

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem







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ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018

*Towards a Sustainable Palestine*

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| *ARIJ Annual Report 2018*



## Table of Contents

<i>Executive Summary</i>	2-5
Section 1: Organizational Structure and Management	6-8
1.1 General Assembly and Administrative Committee	6
1.2 ARIJ Organizational Chart	7
1.3 <i>ARIJ Donors and Partners for the Year 2018</i>	8
Section 2: ARIJ Programs and Activities	
2.1 Sustainable Agriculture Program	9-15
2.2 Information Technology Program	16-18
2.3 Good Governance Program	18-24
2.4 Natural Resource Management Program	25-35
2.5 ARIJ Partnerships and Agreements	35-37
2.6 Internal Control Department	37
Section 3: ARIJ Estimated Budget for the year 2019	38-40
<i>Strategic Goals Alliance with Program Plans for 2019</i>	41-45
Section 4: 4.1 Publications of the year	46
4.2 Special Reports/Monthly/Quarterly	47
4.3 Info-graphs/Posters/Brochures/Banners	48-49
<i>العمل خصصت ان في ذي</i>	50-51

## Executive Summary

In association with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), adopted by the United Nations to be implemented by the developed and developing countries, ARIJ developed its vision "***Towards a Sustainable Palestine***". This vision reflects the national aspiration of every Palestinian to live in an independent and self-sustaining Palestinian State that has complete sovereignty over its natural wealth and a comprehensive development strategy within a framework of democracy, transparency and good governance.

The Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ) continued to make significant progress and success in 2018 promoting sustainable development in Palestine by implementing a wide range of targeted projects and activities through main four programs as shown in the ***Organization Chart page(7)***, as well as contributing strongly to productive partnerships with diverse organizations and stakeholders. ***Refer to the summary map showing ARIJ interventions page (5)***.

This year witnessed the implementation of several agro-interventions, contributed in improving the management of available and accessible natural resources, agro-production, and socioeconomic conditions for the farmers. The integration of applied research and the adoption of green and safe innovated agro-practices have resulted with several successful, feasible and sustainable agro-developmental models as further elaborated under SAP section. The Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) managed to implement different agricultural interventions benefiting 1,751 vulnerable rural families, 36 women and agricultural cooperatives distributed over 77 localities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The program contributed in improving the cultivation of 5442 dunum and the productivity of 8890 heads of sheep and goats. The implemented activities conducted through transparent and participatory approach mainly with the Ministry of Agriculture covering natural resources management, agriculture sector, and cooperatives, while engaging youth and women in establishing agribusinesses. The total value of produced agro-commodities by the support of ARIJ agricultural program reached \$1,119,600. The sustainable agriculture program team held 367 coordination meetings, and performed 5,730 field visits for the beneficiaries' related activities.

The ***Water and Environment Research Department (WERD)*** continued the implementation of activities related to wastewater treatment and reuse of treated wastewater in agriculture through its projects mainly in Sair making Wadi Al Arub more sustainable by the protection of its landscape, reclamation of land, as well as raising public awareness towards water conservation and wastewater treatment. This includes but not limited to continuing with the development of sludge dewatering facility, the establishment of a photovoltaic system, composite facility, water reclamation system; in addition considering to develop the operation and maintenance of the facility on a PPP format. Moreover, providing information supporting the local community organizations, the national organizations by supplying data and reports related to the water and environmental sector. In addition, several workshops conducted in Sair with the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and other key stakeholders such as cooperatives, civil society organizations and farmers as well as increasing awareness through campaigns such as the awareness campaign in Jericho.



On a **Geopolitical** level, ARIJ continues its monitoring all of the related Israeli activities in the oPt, by providing information related to local officials and foreign representatives. In addition, to CSOs including CBOs, grassroots and organizations such as supplying of statistical data, reports, maps and geographical records for a variety of purposes. The yields of the reporting period included 578 case studies, 365 daily reports, 12 monthly, 4 quarterly reports. The outcome induced by 388 visits to locations (fieldwork trips) in the West Bank and collecting 179 military orders. Moreover, 307 radio and TV interviews were conducted, 57 newspaper articles, 48 presentations, 3 special reports, 11 booklets, 6 info-graphs, and 1000 posters. All of the reports, produced materials published on the website (poica.org) which recorded nearly 20 million hits during the designated time of this report.

The **Good Governance Program** continued working on the ground towards ensuring that political, social and economic priorities are based on board consensus in the Palestinian society and that the voices of the poorest and the most vulnerable are being heard in decision-making *following ARIJ Strategy for the years 2018-2022 promoting Good Governance and Democracy in Palestine*. For the year of 2018, the Good Governance Program conducted 57 field visits to cooperatives, 56 visits to municipalities, 7 visits to Ministries and 5 visits to Joint Services Councils. Moreover, continuing with the efforts of promoting good governance and democracy in Palestine, this year the main highlight of the intervention was to collect financial transparency data for 30 municipalities named **Fiscal Transparency index (FTI)**. The overall goal of the FTI is to improve budget transparency at the local level, by measuring the transparency in 30 municipalities. The Good Governance program adopted FTI from the International Budget Partnership's sub national open budget survey, with minor changes adapting to the Palestine Context. The FTI served as a mechanism to compare budget transparency in various municipalities and highlight good practices spurring others to improve access to information and transparency of local budget documents. Moreover, under Sustainable Development *Goal 5 Gender Equality* - a campaign was arranged by the name of "Success in Her Words" aimed to promote gender equity and empowering woman's to overcome the cultural restrictions. The campaign communicated the story of five Palestinian women who were able to empower themselves and other women economically.

To date since inception, the Good Governance Program reached out to more than 520,389 beneficiaries; almost half of them are females. For the eighth year in a row, ARIJ Good Governance Program worked on improving the good governance practices and capabilities among cooperatives and community based organization (CBOs) in Palestine through promoting the culture of good governance in cooperatives in 130 localities (West Bank).

The **IT Program** continues to be in charge of developing, designing, implementing, maintaining and operating a wide variety of information systems related to ARIJ work. Moreover, the program maintains and publishes the material on all of ARIJ websites and social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. The IT program also designs and digitally performs the printing of books, booklets, and posters, photographing, video editing and publishing of short videos. Accordingly, ARIJ website achieved over 8,717,927.00 hits per year, while POICA website reached around 11,097,734.00 hits and over 13,800 followers on ARIJ different social media platforms.



At the level of **Networking and Cooperation**, ARIJ built strong ties with international, regional Palestinian institutions, NGOs; for example, ARIJ led the knowledge share workshops between Ministries conducted in Tunisia on a MENA level aiming at enhancing the transparency standards in a participatory approach. In addition, ARIJ IT program partnered with Al-Quds University and the Palestinian Land Authority in the field of developing the IT and GIS platforms. While, the Natural Resource Program partnered with Palestinian Water Authority to operate Wadi Al Arub wastewater treatment plant as well as with Jericho municipality leading the awareness campaign on improved water resource conversation and the optimal use of domestic water. ARIJ is continuing disseminating information locally and internationally at all levels through various publications such as scientific articles, special reports, booklets, leaflets, case studies, maps, info-graphs, posters, factsheets, articles; amongst others.

In terms of institutional development, ARIJ enhanced the system through the **Internal Control Department** mainly to oversee the internal control procedures and to perform the necessary internal audits reporting directly to the Administrative Committee. In addition, ARIJ is reviewing its manuals and polices concerning the Disclosure of Malpractices in the Workplace, and the Safeguarding Policy.

Moreover, ARIJ signed the SDG Accord asserting that all efforts are aligned with the SDGs, collaborate and involve all key stakeholders, including academics, professional staff, and others while sharing of knowledge and lessons learned across the region ,communities and others aiming towards better world.

ARIJ strength derives from the spirit of collaboration, goodwill and common cause that exists among ARIJ Staff, Administrative Committee, General Assembly, Donors and Partners. Last but not least, ARIJ programs' planned activities for year 2019 will include, but not limited to, seeking new research, developments and pilot/innovative projects towards Sustainable Palestine in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The banner features logos for 'Facilitated by: CIBELL Alliance', 'eauc', and 'Supported by: HESI HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE'. The main title is 'The SDG Accord' with the subtitle 'The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals'. Below the title, it states 'We Accord Signatories assert that we will:' followed by a list of commitments:

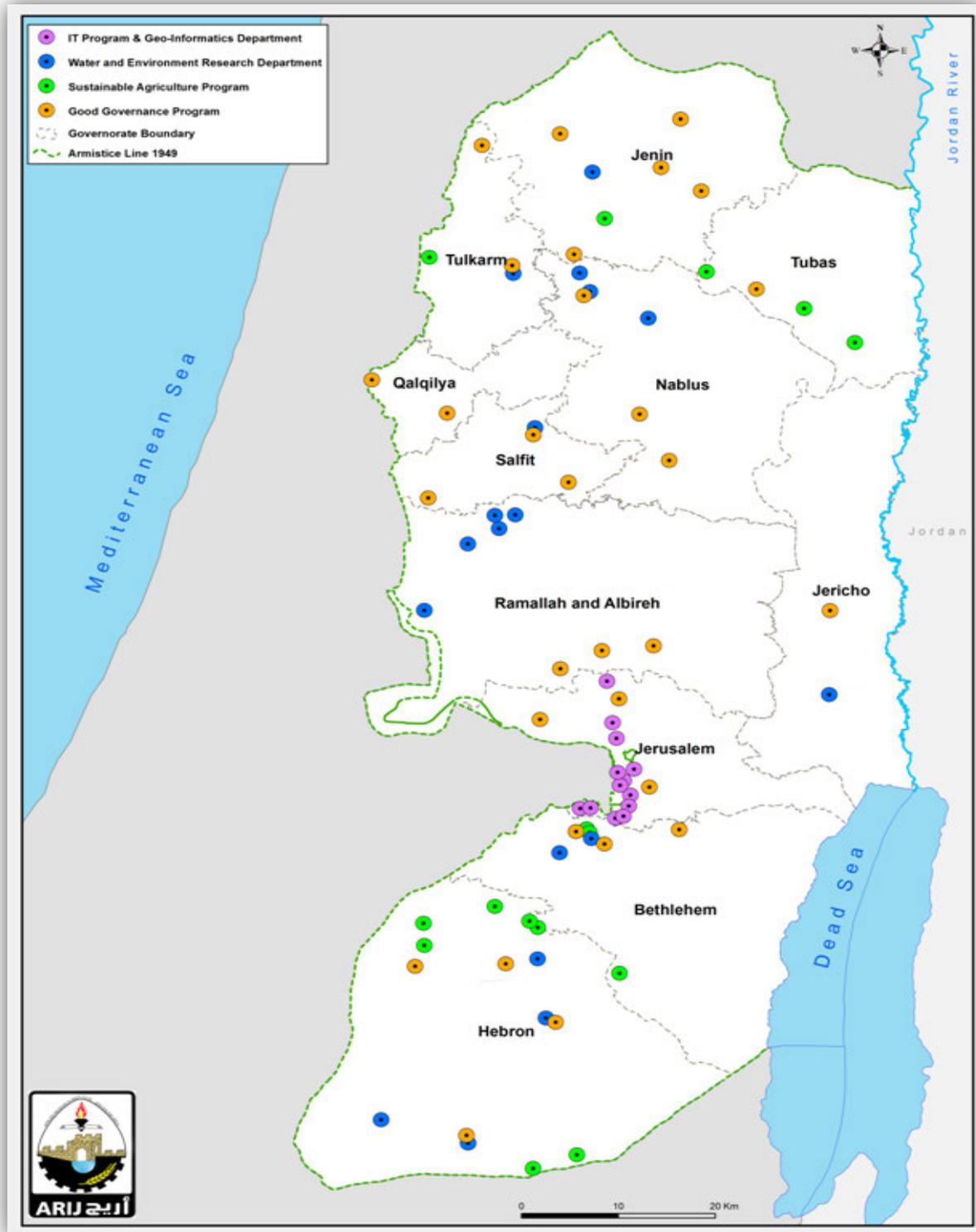
- Align all major efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, including through our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities;
- Aim to involve members from all key stakeholder groups in this endeavour, including students, academics, professional staff, local communities and other external stakeholders;
- Collaborate across cities, regions, countries and continents with other signatory institutions as part of a collective international response;
- Using our own unique ways, inform, share our learning and account to both local and global communities our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Annually report on 'how does my institution contribute to the Goals and what more can we do'.

A blue box contains the text: '17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS. This Accord calls upon us, the world's universities and colleges to embed the Sustainable Development Goals into our education, research, leadership, operations, administration and engagement activities.' Below this is the ARIJ logo and a grid of 17 SDG icons. At the bottom, there is a signature line for the General Director and a date line.

General Director signature:  Date: 21 March 2019



## Locality Map of ARIJ Key Interventions



# Section 1 : Organizational Structure and Management

## General Assembly and Administrative Committee

ARIJ enjoys the service of 44 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 Administrative Committee is committed in 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.

**General Assembly**

 Dr. Abeer Ismail (Economics and Management)	 Mr. Ahmad Dawid (Lawyer)	 Mr. Amro Salhan (Lawyer)	 Dr. Bahara Abu Ghannam (Electrical Engineer)	 Dr. Baker Marwara (Cardiac Surgeon)	 Dr. Fadi Kattan (Accounting & Business)	 Dr. Fadia Alisa (Social Health, Psychologist)	 Ms. Fala' Abed Elhadi (Librarian)
 Mrs. Ghada Hashwan (Pharmacist)	 Mr. Ghassan Andari (Pharmacist)	 Dr. Ghassan Hamdi (Psychologist)	 Mr. Hamed Al-Dawwas (Human Rights)	 Dr. Hossam Dweik (Chemist)	 Mrs. Hind Khoury (Business Administration)	 Mr. Hussein Wabih (Accountant)	 Dr. Jamal Lafi (Surgeon)
 Eng. Jasssem Shams (Food Science)	 Ms. Jihan Assaad (Business Analysis)	 Mr. Kamal Hassaneh (Former Minister for National Economy)	 Ms. Mervat Gassir (Gender Law and Development)	 Mr. Muhammad Khalid (Hard and Power Area Developer)	 Dr. Mona Matar (Information Technology)	 Dr. Rabee' Ebdy (Pharmacist)	 Dr. Rami Omash (Cardiologist)
 Dr. Raed Saleem (Member)	 Dr. Norma Hashwan (Food Science)	 Mrs. Basma Ghannam (General Administration of Food Genetic Resources)	 Mr. Ramal Zaman (Executive Director of Holy Land Council of Churches)	 Dr. Saleem Zoughbi (Computer Scientist)	 Mr. Salah Elam (Business and Economy)	 Dr. Simon El Araj (Mechanical Engineer)	 Dr. Spiro Tama (Geriatrician)
 Mr. Solomon Abu Dayyeh (Social Science)	 Dr. Walid Mounif (Geographer)	 Dr. Zaid Shaban (Molecular Biologist)	 Ms. Aida Rughanien (Cultural Studies)	 Mr. Hossam Younis (Comparative Literature)	 Dr. Kifah Hameed (Criminologist)	 Ms. Taha Mukar (Environmental Studies)	 Ms. Rula Mawad (Business Administration)
 Ms. Riwa Wabian (Contemporary Diplomacy)	 Ms. Sahar Lata (Faculty of Medicine)	 Ms. Fatma Khader (Assistant Director of Holy Zakat)	 Ms. Ursula Mukarber (Clinical Psychologist)	<b>Honorary Members</b>			
				 Archbishop Aitallah Hanna (Bishop of the Holy Patriarch of Jerusalem)	 Bishop William Shamal (Bishop of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)		

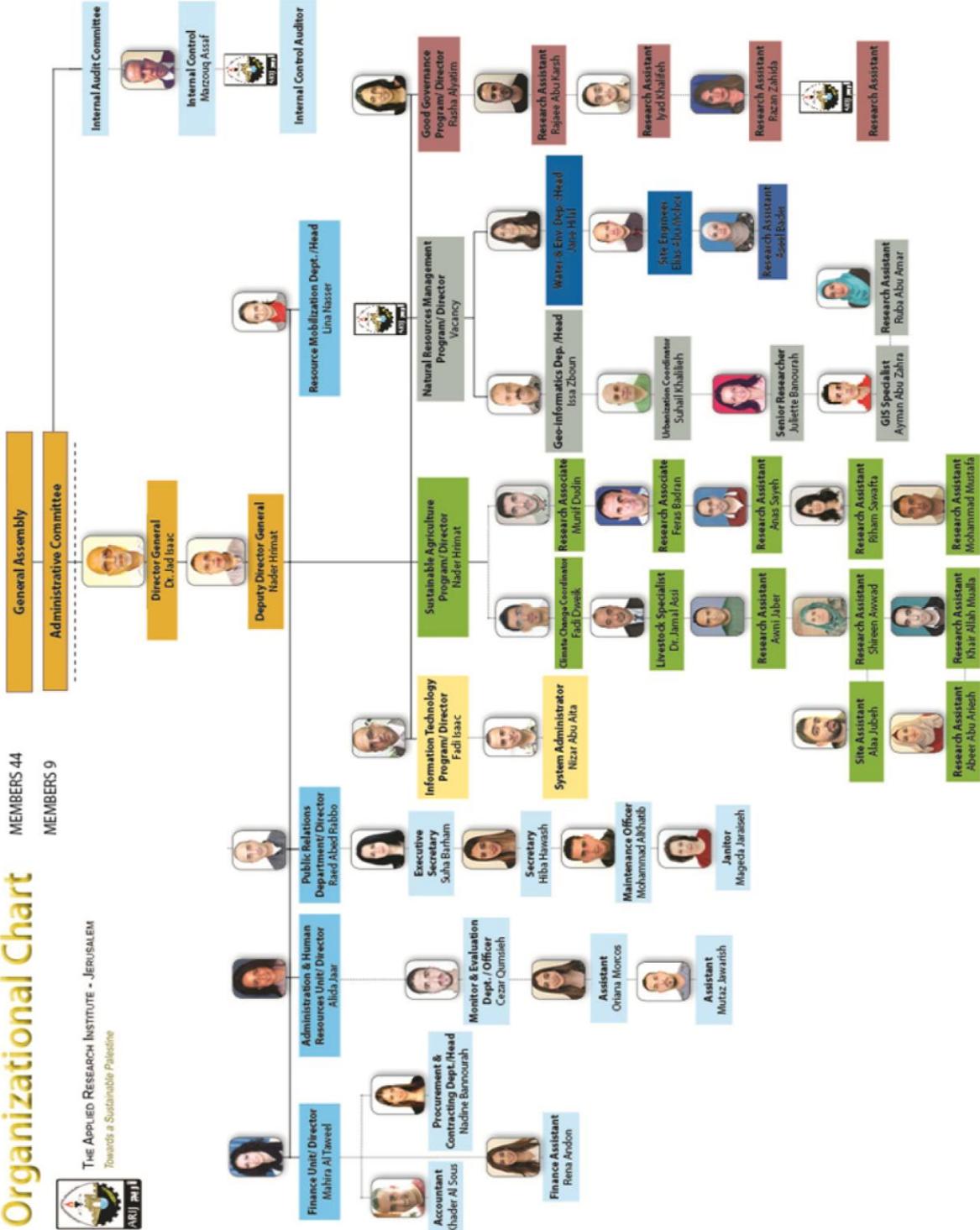
**Administrative Committee**

 Mrs. Hind Khoury (President)	 Dr. Mona Matar (Vice President)	 Dr. Fadi Kattan (Treasurer)	 Dr. Saleem Zoughbi (Secretary)	
 Dr. Spiro Tama (Member)	 Mr. Muhammad Khalid (Member)	 Mrs. Basma Ghannam (Member)	 Dr. Abeer Ismail (Member)	 Mr. Ghassan Andari (Member)

# Organizational Chart

MEMBERS 44  
MEMBERS 9

THE APPLIED RESEARCH INSTITUTE - JERUSALEM  
Towards a Sustainable Palestine



## ARIJ Donors and Partners for the Year 2018

- CARE international
- Caritas Switzerland (CACH)
- Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (FCCD)
- The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Enable - Belgian development agency
- Siemenpuu Foundation
- Dan Church Aid (DCA)/ Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- European Commission
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (UMCOR)
- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Oxfam International
- Palestinian-Dutch Academic Cooperation Program on Water (PADUCO)
- Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM)
- Polish Aid
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- We effect

### **Partners:**

- Land Research Center (LRC)
- Palestine Technical University (Kadoori)
- Joint Services Council for Planning and Development / Eastern Rural – Bethlehem
- The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity – AMAN
- The Palestinian Initiative for Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy- "MIFTAH"
- International Center for Agriculture Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- Ma'an Network



## Section 2 ARIJ Programs and Activities

### 2.1 Sustainable Agriculture Program

#### Activities and achievements in the year 2018:

Despite the continuous improvement in agriculture globally including the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) applications and innovations, benefiting from the significant development in digital revolution through which different digital tools, mechanisms, scenarios, decision support systems, early warning systems, optimization of the utilization of available resources, still agriculture in the developing countries faces several problems and challenges. To make agriculture more efficient, productive and sustainable, the capacity for a quicker adaptation to the climate and ecosystems changes through providing precise, liable, consistent, up-to-date data and analysis is required which can be achieved through applying smart agriculture, digital agriculture, and precision agriculture matching with the SDG's. This approach leads the world to produce more food to meet the increased demand due to the progressive growth in the number of people on the planet, which is more than **7 billion**, to reach **9.6 billion** by **2050**.

Following the *SDG's* globally, it should be noted that all of the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) actions are linked to the SDG goals namely, *SDG 1: No poverty, end poverty* in all its forms everywhere, about three-quarters of the extreme poor live in rural areas, depending on agriculture for their livelihoods and food security; *SDG 2: Zero hunger, end hunger*, achieving food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture through various techniques and systems. *SDG 5: Gender equality*, achieve gender equality and empowering women in this field to be entrepreneurs, *SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation*, involves producing more food with less water consumption, building resilient farming communities coping with floods, droughts and applying clean water technologies. *SDG 12: Responsible production and consumption, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns*. To feed the world sustainably, producers need to grow more food while reducing negative environmental impacts such as soil, water and nutrient loss, greenhouse gas emissions and degradation of ecosystems. Consumers must be encouraged to shift to nutritious and safe diets with a lower environmental footprint. Global initiatives, activities and projects on food losses and waste reduction should be tackled. *SDG 13: Climate action, urgent action taken combating climate change and its impacts*. Food production threatens to be the greatest casualty of climate change, but sustainable agriculture can be part of the solution. *SDG 15: Life on Land, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss*. Forests and rangelands sustain a range of industries, generate jobs, income and act as a source of food, medicine, fuel for more than a billion people.

Despite the significant development in the agriculture R&D and digital agriculture worldwide with the objective of “**feeding the future**”, still the Palestinian agriculture is under pressure limiting the contribution of agriculture in the national economy, knowing the fact that, agricultural sector contributes 3% of the GDP ( *as per the reference PCBS, 2018*). Gaps created in the Palestinian agro-food production system resulting in the reduction of the existing balance between the amount of produced agro-food commodities and the fast growing demand due to the population growth. Despite the challenges, employment rate in this sector is 8.7%.



Thus, smart agro-production system builds on strong planning elements leading to the achievement of sustainable development in agriculture, through creation of balance between agriculture for food consumption (food security) and agriculture for the market (cash crops); and through optimizing the utilization of scarce resources (land and water) and maximization of the production.

Furthermore, the continuous increase in the overall unemployment rate of 18.3% in the West bank and 49.1% in Gaza(*reference pcbs*), the poverty rate and food insecurity resulting from un-stabilized political and economic conditions; continuous imposed siege on Gaza Strip and the continued occupation practices in the West Bank, including: land confiscation, uprooting of trees, damaging the agricultural infrastructure, and controlling most of the water resources and rangelands. All of these challenging conditions create a fundamental need to support the farmers (especially small and mid-sized farmers) to keep fostering their land, increase of quality production leading to livelihood improvement.

Accordingly, the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) continues its contribution in sustaining and improving the productivity and performance of the agricultural sector through providing access to the farmers, improved production inputs, effective agro-practices. In addition, by engaging and empowering small farmers into integrated cooperative business hubs along the value chain and producing certified agro-food-commodities based on safety and hygiene standards competing with the similar imported products.

On the other hand, improving the quality of sheep milk enabling the Palestinian farmers to sell their products for factories specializing in yoghurt, creamy cheese and cheese. In fact, through ARIJ intervention marketing cost decreased and the quality of production improved, (for example the signed agreement between Bardala Society for improving livestock and Pinar dairy factory).

Furthermore, there should be an **enabling environment** focusing on human rights based approach such as the right to acquire the knowhow, reliability of information and to practice new technologies by the Palestinian farmers that can serve as a planning tool , decision support system for agro-production and development of a marketing system aiming towards creation of a sustainable agricultural. The partnership and integration of duties among the government, civil society, grassroots and the private sector in addition to optimization of the available resources utilization rather than competition leading to strong, effectual, and viable agricultural sector.

By focusing on the marginalized communities who are suffering from limited access to the technical and financial support, ARIJ is working with its partner organizations on applying special measures and providing the support through its projects implemented. In fact, the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) managed to implement different agricultural interventions as follows:-

1. **(SLCAL) climate change** project under field crops and rangeland programs in West Bank and Gaza Strip planted in the winter season 2017/2018 with field crops and forages benefiting 787 farmers covering an area of 3,935 dunums. The planted areas produced 629.3 tons of seeds, 993.3 tons of green forage, 314 tons of hay. The planted area distributed between West Bank (81.2%) and Gaza Strip (18.8%). Additional areas, were planted through the DCA-livestock project, 30 dunums of forage crops under rainfed conditions were cultivated benefiting 6 herding families. Also, 100 tons of green forage, dried hay,18.6 tons of seeds were produced and used to feed sheep, goat in the targeted localities.





and crops. The project contributed in assisting 20 household women to produce vegetables in their home gardens and marketing their products. The cultivated 10 dunums of home gardens managed to produce 3.4 tons in the first growing season. Additionally, community market established for Beit Ula Women Club enhancing their production and assisting in the marketing of production. In addition, five entrepreneurial ideas were proposed by fresh graduated university students that were co-financed and implemented as income generating projects.

**5. Improving small ruminants' management, production and profitability through innovating new marketing systems:**

The second phase of the small ruminant improvement project in Bardala continued for the second year. This phase is targeting 4 localities in the northern Jordan valley (Bardala, Ein el-Bida, Kardala and Kherbit Tel El-Himma) benefiting 137 livestock rearing families. The project successfully contributed in improving the livestock sector through applying innovative interventions on community level targeting 8891 heads of sheep and goats. Furthermore, this project contributed in the value chain improvement of dairy production ensuring safety and hygiene. The established veterinary pharmacy by a group of women continued its successful performance as the first women established business in the village. Established three years ago and each share ended with a profit of 833 USD (per women for a period of 3 years). This means each share made a profit of 27.7% from its initial capital invested. The youth involved in the project activities, testing the introduction of new techniques reducing the mortality rate among newborns of sheep and goats while using special feeding ratio to feed and fattening the newborn lambs increasing weight-gaining rate thus profit maximization. The youth of the targeted localities worked together to establish young active group with a special logo, participated in more than 37 events (training, workshops, meetings and field visits). In addition, contributed in disseminating the generated knowledge for their own family and other farmers. The project contributed in linking livestock breeders in all targeted localities, through Bardala cooperative, with seven selling points and dairy factories in the West bank. These new marketing channels increased the marketing opportunities for the breeders' dairy products with affordable rate promoted in the local market. During 2018, the milk collection center in Bardala village managed to collect, store and sold 12,500 litre of milk and 4.5 tons of white cheese, achieving \$ 37,220 in sales.



**6. Empowering and enhancing youth and women economic role in Palestine:** ARIJ and CARE jointly improved the business capacity of 10 young women in Jenin, Nablus and Tubas by supporting them in establishing their own innovated agricultural projects. The beneficiaries received several trainings by the project specialists, on-site technical visits developing their own business start-up ideas into feasible and commercially viable projects, co-financed, while 10 initiatives selected.

7. **Installing wicking beds systems** for new beneficiaries and in new areas: This year, SAP managed to install 85 units of wicking beds systems benefiting the poor families and poorest cases, in the Bedouin areas (Masafer Yatta(Jamba and Al-majaz) and Arab Al-Aarashaydeh), Refugee camps (Al-Arroub camp, Ayda camp, and Al-Aza camps), Rural areas (Hata and Safa from Biet Ummar). These units funded by MCC, and Caritas Switzerland, producing 8,094 kg of different vegetables. Additionally, the beneficiary' capacity was built by ARIJ staff, especially in managing, planting the units and controlling the growth of the planted crops properly. 75 units funded by the Polish Aid and implemented by ARIJ in partnership with the Polish Center for International Aid "PCPM"; while 39 units funded by the Methodists and 25 units were funded by MCC and implemented directly by ARIJ. (Table 1)

presents the distribution of implemented wicking bed units by communities, donors and number of beneficiaries.

Table ( 1 ): Distribution of implemented wicking bed system by community, number of beneficiaries and donor.

Intervention	# Targeted communities	Benefited Households	Sq m	Donor
wicking bed systems	6	60	240	Caritas Switzerland
wicking bed systems	3	25	100	MCC
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>340 m<sup>2</sup></b>	



8. Applied Research for **developing new models of wicking bed and hydroponic** through joint research between ARIJ and Palestine Technical University- Kadoorie Tulkarm – Palestine under research project which is funded by the Palestinian-Dutch academic cooperation on water (PADUCO) funding program. Under this research activity, four new models of wicking beds and hydroponic were designed, developed and are being tested at ARIJ and PTUK campuses through which, plant growth rate, water use



efficiency, plant vigorous and health, growing environment are being tested. The research team visited agricultural institutions in Holland that participated in hydro-agriculture technologies. The visit coordinated by the project partner company named “TGS for business and development”, the Netherlands. The result of the visit, the project researching team developed the new designs were later implemented as demonstrations by ARIJ and PTUK.

**9. Strengthening Resilience Amongst Vulnerable Bedouin and other Herding Communities:** Through BMZ fund in partnership with CRS and in direct cooperation with MoA, this year witnessed the starting of the livestock improvement project targeting herders and herding communities in geo-areas named areas C of the West Bank through improving their behaviours and practices. The project targets bedouin and other herding communities in Area C of the West Bank, prioritizing Hebron and Bethlehem. In total, the project is going to benefit 2,510 (approximately 50% male and 50% female) individuals directly, and 4,172 individuals. The project interventions planned during 42 months (November 2018 – April 2022). Objectives are as follows: improving livestock-based livelihoods by improving animal husbandry practices; improving natural resource security by supporting herders use, and management of the land and water. The project team started surveying several communities in order to select 6 communities in the first phase of the project. Accordingly, 6 PRA assessments were conducted addressing the main problems and challenges facing the herding communities.

**10. Rangeland Rehabilitation, plantation and development with FAO and MoA:**

The project main objective is improving the availability and management of land resources through sustainably improved production and productivity of non-or under-utilized agricultural/grazing lands. In order to achieve the main objective, ARIJ is responsible to produce, achieve and deliver the following deliverables/ outputs: community involvement in rangeland development; on-site mapping the rangeland resources, environmental screening checklist, planting two main rangeland areas in Tubas Governorate with wild and endemic seedling of shrubs and trees; developing supplementary irrigation for these seedling during the summer season. Development of a suitable infrastructure to ease the management procedure for these forests; perform capacity building for MoA specialized staff in Jordan, preparing EIA reports for agricultural roads. ARIJ team managed to conduct most of these activities based on the developed action plan. During the year 2018, training shelter was established in Qishda range Lange nursery in Tubas, providing irrigation system and seedlings production tools for Nablus Governmental Nursery. Supervising the construction of wire fence for Qishda site with almost 3 600 m 'Atouf site with 1500 m fence. Planting 24,000 rangeland seedlings in Qisha, and Atouf which covered up to 50 dunums of the rangelands.



**11. ARIJ started leading the program on reusing the treated wastewater for irrigating fruit trees (almond, grapes, and pomegranate), green forage (Alfa-Alfa), and industrial crops (luffa and safflower). Two demonstrating sites were established, the first at Wadi Al-Aroub in Hebron and the second at Anza in Jenin. The two sites were planned to be farmers' schools where the farmers,**



university students, researchers, related NGOs, universities, research centers and governmental bodies, from different governorates of the West Bank can visit these sites and learn from the adopted techniques and technologies.

12. Through **AMENCA III ( Souqona Project)** ARIJ in partnership with Care International and ICARDA continued with the project activities which is funded by the Australian Aid. The project focuses on improving the dairy and vegetables value chains, the economic values and the linkages between farmers, coops and private sector towards more efficient and fair pricing system. This year the project team managed to link Bardala livestock Cooperative with Pinar Dairy Production company, a marketing agreement was signed where the cooperative will provide the company with 500 litre of sheep milk weekly. In addition, the project team succeeded in producing the first extension guide for producing chemically safer vegetables under protected agriculture (covering mainly, cucumber, tomatoes, and eggplant). It adopts a hybrid marketing system approach as Souqona is connecting the Palestinian farmers (particularly women and youth) to vegetables and dairy markets through enhancing their readiness and engagement in a sustainable and profitable approach. The project aims at producing safer products through producing vegetables free of /with limited range of pesticides residues ensuring safety standards for the consumers, protect the human health and increase the farmers income through creating selling linkages to different local and regional markets. ARIJ and its partners trained 250 vegetable farmers in 13 communities from (Tubas, Nablus and Jenin) furnished with agricultural inputs producing safer vegetable products and connecting them with marketing companies. In this production system, PSI will provide the farmers with the conformity certificates after analyzing the MRL (maximum residual limits) in the nutrition Labs at Birzeit University. Souqona provided Al-Rayadeen Co. located in Deir Abu Daef with cold storage, with a capacity of more than 200 tons, in order to enhance the marketing and the reduction of baby cucumber losses. Additionally, the project team finalized rehabilitation of 11.5 km of roads in 6 locations. Opening these roads allows different farmers to expand their farming areas through installing new greenhouses, in addition increasing the access to grazing land and the rain-fed cultivated land. Roads development will contribute in improving the quality of the farmer's life in addition to the access to schools and medical centres. Furthermore, to increase the water usage efficiency, the project accomplished the installation of 6.5 km main water pipes in Arraneh and Dir Abu Daef. These irrigation nets will increase the access to water, increase the productivity, in addition; the irrigated land will be increased and the price of water will be decreased to 3 NIS instead of 5 NIS per cubic meter. In the last season of 2018, the project used cold storage rooms storing 670 tons of baby cucumber, 50 tons of fresh cucumber, 170 tons of pepper, 100 tons of eggplant. By storing these quantities, the farmers managed to save more than 5% of the losses from the total quantities, which reflected positively on the farmers. The total benefited farmers were 185 beneficiaries. Finally, to use irrigated water efficiently, 210 farmers were supported to install 3000 dunums of irrigated vegetables in two communities.



## 2.2 Information Technology Program

ARIJ Information Technology Program continues its contribution 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, providing technical assistance internally, developing and programming of web-based information systems, creating and managing of geospatial databases, logical database and meta data that are used to develop web-based mapping applications. These programs support research staff in interpreting and presenting data (analysis and the evaluation of findings). ARIJ also keeps up with the latest remote sensing and geographical information system applications.

Furthermore, the IT program extended its work to include video editing and publishing all of ARIJ work, 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](https://twitter.com/ARIJ_Institute)).

It should be noted, all of the actions related to the IT Program linked to the *SDG goals namely SDG: Article 19 Freedom of Opinion and Information, SDG: Article 25 Right to adequate living standard.*

### Achievements and Activities during 2018

#### **The implementation of the EU East Jerusalem Project “Towards Social Inclusion in Community Development by Providing Platforms for Planning and Advocacy”**

The project aims at empowering the Palestinian communities and civil society in EJ\* claiming their rights and their political and developmental space through collective actions at community level, advocacy actions, and participatory planning with key defined deliverables at the end of the project period, the main objectives are as listed below:-

1. **To** 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) which are empowered by providing advocacy, analysis, and decision support tools.
2. **To** 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 facilitating interventions 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\*.

*\*Note : EJ- stands for East Jerusalem*



## Consultancies

### ***Baseline Study of Higher Education and Research in Palestine***

The IT program has been in charge of developing a web tool for the data collection for the study using open source survey information systems. Moreover, the IT program has also been in charge of exporting the collected data into SPSS for analysis by the project team, as well as writing a section for the final report on the current Palestinian situation in the field of incubators and centres of excellence.

## Application Development

### ***Assessing the impacts of Israeli movement restrictions on the mobility of people and goods in the West Bank (2017-2018)***

The IT program in cooperation with the Natural Resource Management program in charge of the development of a transportation analysis system, mapping and measuring the impact of Israeli restrictions on the mobility of goods and people in the West Bank; subsequently assessing the marginal costs of such restrictions on employment, wages, days worked, the costs of moving goods and people, and on the quality of transported goods.

## GIS and Geospatial Database

### ***Mapping of Educational Centers in East Jerusalem –UNDP linked with SDG- Article 19 Freedom of Opinion and Information***

The IT Program in coordination with the GIS department worked with the UNDP to survey schools in East Jerusalem, development of a web-based system for the data collection while viewing all data related by the educational centers.

## BEYOND Project

The IT program in cooperation with the GIS & RS unit is in charge of implementing the BEYOND project and goals to promote the use of EGNSS outside the EU in neighbouring countries and stimulating investment in EGNSS. Complete work on BEYOND project which includes the publication of the EGNOS catalogue document for Palestine, in which it highlights the current use of global positioning systems in Palestine and the recommendation for the future of these applications such as the land registry system, road networks , maintenance and others which the State of Palestine needs to adopt

### ***Social Media and 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 uploaded on ARIJ YouTube channel for people to view, currently, more than 300 movies uploaded. The program is also in charge of filming, interviewing, and photo shooting for workshops accomplished by ARIJ. Management of 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 in charge of advocacy plans for the institute, the process includes video creation, posting on the social media platforms, banners and flyers designing.

### ***Digital Printing and Design:***



The IT program 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. Hundreds of publications for ARIJ including books, brochures, posters and booklets were printed.

### **Website design and development**

The IT program in the year 2018 in charge of the development and publishing a number of websites related to ARIJ work and projects includes the designing, installation of content management systems (CMS) and data entry.

### **System Administration and 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 updating the local area network. ARIJ has around 11 physical servers, 20 virtual instances and over 100 computers to maintain.

## **2.3 Good Governance Program**

### Activities and achievements in the year 2018:

In 2018, 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<sup>1</sup>.

It should be noted that all of the Good Governance actions are linked to the SDG goals namely SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

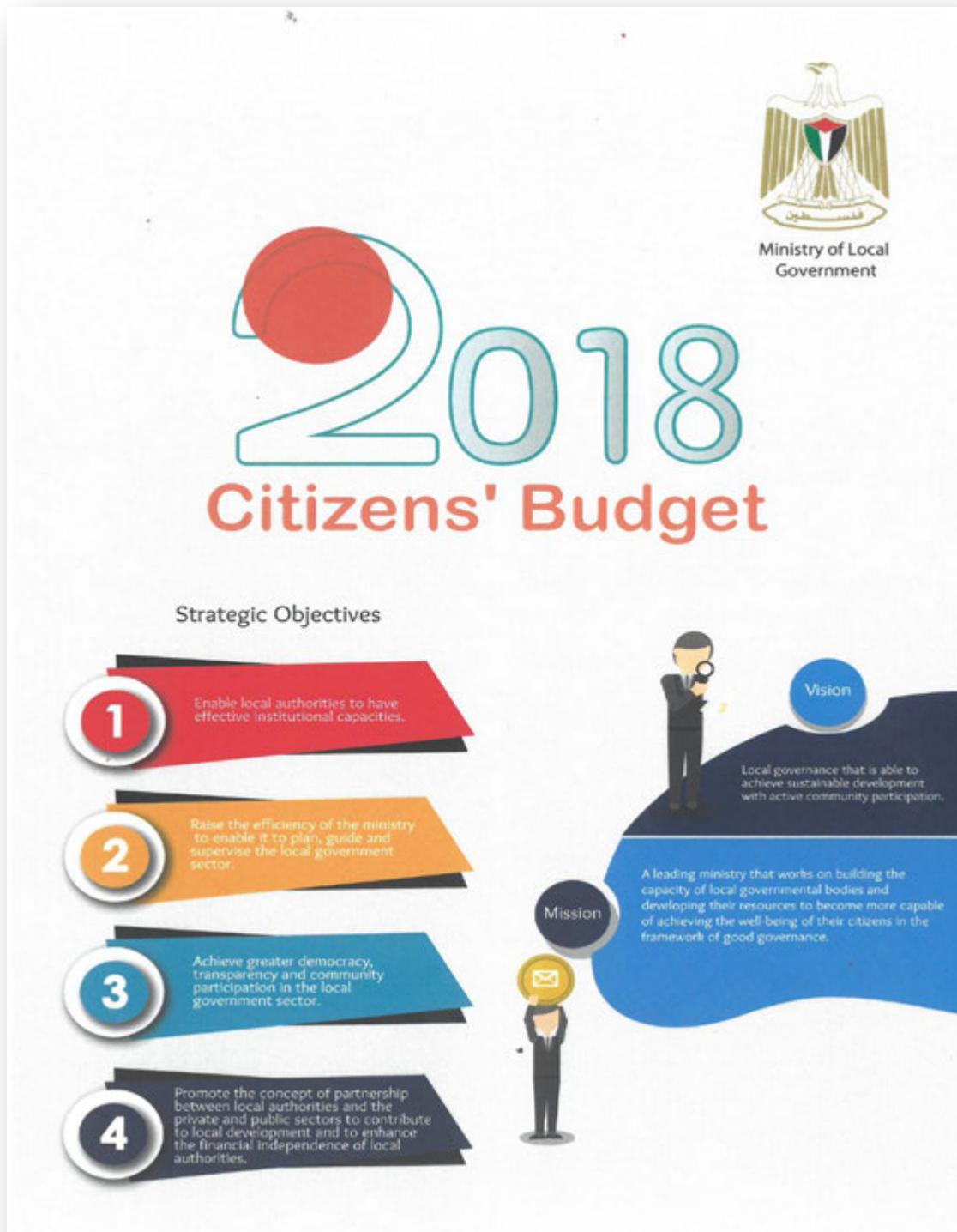
For the first time in Palestine, ARIJ Good Governance program carried out an intervention named Financial Transparency Index (FTI), the methodology of the FTI goes through many phases. It started with translating the FTI from the International Budget Partnership's sub national open budget survey, with recommended changes adapting to the Palestine Context, and then received approval from the Ministry of Local Governance. Afterwards, ARIJ staff were trained to fill out the survey, then tested it with one of the municipalities for the survey to be issued. In fact, the program collected financial transparency data for 30 municipalities<sup>2</sup> while the program staff validated the information as provided by the municipalities, 30 reports generated for each municipality one report and a comprehensive consolidated report generated for the whole. The overall goal of the FTI is to improve budget transparency on a local level, by measuring the transparency in 30 municipalities, creating an index ranking performance and utilizing the findings promoting increased transparency in the municipalities covered by the (FTI). Moreover, promoting dissemination of financial documents and citizen's participation in the operation of producing Citizen Budgets, the FTI

<sup>1</sup> Municipalities, Ministries, Cooperatives, Joint Services Councils.

<sup>2</sup> Targeted Municipalities: Abu dis, Bani Na'im, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Beitunia, Al- Bireh, Halhul, Qabatiya, as-Samu, Ya'bad, Jenin, Huwara, Qabalan, Sebastia, Qalqilya, Silat ad-Dhahr, Ya'bad, Zababdeh, Tarqumiya, Al-Auja, Biddu, Deir Istiya, Deir Ballout, Deir Debwan, Salfit, Tammun, Anabta, Qaffin, Kafir Thulth, Abadia



served as a mechanism to compare budget transparency in various municipalities and showcase good practices to spur others improving access to information and transparency of local budget documents. Moreover, Good Governance program endeavoured to encourage transparency by producing “Citizens Budgets” for Ministries of Local Governance and Labour in Arabic and English as illustrated below:

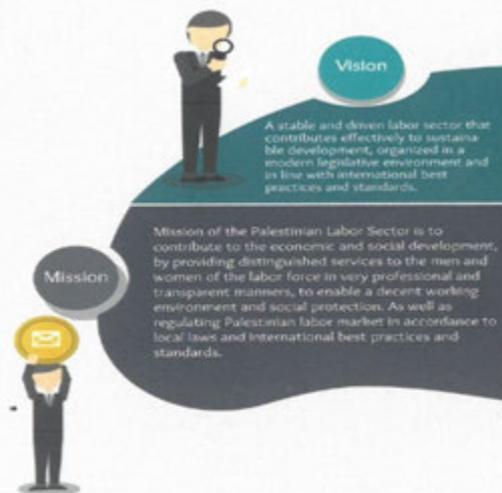




# 2018 Citizens' Budget

## Strategic Objectives

- 1 Reducing the unemployment rate.
- 2 Supply a labor market trained professional labor force based on need.
- 3 Maximize the role of the Cooperative Sector in employment and sustainable development.
- 4 Promote the productivity of decent work in Palestine.
- 5 Build the capacity and governance of employer, employees and Ministry and enhance the partnership amongst them locally and internationally.



Moreover, the Good Governance program conducted a visit to Tunisia organized by ARIJ and MIFTAH. This knowledge exchange visit mainly to exchange knowledge and share of information and experiences on a MENA regional level that included representatives of Palestinian civil society and four civil servants from the Ministries of Local Governance and Labor. This recent exchange and networking opportunity capitalized upon the lessons learned from the previously conducted visits



during the second year of the project. In October 2017 the exchange visit , revealed local governance experience by Palestinian civil servants and continued in the year of 2018. The main objective of the networking was sharing of experiences and successful collaboration between Palestinian ministries and civil society with Tunisian counterparts. It focused on different themes such as transparency of standards; participatory approach in preparing plans, budgets, fiscal justice, and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workplace.

*It is worth mentioning that the meetings and exchange of information on a MENA level included the following organizations:*

*Ariana Municipality*, with the members of Ariana Municipal Council and staff. This meeting, was the first in Tunisia, presented how municipalities work in Tunisia. It introduced the Tunisian experience in participatory budgeting and planning. Tunisia and Palestine share the same experience with citizens, when it comes to these participatory sessions armed with long lists of wishful projects. The Palestinian MoLG and AMAN presented the experience of Palestine in this context.

*Center for Training and Support of Decentralization*, which is a training center for members and employees of municipal councils in Tunisia. The aim of the center was raising the capabilities and skills of the local officials, especially as Tunisia changed its approach after the year of 2010 focusing towards decentralization by giving more power and authority to the local bodies. This was a crucial meeting for participants from MoLG as similar center in Palestine needs to be developed. Moreover, the center conducts awareness days to spread knowledge and recognition of laws and new orders. In fact, the training methodologies were shared as well as the adopted approach by the center in terms of financial sustainability.

*AlBawsala Organization*, which is a Tunisian CSO that monitors various public activities. AlBawsala national-level programs monitors the work of the Tunisian legislative council and elected representatives; a local-level program that monitors the work of Tunisian municipalities elected council members; and a program that monitors the responsiveness of the public sector accessing the information. The importance of the meeting was to learn how a local Tunisian CSO holds public officials accountable in light of different contexts and circumstances also observing that even if there is an enabling legal environment for the civil society in Tunisia, it still faces resentment and skepticism from public officials.

*Oxfam Tunisia*, to learn about the work of Oxfam office in Tunisia, both political and social. The objective of the meeting to provide a brief overview of the work of Oxfam office in Tunisia, both political and social, in addition to exchanging of experience related to gender support and combating violence against women. Tunisian Oxfam expressed its admiration for the Palestinian experience, where the Tunisian delegation from the Office of Oxfam presented the experience on this subject and noted the difficulty in obtaining the information on violence against women.

*Independent High Authority for Elections*, learning about the Tunisian experience in political participation of youth, women, and people with disabilities. Elections in Tunisia is a different experience, because its structure is empowering for all its citizens, for example, political parties are required to put forward equal number of male and female candidates in each constituency and all voting stations are accessible to persons with disabilities. MoL representative talked about the



Palestinian experience including people with disabilities (PwDs) in the labor market, then opened the discussion and dialogue on the services provided to PwDs while facilitating their participation in the public life.

*Tunisian General Union of Labor*, the aim of the meeting was to exchange expertise and experience between the two countries in association with the budgeting and its distribution, in addition to showcase the support provided by the General Union to Tunisian workers and ensuring a decent life for them. Al Marsad representative presented a report on tax justice in Palestine.

*Ministry of Local and Environmental Affairs*, experiences of the Tunisian and Palestinian ministries were discussed and presented. In particular, the meeting was important to learn about Tunisia's efforts in decentralization and their future plans, which were impressive in its meticulous details. For example, the national government raises the salary scale of any public official at the national level transferring willingly to the local level by 20% in other words shifting from the Ministries to local organizations such as municipalities. Additionally, the national government linked performance of the municipalities with the allocation of financial resources; which made municipalities strive to improve resource utilization in order to increase their yearly financial allocations.

The Tunisian journey in decentralization, democracy, and civic engagement is greatly supported by a constitution and laws that clearly articulate their significance in Tunisian government and various governing structures. Clearly spelled out laws are a good starting point to guarantee all types of freedom (expression, association, assembly, religion, etc.). Additionally, it was interesting to see the mainstreaming of gender and the laws set pro-gender equality which is rooted from the fact that Tunisia is a civic and secular state, enforced after 2010 to be the same.

Tunisia exchange visit endeavoured to build a successful sustainable development that requires partnerships between governments and civil society, in alignment with *SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals*.

Moreover, the Program conducted 13 trainings targeting the following:

- Three training courses for ministries and civil society organization in *participatory budgeting - mechanisms to prepare participatory budgeting - public budget analysis - budget tracking and monitoring - gender-responsive budget*.
- Seven trainings courses for cooperatives in *lobbying and advocacy campaigns* methods.
- Two trainings for municipalities in *social accountability*.
- One training in Gaza for youth in *social audit*.



It is worth mentioning that, the Good Governance program carried out Drama Sketches/theater plays to 33 cooperatives in different localities that handled the importance of participatory decision and policy-making. The play warmly perceived for its relevant messages to the cooperative sector. In addition, the program conducted exchange visits between eight cooperatives, which led to an informal sharing and exchanging of advice and guidance.



GG program carried out drama sketches targeting cooperatives.

**As for lobbying and advocacy, the Program carried out the following campaigns:**

One gender equality campaign entitled **“Success in Her Words”** aimed to promote gender equity and empowered women’s role in cooperatives, increased cooperatives outreach and spotlighted on overcoming cultural restrictions for women by including 5 women who had overcome cultural restrictions, this campaign linked directly with *SDG 5: Gender Equality*.



Six local awareness campaigns entitled **“Water is Essential for Life”**, which created messages that linked revenue collection with improved local services, in response to *SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation*. The local community designed the messages and tools of the campaigns.



# Key Achievements

## GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAM 2018

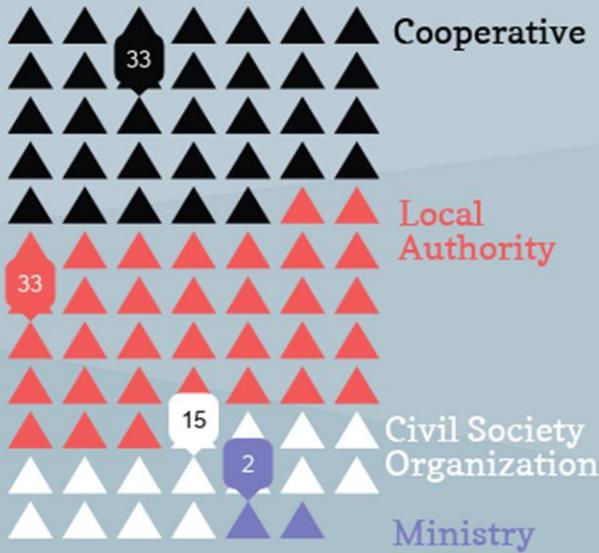
# 40

## Localities

Targeted in 2018

Goal: To promote values of integrity, principles of transparency and systems of accountability in various Palestinian sectors.

### Partners in Targeted Localities



Working with:



11,355  
Rights-holders



9,034  
Rights-holders

#### Publications

- Financial Transparency Index Report for 30 municipalities
- Financial Transparency Index Final Report
- Ministry of Labor Citizen Budget 2018
- Ministry of Local Governance Citizen Budget 2018
- Ministry of Local Governance Budget Comparison Report 2017
- Citizens Budgets for 6 municipalities

#### Media Productions

- 5 short film about 5 cooperative women
- 5 Posters about 5 cooperative women
- 5 Caricature about 5 cooperative women
- 5 Radio talk shows about 5 cooperative women
- Infographic: Interactive Ministry of Local Governance Citizen Budget 2017
- Short film about local water campaign in Bani Naim
- T.V Show with Minister of Local Governance



## 2.4 Natural Resource Management Program

Activities and achievements in the year 2018:

ARIJ Water and Environment Department continued (WERD) its activities contributing to the protection of the Palestinian natural resources through focusing on safeguarding the environment as means of protecting human health and prompting the sustainable use of these resources.

It should be noted that all of the WERD actions are linked to the SDG goals namely; *GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being, GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and GOAL 13: Climate Action*

### Improving Access to Water and Sanitation Services

#### Wastewater Treatment

Through actions supported by grants from the European Commission, the year 2018 witnessed the continuity of developing and promoting wastewater treatment in Sair area using activated sludge wastewater treatment processes. The project started in March 2017; the implementation requires 36 months until accomplishment, and the projected end date is in the year of 2020. *The direct impact of these actions resulting in: (1) protection of landscapes and 41.5 hectares of agricultural land from pollution with untreated wastewater; (2) the reclamation of 10 hectares of agricultural land previously heavily polluted by waste products; and (3) the protection of 222 households and the students from elementary school in Sair with regards to the exposure of waterborne diseases.*

During the second year of the project's lifespan, the project's team succeeded in implementing part of the planned activities associated with the project objective the "Reduction of Plant Operational Cost", "Innovative Irrigation and Nutrient Management Practices", and the "Development of Enterprise Capacities in order to manage the reuse of treated wastewater and sludge". These activities resulted in developing and awarding the four tenders' dossier that included all of the technical requirements in order to start the installation and operation of the (WWTP) photovoltaic system, sludge dewatering, compost facility and water reuse storage reservoir. Furthermore, the project team completed the process of land purchase and signed an agreement with Sair municipality in order to increase the sense of ownership and commitment of the municipality towards the project action.

Making Wadi Al Arub WWTP more sustainable ,includes the implementation of works related to setting a sludge dewatering facility, the establishment of a photovoltaic (PV) system of capacity 125 kva, the establishment of a composting facility, and the establishment of a water reclamation system, that includes water storage, boosting system and irrigation network system. These actions contribute to the sustainability of the WWTP through 1) enormously reduction of Wadi Al Arub WWTP operational costs, 2) protection of the sounding environment by conversion of destabilized sludge into a marketable product that can be safely used to improve the physical and chemical characteristics of rangeland and cropland soil. It is essential to mention that WERD also worked in the provision of both the operation and maintenance of Wadi Al Arroub WWTP as illustrated in the below **(photo)**.





*Work during operation and maintenance of Wadi Al Arroub WWTP*

At the capacity building level, the project team conducted several trainings at different levels. The trained ARIJ's team transferred their gained knowledge to 35 farmers and agronomists, training materials were prepared and distributed.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government and the Palestinian Water Authority a two year agreement between the Palestinian Water Authority and ARIJ was signed operating and managing Wadi Al-Urub wastewater treatment plant while MOLG will provide 20% of the contract value.

### **Wastewater Reuse Demonstration Experiments**

For the second year, WERD continued its work studying the impacts of irrigation with treated wastewater on crop quality and productivity in cooperation with Sustainable Agriculture Program. Based on the observations and the obtained data during the first experiment period, perceived that the utilized treated wastewater had no effect on the morphological and physiological properties of the plant (colour, fruit set, etc.), positive results on the tree's canopy, height, plant diameter and overall growth. Moreover, using the treated effluent demonstrated to have no effects in relation to fungal diseases and on nutrient deficiency during the experiment period.



*Experimental Agricultural Lands in Wadi Al Arrub - Sair / Hebron Governorate*

Moreover, **Water and Environment Department (WERD)** conducted 8 workshops, 2 days training, and 5 field visit for the treated wastewater treatment plant and treated wastewater reuse sites in Sair area. During the workshops, ARIJ team invited the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), civil society organizations, cooperatives, local people, and farmers in order to share project findings as well as promoting wastewater treatment and reuse, the advantages and precautions needed of irrigation with treated wastewater so farmers can make educated decisions about whether to irrigate with treated wastewater or else.



*Wadi Al Arrub WWTP and to pilot reuse demonstrations utilizing sub-surface drip irrigation systems*

## Awareness and Knowledge Transfer

### - Municipal Water Conservation and Optimal Usage

WERD, with funding from the Paris City and in cooperation with Jericho Municipality, continued its activities through conducting an intensive and integrated awareness campaign on improved water resource conservations, the optimal use of domestic water, and the social responsibility towards the sustainability of the water resources. The intensive mass media, social media, and educational campaign targeted all social strata in Jericho city but with special focus on schoolchildren, youth, women associations, and consumers.

The awareness material included, but not limited to-

- The project web banners published on three websites
- Two SMS messages were sent to over 15,000 subscribers to “Ma’an Now” in Jericho City
- One-newspaper ad published in Al-Quds newspaper
- Three Digital Screen Billboard advertisement designed and displayed in Jericho City
- Two TV spots and two radio spots broadcasted on Ma'an TV and local Radio station
- Four TV episodes recorded and broadcasted on Ma'an TV
- All audio-visual material, in addition, to broadcasting on TV, posted on social media (YouTube, Facebook) and on ARIJ, Ma'an, Jericho municipality website
- One water leaflet (1,000 copies) with water conservation messages distributed to general public, farmers
- One household water audit form distrusted to the student’s schools in the Jericho City
- Five introductory meetings conducted in the Jericho City
- Launch day event: messages about the *objectives, importance, and expected results of the campaign were presented by the project team and Jericho Municipality*
- Through coordination with Jericho Municipality, the meter readers/collectors (12 in total) trained to improve their communication skills delivering the message and information about water bills to the consumers
- A letter with water conservation and optimal water use



messages presented by the students of 14 schools during the Morning Speech, which was live, broadcasted on Al Qamar Radio. The activities in 14 schools summarized as follows:

- Drawing competitions, poem competition, and other forms of artistic expressions related to water and hygiene
- Recorded TV episod, students stressed the importance of their roles in proper water behaviours
- A student marathon of 3 km with the participation of more than 400 students representing the targeted schools
- Students with the help of their parents and teachers filled the household water audit form thus communicating to their parents' important messages on stopping water leakages, improper water use behaviours, and water conservation messages
- School final event attended by more than 480 students celebrating their achievements.



The main impacts and outreach of the awareness campaign summarized as per the below mentioned table:

The identified indicators	Target Value
Estimation number of people reached by project	Around 50,002 person
Number of schools targeted	14 School
Estimated number of people participating in the campaign, including youth civil society, local authority.	800 person
Estimated number of students participating in the school competition	6329 students
Estimated number of people participating in preparatory and follow up meetings	60-80 person
Estimated number of people following the social media and reading the news related to the campaign at Ma'an website	2 million
Estimated number of people watching YouTube videos about the project	515

## Regeneration, Preservation and Development of Historic Centres (HC)

**WERD**, with funding from the Belgian Development Agency and in cooperation with Palestinian Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), the activities for designing and implementing an integrated community awareness campaign for twelve local communities in West Bank" under the program entitled "Regeneration of Historic Centres in the Local Governorates" were finalized. The twelve targeted local government units (LGUs) are, 'Asira ash Shamaliya, Burqa, Sabastiya, Bani Zeid al Gharbiya (Beit Rima and Deir Ghassaneh), 'Abud, Arraba, Nilin, 'Anabta, Deir Istiya, Adh Dhahiriya, As Samu', and Bani Na'im. The main objective of the campaign, raising the community citizens

awareness about regeneration, preservation and development of historical centers. Awareness campaign included, but not limited to:

1. The media publications material contents and tools describing the importance of the preservation and development of the HCs, its value, social, cultural and economic benefits, included: *12 Posters one for each community, 12 Roll up one for each community, 12 Banners one for each community, and 12 Brochures, one for each community.*
2. The media plan" one for each community" *included (1) a developed plan, defined goals, cross-channels promotion; and (2) detail the most effective campaign schedule.*
3. Public campaign action plan "one for each of 12 community", included the activities ,goals, messages, target groups, beneficiaries, estimated budget, required logistics, required media materials and tools, proposed date and place for implementation. Moreover, an effective public campaign schedule was included in the plan.
4. Joint awareness campaign plan included the joint activities with their goals, messages, target groups, estimated budget, required logistics, required media materials and tools, proposed date and place for implementation.
5. 12 volunteers work associated with the awareness activities in the targeted LGUs were conducted in each community, except for Nilin targeted area where a summer camp was conducted.



*Summer camp associated with the awareness activities in Nilin*

Key achievements from the campaign listed as follows:

- Promoting the community participation in the process of effective preservation and development in order to enhance the sense of ownership and responsibility towards preservation of cultural identity and heritage among 12-targeted LGUS.
- Empowering 120 stakeholders from 60 civil society all over the 12-targeted LGUS by increasing their participation in regeneration of the HCs activity and providing opportunities to develop their skills with respect to the local culture.
- Introducing and increasing the awareness of more than 1000 young generation to the protection of cultural heritage site and the historical centers.

The main impacts and outreach of the project is summarized as per the below table2 :

The impacts & outreach of the project		
	Baseline survey	End line survey
<i>Citizens' concept towards Palestinian cultural heritage</i>	80.1%	86
<i>Citizens' knowledge of projects related to regeneration of historical centers</i>	66.7%	84.1%
<i>Citizen's impressions regarding regeneration projects</i>	68.8%	50% *
<i>The extent of Palestinian Authority's interest in preserving historic centers</i>	66.1%	80.3%
<i>The importance of historical centers in sustainable development:</i>	94.9%	98.1%
<i>Improve financial, social and cultural conditions</i>	50.7%	58.2%

Table 2: \*Citizens reflected positive impacts regarding the regeneration projects in which 68.8% states that the projects were useful to the local community in the baseline survey even though this percentage decreased to 50% in the end- line survey. However, the percentage of people who benefited from such projects increased from 16.9% to 28.2%.



**Volunteer work associated with the awareness activities in the targeted LGUs**

### Technical assistance to ARIJ different departments

WERD in 2018 continued its work providing technical assistance to ARIJ different departments, including but not limited to:

- Provide support to ARIJ sustainable agriculture program through providing continuous technical assistance and logistics support related to water treatment and reuse in both Wadi Al Arroub Sair Hebron Governorate and Jenin Anza (PCPM project ).
- WERD team provided capacity building to increase the knowledge in both wastewater treatment and reuse targeting farmers and relevant stakeholders.
- Other technical support and services provided to Green Palestine Co. (E.g. Implementation of onsite wastewater treatment and reuse system at Al Mazra'a El Garbiyeh).

### Capacity Building

The Department is committed to develop national capacities (individuals, grassroots initiatives, cooperatives, and state-based organizations) in the fields of wastewater treatment and reuse, climate change adaptation, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), and water management. WERD Department conducted and participated in 56 training workshops and field visits. This is in addition to providing services to the local community related to its field of work.

Developing the capacities of the WERD staff is also imperative to continue ARIJ's rich tradition of technological and process innovation. The staff participated in several regional and international training workshops covering the subjects of precision agriculture, operational control and

management of wastewater treatment processes, opportunities and challenges of treated wastewater reuse in agriculture.

**The Geo-Informatics (GIS & RS) Department** maintained its strong cooperation ties with several local and international bodies, including Land and Water Settlement Authority, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), Ministry of Intern, Ministry of Transportation. In 2018, the Geo-informatics Department provided many services to the local, regional, international institutions and NGOs by:

- ✓ Maps and aerial photographs for International Organizations
- ✓ Services on roads and maps to Palestinian Ministries and Municipalities
- ✓ Maps for Palestinian citizens supporting against the confiscation of land concerns
- ✓ Supporting students with their graduation projects by providing data and maps on the geopolitical status of Palestine
- ✓ Providing members of the local community, affected by Israeli military orders with all necessary information and maps related to the land confiscation that can be used in Israeli courts to oppose in Laws,) maps to be important documents for claims against military orders in Israeli courts) In addition, the department staff participated, in more than 20 meetings 15 workshops, TV and radio interviews.

## Urbanization Monitoring

The Urbanization Monitoring Unit - running the project that monitors the Israeli activities in the occupied Palestinian territory; entitles "Advocating for a Sustainable and Viable Resolution of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" worked through fluctuating times documenting the Israeli violations 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). 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 is the Segregation Wall being built 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.

Urbanization Monitoring prepared and published on POICA website: 57 newspaper articles, 3 special reports, 11 booklets (for each of the Palestinian governorates), 6 info-graphs, 1000 posters, 578 case studies, 4 quarterly reports, 12 monthly reports and 365 daily reports covering the Israeli activities and violations in the oPt . The project website recorded nearly 20 million hits during the designated time of this report. Further, the department organized a total of 48 informational briefings; including 2 for EU representatives and delegates, decision makers, Palestinian and European officials, locals and foreign visiting groups, in addition to interested scholars, academics, and journalists among others. The results are attracting significant attention and providing support for several national and international stakeholders. The amount of interviews (both Radio and TV; 307) conducted on emerging issues relating to Israeli violations and policies attest the credibility and trust



the media has in the implementing organizations of the project. The Urbanization and Monitoring along with the Geographic Information System (GIS); perform mapping communities targeted by Israeli activities on the ground to help assess the magnitude of the occurred damages and derive conclusions. More than that it works to produce visual illustration (poster/ map used in case studies) of the changes, damages while sharing these activities with the Palestinian decision makers and the population at large. Nonetheless, the turmoil of political arena, the increase severity on movement and the constant threat and fear of safety to those in the field, remain the biggest concern. The significance of the work is reflected in the amount and the quality of information harvested from the field, productions and presentations delivered to those in the decision making chamber and to the public. Moreover, ARIJ and POICA websites proven to be an invaluable research and informational source regionally and internationally

### ***Geopolitical occupied State of Palestine***

The poster/ map below shows the status of the oPt on the ground and the impact of the Israeli activities have on the geography and the demography in the oPt; when Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) signed the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip of September 28, 1995 (AKA: Oslo II), it recognized the establishment of a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority for a transitional period not exceeding five years from the date of signing the Agreement, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Accordingly, the Israeli occupation Army withdrew from the major populated city centres; which brought the oPt under three categories for land classification: areas “A,” “B” and “C” designating varying levels of control as per the below illustrated table;-

Areas Definition in Oslo II Interim Agreement of September 1995		
Land Classification	Description	Percentage
Area “A”	The Palestinians hold all responsibilities for internal security, Public order and land administration.	17.5
Area “B”	Palestinians have control over civil administrative related issues (education, health, land administration) however, the Israeli occupation Army continues to have overriding responsibility for security.	18.5
Area “C”	The Israeli occupation Army retains full control over security and related land and civil administrations issues.	61
East Jerusalem is included within Area “C” demographic and geographic		

This jagged distribution scattered the oPt and turned it into isolated cantons; physically separated from each other. It also caused an imbalanced distribution of population, triggering a warehouse syndrome as a direct result of Israel’s matrix of control on area “C”, which deny the Palestinians their right to build, expand on the territory they own and the Israeli Army occupies.



# The Geopolitical Status of occupied State of Palestine - December 2017

## The Palestinian geographic/demographic predicament: One consequence of the Israeli occupation

When Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) signed the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in September 1995 (the Oslo II Accord), it was the first time that the Israeli occupation of a Palestinian territory was legitimized. It was also the first time that the Israeli occupation of a Palestinian territory was legitimized in a formal agreement. The Oslo II Accord was a landmark agreement as it was the first time that the Israeli occupation of a Palestinian territory was legitimized in a formal agreement. The Oslo II Accord was a landmark agreement as it was the first time that the Israeli occupation of a Palestinian territory was legitimized in a formal agreement.



## The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan is a plan to build a wall between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The wall is intended to separate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the rest of Israel. The wall is intended to separate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the rest of Israel. The wall is intended to separate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the rest of Israel.

Section	Length (km)	Percentage
Existing	100	48
Under Construction	100	22
Planned	100	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

Section	Length (km)	Percentage
Existing	100	48
Under Construction	100	22
Planned	100	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

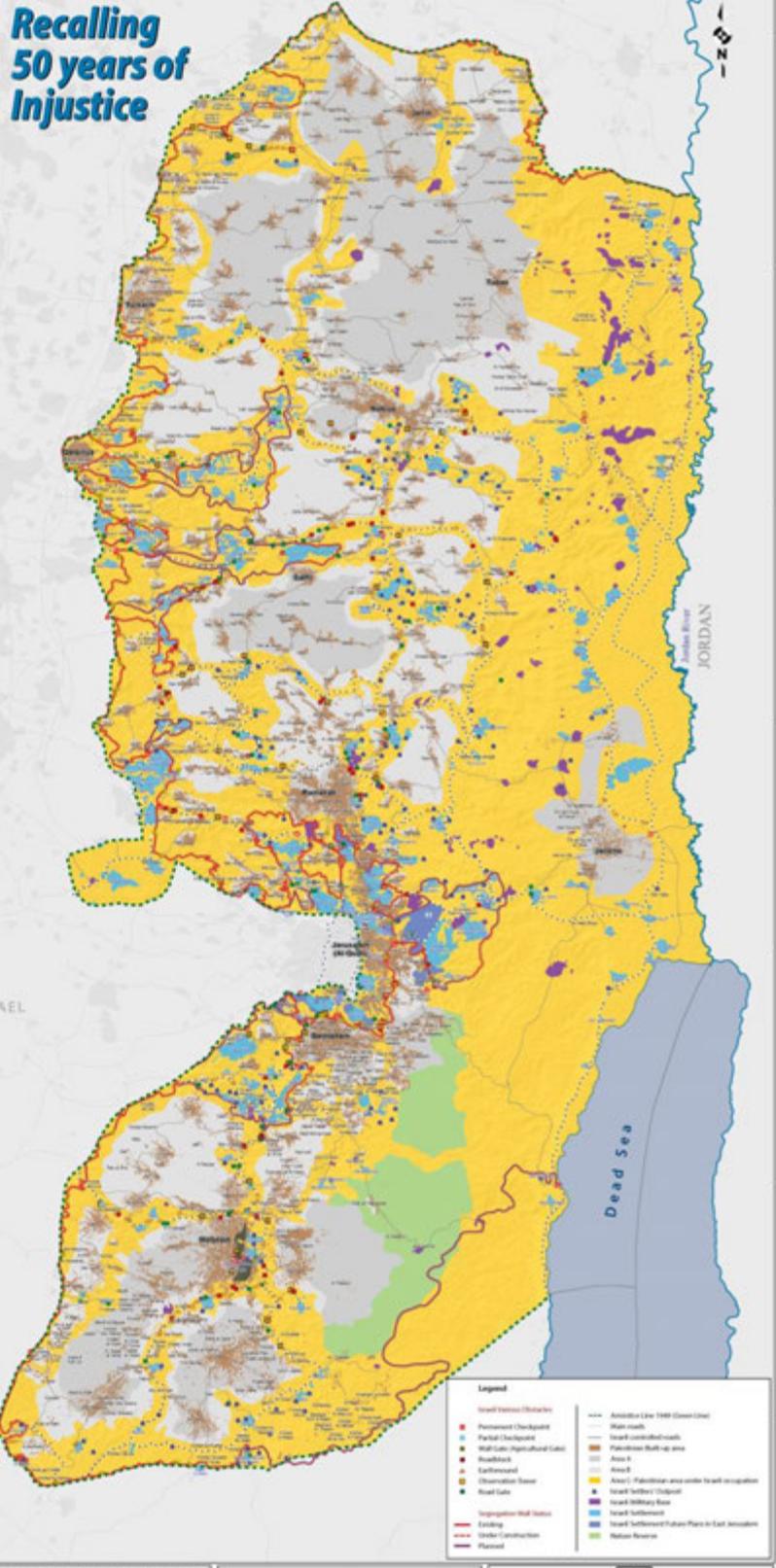
The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan is a plan to build a wall between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The wall is intended to separate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the rest of Israel. The wall is intended to separate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the rest of Israel. The wall is intended to separate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from the rest of Israel.



## The Timeline of the Israeli Security Buffer Zone and the Israeli Siege of the Gaza Strip

The timeline of the Israeli Security Buffer Zone and the Israeli Siege of the Gaza Strip is a record of the events that have taken place in the Gaza Strip since 2005. The timeline is a record of the events that have taken place in the Gaza Strip since 2005. The timeline is a record of the events that have taken place in the Gaza Strip since 2005.

## Recalling 50 years of Injustice



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**Reports that stood out during this reporting period and were distinctively referenced are as follows:**

- **Impacts of Israeli Movement Restrictions on Palestinian Economy & Environment**

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada, Israel erected hundreds of barriers across the West Bank. As of 2018, there are over 705 road barriers that impede Palestinian mobility in the West Bank. Using over 18 million records collected from 70 GPS tracking devices, that calculate the delay times caused by these barriers, associated economic and environmental costs. Figures indicate that Israeli barriers and restrictions in the West Bank cause the Palestinian labor force annually an estimated 60 million hours of delay, costing Palestinians roughly \$410 million USD, and producing 200,000 tons of CO2 (for 2018).

- **Factors Shaping the Upcoming Scene of the Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations and Conflict**

The international community, mostly, except the United States, still adopting the two state solution as the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel is defying the international community by pursuing its consistent strategy of settlement expansion in order to undermine the two state solution. The USA appointed itself the sole broker of peace, marginalizing the roles of others, chiefly the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations. The Trump Administration does not take into consideration the undermining nature of the settlement enterprise to the peace process accused by the international community, of supporting rather than condemning the creation of illegal Israeli settlements. Amidst the ongoing contention building within their own borders, Israel is exploiting the turmoil in the Middle East and the blind support of the USA to accelerate its unilateral actions in Palestine in their attempt defining the end of the conflict.

## 2.5 ARIJ Partnerships and Agreements

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

- *The SAP program is representing ARIJ in the Climate Change National Committee (CCNC)*

*Regional conference EU for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy*



- *Newly established steering committee between ARIJ, CRS and MoA for the livestock improvement project (RBC)*

- *The established good relations with the CBOs (cooperatives and women clubs) continued and improved through the performed joint activities and interventions*
- *ARIJ is a member of the Established Palestinian Agriculture Institutions Coalition (PAIC) to reactivate the leading role of the Palestinian Civil Society Organizations in Agricultural Sector. This Coalition enjoys the membership of PARC, AUWC, LRC, MAAN, PHG, and ARIJ*
- *ARIJ continued its partnership with Earth and Human Center for Research and Studies in Gaza Strip.*
- *ARIJ continued its cooperation with the Al-Khadouri University to continue conducting joint research under PADUCO program*
- *ARIJ continued its coordination with MOA, AN-Najah University, Khadoury University, PSI, PIF, Beir Zait University and local agricultural companies (Sharbatee and Tecno-green) in the field of safer agricultural products*
- *The Catholic Relief Services and Caritas Germany: ARIJ managed to get an additional fund which started since November 2018 and will be continued until May 2022 funded by BMZ Germany. This project focused on improving livestock subsector in 20 communities in the southern part of the West Bank (Hebron and Bethlehem), channelled through Caritas Germany in partnership with CRS.*
- *Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO): ARIJ Managed to get an additional fund, which started since May, 2018 till May 2019. This project focused on supporting the implementation of rangeland rehabilitation activities in Tubas Governorate ('Atouf, Um Kbaish, and Qishad).*
- *The Canadian Food Grain Bank (CFGB) and Mennonite Committee Center (MCC): ARIJ Managed to get an additional fund since April 2017 till the end of the year 2019. This project focused on urban agriculture using wicking bed plant production technology.*
- *Palestinian-Dutch Academic Cooperation Program in Water: ARIJ managed to get an additional fund from PADUCO consortium and it started since Jan 2018. This small research project won in partnership with Al-Khadouri University.*
- *The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID): ARIJ in partnership with CARE International and ICARDA continued its work on Souqona project through implementing AMENCA III program.*
- *Polish Aid & Polish Center for International Aid "PCPM": The second year ending in 2019 of the funded project by Polish aid entitled "Certification and improving professionalism of producer-consumer cooperatives' group, Palestine". This project aims at supporting the New Farm Company and MAWASEM cooperatives improving the production environment, achieving food processing and system management certificates.*
- *Polish Aid & Polish Center for International Aid "PCPM": The second year of the funded project by the Polish aid entitled "Optimizing the use of conventional and non-conventional water for irrigation towards rural development, women and youth empowerment, Palestine". This project aims at adopting mechanisms that improve the socioeconomic conditions of rural communities; through introducing environmentally sound practices and innovative irrigation technologies that optimize the use of conventional and non-conventional water, contributing in the improvement and diversification of crop production, community enhancement of the food security and generating income with the youth and women involvement in the entrepreneurship framework. The project started in 2018 ending in 2019.*
- *Dan Church Aid (DCA): The second phase of the livestock project started this year and will continue till the end of the year 2019 improving livestock sector and its marketing channels. The project is funded by the DCA targeting 3 new localities at the northern Jordan Valley in addition to Bardala.*



- *Caritas Switzerland: ARIJ signed a funding agreement with Caritas Switzerland to conduct food security project in 3 Bedouins communities, 3 refugee camps and for the poorest Palestinian families in the West Bank. Two years project started since January 2018.*
- *Strong cooperation ties with state-, non-state-based institutions especially PWA, WSSA, MoA, PCBS, EQA, Municipality of Bethlehem, Municipality of Jericho, Municipality of Sair, Jericho Directorate of Education, Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Ma'an network, and MoLG Ministry of Higher Education. Cooperate with several regional and international organizations including but not limited to UN-Habitat, SCP/RAC, DTD, CENTA, UNCTAD, EU, Belgian Development Agency , UNRWA, Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), National Team to Support the Transparency of the Public Budget, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Labor, and Palestinian Association of Certified Public Accountants (PACPA).*
- *Al-Quds University and ARIJ collaborated to introduce a bachelor's degree in the field of geo-informatics part of the university dual studies program. On the other hand, ARIJ agreed to host university students 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) while connecting these systems wirelessly with a mobile application that sends notifications to the owner of the system.*
- *ARIJ has been contacted by the Palestinian Land Authority in order to provide them with the technical assistance in GIS and geo-informatics which lead to signing of partnership agreement between the two organizations.*

## 2.6 Internal Control Department

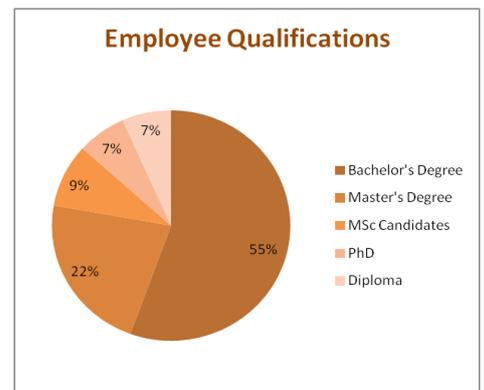
Internal control is a fundamental component of institutional development. The newly established Internal Control Department assists the board in the areas related to internal control procedures and practices, audits and quality, which act as an independent body performing its duties and obligations independently while reporting to the administrative committee. The reasoning behind establishing independent unit, that overlooks all of ARIJ internal controls and procedure is to enhance the transparency, achieve the overall objectives of financial sustainability and better quality of works. The Internal Control unit submitted a plan for the year of 2018 covering the areas of audits that includes reporting of activities on a monthly, yearly list of activities that will be included in each report.

In terms of administration, ARIJ is identifying the possibility 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 and sharing them with the staff .

In terms of staffing and recruitment, ARIJ focuses on attracting talent and calibre from various fields, with the following qualifications as listed below:



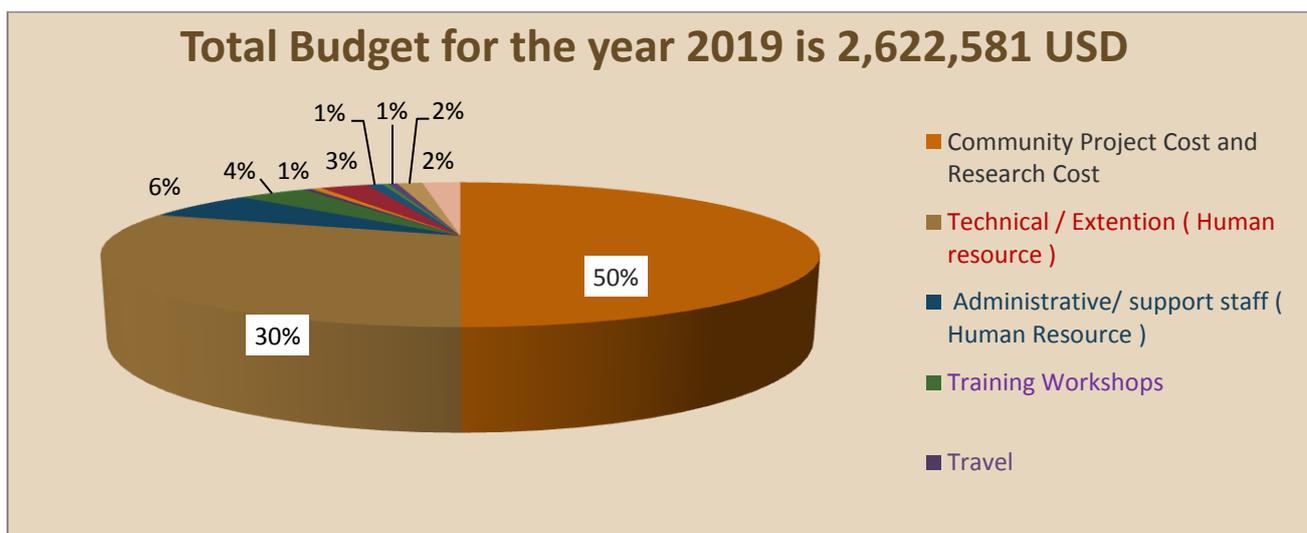
- *PhD Degree Holders* 3
- *Masters Degree Holders* 10
- *Msc Candidates* 4
- *Bachelor Degree Holders* 25
- *Diplomas*
- 



### Section 3: Estimated Budget and Future Plans 2019

As Palestine is still in a developing state going through so many phases to reach the maturity ,it requires extensive research and development in so many sectors while ARIJ is focused on the sectors as stated above in the report which is mainly, Good Governance, Natural Resource Management, IT and Agricultural sustainability .The constitution of the budget shows that the main costs listed in the budget is related to development and research which is 50% followed by the Human Resource (Administration and Technical ) which consists around 30% of the budget, as illustrated in the below graph:-

Budget Item 2019	Total (USD)
<b>Community Project Cost and Research Cost</b>	1,310,648
<b>Technical / Extention ( Human resource )</b>	797,950
<b>Administrative/ support staff ( Human Resource )</b>	165,920
<b>Training Workshops</b>	104,547
<b>Travel</b>	11,387
<b>Office Rental</b>	3,359
<b>Communication</b>	13,542
<b>Transportation</b>	73,058
<b>Office Supply &amp; IT Equipment</b>	22,981
<b>Utilities</b>	9,117
<b>Audit Fees</b>	13,645
<b>Printing and Publications</b>	38,468
<b>Administrative cost</b>	57,961
	<b>2,622,581</b>

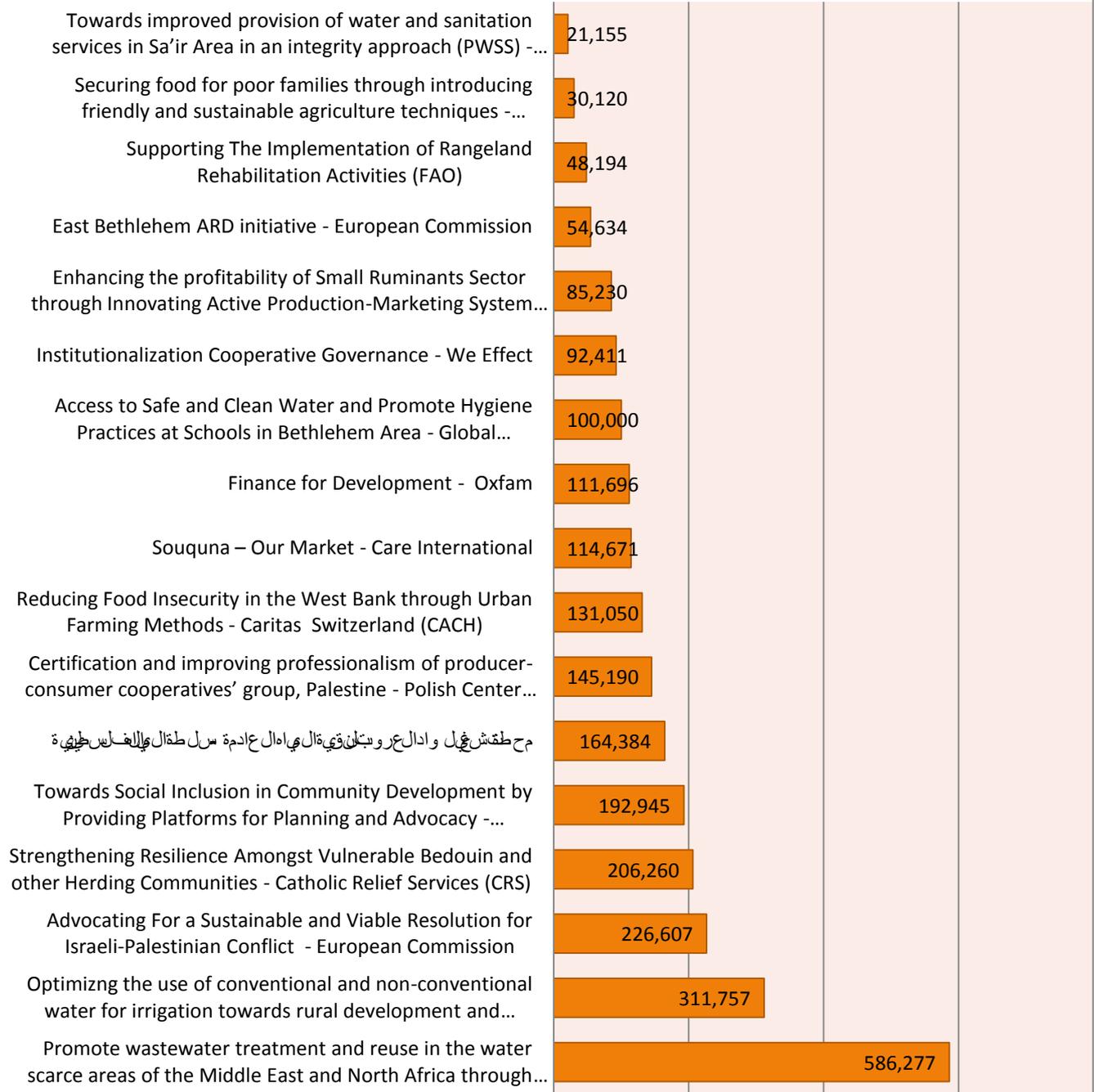


The table below shows the budget per project line:

Projects 2019	Total (USD)
Promote wastewater treatment and reuse in the water scarce areas of the Middle East and North Africa through development and demonstration of innovative financial instruments and inclusive management plans. (SWIM) - <i>European Commission</i>	586,277
Optimizing the use of conventional and non-conventional water for irrigation towards rural development and women and youth empowerment in Palestine - <i>Polish Center for International Aid</i>	311,757
Advocating For a Sustainable and Viable Resolution for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict - <i>European Commission</i>	226,607
Strengthening Resilience Amongst Vulnerable Bedouin and other Herding Communities - <i>Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</i>	206,260
Towards Social Inclusion in Community Development by Providing Platforms for Planning and Advocacy - <i>European Commission</i>	192,945
محطة تنشغيل وادل عرب والتربية اليا اه ال عدمة سلطة اليا اه لليس طيبة	164,384
Certification and improving professionalism of producer-consumer cooperatives' group, Palestine - <i>Polish Center for International Aid</i>	145,190
Reducing Food Insecurity in the West Bank through Urban Farming Methods - <i>Caritas Switzerland (CACH)</i>	131,050
Souquna – Our Market - <i>Care International</i>	114,671
Finance for Development - <i>Oxfam</i>	111,696
Access to Safe and Clean Water and Promote Hygiene Practices at Schools in Bethlehem Area - <i>Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (UMCOR)</i>	100,000
Institutionalization Cooperative Governance - <i>We Effect</i>	92,411
Enhancing the profitability of Small Ruminants Sector through Innovating Active Production-Marketing System in the North of the Jordan Valley - <i>Dan Church Aid (DCA)/ Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)</i>	85,230
East Bethlehem ARD initiative - <i>European Commission</i>	54,634
Supporting The Implementation of Rangeland Rehabilitation Activities ( <i>FAO</i> )	48,194
Securing food for poor families through introducing friendly and sustainable agriculture techniques - <i>Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)</i>	30,120
Towards improved provision of water and sanitation services in Sa'ir Area in an integrity approach (PWSS) - <i>Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (FCCD)</i>	21,155
	<b>2,622,581</b>



## Estimated Budget per Project 2019



The Sustainable Agriculture Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2019
<p><b>Goal 1: disseminate information related to sustainable development in Palestine.</b></p> <p><i>Objective 1.1: improve dissemination of ARIJ’s reports and work to various stakeholders.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish new cooperation, partnership, joint activities, providing and sharing of experience with the agricultural governmental bodies, research institutes, civil society, other NGOs, UN agencies and international organizations as well as with the accessible specialized consortiums and networks.</li> <li>2. Activate and empower the existing partnerships and relations with We Effect, CARE International and Oxfam, POLISH CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AID (PCPM), DANCHURCHAID (DCA), ICARDA, Spanish Cooperation, MCC, CFGB, FAO, GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP, UNRWA, EU, SDC, AusAid, GIZ, BMZ-Germany, WFP, pontifical mission United Methodist Church (“Global Ministries”), CRS, PADUCO and Caritas Swiss, etc.</li> <li>3. Support the New Farm Company and Green Palestine Co. by enhancing, eco-green practices, technologies, and producing healthy and safe products.</li> <li>5. Apply for funding opportunities in alignment with ARIJ’s vision and strategic objectives alone or through partnerships, with specialized consortiums.</li> </ol> <p><b>Publications:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare and publish scientific papers, fact sheets, applied manuals, leaflets and articles in the following fields:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Land use, crop and water management</li> <li>b. Hydroponic/wicking crop production technology for food production and income generating.</li> <li>c. Ecosystems / crop suitability mapping system</li> <li>d. Rangeland preservation and improvement practices</li> <li>e. Forestry and biodiversity preservation procedure Agro-land use and resources management</li> <li>f. Food quality and food hygiene including the nutritional values and nutritional health.</li> <li>g. Establishing socially based enterprises with main focus on community benefits, and the involvement of youth and cooperatives.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>



**Goal 4: promote sound natural resource management**

**Objective 4.2:** *enhance conservation, management and utilization of Palestinian natural ecosystems and biodiversity.*

**Objective 4.3:** *contribute in minimizing the climate change and variability impact by increasing the resilience of vulnerable Palestinian communities.*

**Goal 5: contribute in improving the livelihood of the Palestinian society.**

**Objective 5.1:** *improve food security, agro-practices, marketing procedures, and economic conditions on household, communities and national level.*

**Objective 5.2:** *achieve sustainable management for controlled harvesting of Palestinian economic plant species.*

**Objective 5.3:** *assess the livelihood conditions and opportunities for development at Palestinian localities.*

1. Surveying plant gene and inventorying wild relative species and biodiversity conservation.
2. Focus on the following important and viable research and development topics: poverty alleviation, building resilience to food security, climate change (drought mitigation) and adaptation, biodiversity, nature reserves management and biosphere improvement, rangeland protection, adopting environmentally sound agro-practices, conservation agriculture, forest inventory, aridity index, water harvesting and storage, optimization of water use by crops, rangeland preservation and enhancement, urban agriculture techniques, documentation and preservation, sustainable management models, and encouraging the creation of social enterprise models towards community development, avoid relief and emergency approach while focusing on developmental approach, studying the value chain of rural agro-food commodities, shifting towards safe agriculture and healthy agro-food.
3. Focusing on applying new water harvesting techniques and transfer them to the farmers by learning and practicing.
4. Studying and innovating the bio-fertilizers production techniques.
5. Continue improving the adoption of hydro-agriculture techniques to improve urban agriculture.
6. Following up the issue of climate change green fund and searching for creating strong consortiums to apply.
7. Improve the small ruminants' management and breeding system through piloting a new feasible and improved production – marketing system.
8. Applying Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) to be practiced as digital way for planning and decision making.
9. Also, adopting new agro-technology to control plant growth in hydro-agriculture systems digitally and smartly, using sensors and w-connections.



**Goal 8: adapt ARIJ managerial performance to local and international standards.**

**Objective 8.1:** *enhance the performance of ARIJ Administrative Committee (AC) & General Assembly (GA)*

*Continue performing, and accomplishing the ongoing projects: PCPM, MCC, DCA/NCA, Caritas Swiss, Amenca III (Souqona), and CRS.*

**Inspiring Resource:**

1. Encourage the employees' participation in the specialized workshops and training courses to improve their experiences and know-how in different related topic.
2. Encourage the specialists to participate in the local, regional and international events.
3. Perform research consultancies and provide training courses.
4. Improve the staff experience in queen bees' production techniques, drought mitigation, forest and rangeland management, livestock improvement; find alternative feeds, resource optimization and modelling to ensure the best practices / feasible approach.

**Natural Resource Management Program**

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2019
<p><b>Goal 1: disseminate information related to sustainable development in Palestine.</b> <b>Objective 1.1:</b> <i>improve dissemination of ARIJ's reports and work to various stakeholders.</i></p> <p><b>Goal 3: improve access to affordable, reliable and sustainable green technologies in Palestine.</b> <b>Objective 3.1:</b> <i>To Increase accessibility and scaling-up eco-friendly green technologies in Palestine, especially at the household/neighbourhood levels.</i></p> <p><b>Goal4:promote sound natural resource management</b> <b>Objective4.1:</b> <i>improve management of environment and utilization of land and water resources.</i> <b>Objective4.2:</b> <i>enhance conservation, management and utilization of Palestinian natural ecosystems and biodiversity.</i> <b>Objective 4.3:</b> <i>contribute in minimizing the climate change and variability impact of vulnerable Palestinian communities by increasing resilience.</i></p>	<p><b>Funded projects:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote wastewater treatment and reuse in the water scarce areas of the Middle East and North Africa through development and demonstration of innovative financial instruments and inclusive management plans (EU SWIM Program: 2017-2020. Status: Funded 80%. Co-financing probable from MoLG).</li> <li>2. Jericho Water Awareness Campaign (AFD Funding).</li> <li>3. Designing and Implementing an integrated Community awareness campaign for twelve local communities in West Bank" under the program entitled "Regeneration of Historic Centres in the Local governorates units".</li> </ol> <p><b>Approved projects</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to safe and clean water and promote hygiene practices at schools in Bethlehem Area</li> <li>2. Towards improved provision of water and sanitation services in Sair in an integrity approach (PWSS)</li> </ol>



<p><b>Goal 6: enhance natural and land-scape cultural heritage in Palestine.</b></p> <p><b>Objective 6.1:</b> <i>implement world heritage best practices in the conservation and management of Palestinian heritage sites.</i></p>	<p><b>Proposals at development stage:</b></p> <p>Palestina - Programma di Aiuto Umanitario AID 11620-Emergency Program / Italian Cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OPEC Fund for International Development / OPEC</li> <li>• European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) - Local Call / European Commission - (EIDHR) Program</li> <li>• Horizon 2020</li> </ul>
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## Urbanization Monitoring

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2019
<p><b>Goal 1: disseminate information related to sustainable development in Palestine.</b></p> <p><b>Goal 7:</b> <i>play an active role in advocating for the Palestinian human rights under the prolonged Israeli occupation; including the right to self-determination as inscribed in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</i></p> <p><b>Objective 7.1:</b> <i>advocate for Palestinian human rights under the prolonged Israeli</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research issues in line with the department goals and project's (monitoring Israeli settlements activities) objectives</li> <li>• Carryout activities of settlement monitoring project</li> <li>• Prepare and produce the daily, monthly, and quarterly reports</li> <li>• Prepare administrative and technical reports related to the department's activities</li> <li>• Prepare and deliver presentations to stakeholders</li> <li>• Write proposals for future projects</li> <li>• Write thematic papers and news articles</li> <li>• Represent ARIJ at national committees meetings, workshops, etc.</li> <li>• Prepare statistical pamphlets and hand-outs of issues related to department and projects' objectives</li> <li>• Research and organize meetings/ focus groups, etc. on the "Two State solution" proposal and produce researched papers and anticipated scenarios and future developments and it's the impacts on the overall peace process</li> <li>• Prepare, print and publish posters, maps, Infographics of relation to department and projects' objectives</li> <li>• Solicit an external evaluation for the project in line with the project activities</li> </ul>



## Information Technology Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2019
<p><b>Goal 1: disseminate information related to sustainable development in Palestine.</b> <i>Objective 1.1: improve dissemination of ARIJ's reports and work to the various stakeholders.</i></p> <p><b>Goal 7: play an active role in advocating for the Palestinian human rights under the prolonged Israeli occupation; including the right to self-determination as inscribed in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</b> <i>Objective 7.1: advocate for Palestinian human rights under the prolonged Israeli occupation.</i></p> <p><b>Goal 8: adapt ARIJ managerial performance to local and international standards.</b> <i>Objective 8.1: enhance the performance of ARIJ Administrative Committee (AC) &amp; General Assembly (GA)</i></p>	<p>Continue working on the implementation of the project submitted to the EU Jerusalem office on the use of 3D technology in East Jerusalem to provide citizens and donors the tools and platform needed to strategize their work and involvement in the city. The project activities and coordination monitored and coordinated by the IT program.</p> <p>The IT program will complete the implementation of the information system part of the project "Assessing the impacts of Israeli movement restrictions on the mobility of people and goods in the West Bank (2017-2018)</p> <p>ARIJ e-office suite version 2: The IT Program developed an E-office system for ARIJ that is currently since 2005. The current system required updating; new internal manuals have been published therefore new version of the system requires incorporating changes (HR, Financial, Project and Administration manuals). Advocacy: The IT Program continues its work in publishing on different social media tools available to increase the number of followers. Creating documentaries related to the accomplishments, publish all materials on ARIJ YouTube channel.</p>

## The Good Governance Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2019
<p><b>Goal 2: promote good governance and democracy in Palestine.</b> <i>Objective 2.1: promote inclusive and accountable decision-making.</i> <i>Objective 2.2: promote effective public service delivery and government responsibility.</i> <i>Objective 2.3: promote equitable civic participation and voice.</i> <i>Objective 2.4: promote government fair policies and openness.</i> <i>Objective 2.5: increase women and youth participation in economic development.</i></p>	<p><b>Funded Projects:</b></p> <p>1- Second year of "Enhancing Local Authorities' contribution to governance and development processes in Palestine" funded by the EU.</p> <p>2- Fourth year of the strategic partnership "Finance for Development" funded by Oxfam International.</p> <p>3- First year of "Institutionalization of Cooperative Governance" funded by We Effect</p>



## Section 4:

### 4.1 Publications

- Jane Hilal and Elias abu Mohor, 2018. Promotion of integrated and suitable management of wastewater at the local level and the possibility of expanding its use in occupied Palestine“, submitted to the Ninth Palestinian Environmental Awareness and Education Conference.
- Jane Hilal and Elias abu Mohor, 2018. Potential of small-scale wastewater treatment plant in Palestine and its up scaling feasibility in Central Asia, submitted to the first Palestinian international water forum 2018.
- Jad Isaac and Jane Hilal, 2018. *Opportunities and Challenges of Palestinian Development actions in Area C, Concept Note submitted to the Sustainable Development under conditions of Conflict and Crises Conference.*
- Nader Hrimat, West Bank, Palestine, EU Climate change and sustainable energy in the neighborhood south, Brussels, 20-21March, 2018, the impact of adopting solar energy for Tubas Municipality and the advocacy tools to leverage community awareness regarding the utilization of renewable energy and energy resources smartly.
- Treated Wastewater for Irrigating crops in Palestine (Article), This Week in Palestine

#### Leaflets

- Water and Environment Research Department (2018). Water leaflet with water conservation messages for Jericho City. The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ). Palestine
- Water and Environment Research Department (2018). Household water audit form for Jericho city. The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ). Palestine.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Citizen Budget for the year 2018, ARIJ/Ministry of Labor, Palestine.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Ministry of Local Governance Citizens Budget 2018, ARIJ/Ministry of Local Governance, Palestine.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Budget Comparison Report 2017 for Ministry of Local Governance
- Good Governance Program (2018). Ministry of Labor Citizens Budget 2018, ARIJ/Ministry of Labor, Palestine.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Howwara Municipality Citizens Budget 2018
- Good Governance Program (2018). Tarqumia Municipality Citizens Budget 2018
- Good Governance Program (2018). Silet Al-Daher Municipality Citizens Budget 2018
- Good Governance Program (2018). Halhoul Municipality Citizens Budget 2018
- Good Governance Program (2018). Bani Nai'm Municipality Citizens Budget 2018
- Good Governance Program (2018). Qabatiya Municipality Citizens Budget 2018
- One leaflet about infectious diseases in sheep and goat were produced and distributed on DCA project's beneficiaries within targeted areas.



#### 4.2 Monthly & Quarterly Reports

- Water and Environment Research Department (2018). 1) 4 Monthly progress report for Jericho public water awareness campaign, 2) Baseline survey report, 3) Media plan (matrix); and 4) Communication and activities matrix
- Water and Environment Research Department: 1) 12 Monthly progress report for designing and implementing an integrated Community awareness campaign for twelve local Communities in West Bank” , 2) Impact of the campaigns- People's perceptions report, 3) Overview Study about the local situation affecting sustainability in historical sites, 4) Implemented public awareness campaign activity report one for each of the twelve local communities, 5) Joint activities action plan, 6) 12 Media plan (matrix) one for each of the twelve local communities.
- The settlement project team published 365 electronic editions of the daily report that cover the daily events in the oPt. Follow the website , <http://poica.org>
- The settlement project team published 12 monthly reports on the Israeli occupation activities in Palestine. Follow the website , <http://poica.org>
- The settlement project team published 4 quarterly reports on the Israeli occupation activities in Palestine. Follow the website , <http://poica.org>

#### 4.2 Special Reports

- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Abu-Dis Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Ubediya Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Al Ouja Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Al Zababdeh Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Bireh Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Ram Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Samou' Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Anabta Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Bani Naim Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Beit Jala Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Beitsahour Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Beitounia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Biddu Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Deir Ballout Municipality.



- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Deir Dibwan Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Deir Iystia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Halhoul Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Howwara Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Jenin Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Kufr-Thelt Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Qabalan Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Qabatiya Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Qaffin Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Qalqilya Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Sabastia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Salfit Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Silet Al-Daher Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Tamoun Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Tarqumia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index report for Ya'bad Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Financial Transparency Index Final Report.
- "Factors Shaping the Upcoming Scene of the Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations and Conflict";  
<http://poica.org/2018/06/factors-shaping-the-upcoming-scene-of-the-israeli-palestinian-negotiations-and-conflict-2/>
- في ظومة الامتيطان الإسرائيلي – بلعاده وآلية مواجهها <https://www.masarat.ps/files/server/con7book.pdf> by Dr.Jad Issac and Suhail Khalilieh.

#### 4.3 Info-graphs links

- Israeli Military Orders  
<http://poica.org/2018/12/israeli-military-orders-targeting-lands-and-properties-in-the-occupied-west-bank-during-2018/>
- Israeli Settlement Plans  
<http://poica.org/2018/12/info-graph-israeli-settlement-plans-in-the-occupied-west-bank-during-2018/>
- Israeli Checkpoints  
<http://poica.org/2018/11/the-restrictions-on-movement-in-the-occupied-west-bank/>
- Israeli settlement blocs vs Palestinian Built-up Area  
<http://poica.org/2018/08/info-graph-the-israeli-settlement-blocs-vs-the-palestinian-built-up-area-in-the-occupied-west-bank/>
- Israeli settlements and settlers 1992-2017



<http://poica.org/2018/06/info-graph-israeli-settlements-settlers-population-in-the-occupied-west-bank/>

- Manipulating the demography of occupied East Jerusalem  
<http://poica.org/2018/07/info-graph-manipulating-the-demography-of-occupied-east-jerusalem-the-construction-of-the-israeli-segregation-wall-in-and-around-jerusalem/>

#### 4.3 Posters

- Twelve Posters , one for each of the twelve targeted local communities namely; 'Asira ash Shamaliya, Burqa, Sabastiya, Bani Zeid al Gharbiya (Beit Rima and Deir Ghassaneh), 'Abud, Arraba, Nilin, 'Anabta, Deir Istiya, Adh Dhahiriya, As Samu', and Bani Na'i.
- One poster about infectious diseases in sheep and goat were produced and distributed on DCA project's beneficiaries within targeted areas.
- Good Governance Program (2018). Poster for Rural Women Cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2018). Poster for Alshuyukh Cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2018). Poster for Anabta Cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2018). Poster for Al Ouja Cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2018). Poster for Rural Women Cooperative

#### 4.3 Brochure

- Twelve Brochures, one for each of the twelve targeted local communities namely; 'Asira ash Shamaliya, Burqa, Sabastiya, Bani Zeid al Gharbiya (Beit Rima and Deir Ghassaneh), 'Abud, Arraba, Nilin, 'Anabta, Deir Istiya, Adh Dhahiriya, As Samu', and Bani Na'im.
- Mono- fertilizers brochure
- Balance drip irrigation brochure
- Irrigated water management

#### 4.3 Banners

- Twelve Banners, one for each of the twelve targeted local communities namely; 'Asira ash Shamaliya, Burqa, Sabastiya, Bani Zeid al Gharbiya (Beit Rima and Deir Ghassaneh), 'Abud, Arraba, Nilin, 'Anabta, Deir Istiya, Adh Dhahiriya, As Samu', and Bani Na'im.

#### 4.3 Guides and Manuals Project Related

- The applied field manual for documenting home garden performance – Palestine
- The practical guide for home garden management – Palestine
- The practical guide for food processing

*As a whole , ARIJ teams were able to attend 117 conference and workshop for the year of 2018,225 in visits, meetings and interviews,65 presentations,16 Newspaper and Journals,306 Radio and TV participation(digital copy provided).*



## المخلص التنفيذي

بالرجوع الى 17 هدف من أهداف التنمية المستدامة التي تم اعتمادها من قبل الأمم المتحدة والمنفذة من قبل الدول المتقدمة والنامية طورت أريج رؤيتها "نحو فلسطين المستدامة عاكستا تطلعات كل فلسطيني يريد العيش في دولة فلسطينية مستقلة ومكتفية ذاتيا تتمتع بالسيادة الكاملة على ثرواتها الطبيعية ضمن وجود استراتيجية تنموية شاملة باطار يحوي الديمقراطية والشفافية والحكم الرشيد.

وبهذا الصدد لقد واصل معهد الابحاث التطبيقية - القدس (أريج) احراز تقدما ونجاحا ملحوظا لعام 2018 على التوالي في تعزيز التنمية المستدامة في فلسطين من خلال تنفيذ مجموعة واسعة من المشاريع والأنشطة عبر برامج الاربعة الرئيسية كما هو موضح في الهيكل التنظيمي للمعهد بالرجوع الى صفحة رقم "7" والمواقع التي تم تنفيذ التدخلات بها بموجب صفحة رقم "5" والمساهمة في الشراكات المثمرة مع مختلف المنظمات وأصحاب العلاقة.

وشهد هذا العام تنفيذ العديد من التدخلات الزراعية التي ساهمت في تحسين ادارة الموارد الطبيعية المتاحة والمتواجدة والإنتاج الزراعي ولاسيما تحسين الظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للمزارعين. وقد أسفر تكامل البحوث التطبيقية اعتماد ممارسات زراعية مبتكرة وسليمة مبنية عن عدة نماذج للتنمية الزراعية الناجحة والمجدية والمستدامة لمزيد من التفصيل كما هو مبين في قسم برنامج الزراعة المستدامة من هذا التقرير. وتمكن برنامج الزراعة المستدامة SAP من تنفيذ تدخلات زراعية مختلفة استفاد منها 1,751 أسرة ريفية مهمشة و36 امرأة وجمعيات تعاونية زراعية موزعة في 77 تجمع في الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة وايضا قد ساهم البرنامج في تحسين زراعة 5442 دونم وتحسين إنتاجية 8890 راس من الأغنام والماعز. ونود التنويه بأنه تم تنفيذ الأنشطة من خلال منهجية متمثلة بالشفافية والمشاركة البناءة مع المعنيين وبشكل رئيسي بالتعاون مع وزارة الزراعة. ومن خلال البرنامج تمت تغطية الأنشطة المتعلقة بإدارة الموارد الطبيعية وقطاع الزراعة والتعاونيات بالتعاون مع الشباب والنساء في إنشاء مشاريع مربحة في هذا المجال. وقد بلغت القيمة الإجمالية للسلع الزراعية المنتجة بدعم من البرنامج الزراعي 1,119,600 دولار امريكي. وقد عقد فريق برنامج الزراعة المستدامة 367 اجتماعاً تنسيقياً وأجرى 5730 زيارة ميدانية للأنشطة المتعلقة بالمستفيدين.

وواصل قسم ابحاث المياه والبيئة (WERD) تنفيذ الأنشطة المتعلقة بمعالجة مياه الصرف الصحي واعادة استخدامها في الزراعة من خلال مشاريع تحديدا في منطقة سعير مما جعل وادي العروب أكثر استدامة من خلال حماية الطبيعة، واستصلاح الأراضي وكذلك زيادة الوعي العام نحو المحافظة على المياه ومعالجة مياه الصرف الصحي. و الاستمرارية في تطوير وحدة نرح المياه من الحمأة وإنشاء نظام الطاقة الشمسية ووحدة انتاج الدبال من الحمأة ونظام اعادة استخدام الماء اضافة إلى ذلك النظر في تطوير وتشغيل وصيانة محطة وادي العروب على شكل من اشكال الشراكة بين القطاع الخاص والعام. وايضا توفير المعلومات التي تدعم منظمات المجتمع المحلي والمنظمات الوطنية عن طريق توفير البيانات والتقارير المتعلقة بقطاع المياه والبيئة وعقد عدة ورش عمل في بلدة سعير بمشاركة من وزارة الزراعة وغيرها من أصحاب العلاقة مثل التعاونيات ومنظمات المجتمع المدني والمزارعين بالإضافة إلى زيادة الوعي من خلال الحملات مثل الحملة التوعوية في أريحا.

وفيما يتعلق بالوضع على الصعيد الجيوسياسي، واصل فريق العمل في معهد أريج على مراقبة ورصد جميع الأنشطة الاستيطانية الإسرائيلية في دولة فلسطين المحتلة. وتقديم خدمات المعلومات لدعم منظمات المجتمع المحلي والمنظمات الوطنية من خلال توفير البيانات الإحصائية والتقارير والخرائط والسجلات الجغرافية لأغراض متنوعة. ونجح فريق العمل في اعداد ونشر 578 حالة دراسية و 365 تقريرا يوميا و 12 تقريرا شهريا و 4 تقارير ربع سنوية. هذا وقد تم من خلال التدخلات تنفيذ 388 زيارة إلى مواقع (رحلات ميدانية) في الضفة الغربية وجمع 179 امرا عسكريا و 307 مقابلة إذاعية وتلفزيونية و 57 مقالة صحفية و 4 عرضا و 3 تقارير خاصة و 11 كتيباً و 6 رسوم بيانية و 1000 ملصقا. جميع التقارير والمواد المنتجة منشورة على الموقع الإلكتروني الخاص بمراقبة الانتهاكات الاسرائيلية (poica.org) والتي سجلت بما يقارب 20 مليون زيارة للموقع.

وواصل برنامج الحكم الرشيد Good Governance جهوده لضمان التوافق على الأولويات السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية في المجتمع الفلسطيني من خلال تشجيع الحكم الرشيد والتركيز على ان يتم مشاركة المواطنين بما في ذلك الفقراء والمهمشين في عملية صنع القرار بشأن تخصيص موارد التنمية تبعا للاستراتيجية المعهد 2018 لغاية 2022. وفي عام 2018 اجري برنامج الحكم الرشيد 57 زيارة ميدانية إلى الجمعيات التعاونية و 56 زيارة إلى البلديات و 7 زيارات إلى الوزارات و 5 زيارات إلى مجالس الخدمات المشتركة استكمالاً للجهود الرامية إلى تعزيز الحكم الرشيد والديمقراطية في فلسطين. نود الإشارة بان أهم ما يميز التدخل هو جمع بيانات الشفافية المالية لثلاثين بلدية لإنشاء مؤشر الشفافية المالية والهدف العام

للمبادرة هو تحسين شفافية الموازنات علي الصعيد المحلي عن طريق قياس الشفافية في 30 بلدية. واعتمد برنامج الحكم الرشيد مؤشر الشفافية المالية بموجب مؤسسة شراكة الموازنات الدولية مع تغييرات طفيفة تتكيف مع السياق الفلسطيني. وكان مؤشر الشفافية المالية بمثابة آلية لمقارنة شفافية الموازنات في مختلف البلديات وعرض الممارسات الجيدة التي تحفز الآخرين وتحسين الوصول إلى المعلومات والشفافية ووثائق الموازنات المحلية. وفي إطار تحقيق هدف التنمية المستدامة رقم 5 "المساواة بين الجنسين"، نظمت حملة باسم "النجاح بكلماتها" هادفة إلى تعزيز المساواة بين الجنسين وتمكين المرأة من التغلب على القيود الثقافية. ونشرت الحملة قصة خمس نساء فلسطينيات تمكن من تمكين أنفسهن وغيرهن من النساء اقتصاديا. حتى الآن وصل برنامج الحكم الرشيد إلى أكثر من 520,389 مستفيد نصفهم تقريبا من الإناث. وللعام الثامن علي التوالي عمل برنامج الحكم الرشيد بتحسين ممارسات الحكم الرشيد بين الجمعيات التعاونية والمنظمات المجتمعية في فلسطين من خلال تعزيز ثقافة الحكم الرشيد في 130 تجمع (الضفة الغربية) بالإضافة إلى تحسين القدرات والتعاون بين أعضاء فريق الجمعيات التعاونية.

ولا يزال برنامج تكنولوجيا IT Program المعلومات مسؤولا عن تطوير وتصميم وتنفيذ وصيانة وتشغيل مجموعة واسعة من أنظمة المعلومات المتعلقة بعمل المعهد. حيث يحتفظ البرنامج بالمواد وينشرها علي جميع مواقع التواصل الالكتروني الخاصة بالمعهد بالإضافة الي وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي مثل فيسبوك ويوتيوب وتويتر. ويقوم برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات ايضا بتصميم مواقع وصفحات المشاريع وعمل التصميم لمنشورات المعهد وطباعتها الكترونيا بالإضافة فان البرنامج مسؤول عن التصوير الفوتوغرافي وتحرير واخراج افلام الفيديو ونشرها. وبناءً على ذلك، حقق موقع أريج أكثر من 8,717,927.00 زيارة في السنة، في حين حقق الموقع الخاص بمراقبة الانتهاكات الاسرائيلية POICA التابع للمعهد حوالي 11,097,734.00 زيارة وما يزيد عن 13,800 متابع قاموا بالاشتراك بوسائل التواصل الاجتماعي.

على صعيد التشبيك والتعاون لقد قام المعهد ببناء وتطوير علاقات قوية مع العديد من المؤسسات والمنظمات غير الحكومية الدولية والإقليمية والفلسطينية فعلى سبيل المثال ورش العمل الخاصة بتبادل المعرفة بين الوزارات التي اجريت في تونس على مستوى منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال افريقيا بهدف تعزيز معايير الشفافية بمنهجية هادفة الي تعزيز التعاون بين الاطراف بالإضافة إلى ذلك لقد تعاون برنامج التكنولوجيا المعلوماتية مع جامعة القدس وسلطة الأراضي الفلسطينية في مجال تطوير وسائل تكنولوجيا المعلومات ونظم الإدارة الجغرافية. في حين ان برنامج الموارد الطبيعية يتعاون مع سلطة المياه الفلسطينية لتشغيل محطة وادي العروب لمعالجة المياه العادمة بموجب الاتفاقية الموقعة وتدخل وزارة الحكم المحلي وكذلك مع بلدية أريحا لقيادة حملة توعوية بشأن الحفاظ على الموارد المائية والاستخدام الأمثل للمياه المحلية مع العلم بان المعهد يواصل نشر المعلومات محليا ودوليا على جميع المستويات من خلال نشر المقالات والتقارير والكتيبات والدراسات حالة والملصقات ورسومات توضيحية وخرائط وتقارير يومية وشهرية وتفصيلية وغيرها.

ومن حيث تطوير النظام الداخلي لمعهد الابحاث التطبيقية -القدس (أريج) تم انشاء قسم الرقابة الداخلية للإشراف بشكل اساسي على إجراءات الرقابة الداخلية وجراء التدقيق الداخلي اللازم والذي يعود مباشرة إلى الهيئة الإدارية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك يعمل المعهد بمراجعة كتيباته وسياسته المتعلقة بالإفصاح عن الممارسات الخاطئة في مكان العمل وسياسة الحماية.

وقد وقعت أريج على اتفاق اهداف التنمية المستدامة مؤكدة ان جميع الجهود تتماشى مع هذه الاهداف بحيث تتعاون مع أصحاب العلاقة، بما في ذلك الأكاديميين والموظفين الفنيين وغيرهم في تبادل المعرفة والدروس المستفادة في جميع انحاء المنطقة نحو عالم أفضل.

تتبع قوة المعهد من روح التعاون وحسن النوايا والقضية المشتركة التي يؤمن بها كافة موظفي المعهد وهيئته الإدارية وجمعيته العمومية بالإضافة الي الجهات المانحة والشركاء. وأخيرا وليس آخرا، فان الأنشطة والبرامج المخطط لتنفيذها من قبل المعهد للعام 2019 وعلى سبيل المثال لا الحصر ستركز في الاستمرار في البحث عن مشاريع وفرص بحثية جديدة تتعلق بالتطوير والمبادرة والابتكار نحو فلسطين مستدامة بما يتماشى مع أهداف التنمية المستدامة.



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