



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO'S ROLE IN EMERGENCIES:

- **PROTECT**—We protect the most vulnerable households from basic food insecurity and long-term reliance on food aid
- **RESTORE**—We restore the food security, local food production capacity, coping mechanisms, rural livelihoods and self-sustainability of rural communities
- **ENHANCE**—We enhance agricultural, livestock and fisheries production for a quick and lasting recovery

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

- FAO assists rural women acutely affected by the Barrier 1
- FAO helps women to process food 2
- Planting hope for the future with orchards 3
- Helping herders maintain their flocks 3
- FAO's perspective on Gender 4
- FAO advocates for emergency assistance for herders/Bedouins 4
- Setting up a Palestinian Socio-Economic Monitoring System 4
- FAO prepares an Avian Influenza public awareness campaign 5

MARCH 2008

WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

FAO assists rural women acutely affected by the Barrier

One of the ways in which FAO supports rural women is through the provision of sheep. Each beneficiary receives three pregnant ewes as well as training and guidance in proper sheep care. Although the selected beneficiaries are all women, the whole family benefits from the sheep as they provide milk for drinking and processing (making cheese and labaneh) and lambs for selling. Such projects are a great success as not much land is needed and women can tend their animals while still looking after their children and homes. The **Spanish funded project**, entitled "Emergency support and employment generation for female-headed households through backyard farming and cottage industry in the WBGS", is currently selecting beneficiaries for its sheep rearing activities in towns and villages separated from Jerusalem by the Barrier.



Wives and mothers, Hamda and Wafta, with children Bilal and Rania

The project aims to improve food security status of the beneficiary families by enhancing women's participation in income generation interventions, agroprocessing and cottage industries. This means that the project will not only deliver sheep and home garden inputs to the beneficiaries, but will also teach good production and marketing methods. This will bring real empowerment to the women and to their families.

Hamda A'wedat is one of the beneficiaries already selected in Bethany town. She lives with her extended family of thirty members barely 400 meters from the Barrier. Before the construction of the Barrier, her husband worked in Jerusalem, but now he is forced to look for work elsewhere. He manages to find work once every ten days but his wage is not enough to cover all the family needs. The project will provide Hamda with three pregnant ewes that she will tend in the non-cultivated waste land behind their house. All the women and elder children in the family will help look after the sheep.

"Our family income is very low, and the prices of everything we need are very high. I hope that these sheep will increase our family income so I can feed my family" explains Hamda. "We have a new baby just two months old. This assistance is very important to us."

assistance is very important to us."



The Barrier in front of Hamda's family home

Current Donor partners:



FAO helps women to process, pickle and preserve

Food processing can empower women to improve their household economic and food security situation. Through the **Norwegian funded project**, entitled “Support to household food security and income generation through bio-intensive backyard agricultural production and cottage industry for women”, FAO provides beneficiaries with both training and inputs, and helps identify marketing opportunities for the purpose of income generation. The women receive training on how to make jams, pickles, dry vegetables and fruit, juices and dairy products, as well as how best to freeze and package food. The inputs and training enables the women to buy fruit and vegetables when they are at their cheapest, at the end of the season, and preserve them for other times of the year. FAO has already provided training in food processing to 130 women in the Gaza Strip, Salfit and Yatta areas.

On 28 February 2008, 70 women from the Salfit area were presented with certificates at a prestigious award ceremony attended by Mr Ibraheem Hamad, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Salfit, Mr Tahseen Abu Slameh, Mayor of Salfit, Mr Nowwaf Suf, Salfit Deputy Governor, Mr



Jams and pickles made by women's organizations in the Salfit area

Shaker Jodeh, Deputy Assistant for Agricultural Services in the MoA, and Mr Luigi Damiani, Senior Project Coordinator, FAO. Following the ceremony the guests were able to buy the products made by the women. A similar ceremony took place in Gaza in January 2008.

FAO is currently looking into the feasibility of organizing a temporary stall in a local shopping mall for the women to sell their products.

Hanan Aymad has six children ranging from six months to 14 years and is an active member of a women's association in the Salfit area. Feeding her family is a daily struggle for her. The Norwegian funded project has provided her with valuable training in food processing, making such delicacies as cakes and biscuits (some of them medicinal), pickled olives, cheese, yoghurt and labaneh. She was

proud to collect her certificate and expressed her joy at her newly improved skills and increased knowledge.

“I want to share the things I have learnt with my friends and neighbours, so they too can feed their families better and maybe make a little bit of money. My husband is happy because I can help feed our family. My children are happy. I am happy.”



Hanan with youngest daughter Batul

Field mission from FAO headquarters

Two Officers from FAO headquarters in Rome visited the WBGS in February 2008 on technical backstopping and information gathering missions. They met with the local staff and familiarized themselves with the WBGS operations on the ground. The Operations Officer reviewed the progress of ongoing projects and assisted in the preparation of a procurement plan. She said “I was happy to see that the pregnant ewes, pro-

vided to beneficiaries of a **Norwegian funded project**, had successfully given birth. This means our interventions have a good chance of sustainability”. The Agricultural Officer visited project sites and provided technical expertise regarding the activities. Such technical backstopping missions are vital for project efficiency and for the provision of top notch expertise from headquarters.

Planting hope for the future with fruit orchards

FAO, through the **Japanese funded project**, entitled “Horticulture Rehabilitation in the West Bank”, has recently completed the distribution of 18,730 fruit tree plantlets and pruning sets to over 700 beneficiaries in the Hebron, Ramallah, Tubas, Jenin, Nablus and Jerusalem areas.

Fay Shtehi, 24 years old, expressed his excitement about the citrus plantlets he received. He lives in Nablus governorate with his parents and his four brothers and four sisters. “We usually plant vegetables, wheat and barley – this is the first time we are planting citrus trees. My whole family will help me tend the orchard because we always work together” he explained. The citrus trees he received are sufficient to plant three dunums and are expected to bear their first fruits in three years time.

The project provided all beneficiaries with training before they received the



Fay receiving his lemon tree plantlets and taking them to his family farm

inputs, so although this is the first time Fay and his family is tending a citrus orchard, he is confident their orchard will be a success.

“We hope to have a good harvest and sell the produce to buy more plantlets and increase the area of cultivation. I am very happy to have been included in this project” explains Fay.

Orchard demonstration plots covering over 190 dunums have been established in the Hebron and Ramallah areas. In these demonstration plots, FAO is helping farmers cultivate new varieties using advanced irrigation networks and micro-sprinklers. The plots will provide the beneficiary farmers with new and more marketable fruit varieties and provide new root stock tolerant to soil borne diseases. They will also be used as ‘mother nurseries’ for other indirect beneficiaries.

The project has also provided production inputs, such as irrigation network spare parts, plastic mulching and organic fertilizers to 300 vegetable farmers. Overall, 10 percent of the project beneficiaries are women headed households.

Helping herders maintain their flocks—FAO works closely with NGOs

The **Italian funded project**, entitled “Emergency support to small ruminant farmers in the eastern slopes of the West Bank and Jordan Valley to maintain the productivity of their flocks”, focuses on providing support to: small ruminants; fodder provision; veterinary services; and capacity building.

FAO will partner with NGOs in the implementation of some project activities in order to capitalize on their inherent proximity with beneficiaries and communities and their knowledge of the local situation and demonstrated experience with similar projects in the West Bank. Such a bottom-up approach is expected to ensure a greater sustainability of the project interventions. Furthermore, the complexity of the operat-

ing environment and frequent problems with mobility and access makes the involvement of NGOs with a solid field presence instrumental to the implementation field activities.

Experience has shown that working in the South-Eastern areas of Hebron Governorate is fraught with difficulties in terms of dealing with the strong tribal system of the Bedouin communities, and is complicated by the presence of Israeli settlements and restriction of movements. International NGOs and their local partners, thanks to their community-based approach and strong field presence, are very familiar with the intricate tribal realities on the ground and are well positioned to circumvent such obstacles by working from within these communi-

ties. Such an approach will ensure that the needed assistance is provided to the most vulnerable farmer associations not only in terms of delivering inputs but also in terms of providing the necessary training and technical assistance associated with this project activity.

FAO is currently finalizing the list of NGO implementing partners for this project.



A herder with his flock in southern Hebron

FAO's perspective on Gender - in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Investing in human capital is one of the most effective means of sustainable development. It's very important for the future of Palestinian people, not only to empower women, but to teach empowerment to the whole family, to the women, to the men and to the youth. FAO, with its proven experience in the implementation of grassroots activities, will continue to work hard towards this goal. In striving towards achieving the Millennium



A beneficiary family in the Gaza Strip

Development Goals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip FAO is focusing on job creation/income generating activities together the empowerment of local communities by developing institutional and local capacities, involving women as guardians of living culture, securing access of marginalized groups and minorities to services, encouraging creativity, disseminating good practices and promoting social cohesion.

FAO advocates for emergency support to small ruminant herders and Bedouins

Years of stress on the livestock sector have driven herders and Bedouins living in southern Hebron and the eastern slopes of the Jordan Valley into a cycle of increasing debt and deepening poverty. Although this problem was identified in October 2007, and drought and high fodder prices were addressed by the CAP Appeal, the additional shocks of a harsher than expected drought and severe frosts have further impaired the

livelihoods of herders and Bedouins. Inter-agency consultations took place in Hebron, resulting in a document outlining a multi-sectoral response to the drought and frost emergency. FAO, as lead agency of the Agriculture/Small Ruminant sector has proposed interventions addressing the herders' and Bedouins' immediate needs (fodder, shelter, water and veterinary kits) with a view to adapting productive systems to the changing environmental and eco-

nomie situation in the region. As most of the affected herders and Bedouins live in Area C, they require particular protection to access land and water and to preserve their cultural and historic heritage.

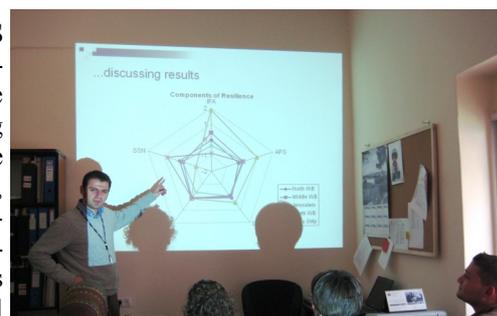
FAO invites donors to fund both the CAP and these additional needs in order to avoid the collapse of thousands of livelihoods.

FAO helps set up a Palestinian Socio-Economic Food Security Monitoring System

Recognising that all humanitarian agencies involved in field programmes need timely and reliable monitoring data to inform their programming cycles, FAO continues to work closely with various UN agencies and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to set up a comprehensive Palestinian Socio-Economic and Food Security Monitoring System and prepare the necessary survey methodology, questionnaires and related analytical (both statistic and econometric) models.

An econometrics expert and statistical analyst, Erdgin Mane, on a recent technical backstopping mission from FAO headquarters, met with PCBS staff and UN counterparts in order to discuss and review the questionnaire and survey methodology. The questionnaire will cover the topics of human security, food security, assistance, incomes and consumption, coping mechanisms, access, health, education, refugees, children and gender. Erdgin Mane also presented a study at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) on the resilience to food insecurity of Palestinian households.

The UN/PCBS partnership, together with the capacity building provided to the PCBS by FAO, will help to institutionalize the monitoring system as part of their official gathering and analysis of statistics. It is hoped that surveys will be conducted and analysed every six months.



Erdgin presents a study on the resilience to food insecurity of Palestinian households

“It's nice to see that UN agencies are working together with the PCBS,” said Erdgin. **“This will certainly improve the quality of the survey.”**

The survey is expected to start in April 2008.

FAO prepares an Avian Influenza public awareness campaign

PAGE 5

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Veterinary Services, FAO is preparing a low profile panic-free Avian Influenza (AI) awareness campaign focusing mainly on animal health. There will number of messages designed especially for four target groups: backyard farmers, small scale poultry farmers, large scale poultry farmers and breeders and the general public. The messages will tell the farmers how to keep their poultry separated from wild birds, the measures to take in case of outbreaks or suspected cases on nearby farms, and how to protect themselves and their workers when handling poultry. The campaign aims to give the farmers and wider public a sense of security by letting them know that the issue is being dealt with and also to provide people with contact references in case they require further information or advice.

“The campaign is aimed at informing, preparing and reassuring people, not scaring them” explained Katrine Aagaard, the project’s Public Awareness Consultant.

FAO is working closely with other UN agencies involved in the program (UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF) to share information and make sure there is no unnecessary overlap of messages or coverage.

The campaign, due to start late March 2008, is being funded by the Norwegian Government.



Project update

FAO is currently implementing 11 projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a total budget of US\$7.84 million. These projects are funded by the Governments of **Italy, Japan, Norway and Spain**.

FAO’s main objective in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is to provide a safety net for food insecure farming/herding households whose traditional livelihoods are endangered and whose coping mechanisms are overstretched. Food security information and analysis is also a key area for FAO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, promoting inter-agency cooperation to address social protection concerns.



helping to build a world without hunger

FAO

25 Mount of Olives Street

Sheikh Jarrah,

P.O. Box 22246

Tel: + 9 7 2 (0) 2 - 5 3 2 1 9 5 0 / 5 3 2 2 7 5 7

Fax: + 9 7 2 (0) 2 - 5 4 0 0 0 2 7

For further information please contact:

Erminio Sacco, Chief Technical Advisor Food Security, Erminio.Sacco@fao.org

Marysia Zapasnik, Communication Officer, Marysia.Zapasnik@fao.org