



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Project Highlights

WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

“Protection of farmer livelihoods (West Bank)”

Project code: OSRO/GAZ/202/CAN

Donor: Canada

Contribution: USD 5 983 844

Implementation: 29/03/12–30/04/14

Target areas: Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nablus and Tubas governorates in the West Bank



Contact

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Objective: To prevent the erosion of herders' productive assets, minimize the risk of them becoming dependent on aid and minimize the negative effects of external shocks on marginalized herding communities in Area C.

Key partners: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and local Non-governmental Organizations.

Beneficiaries reached: 5 418 households (42 260 individuals).

Activities implemented:

- Artificially inseminated 20 000 sheep to increase the flock size for 1 149 herder households.
- Vaccinated 400 000 sheep in response to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.
- Provided 293 herder households with home garden units for vegetable production.
- Distributed 383 tonnes of drought-tolerant seeds to 2 570 households, which planted them on 25 000 dunums of land.
- Rehabilitated or constructed 215 cisterns to enhance community water access.
- Distributed 15 hydroponic units and eight silage units to farmers' cooperatives for alternative fodder production, benefiting 1 150 cooperative members.
- Rehabilitated 80 000 m² of sheds to protect the animals of 1 191 herders affected by Winter Storm Alexa (December 2013).
- Trained beneficiaries (in parallel with input distribution) on farm management, animal health, fodder production, irrigation and fertilization, water sanitation, cistern maintenance, etc.
- Provided emergency assistance to herders affected by unexpected events during the project period (extreme weather and demolition orders).

Results:

- Prevented further deterioration of herders' productive capacities and asset bases.
- Improved animal health, productivity and profitability for vulnerable herders' flocks.
- Helped herders produce low-cost fodder for their livestock through the distribution of drought-tolerant seeds.
- Allowed communities to collectively buy larger quantities of water at lower prices as a result of better water storage facilities.
- Enabled beneficiaries to support themselves with vegetables produced in home gardens (used for consumption and sale in the market).
- Improved beneficiaries' knowledge of animal health and hygiene, water use and management, farm management and grazing areas.