



Project Highlights

West Bank and Gaza Strip

“Supporting the food security and sustainable livelihoods of poor rural families through improving rainwater harvesting and water demand management for agricultural purposes”

Project code: OSRO/GAZ/108/EC

Donor: European Union

Contribution: EUR 1.5 million

Implementation: 01/11/2011 — 28/02/2013

Target areas: West Bank (Hebron and Jenin governorates)

Contact: Dominique Burgeon
Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division
Email: Dominique.burgeon@fao.org



Objective: To protect and improve the livelihoods and food security levels of poor rural families through enhancing rainwater harvesting and management for agricultural purposes and job/income opportunities.

Project partners: Ministry of Agriculture, European Union, NGOs.

Beneficiaries reached: 500 vulnerable poor farming households and 2 198 workers (skilled and unskilled labourers from 24 cistern construction sites).

Activities implemented:

- Constructed and/or rehabilitated a total of 500 rainwater harvesting cisterns.
- Trained 475 beneficiaries and 50 agronomists on water management, sanitation, cistern construction and repair, technical agricultural topics related to integrated crop and pest management, backyard gardens and livestock management.
- Focused on improving women's participation and technical knowledge in water management and the agriculture sector.

Results

- Of the 500 cisterns in the 24 targeted project sites, 249 cisterns (50 percent) were used for supplementary irrigation of orchards, 177 cisterns (35 percent) for home gardens, contributing to family food security and 74 cisterns (15 percent) to meet water demands for small ruminants.
- Women (female-headed households made up 32 percent of project beneficiaries) were able to establish home gardens to grow vegetables for sale and household consumption, thanks to a more secure water source.
- The average volume of collected rainwater (from the 2012/13 rainy season) was 37 609 m³, providing savings for beneficiaries through reduced water costs.