

Organization profile

The NECC-ICC has served the Palestinian community since 1949. It began when four Americans, residing in Jerusalem, wired the World Council of Churches requesting immediate support for the Palestinian refugees who sought refuge in the West Bank. This appeal materialized in the form of relief assistance, including food, medical supplies and clothes.

Since its founding, NECC-ICC has evolved from a relief based organization to one with a strategy of rural based grass roots development strategy that included mother and child centers, infrastructure development, social work and training in nutrition and gender awareness as well as vocational training. Through over fifty years of work and experience with the Palestinian people, NECC-ICC has positively affected over 450 rural villages.

The organization has a long history in agriculture with focus upon domestic farming comprising of animal and vegetative production at the household level, in addition to water cisterns at the domestic level as well.

Water Program

Brief Description:

The project of rehabilitation of the agricultural well # 19-14/103 in Nwe'meh area involved supplying and installing all accessories and completing all works needed for an effective and efficient functioning of the well. The well delivers 80m³/hr of water which in turn will enhance the resilience of about 80 individual refugees headed by 10 breadwinner farmers in their land. This intervention now secures sufficient amount of water for irrigation for the already cultivated land of 350 dunums in addition to another 100 dunums in Zone "C" that is adjacent to bypass road 90 and is at risk of confiscation. Furthermore, water pumped from this well is sufficient for irrigation and for the livestock owned by the farmers as well, thus, contributing to food security of people in Jericho and Jordan Valley with crops and livestock.

Problem Statement:

Khader Hmeidat Well (Well #19/14-103) is located at the northern entrance to Jericho city. The well was drilled as a replacement of an older well and is licensed by the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) for a depth of 150 meters with an overall diameter of 18 inches. PWA required the farmers to fill up the old well for its inadequacy and

drill a new one. Therefore the farmers drilled the new well at their own expense and couldn't accomplish the works needed as they were financially overburdened. The urgency was highlighted by the Ministry of Agriculture for;

- The need to provide farmers with a reliable source for irrigation water which is essential for agricultural production in that dry area. Water is needed for irrigation of 350 dunums of land planted with various types of vegetables, palm trees, citrus and guava trees.
- In addition to irrigation, water is essential for the livestock owned by the farmers; 30 cows and about 50,000 chickens.
- Moreover, the well was drilled into a solid rock layer for about 100 meters, followed by 50 meters through the water bearing layer which was a non-consolidated gravel layer. The low consolidation of this layer would potentially result in collapsing the sides of the well, thus potentially losing the well.
- Finally, the land lies in Zone "C", adjacent to bypass road 90 and is at high risk of harassment and confiscation.
- In addition to about 100 dunums in the same area that are potential for expanding the agricultural land but need sufficient amounts of water for irrigation.

Project Description:

After fulfilling all legal and technical documents needed for the rehabilitation of the well, tenders process took place for the contractor and the consultant. Implementation started and ended within a set timeframe, under supervision of the consultant and the technical team, in compliance with the contractual agreements signed and in full coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and PWA. All accessories needed had been supplied and installed and all works needed had been accomplished in addition to performing all required tests.

The casing, gravel, submersible pump and motor, cable, electric board and all needed accessories have been supplied to the site and installed according to standards and specifications shown in the bill of quantities of the tender documents. The system was successfully operated and tested during operation and all required insurances fulfilled.

The ownership has been enhanced through local contribution from the farmers benefiting from the well; in addition to drilling the well at their own expense, throughout rehabilitation, the farmers contributed to the project by performing video surveying and verticality test, cleaning the well before installing the casing and

removing all debris, in addition to construction and finishing of a room for the eclectic board.

Impact:

The main change has been preventing the land from being confiscated as it lies in a hot area in Zone C and adjacent to bypass road. Now with an additional 100 dunums cultivated, a total of 450 dunums have been protected. The total cultivated land is provided with a reliable source of water for irrigation which is essential for agricultural production.

In addition, the prompt intervention prevented losing the well due to collapsing its sides and the well is functioning efficiently and effectively at pumping capacity of 80m³/hr.

Since the pumping capacity is high and the test proved high quality of water being pumped, unexpected was the capability of providing the water of the well for livestock as well as for irrigation as the farmers own 30 cows and 50,000 chickens.

Another success was the interest shown by other organizations in the project, although not all have been materialized. UNDP by now delivered 1500 pipes for the irrigation of the additional 100 dunums in addition to all their accessories and will be connected soon. This accelerated observing a tangible change as the additional 100 dunums are now being planted after less than two weeks of handing over the well. Additionally, another organization that is interested in environment is in the process of assessing the project for potential future intervention of operating the well using solar energy.

Pictures:



Food Security program

Brief Description

NECC-ICC focused upon the most affected areas in **Qalqilya, Tulkarem and Tubas**, as these governorates show some of the highest food insecurity levels. In the West Bank, the humanitarian situation is greatly affected by the construction of the Separation Wall and movement impediments denying farmers access to market. The governorate of Tubas is chosen as the project location because **37 percent of all the agricultural land in the West Bank is located in these areas and is considered the agriculture hub of the West Bank**. Furthermore it is situated in area "C" which is under total control of Israeli military who have military training camps adjacent to residential and populated area.

Despite the setback of forced migration of 700 persons from their locality which was declared a military area, Tubas district and Al Aqaba in particular have the potential to increase their production output, which can help alleviate the level of food insecurity

for the targeted farming households. This governorate is also known to be a traditional agricultural area, and many of the markets in the West Bank depend on their products. The main gap is access to market which discourages agriculture growth. This project will address this gap by encouraging farming especially amongst women who will grow 12 types of herbs. **In Tubas we have supported a herbal factory which suffers from the absorption of raw products in appropriate storage space, by establishing storage space of 350 sqm. for Herbs.**

Problem Statement

AL AQABA is a Palestinian village in Tubas Governorate which is located 5 km north east of Tubas city, in the north eastern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Khirbet Yarza and an Israeli military base (Kopra) to the east, Tayasir villages to the west, Ein el Beida and Bardala to the north and Tammun village to the south. In 1997, the total population of Al Aqaba village was 85 people, of which 46 were males and 39 were females. There were 13 households resident in 14 housing units (1997 PCBS census).

The total area of Al Aqaba village is 2600 dunums, which represents approximately 0.5 % of the Tubas Governorate's land area. 100 dunums are classified as built up area, whilst 2500 dunums are agricultural area cultivated with different crops; 2000 dunums have been confiscated by Israeli Occupation.

There are a lot of arable land which is not cultivated and not utilized in Al Aqaba village, out of 2500 dunums of arable land only 962 dunums are cultivated, which means that 61.5 % of the arable land is not utilized. The reasons of that are 1) Israeli forces have confiscated a large area of village land, 2) Israeli forces prevent the residents from access to a further enlarge area and sometimes detain them by withholding their IDs due to the closed military area, 3) lack of infrastructure like agricultural roads, agricultural extension centers, agricultural markets and agricultural machines, and 4) lack of funds and governmental subsidies.

Findings from UNDP surveys indicated that 58% of Palestinians are living below the poverty line as established by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), and almost half (30%) live in extreme poverty. Extreme poverty is defined as a household of two adults and four children live on USD 238 per month or less, or about USD 1.30 per person per day (UNDP Development Times, July 2007). Although Gazan households are generally poorer than those who live in the West Bank, some of the governorates in the northern West Bank, including Tulkarm, Qalqilya and Tubas governorates suffer

poverty levels similar to the Gaza Strip. Those households living above the poverty line are not necessarily safeguarded against poverty in the future, as about one-third of those are borderline cases, and many may be exhausting their coping mechanisms which make them vulnerable to fall below poverty line.

Project description

With the availability of a factory for the production of high quality of 12 types of herbs (tea bags like) in packaging, the small factory lacks space area to absorb raw material which would assist in the preparatory stage of the herbs prior to production and packaging. Thus washing, cropping and cleaning remains a challenge in the absence of a space designated to that purpose, in addition the lack of space hinders benefitting from the seasonal yield and absorption to maximize benefit from the low costs of the market available yield.

The purpose of the storage space is not only storing but rather receiving herbs in bulk, washing phase of the herbs, drying and grinding takes place in this area before it is delivered to the small factory. In addition to storage of the end product before it is sent to market.

Program design came as a result of several visits by the team of NECC-ICC meeting with a focus group of farmers from the village. Later met with the rural women society and in both sessions we had focused upon their needs with priorities. Local participation and contribution will be through their skilled labor in the set areas. The beneficiaries were undecided between a milk factory and a herbal tea factory and they all agreed over the herb factory storage space which is of higher potential with solid link with the market.

Impact

Al Aqaba factory herbal product is a unique brand from Palestine which has great potentials with limited resources. The factory is there, rural women society highly cooperative and active. Factory has a limited absorption and production capacity. Market demand is available with limited market supply.

The project is implemented at 2 stages the first being the provision of storage and working space and the second would be to enhance agriculture production in the same locality.

Rural women society share contribution was 14 % of the total actual cost of the project, contributing to a 380 m² for the preparation phase of herbs as well as storage of the final product.

The additional space will enable absorption capacity of the delivered raw product, enable increased production, thus creating additional job opportunities.

This will enhance the herbal value chain of a Palestinian brand for internal and external markets.

