الاحتياجات الحقيقية للمجتمع المدني الفلسطيني حيث تأسس ائتلاف PAIC المؤسسات في عام 2018 وهو عبارة عن تحالف يضم في عضويته ست منظمات غير حكومية فلسطينية مختصة بالبيئة والمناخ والزراعة وهي الإغاثة الزراعية الفلسطينية (PARC)، اتحاد لجان العمل الزراعي (UAWC)، مجموعة الهيدرولوجيين الفلسطينية (PHG)، مركز أبحاث الأراضي (LRC) مركز معاً التنموي، ومعهد الأبحاث التطبيقية - القدس (أريج). (www.facebook.com/PaleCJP) يستخدم برنامج ECJP نهجاً قائماً على تعميم مراعاة النوع الاجتماعي وحقوق الإنسان ويربط حقوق أفراد المجتمع المهمشين وخاصة النساء والشباب وصغار المزارعين أصحاب الحيازات الصغيرة عندما يتعلق الأمر بالحوكمة والحقوق البيئية، والوصول إلى المعلومات والموارد الطبيعية.

ففي العام 2023، أظهر برنامج الزراعة المستدامة (SAP) في أريج حملة مركزة لدمج الممارسات والتقنيات الزراعية المتطورة والصديقة للبيئة، كل ذلك بما يتماشى مع أهداف التنمية المستدامة (SDGs) ففي خضم التحديات والشدائد البيئية والقيود الناجمة عن الاحتلال حقق البرنامج خطوات ملحوظة، حيث أثر البرنامج وبشكل مباشر على 1087 أسرة ريفية، ودعم خمس مؤسسات رئيسية في تسع محافظات بالضفة الغربية، وإشراك 75 بلدة. وكان هذا الجهد مهماً وبشكل خاص بالنسبة لصغار المزارعين والمجتمعات المحلية داخل المنطقة (ج)، مما أدى إلى تعزيز إنتاجيتهم الزراعية وقدرتهم على الصمود بشكل كبير.

كما ونفذ البرنامج 25 تدخلاً زراعياً مصمماً خصيصاً لتلبية احتياجات القطاع الزراعي الفلسطيني بشكل مباشر، مع التركيز الشديد على تعزيز الأمن الغذائي ونقل الزراعة الصغيرة من مستويات الكفاف إلى أنشطة مستدامة مدرة للدخل. وكان أحد العناصر المحورية في هذه التدخلات هو توفير مجموعة شاملة من جلسات التدريب وبناء القدرات، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على تمكين المرأة في القطاع الزراعي. وتهدف هذه المبادرات التعليمية إلى تزويد المزارعات وأعضاء التعاونيات بالمهارات والمعرفة اللازمة لتبني ممارسات زراعية أكثر أماناً واستدامة، ومعالجة وتسويق منتجاتهن الزراعية بشكل فعال.

ومن خلال تعزيز المساواة بين الجنسين وإعطاء الأولوية لإدماج المرأة ومشاركتها الفعالة في جميع أنشطتها، كما وأكد البرنامج SAP على الدور الحاسم الذي تلعبه المرأة في التنمية الزراعية في فلسطين من خلال الدعم الموجه للأسر والتعاونيات التي تقودها النساء، ولم يرقم البرنامج بتعزيز بيئة مناسبة للتعليم والنمو فحسب، بل استفاد أيضاً من المساهمات المميزة للمرأة لتطوير نفسها وعملها من أجل مستقبل زراعي أكثر مرونة واستدامة.

واصلت دائرة أبحاث المياه والبيئة (WERD) في العام 2023 جهودها المتواصلة للمساهمة الفعالة في الحفاظ على الموارد الطبيعية الفلسطينية. وظل التركيز الأساسي على حماية البيئة باعتبارها عنصراً حاسماً لضمان صحة الإنسان وتعزيز الاستخدام المستدام لهذه الموارد. علاوة على ذلك، فإن قسم المياه والبيئة WERD عمل على تعزيز قدرة المجتمعات الأكثر ضعفاً على الصمود، وتمكينها من توقع الأحداث أو الاتجاهات أو الاضطرابات الخطيرة المتعلقة بتغير المناخ والتدهور البيئي والاستعداد والاستجابة لهذه التحديات طوال عام 2023.

القيود المفروضة على الحركة والتنقل: بعد أحداث 7 أكتوبر، فرضت السلطات الإسرائيلية قيوداً متعددة على الحركة، بما في ذلك إغلاق العديد من نقاط التفتيش وإغلاق مداخل البلدات والمدن في جميع أنحاء الضفة الغربية، بما في ذلك إغلاق العديد من نقاط التفتيش المؤدية إلى القدس حيث تم إغلاق البوابات والطرق وإقامة سواتر ترابية تفصل المدن والبلدات عن الطرق الرئيسية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، أغلقت قوات الاحتلال معبر جسر النبي مع الأردن أمام المسافرين الفلسطينيين. وقد أدت القيود المفروضة على الحركة في جميع أنحاء الضفة الغربية والمخاطر المحتملة لهجمات المستوطنين عند التقاطعات إلى إعاقة وصول الفلسطينيين إلى الإمدادات الغذائية والخدمات والمرافق الصحية والتعليمية.

وفي السياق الاقتصادي: لا يزال السياق السياسي المتدهور في الضفة الغربية يخلق وضعاً اقتصادياً غير مستدام. ومع بداية عام 2023، سجلت نسبة البطالة في الضفة الغربية 13.1% وتضاعفت الضغوط المالية التي تواجهها السلطة الفلسطينية بشكل كبير في عام 2023 بسبب عدم تحويل إيرادات المقاصة، بالإضافة إلى المستويات المنخفضة تاريخياً للمساعدات المقدمة من المانحين. وظلت القيود التي تفرضها إسرائيل على الحركة والعبور تحد من التنمية الفلسطينية في الضفة الغربية. علاوة على ذلك، بعد أحداث 7 أكتوبر شددت إسرائيل القيود والتنقلات عبر الحدود على حوالي 178 ألف فلسطيني يعملون في إسرائيل، حيث يكسب العمال أكثر من ضعف متوسط الأجر اليومي في الضفة الغربية. في حين أن أكثر من 6000 فلسطيني من غزة، الذين كانوا يعملون في إسرائيل، أصبحوا لاجئين في الضفة الغربية بعد 7 أكتوبر. وبحسب بيانات الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء الفلسطيني فقد عانى الفلسطينيون في الضفة الغربية من ارتفاع إضافي في الأسعار اعتباراً من العام 2022 بنسبة 5.87، فيما ارتفعت أسعار المواد الغذائية بنسبة 6.3%.

وفي السياق البيئي: كان عام 2023 هو العام الأكثر سخونة على الإطلاق على مستوى العالم. فقد عانت دولة فلسطين، مثل بقية دول العالم، من ظواهر مناخية قاسية مثل الحرارة والجفاف والرياح القوية والأمطار الغزيرة في غير موسمها وعواصف البرد الشديدة والفيضانات المدمرة. وتشكل هذه الأحداث المناخية خطراً متزايداً على الطبيعة والمباني والبنية التحتية وصحة الإنسان. كما أنه يؤثر على دورات الزراعة والحصاد التقليدية ولاحقاً لما ذكر فإن المستقبل يوحى بتوقعات اقتصادية أسوأ والتعرض لأحداث عنف أكثر سواء في الضفة الغربية أو قطاع غزة تتفق مع الأرقام الصادرة قبل أحداث 7 أكتوبر أن 50% من السكان البالغين في الضفة الغربية تظهر عليهم أعراض الاكتئاب والسخط من الأوضاع السائدة.

وفيما يتعلق بالفضاء المدني: فإن هذا السياق يواجهه في الضفة الغربية تحديات ويتفاقم بسبب الصراع ويتم فرض تقليص الحيز المدني من قبل إسرائيل (استمر الاحتلال الإسرائيلي في تهديد حياة الصحفيين، وإلحاق إصابات جسدية ومنع تغطية الأحداث المختلفة)، ومن قبل السلطة الفلسطينية في الضفة الغربية (فرض النظام الداخلي للشركات غير الربحية لعام 2022 قيوداً على كيف تدير مجموعات المجتمع المدني شؤونها المالية).

ومع كل ما ذكر سابقاً إلا أن المعهد في العام 2023، واصل توضيح مهمته الهادفة نحو تعزيز التنمية المستدامة في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة. وتهدف هذه المهمة إلى تعزيز زيادة اعتماد الشعب الفلسطيني على نفسه في السيطرة بشكل أكبر على موارده الطبيعية. ويواصل معهد أريج لعب دور رئيسي كمؤسسة وطنية، وتنتج تأثيرات كبيرة من خلال موظفيها المؤهلين تأهيلاً عالياً وذوي المهارات العالية في مجالات الزراعة المستدامة والتغير المناخي والمياه

تعيش المنطقة حالياً في حالة يرثى لها من الخراب والدمار ومن المرجح تصعيد وتسخين المنطقة وحدوث حرب إقليمية بينما يركز انتباه العالم حول الوصول الى صفقة بين حماس وإسرائيل التي ستقلل من الخسائر وستسرع في عملية تبادل السجناء الفلسطينيين والرهائن الإسرائيليين.

أصبح من الضروري اعتماد تدابير عملية لإنهاء الاحتلال الإسرائيلي وتطبيق صيغة حل الدولتين لإنهاء الصراع الإسرائيلي الفلسطيني. الفلسطينيون وثقوا في عدالة قضيتهم واعتمدوا على المجتمع الدولي لمساعدتهم للحصول على حقوقهم الغير قابلة للنقاش في تقرير مصيرهم وفرض سيادتهم على مواردهم الطبيعية. ولكن وللأسف، سياسة القوة والمصالح العالمية خذلت الفلسطينيين حتى الآن وتواصل مع ذلك إسرائيل إجراءاتها الأحادية الجانب لإحكام السيطرة واستعمار فلسطين بالكامل معتمدة على قوتها العسكرية والدعم المتواصل والتغاضي عن أفعال إسرائيل من قبل الإدارة الأمريكية.

أما على الصعيد الدولي، فهناك اجماع واتفاق على أن حل الصراع الإسرائيلي الفلسطيني يكمن في إقامة دولة فلسطينية قابلة للحياة ومستقلة تعيش في سلام وأمان إلى جانب دولة إسرائيل، ومع ذلك، فقد صوت 99 عضواً في الكنيست ضد إقامة الدولة الفلسطينية. وعلى الرغم من الغمّة السائدة وعدم اليقين إلا أن الكثير يحدث في الساحات الدولية لإحداث تغيير متزايد وإيجابي لدعم الحقوق الفلسطينية والحق في تقرير المصير للفلسطينيين وفرض السيادة على أرضهم ومواردهم الطبيعية.

وعلى صعيد آخر فإن السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية تواجه أزمة مالية خطيرة حيث أن أكثر من 200,000 عامل فلسطيني في إسرائيل عاطلون عن العمل منذ أحداث السابع من أكتوبر وانهار قطاع السياحة وفرضت إسرائيل قيوداً شديدة على الحركة في الضفة الغربية بإقامة وتفجير أكثر من 740 حاجزاً ونقطة تفتيش.

وأمام هذه المعطيات والظروف، فقد اضطر معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية (أريج) إلى مواصلة عمله كالمعتاد والتماشي مع المتغيرات والاتفاق مع مؤسسة أرض للأبحاث والتطوير على أن تستضيف موظفي معهد أريج من محافظة الخليل خلال فترة الحرب وعدم القدرة على التنقل وحفاظاً على سلامتهم، وقامت شركة فلسطين الخضراء التابعة للمعهد بتوفير الإقامة للموظفين اللذين يسكنون في مناطق أخرى في مقراتها بالإضافة إلى مكتب أريج في منطقة طوباس.

وللتكيف مع نقص التمويل وحالة عدم الوضوح والغموض المسيطر من الناحية السياسية اعتمد المعهد إجراءات تقشفية للحفاظ على موارده البشرية وكوادره على أمل تحسن الظروف.

الملخص التنفيذي

في الربع الأخير من العام 2023 ابتدأت أحداث السابع من أكتوبر في غزة التي أثرت بشكل كبير على سير العمل لجميع القطاعات وخاصة المؤسسات الأهلية وعملها وتمويلها. حيث شهدت الضفة الغربية تصعيداً كبيراً في أعمال العنف طوال عام 2023 وقد اتسم ذلك بتصاعد التوترات، وارتفاع كبير في الضحايا الفلسطينيين، زيادة عنف المستوطنين، هدم المباني المملوكة للفلسطينيين بالإضافة إلى الاجتياحات اليومية والاعتقالات وعمليات التصفية للمنازل. كما وشهد العام 2023 زيادة في عمليات التهجير وفقدان كبير لسبل العيش، فضلاً عن تشديد القيود المفروضة على الوصول والتنقل للعديد من المجتمعات الفلسطينية، لا سيما في المنطقة (ج). ومن المهم الإشارة إلى أنه قبل أحداث 7 أكتوبر، اغتالت القوات الإسرائيلية 234 فلسطينياً في الضفة الغربية، في حين كان عنف المستوطنون

شهد عام 2023 سلسلة غير مسبوقة من الأحداث التي أثرت على عمل معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية - القدس (أريج) ولم تكن القضية الفلسطينية حاضرة على جدول أعمال الانتخابات الإسرائيلية، التي جلبت إلى الحكم الأحزاب الدينية المتطرفة التي تدعو إلى الضم والترحيل وإعادة هيكلة النظام القانوني. كما وأدى ارتفاع نسبة تصويت المستوطنين إلى حصول اليمين المتطرف على 8 مقاعد. واستمرت السياسة الإسرائيلية في فرض «الحقائق على الأرض» في ضم الأراضي الفلسطينية وفرض واقع ديموغرافي من خلال المستوطنات وعدد سكانها في التسارع مما عرقل أي محاولة للوصول إلى حل للصراع وبدأت حلول الدولتين في التلاشي من خلال التوسع في المستوطنات والتأثير في الراي العام للجمهور الإسرائيلي مدعيًا أن الأراضي الفلسطينية ليست محتلة بل متنازع عليها.

ولاحقًا للعملية العسكرية التي قامت بها حماس في 7 أكتوبر 2023 والحرب التي شنتها لاحقًا إسرائيل على قطاع غزة والعالم يصارع لوقف إطلاق النار والتوصل لهدنة في محاولة لوقف شلال الدم والخسائر البشرية الجسيمة الناتجة عن قتل الإسرائيليين للمدنيين في قطاع غزة ووقف الهجوم والعمليات العسكرية على الضفة الغربية والقدس الشرقية. الصور والتقارير الواردة من قطاع غزة تظهر دماراً هائلاً وعمليات إبادة جماعية ارتكبتها قوات الجيش الإسرائيلي حيث أدى القصف الجوي المكثف على قطاع غزة إلى تدمير ما يزيد عن 70,000 وحدة سكنية بالكامل بالإضافة إلى انهيار البنية التحتية.

وبعد 173 يومًا من الحرب التي تشنها إسرائيل على قطاع غزة، لقي أكثر من 32,200 مدني فلسطيني مصرعهم، بما في ذلك 14,280 طفلًا و9,340 امرأة وأصيب أكثر من 74,600 وفي تقديرات أخرى من المتوقع ارتفاع عدد القتلى لأكثر من (7,000) لا يزالون في عداد المفقودين تحت أنقاض منازلهم التي تعرضت للقصف من قبل الطائرات الإسرائيلية ومن ناحية أخرى فقد قوات الجيش الإسرائيلي ودباباته أكثر من 1500 قبر في قطاع غزة، ودمرت 70,000 وحدة سكنية بالكامل أو اعتبرت غير آمنة، بالإضافة إلى التدمير الجزئي لأكثر من 290,000 وحدة سكنية أخرى بسبب القصف الإسرائيلي الثقيل والمستمر وكنتيجة لذلك أجبر حوالي 2 مليون مواطن من قطاع غزة إلى الانتقال قسراً إلى الجنوب حيث يعيشون في خيام تحت ظروف قاسية للغاية. كم ودمرت 32 مستشفى، وخرج 53 مركز صحي من الخدمة، وتعطل عمل 158 مؤسسة طبية أخرى بسبب القصف الإسرائيلي المستمر.

استهدفت 126 سيارة إسعاف وتم تدميرها بالكامل، ومن ناحية المدارس فقد دمرت إسرائيل 405 مدرسة وجامعة ومؤسسات تعليمية أخرى (منها 100 مدرسة خارج الخدمة و305 مدرسة أخرى غير آمنة للاستخدام بسبب الأضرار). استهدفت 3 كنائس و 514 مسجدًا (من بينها 224 تم تدميرها بالكامل واستهدفت بشكل جزئي 290 مسجدًا آخر). دمرت الطائرات الحربية الإسرائيلية أكثر من 200 موقع أثري، واستهدفت 168 مبنى حكومي بشكل كبير ودمرتها.

أما فيما يتعلق بتدفق المساعدات الإنسانية الغذائية والطبية إلى قطاع غزة فإن نسبتها قليلة وقد تكون معدومة وبنسبة أقل من الاحتياجات. كما وخرجت ثلاثة محطات لتحلية المياه في غزة عن الخدمة بسبب النقص في إمدادات الوقود وانقطاع التيار الكهربائي (وصول محدود للمياه النظيفة) وتم إيقاف تشغيل جميع محطات معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي الست بالكامل بسبب انقطاع التيار الكهربائي ونقص الوقود (المجري تتدفق في الشوارع) وكنتيجة لذلك تسببت الطائرات الحربية الإسرائيلية في تدمير ما يقرب من 55% من البنية التحتية لقطاع المياه والصرف الصحي وانخفضت أو قد تكون انعدمت خدمة جمع النفايات الصلبة إلى 20% الأمر الذي أدى إلى تراكم كميات كبيرة من النفايات في الشوارع وحول مراكز الإيواء، والمدارس، ومواقع التخلص من النفايات وتقدر النفايات الناتجة عن قصف إسرائيل على قطاع غزة (نتيجة تدمير المباني والبنية التحتية) بأكثر من 1.8 مليون متر مكعب.

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التقرير السنوي



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