THE APPLIED RESEARCH INSTITUTE - JERUSALEM

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Executive Summary

In the year of 2020, The Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ) continued to articulate its mission toward promoting sustainable development in the occupied Palestinian territories despite the situation of the spread of the global pandemic COVID 19. This mission aims to increase the self-reliance of the Palestinian people through greater control over their natural resources. ARIJ continued to play a major role as a national institution and has produced substantial influences through its highly qualified and skilled staff in the fields of Sustainable Agriculture, Water, Wastewater Treatment and environment, Renewable Energy, Economic Empowerment, Good Governance, Research and Development, Monitoring Israeli Settlement Activities, IT and GIS. ***Refer to the summary map showing ARIJ interventions page (5).***

2020 can be described as the most critical year that ARIJ faced since its establishment in 1990. In the first two months of 2020, ARIJ was working on a rehabilitation and developmental plan to face the shrinking space facing civil society institutions when COVID 19 hit Palestine in early March starting in Bethlehem. An emergency meeting with ARIJ employees was conducted in the morning of Thursday 5 March 2020, during which a contingency plan was adopted allowing the staff to work from home and conduct field work whenever possible. ARIJ employees from Hebron arranged to have a temporary office in Hebron city and used the office of our partner the Land Research Centre (LRC) for communication and logistical support while ARIJ Tubas office took the responsibility of field work in the North of the West Bank. Arrangements were made to keep ARIJ main office open with limited number of staff during the closure.

This year witnessed the implementation of several agro-interventions, which contributed to 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 in several successful, feasible, and sustainable agro-developmental models as further elaborated under the SAP section. In 2020, the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) managed to implement many developmental and food resilient agricultural interventions. The program managed to benefit 723 poor and needy rural and urban families (343 headed by women, 380 headed by men); and providing 3 care and resident, and training centers (serving 86 persons) with collective large hydroponic and wicking beds systems, which helped them to produce food for their residences and as a training model for the center girls. Additionally, the program has worked on enhancing the engagement of the private sector to create joint businesses with smallholding farmers specialized in the vegetable production value chain including artesian wells owners, packing houses, selling points, plant nurseries, inputs suppliers, and over 48 agricultural cooperatives in the West Bank.

The implemented activities were conducted through a participatory approach mainly with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development. These activities have focused on natural resources management, agriculture sector development, vulnerable poor families, and cooperatives while supporting youth and women in establishing agribusinesses. The sustainable agriculture program team held 189 coordination meetings and performed 3128 field visits to the beneficiaries of agro-production activities in addition to 37 specialized training sessions and workshops and lectures and practical training to the benefit of 615 persons. Also, SAP focused on supporting farmers, women, and youth towards protecting and sustaining their agribusinesses through mitigating challenges and risks created by the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program had supported 60 farmers (32 males, 28 Females) to purchase required agricultural inputs and 50 farmers to market 320,000 kg of their produced vegetables at fair prices. Furthermore, ARIJ in cooperation with 5

organizations of the Palestinian Agricultural Institutions Coalition (PAIC) managed to distribute vegetables seeds, seedlings and fertilizers for more than 6,800 families to plant their home gardens in the West Bank. This activity had succeeded at assisting the Palestinian families to get back planting their home gardens to produce part of their vegetables by themselves to reduce the economic and psychological impacts of Coronavirus pandemic. It is worth mentioning that ARIJ acts as the secretary of the Palestinian Agricultural Institutions Coalition (PAIC).

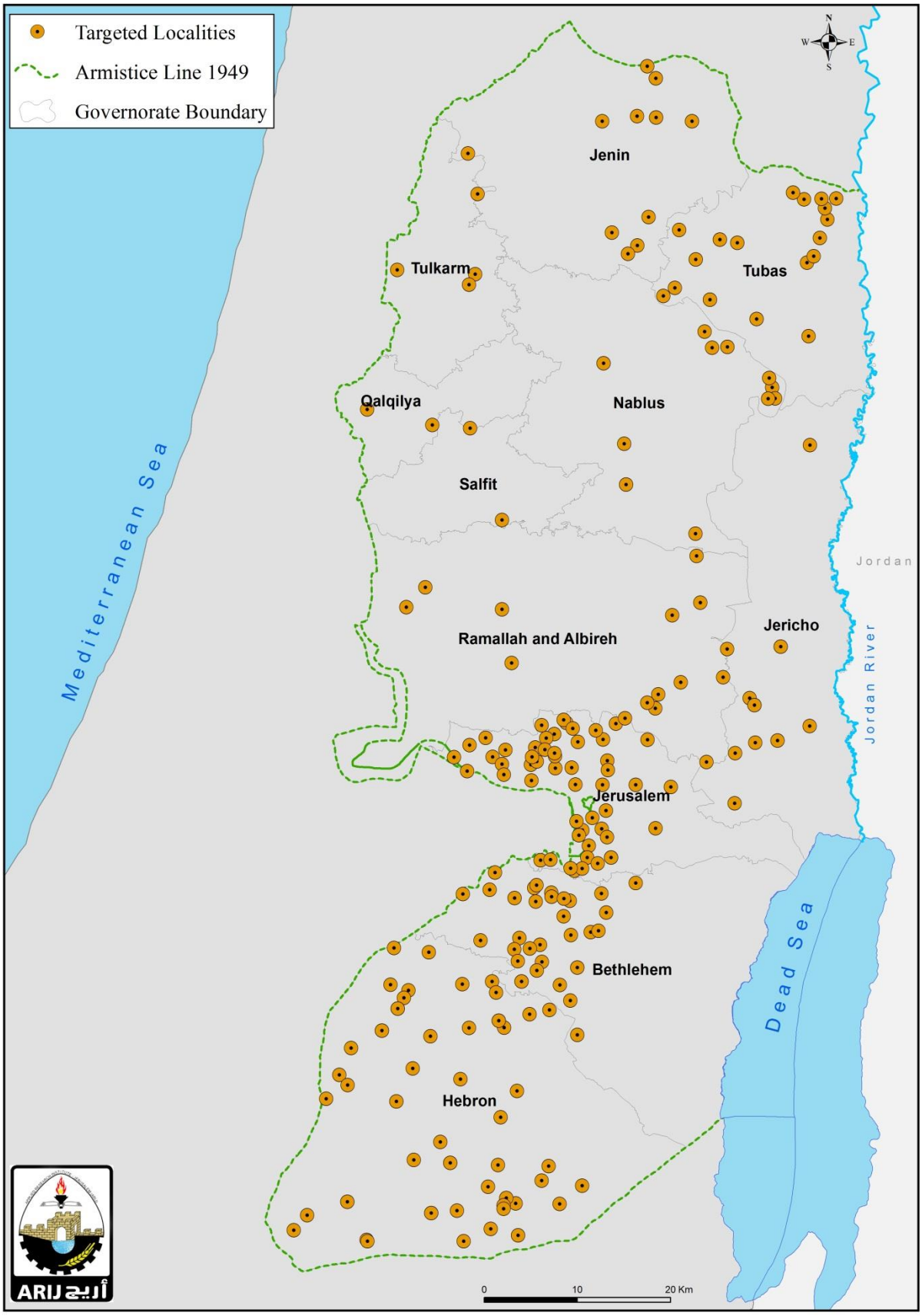
The ***Water and Environment Research Department (WERD)*** continued to carry out the implementation of activities related to developing and promoting the Al Aroub wastewater treatment plant in Sa'ir area using activated sludge wastewater treatment processes to make it more sustainable. The department also implemented different projects related to enhancing access to clean and safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities. Additionally, as a rapid response to COVID-19 this year, the WERD department worked to help the Palestinians to cope with the pandemic through increasing availability and access to quality WASH facilities and services for the most vulnerable communities.

On a ***Geopolitical level***, ARIJ continued its monitoring of 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 611 case studies, 366 daily reports, 12 monthly, and 4 quarterly reports. The outcome induced by 49 visits to locations (fieldwork trips) in the West Bank and collecting 483 military orders. Moreover, 355 radio and TV interviews were conducted, 131 newspaper articles and electronic media, 16 presentations, 9 special reports, 5 info-graphs. All of the reports produced materials published on the website (ARIJ.org) which recorded nearly 36 million hits.

The ***Good Governance Program*** continued working on the ground towards ensuring that political, social and economic priorities are based on broad 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*. In 2020, the Good Governance Program reached out to more than 1,008 beneficiaries (71 Male and 937 Female). in 68 localities in the West Bank. For the ninth year in a row, ARIJ Good Governance Program worked on improving the good governance practices and capabilities among municipalities, cooperatives, ministries, and community-based organization (CBOs). For the year of 2020, the Good Governance Program conducted 35 field visits to cooperatives, 131 visits to municipalities, 5 visits to Ministries, 5 visits to Joint Services Councils and 40 visits to civil society organizations and/or community-based organizations. Moreover, the program continued the Fiscal Transparency Index (FTI) from 2018. FTI served as a mechanism to improve access to information and transparency of local budget documents in 30 targeted municipalities, which relate to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Moreover, the Program was determined that the cooperative sector enabling environment is not harmed or damaged as a result of COVID-19. It was a top priority to make sure that the pandemic is not in any way used to advance any interest over the interest of coops. Accordingly, the Program implemented four national level advocacy initiatives, sought to improve coordination amongst cooperative sector stakeholders and actors, and advocated for modifications to the cooperative law 2017.

ARIJ's strength derives from the spirit of collaboration, goodwill and common cause that exists among ARIJ Staff, Administrative Committee, General Assembly, Donors and Partners. Finally, yet importantly, ARIJ programs' planned activities for year 2020 will include, but not limited to, seeking new research, developments and pilot/innovative projects towards Sustainable Palestine in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Locality Map of ARIJ Key Interventions



Section 1: Organizational Structure and Management

General Assembly and Administrative Committee

ARIJ enjoys the service of 45 professionals and 2 honorary members (of which 46.6% 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 General Assembly held a meeting on September 1st, 2020 where they discussed and approved ARIJ financial and technical reports.

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.

Eleven meetings were held during the year of 2020 as follows:

Administrative Committee meetings during 2020	Method
January 28th, 2020	Face to face
April 9th, 2020	Virtual
April 23th, 2020	Virtual
May 21st, 2020	Virtual
June 23th, 2020	Face to face and virtual
July 14th, 2020	Virtual
August 15th, 2020	Face to face and virtual
August 19th, 2020	Face to face and virtual
August 26th, 2020	Face to face and virtual
October 20th, 2020	Face to face and virtual
November 24th, 2020	Face to face and virtual

ARIJ board of directors in 2020 worked upon expanding the general assembly members and succeeded to recruit 2 new members mainly females, so the number of gender representatives in the general assembly reached 46.6% and the total number of members reached 45. The newly joined members are:

1. Dr. Nadira AlAraj
2. Eng. Hannan Musleh

General Assembly

Administrative Committee

Main ARIJ meetings in 2020

Despite the pandemic situation of Covid 19 facing the world and Palestine, ARIJ managed to implement the following important meetings during the pandemic.

- In January 30th 2020 meeting with Palestinian prime minister first advisor Dr. Estephan Salameh regarding the consultative session with representatives of Palestinian NGO's to discuss the updated draft of Palestine national policy and priorities matrix.

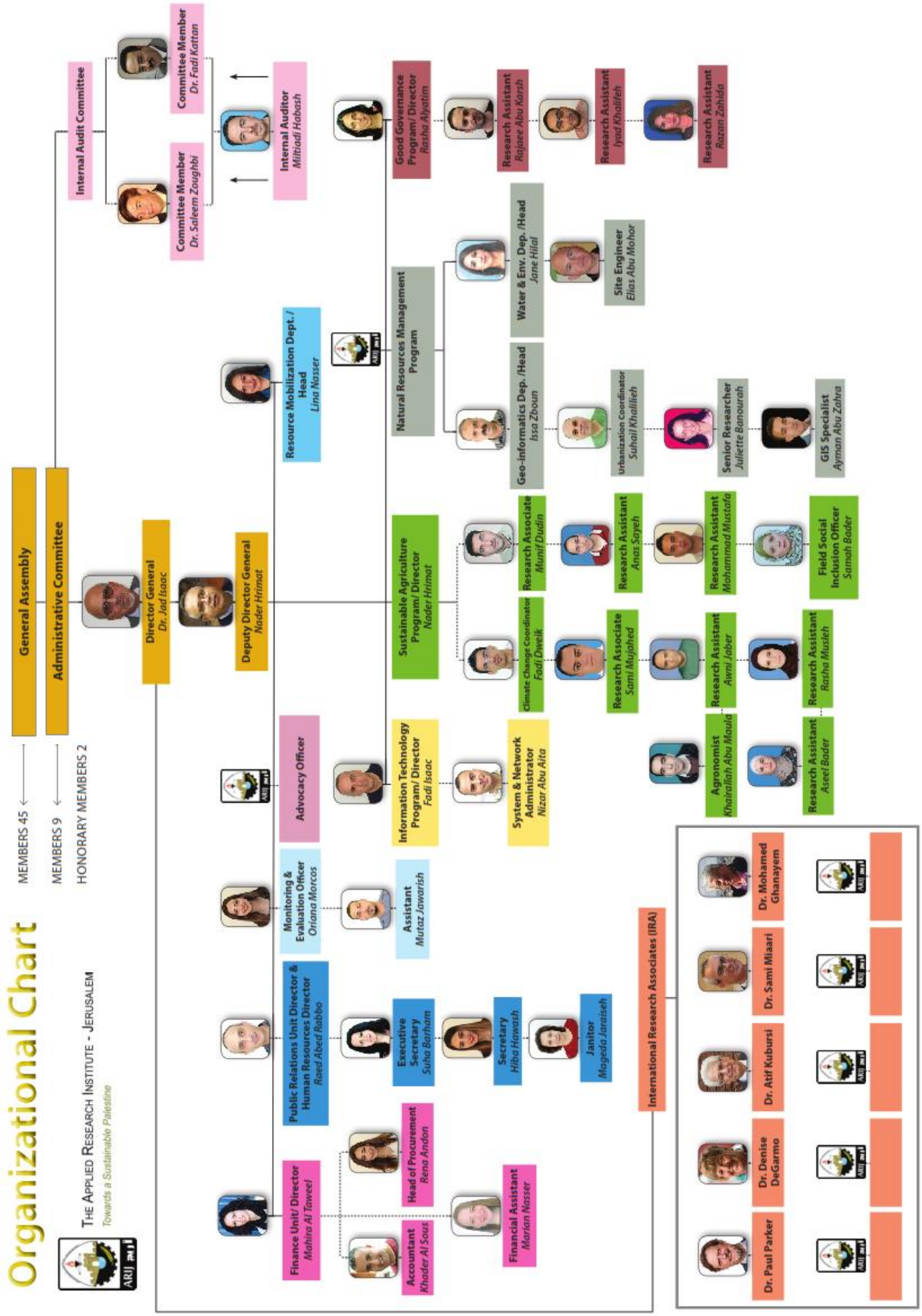
- In February 16th 2020 meeting with the minister of agriculture Mr. Riyad Al Atari with representatives of Palestinian NGO's agriculture coalition PAIC regarding supporting the Jordan valley workers especially womens sector.

- In September 5th 2020 a meeting with the head of Al Ahliya university legal clinic Dr. Nafe Al Hassan in which ARIJ signed an MOU with the university for mutual cooperation regarding joint cooperation to implement the project entitled ***"Towards Better Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Area C and Gaza Strip (MAA' Wa ARD)"*** is a 3-year project, funded by EU and implemented by Applied Research Institute- Jerusalem (ARIJ) in partnership with Women Media and Development (TAM), and Youth Development Resource Center (YDRC-Hebron). The project acknowledges the right to water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, and works in the targeted areas of Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem Governorates and Gaza Strip.
  Building on the experiences over years of work from ARIJ, TAM, and YDRC, this project covers issues of denial of water rights to Palestinians rights-holders (linking this denial to negatively impact other rights like movement, education, health, and protection), lack of education amongst CBOs regarding right to water and sanitation, and lack of integrity in water service management and delivery.
  The project aims to hold accountable responsible duty-bearers for breaching the right to water and sanitation; and empower Palestinians rights-holders to claim their rights in water and sanitation from Israeli and Palestinian duty-bearers through monitoring, reporting, documenting, utilizing various channels to advocate as rights-holders, and hold duty-bearers accountable towards their rights in water and sanitation.

- In 30th November a field visit for Minister Jameel Matour the head of Environment authority, the ministry of agriculture representatives and the ministry of local government representatives to Saeer waste water treatment plant. In which the minister and the accompanying delegation learned about the station latest developments and the project extra components implemented by ARIJ, besides discussing the obstacles facing the project regarding the utilization of the treated waste water for agricultural purposes in the valley.

- Briefings for EU member states; three briefings were conducted in 2020.

ARIJ Organizational Chart



ARIJ Donors and Partners for the Year 2020

- European Commission
- CARE international
- EKOenergy c/o Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- Oxfam International
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- The World Food Programme (WFP)
- We Effect
- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Institut français
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
- OCHA United Nation Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- UN-Habitat
- Al Waleed Philanthropies
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO")

Partners:

- Land Research Center (LRC)
- 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"
- Cesvi Fondazione Onlus (CESVI)
- The Union of Charitable Societies-Jerusalem (UCS)
- Hasso Plattner Institute for Digital Engineering (HPI)
- Women Media and Development (TAM)
- Palestine Child's Home Club-Youth Development Resource Centre
- Birzeit University's Center for Continuing Education (CCE)
- Palestinian Agriculture Institutions Coalition (PAIC)

Section 2: ARIJ Programs and Activities

2.1 Sustainable Agriculture Program

Introduction

The incidence of the Coronavirus pandemic and its widespread all over Palestine and neighboring countries, as well as worldwide, have created a negative impact on all economic sectors, including the agricultural sector in terms of farmers' movement and the movement of agro-goods locally and outside the country. It was accompanied by a high soar in the prices of agro-production inputs by 10-15%. Also, farmers found themselves enforced to change their payment method from monthly or seasonally to cash, which resulted in accumulating the farmers' debts and affected their livelihood.

In light of the lockdown, the demand of the Palestinian consumer has decreased on many food products, and the closure of restaurants and hotels and the lack of the arrival of tourists has led to a decrease in the consumption rate, and many people have lost their income, consequently. The imposed restrictions on citizens have weakened the purchasing power of the Palestinian consumer. Many of the Palestinian companies are depending on marketing their commodities abroad, as do many women's associations, but the export process became limited and difficult as many countries have closed their borders, airports, and/or ports.

During this pandemic, the NGOs have closed for long periods, and in light of the diminishing opportunities for funding, this matter pushed many of these institutions to operate with a capacity of 30-50% of their personnel. This fact has affected their performance and the level of services they used to provide to the Palestinian communities. Accordingly, most of the civil institutions have developed emergency plans to maintain their services, as well as, to help families affected by the pandemic. ARIJ is one of those institutions that took the initiative in coordination with all parties to continue its provided services, additionally, it succeeded with its partners in innovating some humanitarian and emergency initiatives to support the affected Palestinian families to increase their resilience and to protect their food security.

The coordination among PAIC institutions was activated, during the Pandemic period, including the direct cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture. An initiative was released by PAIC to replant home gardens in Palestine to increase food security. ARIJ and PARC distributed seedlings, seeds and fertilizers for 850 families, who replanted their home gardens in Bethlehem Governorate. The other PAIC institutions and Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture covered the remained Governorates of the West Bank.

This initiative was distinctive and attracted most of the Palestinian families who planted their gardens, many of which had not been cultivated for years, and the number of beneficiary families supported by PAIC organizations reached 6,800 families.

It is worth noting that most of the distributed agricultural tools and planting material were donated by the Palestinian nurseries and agricultural companies.

The coalition institutions also worked together under the supervision of Ma'an Development Center, with funding from the Taawon Foundation, and was succeeded in distributing 2000 food baskets to the poorest families. These families are from all West Bank. ARIJ also continued supporting urban agriculture in the refugee camps and poorest families have benefited from food resilience project. It is funded by the World Food Program, in order to support these families to produce part of their food needs, and selling part of the excess production to generate income towards improving their livelihood.

The complexities of food security system and climate change risks and challenges are urging all stakeholders to use integrated and smart mechanisms to address risks, vulnerabilities and challenges that are facing adaptation actions. The development of right strategies, actions and budget allocation by governments that followed by actual commitments of civil bodies and movements and citizens should be existed towards achieving environmental and climate change adaptation mechanisms and justice. Otherwise, the opportunities for development can face several challenges by climate change and environmental degradation.

Giving the right for people in identifying and defending their needs for development, assessing the level and quality of existing services and resources including the allocated budgets and how to benefit from it , will contribute in improving good governance and the quality of life. By this, the citizens will contribute effectively in achieving sustainable development in their communities.

ARIJ seeks to contribute in the development of the agricultural sector in Palestine to become a sustainable and economically active sector. Accordingly, ARIJ works to urge all stakeholders to cooperate and work together towards achieving this strategic goal. The institute aims at empowering the steadfastness of the Palestinian farmers (mainly smallholder farmers) to stay on their lands and keep utilizing them. In addition to encourage these farmers to practice smart, modern, suitable and economically feasible agricultural technologies and practices that have positive environmental and climatological impacts.

The institute also focuses on developing and improving urban agriculture in the areas characterized with landless to cultivate, such as urbanized areas, cities, and refugee camps. These types of cultivation can create green pockets in these areas. As it will contribute in improving the artistic and environmental aspects and producing part of the needy families' food, which improves their food security and their livelihood.

Finally, ARIJ is still working to link the Palestinian farmers and cooperatives with the Palestinian private sector to create feasible and sustainable agribusiness and marketing networks locally and abroad. This will contribute in increasing the producers' profits (farmers and cooperatives) through guaranteeing the marketing of their products with better prices. Also, SAP focuses on women's empowerment in agriculture to become an active, effective and influential component in the agricultural sector.

The Program Activities in the year 2020:

The year 2020 witnessed the implementation of different agro-interventions which contributed in improving the management of available natural resources, agro-production, and economic impact on farmer, community and on the sector level.

The continued work on applied research and the adoption of green and safe innovated agro-practices have resulted with several successful, feasible and sustainable agro- production models.

During the year 2020, the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) managed to implement diversified agricultural interventions through which 723 vulnerable families distributed over 48 localities in the West Bank Governorates benefited. These communities included agricultural, rural, bedouins, urban communities and refugee camps.

The conducted activities included natural resources management, agricultural production, cooperatives and food security which included the following main interventions:

1. My Economic Empowerment, Our Future (Duroob) project: Duroob is being implemented by Care International in West Bank in partnership with ARIJ and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The project aims at economically and socially empowering vulnerable women and youth (female and male) in the West Bank. The project focuses on (1) inclusive market systems and value chain and (2) female and youth entrepreneurship.

Duroob is expected to achieve the following four inter-related outcomes:

i) Gender-specific barriers to women and youth's economic empowerment are reduced;
ii) Women and youth entrepreneurs are supported to establish, sustain and grow their enterprises;
iii) Female and male farmers engage more profitably and meaningfully in agriculture value chains;
iv) Regional and global learning and innovation on women's economic empowerment facilitated;
and the project is expecting to targeted 5,704 direct beneficiaries (3,013 women and 2,691 men) and 211,448 indirect ones.

During 2020, the project had focused on improving the dairy existing production value chain in the southern part of the West Bank (Hebron Governorate), mainly Twaneh village from Massafer Yatta, where a new milk collection center was established and it is expected to start its work by January 2021. This facility will serve up to 35 small-sized herders to assist them in marketing their excessed produced milk. This will contribute to reducing the work load on their housewives and increasing their income as well. The second targeted area is A-Daheriyah, where the project is targeting 270 small to medium-sized herders to improve their management and animal management and health practices and to practice hygienic procedures for producing the Jameed (hard yogurt).This will contribute in increasing their marketing power and their generated income due to improved quality of production and increase number of survived newborns as well.

2. Conducting Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis (CCVA) and Mapping System for West Bank and Gaza Strip: This activity was conducted for the World Food Programme (WFP), which is developing a proposal to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to the benefit of smallholder farmers in Palestine. The purpose of this assignment was to assess the impact of climate change on the farming communities at geographic area, governorate and locality levels. Climatic related information included climatic trends, drought and climatic hazards, overlaid with non-climatic related information. The non-climate related information covered environmental, socio-economic, and political and development data were collected and analyzed using GIS and remote sensing techniques to understand the impact of climate change on the agricultural, social, and economic sectors to inform on community-based adaptation planning and demand driven climate resilient solutions. This activity was ended by the selection of the most vulnerable agricultural communities to climate change in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. 160 small-sized farmers (plant production and livestock) from 25 communities and 7 agricultural cooperatives

were interviewed through which the impact of climate change on their agriculture were evaluated and their recommendations for adaptation were identified and analyzed.

3.Installing Wicking Beds Systems: This year, the Sustainable Agriculture Program staff managed to install additional **142** units of wicking beds systems to the benefit of **142** needy families and **3** collective units (big scale) to the benefit of **3** social institutes which are benefiting elderly people, girl students and women protection. These units were installed in **27** communities in **7** governorates of the West Bank. The distribution of units by donor is presented in the following table:

Table (1): Distribution of implemented wicking bed system by community, number of beneficiaries /Institutes and Donor

Intervention	# Targeted communities	Benefited Households / Institutes	Area m^2	Donor
wicking bed syster	3	60	240	UN -Habitat
	4	20	80	MCC
	13	48	576	WFP
	4	11	72	WFP
	3	3	84	WFP
Total	27	142	1052 m	

4. The production of safer vegetables through enhancing better practices: Through AMENCA III (Souqona Project) which is funded by Australian fund, ARIJ in partnership with Care International and in cooperation with the Palestinian Standard Institute (PSI) have continued their work to produce chemically safe agro-products (without chemical residues), which resulted in increasing the number of the targeted farmers (who are producing safe vegetables) to 280 from 17 communities and 3 Governorates of the West Bank. Applying safe vegetable production practices has contributed to increasing the farmers' production amount by 5% and achieved savings in production costs by 6.7%.

The project has supported the most committed 23 farmers to get the PSI certification as safe vegetables producers. Accordingly, the project has assisted them to sell more than 320 tons of safe vegetables through interested companies, packaging houses and selling points in Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and Bethlehem. Accordingly, an integrated value chain was established between the certified farmers, interested traders and the consumers who are aware about the importance of safe product to ensure the sustainability of the system with direct involvement of related all stakeholders.

On the other hand, the project has worked to make the farmers receiving high quality inputs, especially the seedlings as a quality management system inside the two nurseries was built. These nurseries are serving 200 farmers in Tubas and Jenin Governorates. The built Quality Management System (QMS) will contribute in decreasing loses in the produced seedlings and increase the nurseries and farmers profits.

Additional activities conducted by Sougona project included the installation of 40 kWp of solar system for two agricultural artesian wells in Tubas and Al Far'a.

The solar systems have decreased the pumping cost of irrigation water by $3500 in the first six months of year 2020. Up to 50 farmers are benefiting from these wells through cultivating 100 dunums with irrigated agriculture.

The project team has completed the rehabilitation of 3.5 km of agricultural roads and located in Maythaloun and Sirees villages from Jenin Governorate. These roads are serving 80 male and female farmers, who are cultivating 1400 dunums of irrigated lands. The rehabilitated roads have facilitated the farmers' access to their cultivated lands and decreased the transportation costs of their products and shortened the required time. Currently, the traders are easily reaching the farms and started buying the agricultural products directly from there.

5. Installing home gardens to cultivate vegetables crop: This year, the Sustainable Agriculture Program had completed the installation of 13 home gardens using a balanced pressure drip irrigation system. The benefited 13 families have cultivated 9.1 dunums of home gardens. The families are consuming part of the produced vegetables and sell the remained amounts to the neighbors and in the local markets to make additional income..

6. Installing hydroponic systems Through WFP project, ARIJ staff had installed 4 hydroponic-pipe systems for 4 needy families. Additionally, one extended large hydroponic and wicking bed unit was installed in the girls' training center in Jenin.

7. Installing composters bin Systems: Sustainable Agriculture Program had installed 36 composting bins for needy families living in 7 communities which are located in two governorates. These composting units are producing solid organic compost and liquid fertilizer. The farmers are using the produced compost to enrich the wicking bed and home gardens soil and fertilizing the planted crops. *See the following table:*

Table (2): Distribution of implemented composters bin systems by community, number of beneficiaries and donor

Intervention	# Targeted communities	Benefited Households	Total composting capacity by liters	Donor
Composting bins	3	30	7200	UN -Habitat
	4	6	1440	WFP
Total	7	36	8640	

During 2020, the Sustainable Agriculture Program had conducted 189 coordination meetings, 3128 field visits to the beneficiaries from the provided agro-units, (391 field days), and 37 training and awareness sessions, through which 615 persons participated (51.2% female and 48.8% male). *See table (3):*

Table (3): Number of conducted coordination meetings, field visits to the beneficiaries' sites, training sessions and trained persons by gender in year 2020

Project	coordination meeting	Field visits to beneficiaries	No. of training sessions	No. of trained persons	Male	Female
Telethone (Duroob)	12	18	12	270	112	158
MCC	40	160	4	34	11	23
WFP II	77	1650	14	199	101	98
UN-Habitat	10	300	3	62	40	22
Souqona	50	1000	4	50	36	14
Total	**189**	**3128**	**37**	**615**	**300**	**315**

2.2 Information Technology Program

ARIJ Information Technology Program aims to contribute 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. In addition to providing technical assistance to ARIJ different departments, the IT program develops and programs web-based information systems and creates efficient logical databases for the different projects for the institute. These programs support research staff in interpreting and presenting data analysis and evaluation findings. ARIJ also keeps up with the latest remote sensing and geographical information system applications.

ARIJ IT Program has been also responsible for creating and managing of Geospatial databases and Meta data that are used to develop web-based mapping applications.

Furthermore, the IT program has extended its work to include video editing and publishing all of ARIJ work. The program is responsible for 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).

Achievements & Activities during 2020

Projects:

EU East Jerusalem Project "Towards Social Inclusion in Community Development by Providing Platforms for Planning and Advocacy" SDG- Article 19 Freedom of Opinion & Information

The project aims at empowering the Palestinian communities and civil society in EJ to claim their rights and their political and developmental space through collective actions at community level, advocacy actions, and participatory planning.

Objectives:

1. 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) are empowered by providing advocacy, analysis, and decision support tools.
2. 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 in order facilitate interventions and 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.

Outputs*:*

1. A 3D data model and geospatial monitoring system of: (a) geopolitical conditions in EJ; (b) gender disaggregated demographic and socioeconomic indicators; and (c) the quality and accessibility to educational, environmental, recreational (tourism) and health services.
2. A 3D visualization system of Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem (EJ) linked to the Geospatial database.
3. Educational Facilities Development Decision Support System (DSS) for EJ.
4. EJ community profiles assessing communities' needs and developmental priorities.

Institutionalization Cooperative Governance (Funded by We Effect)

The project aims at improving the enabling environment of the Palestinian Cooperatives to address their needs. To improve the enabling environment of cooperatives, the project works towards improving the outreach and influence of cooperatives in the Palestinian Community. The IT Program is in charge of the development and implementation of web-based database driven information system that stores and retrieve all the collected data for the targeted cooperatives. The Information System will be the first Palestinian data storehouse for information about cooperative working in Palestine.

Consultancies

"Promoting Governance and Citizenship in Palestine"

The IT program in partnership with Intertech company has implemented a consultancy to the Institute for Partnership – Bethlehem University. The output of the consultancy was the production of a documentary detailing the outputs of their project, six 360 degree spots and professional still photograph highlighting their activities in the project.

Application Development:

GIS & Geospatial Databases

Mapping of Educational Centers in East Jerusalem –UNDP SDG- Article 19 Freedom of Opinion & Information

The IT Program in coordination with the GIS department has worked with the UNDP to survey schools in East Jerusalem and will develop a web-based system for the data collection and viewing for all data related to the Educational Centers.

Social Media & 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 are uploaded on ARIJ YouTube channel for people to view. Currently, we have more than 300 movies that are uploaded on our YouTube channel. The program is also in charge of filming, interviewing, and photo shootings for workshops that are accomplished by ARIJ. The program is also in charge of managing 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 was in charge of advocacy plans for the institute; the process includes video creation, posting on the social media platforms and banners and flyers designing.

Digital Printing & Design:

The IT program is equipped with a small print shop that includes a small digital printer, a 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. The program has printed hundreds of publications for ARIJ including books, brochures, posters and booklets.

Website design & development SDG- Article 19 Freedom of Opinion & Information

The IT program in the year 2020 has been in charge of the development and publishing a number of websites related to ARIJ work and projects. The development of the website includes the designing, installation of content management systems (CMS) and data entry.

System Administration & Security

The IT program's main focus is to provide technical support and assistance to the different departments at ARIJ through the development of applications, installing software's, maintaining hardware, and maintaining 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

Accomplishments and achievements for the Year 2020:

Despite COVID-19 pandemic, 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 sectors1.

ARIJ Good Governance Program works on the ground towards ensuring that political, social and economic priorities are based on board consensus in Palestinian society and that the voices of all rights-holders are heard in decision-making over the allocation of development resources in line with SDG 10 and 16.

Realizing the importance of participatory, transparent and accountable, efficient and equitable approaches to development, ARIJ Good Governance Program worked to increase the accountability of local and national authorities; develop the participatory capacities of local and national authorities to become more responsive to community needs, and ensure fairness and equity in distributing available resources.

Relying heavily on online and media tools this year because of COVID-19 pandemic, ARIJ Good Governance Program advocated for women and youth outreach in the cooperative sector, gender equality, changes in the cooperative law, changes in municipal budgets to be more transparent and participatory and full access to basic services regardless of crisis or emergency.

In 2020, ARIJ Good Governance Program worked in **68** localities reaching out to **1,008** Rights-holders (**71** Male and **937** Female). It worked with and supported **16** cooperatives, **101** services-provider, **10** partners, **64** community-based organization, and **2** Ministries. It worked to highlight how COVID-19 strained equality efforts, municipalities' finances, the Palestinian agricultural sector, and cooperatives' outreach to their communities. In total, the Program conducted **35** field visits to cooperatives, **131** visits to municipalities, **5** visits to ministries, **5** visits to Joint Services Councils, and **40** visits to civil society organizations and/or community-based organizations.

ARIJ Good Governance program continued with the intervention Fiscal Transparency Index (FTI)[2]. FTI served as a mechanism to improve access to information and transparency of local budget

[1] Municipalities, Ministries, Cooperatives, Civil Society Organizations, Community-based Organizations, and Joint Services Councils.

[2] The overall goal of the FTI is to improve budget transparency at local level, by measuring transparency in 30 municipalities, create an index ranking performance and use findings to promote increased transparency in municipalities by promoting dissemination of financial documents and citizen's participation.

documents in 30 targeted municipalities3, which relate to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The Program followed up closely with all targeted municipalities supporting them to improve their financial transparency practices. As a result, municipalities are giving out more financial information to their citizens, whether through dissemination “Citizens Budgets 2020”, or participation “consultation sessions”. The Program improved the capacities of FTI municipalities in accessibility and availability of information, and addressed the following:

1. The clarity and relevance of the financial information available to citizens; and its timely availability.

2. The quality of the mechanisms and channels utilized for disseminating financial information to citizens.

Participants were PR focal points and officers, 8 Females (26.6%) and 22 males (73.4%), in all 30 targeted municipalities. Training deliverables were:

1. Archiving financial files electronically using Google Drive.
2. Shortening electronic links and using them for the municipality's website and social networking sites through URL shortening service Bitly website.
3. Effective use of social media, the municipality's website control panel, and the sponsorship and promotion features.

Upon request from MoLG, a COVID-19 assessment was carried out for targeted municipalities. Some of the main findings were:

1. In municipal budgets, there were no funds allocated for emergencies- emergency budget- (modified in the new budget portal).

[3] 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, Zababdeh, Tarqumiya, Al-Auja, Biddu, Deir Istiya, Deir Ballout, Deir Debwan, Salfit, Tammun, Anabta, Qaffin, Kafr Thulth, Al-Ubeidiya.

2. Lack of municipal protocols to deal with emergencies.

    a. Municipalities reacted spontaneously to the pandemic, without clear action plans (activities, budget, timeframe).
    b. Municipalities lack a permanent emergency committee or advisory board.

3. Municipalities played a very large social role in the pandemic, confirming their proximity to citizens, like supporting marginalized families who lost their source of income, and facilitating the work and lockdown instructions of the national government.

4. Solidarity and collaboration amongst municipalities need improvement.

The second round of FTI was carried out summer 2020. Like the first round, the questionnaire was filled with each municipality's financial director, PR and manager. All information filled in the questionnaire were verified. After this, the Program communicating with each municipality in particular through the financial director, to confirm the information and support it with the necessary documents and evidence. Once the Program and the municipalities approved the questionnaires, we started the process of grading and creating an index of the results, in addition to writing the report for each municipality.

The Program wrote specific reports for each municipality. Each report included the main results, the municipality's grade that determine the degree of transparency in each municipality, a description of the questionnaire, the means of publication used by the municipality, the budget cycle, the services they provide the main financial documents, and a map with all the 30 municipalities. Following that, ARIJ's IT specialists started on upgrading the FTI website, http://fti.arij.org/.

The Program, through FTI, achieved the following:

1. 80% of targeted municipalities improve their financial transparency practices. All 24 municipalities participating in the second round of FTI improved their score, signifying improvement in financial transparency practices.

2. At least 17 municipalities adapted a new financial transparent and participatory gender sensitive approach. New approaches included citizens budgets, consultation sessions with citizens, faster publishing of more financial documents, utilizing new tools like google forms for surveying purposes.

3. 46% of citizens reported an increase in their access to financial information for the targeted municipalities. This indicator was measured using a pre and post perception survey in nine targeted municipalities that small initiatives were implemented by CBOs to disseminate FTI results and enable citizens to demand more transparency and access to information from municipalities.

4. The results of the first and second rounds of FTI are:

#	Name of municipality	2018 Results %	2020 Results %
1	Al ‘Auja	20	31
2	Qabatiya	22	55
3	Bani Na’im	20	N/A
4	Halhul	16	90
5	Deir Istiya	19	64
6	Beit Jala	21	82
7	Salfit	33	N/A
8	Beituniya	45	85
9	Al Birah	24	44
10	Deir Ballut	31	68
11	Qaffin	23	47
12	Silat Adh Dhaher	22	36
13	Deir Dibwan	27	69
14	As Samu’	22	75
15	Biddu	30	96
16	Az Zababida	37	88
17	Ya’bad	25	71

18	Al 'UbeIdiya	26	N/A
19	Jenin	24	N/A
20	Tarqumiya	29	45
21	Huwwara	33	66
22	Qabalan	41	72
23	Al Ram	26	60
24	Abu Dis	35	74
25	Beit Sahur	37	89
26	Tamoun	37	89
27	Anabta	44	N/A
28	Kufr-telt	37	74
29	Qalqiliya	34	N/A
30	Sabastiya	37	72

As a result of direct engagement with MoLG, especially the Budgets department (responsible for Budget Portal and enacting municipalities' budgets), the Budget Portal was upgraded taking into consideration its shortcomings as revealed by the FTI. The upgrading process was already underway, but the Program managed to push its recommendations forward to be adopted in the upgraded version. According to Sebastia Financial Manager and staff of the Budgets department, up to 70% of ARIJ's recommendations were integrated in the upgraded portal (https://budgets.molg.pna.ps). The integrated recommendations improved the quantity and quality of municipalities financial reporting. Most prominent changes are:

1. The addition of the following budget items 1) emergency budget 2) unearned revenues 3) fixed assets to be filled by municipalities.

2. CBs are now automatically generated by the portal (admittedly, the generated template is not very advanced and needs improvement. But this is a step in the right direction undeniably)

3. More detailed introductory information about municipalities in the home/front page.

4. Municipalities are now required to submit their municipal organizational hierarchy and 5-year strategic plan.

5. The portal now requires financial reports (using the accounting method accrual basis of accounting for the first time) -not just listing of expenses and incomes (balance sheet)- and account payables and receivables.

The portal contains more information now. Like a brief bio about the municipality and contact info, executive budget summary, organizational chart, important documents like their strategic plans. Additionally, CBs are now embedded in the portal and have their designated web button.

Moreover, the Program work to ensure that citizens and civil society organizations have the knowledge, skills and capacities to contribute to shape a just, effective, predictable and effective revenue system in the OPT, and budget stakeholders are more responsive in allocating public resources in a fair way to support marginalized citizens, in particular women and girls. In this regard, the ***"Right to Health***" campaign continued from 2019. It aimed to collect signatures from Palestinian citizens to pressure Ministry of Finance to increase monetary allocations in the Ministry of Health's budget. This required both public awareness raising and public engagement tactics. The aim was to collect 50 thousand signatures from the public who suffer the most from lack of health services in marginalized areas. This target was reached by the end of February 2020. Nonetheless, the campaign lasted throughout the year to advocate for inclusive health services in light of the pandemic.

Animation Video: Right 2 Health Campaign

In 2020, the Program was determined that the cooperative sector enabling environment is not harmed or damaged as a result of COVID-19. It was a top priority to make sure that the pandemic is not in any way used to advance any interest over the interest of coops. Thus, the Program had to be creative and utilize every possible opportunity to advocate for the cooperatives and be a platform to raise their voice. Accordingly, the Program implemented four national level advocacy initiatives, sought to improve coordination amongst cooperative sector stakeholders and actors, and advocated for modifications to the cooperative law 2017:

1. ARIJ jointly with UAWC decided to shed light on the impact of COVID-19 on rural development and agriculture sector priorities. A national webinar was held under this title that provided insightful perspective on important issues. It started by explaining the context and the necessary background to set the general framework in its first session, followed in the next section by several perspectives to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the agricultural sector, then moving on to understand how sustainable rural development requires promoting food sovereignty concept and practices. The last session was a case study that examined the link between food sovereignty and supportive and protective national policies. In this session, we reviewed and examined one of the most relevant policies to the cooperative work which is the Palestinian Cooperative Law.

   Overall, the webinar event reached 148,992 people in Palestine (39.9% Women, 60.1% Men), majority between the age of 25-44. Total engagement was as follows:

   a. 3,120 Link Clicks
   b. 933 Event Response (Interested or Going)
   c. 39 Comments
   d. 35 Shares

   Following the webinar, the Program issued a policy brief under the same title, seized the momentum to carry out a more specialized webinar, and created Voices from Rural Palestine media campaign.

2. Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign:

   After the webinar and to highlight how RD in Palestine has been affected by COVID-19, the Program developed a Palestinian "Voices from rural Palestine" campaign. The Program amplified voices from 6 coops through creating a short story-telling video for each coop. The campaign highlighted effects on women, small farmers, herders and livestock farmers.

3. Women and Youth Outreach Campaign:

   Using media and communication material from previous campaigns (2018's Success in her own words, and 2019's Cooperatives…an idea and a need), the Program prepared a social media content calendar to run a 2020 Women and Youth Outreach Campaign. The campaign ran from August 12 (International Youth Day) to October 15 (International Day of Rural Women).

4. International Day of Cooperatives:

   In acknowledgment of this year's International Day of Cooperatives captioned with the hashtag #Coops4ClimateAction, the Program produced 2 short videos, one to mark the event and another general awareness movie about cooperatives. Both were filmed with members of Battir coop and youth. Videos were produced and aired on ARIJ social media

platforms and Ma'an TV network (the most recognized local Satellite TV). The video for International Day of Cooperatives results on Facebook are:

Reach: 259.3K- 38.4% Women and 61.6% Men. 12% between the ages of 18-24 and 16% between the ages 0f 25-34
ThruPlays: 117.7K
Post Engagement: 237,138
Post Reactions: 693

Following the first webinar "Impact of COVID-19 on RD…", the Project implemented a series of related activities to advocate for law modifications:

1- Radio Program with Mr. Yousef AlTurk/ Cooperative Work Agency (CWA). This program was done a few days before the webinar.

2- A Webinar "Analysis of the legal environment and its impact on the cooperative sector". The panelists in this webinar were CWA board members and coops' representatives. In agreement with ATF members, selected topics from the position paper were discussed in the webinar. Each topic was presented from both viewpoints (board members and coops' representatives). Total engagement was as follows:

Reach: 130.4K
Responses: 1,295
Post Engagement: 3,425
Link Clicks: 2,220
Event Response: 1,295 (Interested or Going)
Post Reaction: 1,090

3- In the webinar, testimonies from women coops (short videos) were played. The testimonies were honest feedback from coops about the law (Chairwomen of Sida Coop described it as law for collection not protection).

4- A Policy Brief about Cooperatives Enabling Environment was produced and disseminated after the webinar.

5- After the webinar, T.V Program interviewing Rebhi Abu Baker/ PACU, Randa Abd Rabbo/ UCASC, Izz Izzaldin Abu Taha/GCU Ammar Jamoos/ Legal Specialist, and Kamal Al-Shafi/ CWA Legal Advisor.

6- After the webinar, Radio Program with Randa Abd Rabbo/ UCASC, Ammar Jamoos/ Legal Specialist, and Kamal Al-Shafi/ CWA Legal Advisor.

In 2019, the Program and targeted coops designed youth outreach plans. Each coop had its own set of events and activities to reach out to local youth and become known amongst them. In 2020, this plan was put into action. In light of COVID-19 pandemic, the Program modified activities within each plan to be more suitable and responsive to the pandemic. ARIJ supported coops through the outreach plans to:

1. Cover their institutional (operational) costs in case of loss of membership fees and other sources of funding/income.

2. Sustain and adapt their operations in their core business areas of providing services to their members [and/or primary target group].
3. Function and operate during the Covid-19 pandemic and building their resilience for the future.
4. Conduct outreach activities more suitable to the current situation (1/3rd of the allocated budget).

Some of the youth outreach activities carried out by the coops are:

1) To mark International Women's Day, Alshuyukh and Farkha Coops held ceremonies in honor of working women in their local communities.
2) Battir Agricultural Coop took youth from Battir on a hiking trip:
3) Zahrat Shuqba Coop held a recreational activity for mothers and children.
4) Seida Coop formed a group of youth volunteers to carry out social voluntary activities in Sida in their name.
5) Anabta and Kafr Al-Labad Coops held awareness meetings with local youth
6) Bethlehem Saving and Lending Coop held training course for female college students.

Overall, targeted coops were able to reach out to 370 youth (72% females) in 2020

ARIJ implemented a gender equality campaign "Awareness and Advocacy Campaign on Rural Economic Rights". To design a responsive and engaging campaign, the Project held six focus groups for rural women about women's role in achieving sustainable rural development and Human Rights, and four interviews with CSOs prompting role of rural women in achieving

sustainable rural development and Human Rights. Out of them, the Project extracted campaign's slogan and key messages:

Slogan:

Land can't flourish/survive without us (women)

Key Messages:

1) Keep us on your mind and don't forget us because land can't flourish without us
2) Open markets for us not marketing courses because land can't flourish without us
3) Be reasonable with your prices brokers because land can't flourish without us
4) Provide us with irrigation water because land can't flourish without us
5) Support us to compete with non-domestic products because land can't flourish without us.

The campaign's main activities were:

1. Creating an animated rural women character by the name of Nada (morning dew). This character became the main feature of the campaign and appeared in several of its media productions.
2. Seven billboards in rural areas featuring Nada and the campaign's slogan.
3. Two newspapers ads featuring Nada and the campaign's slogan.
4. One animation video featuring Nada telling the story of rural women. This animation was posted on ARIJ's Facebook page and aired 20 times on Ma'an TV network.
5. One press tour/visit was organized for 10 media outlets to rural women's farms to shed light on rural women's successes and struggles.
6. One video to shed light on rural women's successes and struggles.
7. One radio spot (the voiceover from the animation video) aired on local radios for a total of 60 times.
8. Five radio programs, one for each key message aired on local radios for a total of 15 times.

2. Challenges/Concerns

ARIJ and all Palestinians, like others around the world, had to deal with COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike others around the world, Palestinians are also dealing with military occupation by Israel (Trump peace plan4 in tow). Israel didn't stop its daily practices of land seizures, checkpoints,

4 The Trump peace plan, officially titled "Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People", was a proposal early in the year 2020 by the Trump administration to resolve the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. It prioritized the Israeli narrative Israel ensuring it remains the only state with full sovereignty, and dismissed the Palestinian narrative altogether offering Palestinians "less than a state".

settlers violence, and building illegal settlements. Additionally, it introduced an annexation plan5, annexing 30 percent of occupied West Bank. Facing international criticism and disapproval, this plan was put on hold, not withdrawn, for the time being.

Measures to control the spread of COVID-19 virus closed down all areas of daily life (schools/universities, workplaces, restaurants, places of worship). The state of emergency, started since March 5th, closing all main roads, blocking travel between governorates, and closing the West Bank off from the world. All this had a major impact on all sectors of the society, and on the well-being of many families who rely on daily wages, like agricultural workers. The state of emergency lasted throughout this reporting period.

Measures responding to the COVID-19 pandemic have limited civic space and fundamental universal rights for reasons of public health. Disproportionate restrictions have been placed on the freedoms of association, assembly, expression, and other civil and political rights; governmental power balances have been disrupted and the rule of law suspended (lack of transparency[6] and the possibility of civic and political participation, holding government to account, critique, dissent and contestation). The medium and long-term effects of the pandemic on sustainable development, human rights and governance are additional challenges to civic space.

Palestinian CSOs, ARIJ included, suffer from shrinking civic space caused by three actors; 1) Palestinian government, 2) Israeli occupation, and 3) restrictions of funding agencies from different angles and to varying degrees. Palestinian government's restrictions and policies to control the Palestinian civil society has become the standard. Restrictions and provisions by funding agencies to control funds and resources allocated for Palestinian CSOs entitle vetting or screenings processes, commonly referred to as 'anti-terrorism clauses' that are perceived by Palestinian CSOs as a form of "conditional funding", compelling them to adopt instructions that disregard the Palestinian context, thus contributing to shrinking civic space further.

[5]The plans of annexation directly affect more than 303,239 rights-holders, mainly small-scale farmers, in the West Bank. While the full parameters of annexation are yet to be determined, unilateral annexation of any part of the West Bank presents serious consequences for Palestinian communities (regardless of the extent to which these parameters are realized). The plan of annexation stands in violation of international law and of the inalienable rights of Palestinians to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources, particularly of their riparian rights in the Jordan River and the Dead Sea; and rich agricultural land.

[6]The Palestinian Government functioned under a so-called "emergency budget", and the public budget was not endorsed or made public.

Good Governance Summary of accomplishments for the Year 2020

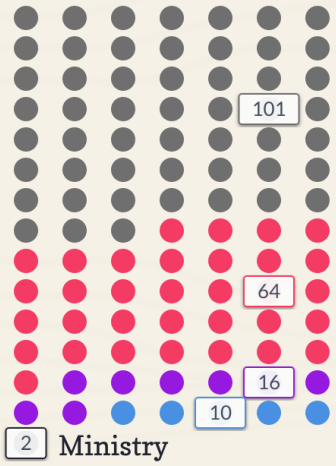
Good Governance Program 2020

Goal

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

68
Localities
Targeted in 2020

GG's Stakeholders



GG's Visits

- 131 Municipalities
- 40 CSOs and/or CBOs
- 35 Cooperatives
- 5 Ministries
- 5 Joint Services Councils

Publications about Municipalities

- Impact of COVID-19 on Palestinian Municipalities
- Financial Transparency Index Website. www.fti.arij.org
- Financial Transparency Index report for 24 municipalities
- Citizens Budgets for 23 municipalities.

Webinars and Papers

- Analysis of the legal environment and its impact on the cooperative sector
- Impact of COVID-19 on rural development and agriculture sector priorities

Campaigns

- Right to Health
- Voices from rural Palestine
- Cooperative Outreach to Women and Youth
- Awareness and Advocacy Campaign on Rural Economic Rights (Land can't Flourish/Survive Without Us)

Targeted Rights-holders

11,355 9,034

2.4 Natural Resource Management Program

Activities and achievements in the year 2019:

In 2020, ARIJ Water and Environment Department continued (WERD) its activities to contribute 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. Moreover, as a rapid response to COVID-19 this year, the WERD department worked to help the Palestinian to cope with the pandemic through increasing availability and access to quality WASH facilities and services for the most vulnerable communities. The following summarizes 2020 activities carried out; including the period of the emergency lockdown procedure:

1.1 Wastewater Management:

1) Improving access to sanitation services: through the actions supported by grants from the European Commission, the year 2020 witnessed the continuity of developing and promoting Al Arrub wastewater treatment in Sair area using activated sludge wastewater treatment processes. During the year of the project's lifespan the project's team succeeded in implementing several activities associated with the project's objective that aimed to promote wastewater treatment and reuse in the water scarce areas through development and demonstration of innovative financial instruments and inclusive management plans. These activities resulted in reducing the operational costs of wastewater treatment through using innovative and cost-efficient technologies of energy production and sludge management.

In other words, the 2020 witnessed a huge of efforts put by the WERD for making Wadi Al Arub WWTP more sustainable; among those efforts are:

- Decreasing the cost of the electricity by Euro 26,870 and generate an accumulated saving more than Euro 671,000 over 20 years. This was done through generating electricity from the installed photovoltaic (PV) system with a capacity of a 125 KVA at half the current price of the electricity provided by the electrical grid;
- Reducing the cost of the sludge management thought the installed sludge dewatering and composting facility;
- Organizing efficiently the main water reuse through constructing of an 800 m3 water storage.
- Increasing the economic water productivity at least 25% through introducing innovative irrigation practices increases in water use efficiency and reductions in the cost of agricultural input. Currently existing irrigation system is targeting only 20 Donums through the main 160 mm irrigation main line section of more than 0.5 kilometre as part of an entire irrigation network system. However, the project intends to extend the irrigation system to each up at least 80 of agricultural lands located downstream.

2) The long-term impact will contribute to the sustainability of the WWTP through 1) enormously reduce Wadi Al Arub WWTP operation and maintenance costs, 2) protect 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 soils in rangeland and croplands.

3) Operation and management of the Wadi Al Arub WWTP: during the year 2020, and based on the agreement that was signed with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in 2019, The WERD Dep. continued its work to operate the Wadi Al Arub Wastewater treatment plant to ensure sustainable operation and efficiently management of the Wadi Al Arub WWTP.

The Wadi Al Arub Wastewater treatment plant and its components, and the Reuse of the treated wastewater at the Agricultural Lands in Wadi Al Arrub - Sa'ir / Hebron Governorate

1.2. Water Conservation and optimal use

ARIJ's WERD dep. continued its works toward *Promoting Access to Safe Water and Best Knowledge on Hygiene Practice thought several activities including:*

1) Providing adequate safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services to 5,348 vulnerable Palestinians in Abdullah Younis and Barta'a villages. This project was funded by oPt Humanitarian fund, and implemented in partnership with Union Of Agricultural Work Committees. The project resulted in reducing the vulnerability of these two communities located in Area C and behind the Wall who do not have access to adequate WASH services and raise their awareness regarding the WASH and COVID-19 through 1) installation of water network with total length of 4685 meters; 2) upgrading of the chlorination plant for Barta'a water spring to improve water quality within the piped water supplies to 5,348 vulnerable Palestinians living in these two areas; 3) providing hygiene kits for 406 families with a total of 818 students.; 4) promoting and reinforcing the best knowledge of hygiene practices among the families' members and the students (5,348 individual) through conducting 200 door to door visits and distributing 3 educational materials, painting 6 WASH murals at the targeted schools, on-class activities, and extracurricular activities at Barta'a Library.

Installation of the chlorination system for Barta'a water spring

2) Increasing access to improved water sources for domestic purposes mainly for drinking water through the rehabilitation of household cisterns and its catchments areas for 30 families in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour areas. This project is funded by World Mission, Presbyterian CHURCH and it will continue till 2025. In the first year of the project 2020, 6 households representing 40 individuals were benefited from rehabilitation of 6 cisterns by increasing their access to improved drinking water sources especially in the dry months.

The targeted cisterns before and after rehabilitation work

3) Providing 23 physical sanitation and hygiene units (Hand washing units) in selected public spaces in the cities of Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala and Al Doha as a response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as raising awareness on personal health safety, hygiene and the best behaviors to keep safe and healthy during the pandemic. This project is funded by Al Waleed Philanthropies and UN-Habitat.

Hand washing Units in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

4) Increasing availability and access to quality WASH facilities and services for the most 45 vulnerable communities and households (HH) across nine governorates in Area C of the West Bank. The project will will directly benefit 1,046 households representing almost 5,000 individuals. All HHs will benefit from improvements to the quality of 7 water sources and water cisterns, and from improving 120 water transition means (water truck tankers). Moreover, out of these 1,046 households, the most vulnerable 180 HHs will benefit from rehabilitation works of WASH facilities at HH level. it is also expected that 1,440 individuals will benefit from the project, as 300 skilled and unskilled workers will be contracted to conduct rehabilitation works with trucks and at household level, thus benefiting these daily workers and their family members. This project is funded by oPt Humanitarian, and implemented in partnership with Agency for Technical cooperation and Development (ACTED).

Water tanks at Ras Ein Al Auja /Jericho are used as a primary water resources since the area is not connected to the main water network

1.3 Awareness and knowledge transfer

As part of its work to increase awareness of the Palestinian people in the issues of good WASH behaviors, practices, and reuse of treated wastewater, WERD succeeded in conducting: 6 intensive and integrated awareness campaigns where more than 800 students in the targeted schools in Abdullah Younis and Barta'a villages participated; 6 training of trainers (ToT) on personal and environmental hygiene practices and behaviors, where 100 students participated; 6 days training of trainers on best hygiene practices and the roles of leaders to create transformative change among their communities, where 40 people from Abdullah Younis and Barta'a community hub participated, 200 door to door visits in collaboration with Abdullah Younis and Barta'a community hub to convey to the household's WASH key messages; 2 On job training sessions for 3 WASH operators of Barta'a chlorination system; 4 field and knowledge exchange visits to the Al Arroub Wastewater treatment plant and the reuse site in Saiir area, 5 workshops aiming to empower farmers with advanced knowledge of treated wastewater Resue and their adoption of practices to increase farming efficiency and its income, where more than 100 farmers participated.

Door to Door visits

The awareness material to reinforce how important good WASH behaviors and practices were produced and included, but not limited to; 1 radio spot, a household WASH audit form, A technical user's manual of the chlorination plant, safety instructions, users instructions, and system diagram, Six WASH Murals, 12 WASH posters (focus on the importance of water preservation and good hygiene, 2 leaflets (regarding the Treated Wastewater and Sludge composting), 2 animation videos, 3 TV episodes, 3 posters regarding Palestinian water management. It should be noted that All audio-visual material, were posted on social media (YouTube, Facebook).

Animation video as a mean of raising the awareness of the public regarding treated Waste water

1.4 Technical assistance to ARIJ different departments

WERD in 2020 continued its work providing technical assistance to ARIJ different departments, including but not limited to: 1) Provide support to ARIJ sustainable agriculture program through providing continuous technical assistance and logistic support to the work related to the water treatment and reuse in both Wadi Al Arroub Sair Hebron Governorate and Anza at Jenin Governorate, and 2) Provide capacity building to increase the knowledge in both wastewater treatment and reuse targeting farmers, ministry of agriculture stuff members, local Universities students, schools students, and other relevant stakeholders; and 3) Other technical support works and services provided to Green Palestine Co.

1.5 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. Towards that end, WERD Department conducted or participated in 50 training

workshops or Field visits. This is addition to providing services to the local community related to its field of work.

Urbanization Monitoring

The year 2020 was not an ordinary year, for the Covid wave caused all plans and schedules to shuffle in an unexpected manner. The Urbanization Monitoring Department-the settlement unit- running the EU funded project that monitors the Israeli activities in the occupied Palestinian territory; entitles "Assessing the Impediments Before the Two-State Solution" worked through fluctuating times to document the Israeli violations in the occupied Palestinian territory. The settlement monitoring team also continued to update the databases (settlements' construction, houses demolitions, land confiscation, uprooting trees, Israeli military orders, restrictions on movement, Israeli settlers' violence). In spite of the circumstances imposed upon the world by the pandemic, including the occupied territory, the project team was able to maintain its connection with its network of communication to collect and update the databases and the information in regard to Israeli activities and violations, particularly in the rural areas. The main concentration falls particularly to land confiscation (153,500 Dunums), uprooting trees (19,250 trees uprooted), collecting 483 military orders, houses, and structures demolished (849 demolished) as in the following table:

Breakdown of demolishing activities in the occupied Palestinian territory			
	West Bank	East Jerusalem	Total
Residential (houses)	211	104	315
Agricultural structure	241	34	275
Infrastructure structure	200	59	259
Total	**652**	**197**	**849**

Even though the challenges of Covid-19 are hindering, it was crucial and even critical that the department address the "Trump Peace Plan" and review its impact on the notion of "Two State Solution" and the founding of a viable and economically independent Palestinian State. The concluding review was presented in a PowerPoint presentation through webinar/ Zoom meeting to the EU delegation and other Foreign Representations. It was also reviewed to the press and the digital media and shared as an analysis in a joint publication on June 2020 with the Palestinian Negotiation Affairs Department (NAD) entitled "Looming Annexation: Israel's Denial of Palestine's Right to Exist" (pages 18-34).

https://www.nad.ps/en/publication-resources/publications/looming-annexation-israels-denial-palestines-right-exist.

The article was translated into the Arabic and Hebrew languages and published on the settlement monitoring website. Moreover, the Prime Minister Office (PMO) was briefed with a special presentation on the aforementioned paper.

Moreover; and despite the difficulty and sometimes the lack of movement, the settlement monitoring team was able to perform the duties through its well-established networks throughout the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The settlement monitoring team also obtained aerial photos of

the West Bank; including the settlements, and accordingly was able to monitor, document and analyse the geographical and urban changes on the ground; expansion in Israeli settlements, identifying outposts' locations, detect the development of other colonization activities, the most visible of which is the under construction Segregation Wall.

The information is synthesized and produced in the form of case studies that contain the information related to the violation and the targeted location and is reinforced with the military order and also with the related map that shows the situation on the ground. The outcomes, results and findings of the settlement monitoring team are widely used, cited and referenced as a creditable source of information. During this reporting period, some 23 citations and references used the settlement monitoring team findings and results.

The settlement monitoring team continued to monitor the altering measures made by the Israeli civil administration and the Israeli settlers and document and publish the result of assessments to such activities on the geography of Area C and its Palestinian residents. The monitoring and documentation process included the violation in terms of land confiscation, uprooting trees and house demolition. Furthermore, the accumulated violations are integrated within the databases for the continued update of such violations. The settlement monitoring team maintained a close monitor over the Israeli activities in the oPt and watched closely what is happening on the ground, in spite of the lockdown and the restriction of movement. During the time of the reporting period, the settlement monitoring team was able to collect and document 483 military orders and 83 settlements' expansion plans (in 55 Israeli settlements) and to analyse their implications on the ground; on the issues of final negotiation status in particular and the "two state solution" in general. Yet, with swift and fast tracking changes on the political arena, which ultimately affect the geography and the various aspects set as the baseline for the "two state solution". One important and crucial factor in this entire equation is the demographic balance.

The impact of the violations are measured on the geographic and the vulnerable Palestinian communities as they face displacement and specifically in synergy with human rights violations; mainly, housing, education, movement, and environment. The alteration of Area C is measured in terms of impact on the viability of the 'two state solution" in the face of The expansion of Israeli settlements' built up area and other related issues; the outposts, infrastructure related activities (mainly bypass road expansion and construction, and industrial zones), thus the peace process. To compare physical changes on the ground, the project purchased aerial photos and conducted analysis and comparison to previous years to detect and highlight the physical changes on the ground. Also applying to the aerial photos to assess changes on the ground are the military orders related to land seizing and control, Israeli Settlements', town planning schemes and Israeli settlements' Jurisdiction areas. To that end, the settlement monitoring team obtained aerial photos of the West Bank territory including East Jerusalem and the settlements area. The aerial photos were analyzed and used to compare changes on the ground that affect the very heart of the peace process: establishing a viable, contiguous Palestinian State on the footing concept of the "Two State Solution". The hits on the project's website "POICA" during the duration of the reporting period (January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020) round up to almost 36 million, and a record of almost 42 thousand unique visitors to the website. Furthermore, the results were disseminated and published in 157 newspapers and electronic media, 611 case studies (http://www.arij.org/component/cases/?Itemid=200), 366 daily reports (http://www.arij.org/eye-on-palestine-arij/daily-report.html) covering the Israeli activities and violations in the oPt.

Engaging the media is a vital activity in the project, accordingly, the settlement monitoring team conducted 201 radio and 187 TV interviews and 12 interviews in programs and 5 info-graphs that capture several results of the outcomes of the project. Further, the team organized 30 presentations through webinar sessions/ informational briefings; including two for EU representatives and delegates; and also joined/ participated in 40 meetings, workshops and conferences webinar/zoom sessions.

Moreover, between the COVID-19 contingency and In-spite of all existing Israeli impediments on the ground, updating databases related to project work and activities continued as information collected from local news were verified through the network of local sources in the related government; including official sources. The databases are related to Israeli settlements, outposts and bypass roads, military orders, the various violations (houses demolished, uprooted trees, land confiscated), settlers' attacks and military orders. The following lists the categories of database accumulated from the time preceding the period of this report and continued through it.

- Israeli Violations Database (ongoing) (for internal use only)
- Israeli Settlements and Outposts Database (ongoing) (for internal use only)
- Israeli Military Laws and Orders Database (ongoing) http://orders.arij.org/
- Database of Photos & Images according to districts and year (ongoing) (for internal use only)
- Database of Maps according to districts and year (ongoing) (for internal use only)

2.5 ARIJ Partnerships and Agreements

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

- The program represents ARIJ in the Food Security Working Group (FSS) in Palestine.
- The program represents ARIJ in the Climate Change National Committee (CCNC), which is leaded by the Environment Quality Authority-Palestine.
- ARIJ continues coordinating with and supporting the Palestinian CBOs (cooperatives, youth initiatives, women clubs, and cooperatives). This approach aims to activate the CBOs' management systems, improve their production qualitatively and quantitatively, and improve the economic performance along the value chain.
- ARIJ also focuses on empowering and building the capacities of the agricultural cooperatives and youth initiatives to be capable to promote and market their product for fair prices and to create sustainable marketing mechanisms.
- ARIJ is the secretary of the Palestinian Agricultural Institutions Coalition (PAIC). This coalition is composed of the main agricultural NGOs, which are: ARIJ, Ma'an Development Center, PARC, UAWC, LRC, and PHG. ARIJ is working with PAIC members to activate and sustain this coalition to become powerful, active, and influential.
- ARIJ has continued its cooperation with the national Universities, especially, An Najah University and Al-Khadouri University as well as Hebron University to conduct joint research activities and contribute in building the capacities of their students, especially the students of Faculty of Agriculture.

- ARIJ has continued its cooperation with PSI to develop special certification standards for safe vegetables production scheme and applying it in the farms who are applying these standards.
- World Food Program (WFP): ARIJ has continued its relationship with the WFP. This partnership has resulted in continue funding the food resilience project in the West Bank (which is being implemented by ARIJ in the West Bank and by Maan Development Center and OXFAM in Gaza Strip, for the second year. WFP has established a Steering Committee for this Resilience project which includes ARIJ, WFP, FAO, MoSD, MoA, UNDP, OXFAM, and Maan Development Center, to enhance the project deliverables, impact, and the strategic approach for the implementation of the project interventions and coordination mechanisms. Several meetings were held during the year 2020 by the SC through the internet. Also, ARIJ is a partner in the developed consortium by the WFP to submit to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This project proposal aims to benefit the vulnerable smallholder farmers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who are mainly affected by climate change. Currently, ARIJ is applying GIS/RS techniques to develop a climate change vulnerability mapping model to identify the most vulnerable farming communities to climate change.
- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO): ARIJ had implemented a consultancy service to the benefit of FAO. Through this consultancy, ARIJ had assessed the capacities of six agricultural cooperatives in the northern part of the West Bank, conducted a training program to improve their management and financing systems, and established a road map to improve their production and marketing systems to sustain their economic activities and income.
- The Canadian Food Grain Bank (CFGB) and Mennonite Committee Center (MCC): ARIJ has continued implementing the second phase of the food security and agro-production in urban areas project which is funded by MCC. This project was ended by March 2020 and *ARIJ has already submitted a new project proposal covering the next three years for potential funding.*
- The Palestinian-Dutch Academic Cooperation Program in Water: ARIJ has implemented a research project about hydroponic systems under PADUCO consortium in partnership with Al-Khadouri University. This project was ended during 2020.
- The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID): ARIJ and CARE International have continued the implementation of Souqona project under AMENCA III, the Australian funding program.
- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD): ARIJ and Care International have continued the implementation of Duroob project in the West Bank.
- UN Habitat: ARIJ managed to establish a new relationship with the UN-Habitat. This new partnership has resulted in receiving funding from UN-Habitat to contribute in Alleviating Quarantine Effects Amongst the Elderly due to the Covid-19 pandemic by introducing wicking bed interventions in Bethlehem Governorate.
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA): A new partnership was created between We Effect and PAIC through developing a joint project proposal entitled “Environmental and Climate Change Justice Programme”. It was submitted to the Swedish Consulate in Jerusalem for potential funding by SIDA. By the end of year 2020, PAIC and We Effect had received funding approval. This project will start by January 2021 and will continue for three years.
- ARIJ Good Governance Program maintained its strong cooperation ties with several local and international bodies, including: Palestinian Authority Bodies: Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Labor.

- Good Governance Program maintained its strong cooperation ties with local NGOs and Institutions: National Team to Support the Transparency of the Public Budget, Cooperative Sector Advocacy Task Force, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Land Research Center (LRC), The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), Women Media and Development (TAM), Youth Development Resources Center-Hebron (YDRC- Hebron), and Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC).
- Good Governance Program maintained its strong cooperation ties with Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs: EU, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Institut Français, We Effect, and Oxfam International.
- WERD Department maintained its strong cooperation ties with state-, and non-state-based institutions especially PWA, WSSA, MoA, PCBS, EQA, Municipality of Bethlehem, Municipality of Saiir, Jericho Directorate of Education, Jenin Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Ma'an network, and MoLG Ministry of Higher Education, the Department also cooperate with several regional and international organizations including but not limited to UN-Habitat, SCP/RAC, DTD, CENTA, UNCTAD, EU, Belgian Development Agency, ACTED, UNRWA and IUCN
- Al-Quds University and ARIJ has agreed to partner together in order to introduce a bachelor's degree in the field of geoinformatics part of the university dual studies program. The IT program has been in charge of the communication between the two organization and the designing of program. On the other hand, ARIJ has agreed to host university students that are welling 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) and connect these systems wirelessly with a mobile app the sends notifications to the owner of the system.
- Meetings with the different stakeholders and beneficiaries of the EU East Jerusalem Project. These meeting include focus group meeting with the education, health, environment, water & sanitation and tourism sectors in East Jerusalem.
- Meeting with GIZ in order to coordinate and cooperate on the work being done in East Jerusalem.

2.6 Internal Control Department

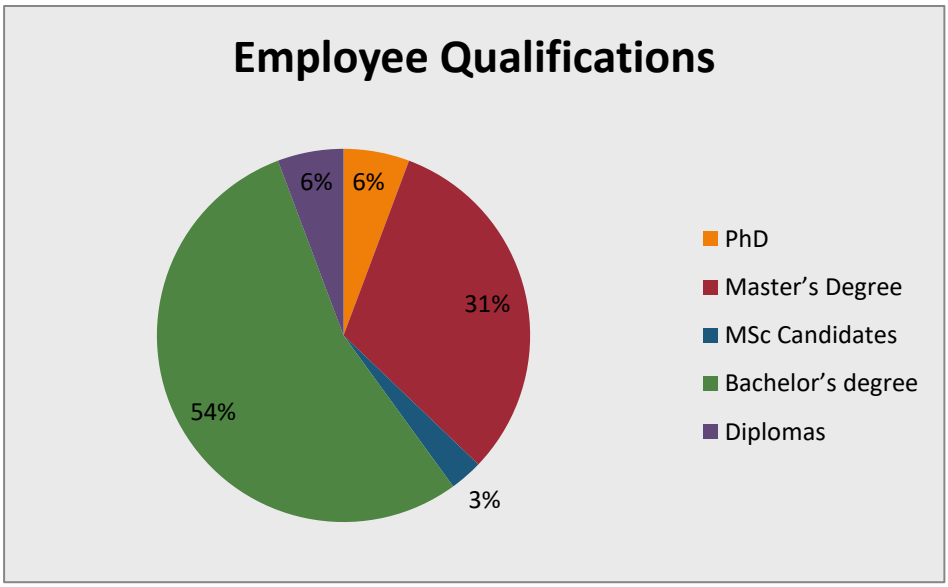
Internal audits adds value to ARIJ and its stakeholders by enhancing governance, risk management and control processes. The Internal auditor assists the board in the areas related to internal control procedures and practices, audits and quality, which acts as an independent body performing its duties and obligations independently while reporting to the internal audit committee. The reasoning behind establishing an independent unit that overlooks all of ARIJ internal controls and procedures is to enhance the transparency, achieve the overall objectives of financial sustainability and better quality of work.

In terms of administration, ARIJ is continuously 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 2*
- *Master's Degree Holders 11*
- *MSc Candidates 1*
- *Bachelor's degree Holders 19*
- *Diplomas 2*



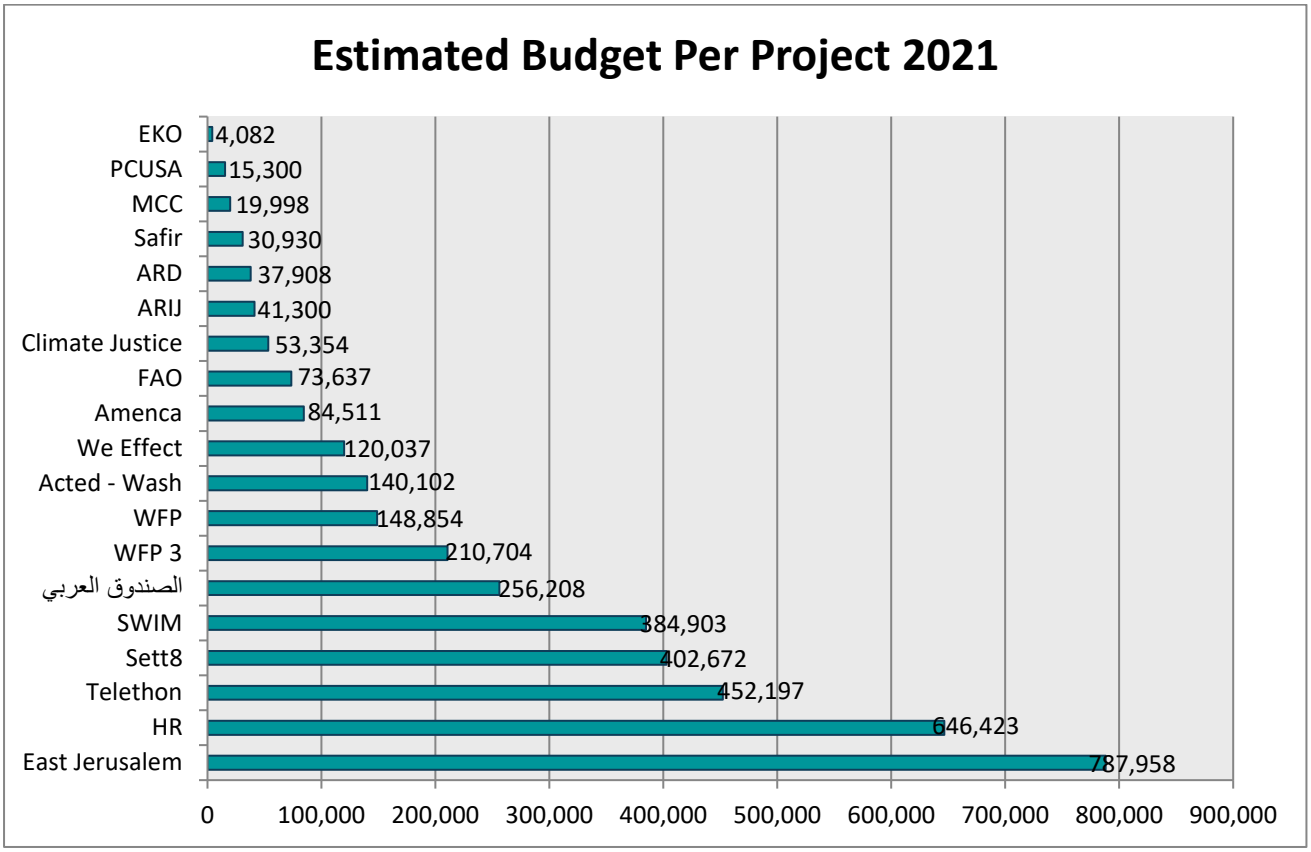
Section 3: Estimated Budget and Future Plans 2021

As Palestine is remains in a developing state going through many phases to reach maturity, it requires further research and development in many sectors. ARIJ remains focused on the aforementioned sectors of, Good Governance, Natural Resource Management, IT and Agricultural sustainability. The budget shows that the main costs are related to development and research (31%) followed by Partner Exp. of 29%.

Budget Item 2021	Total (USD)
Utilities	2,031
Bank Charges	3,000
Office Rental	7,875
Travel	12,788
Printing and Publications	20,438
Communication	23,435
Audit Fees	24,932
Office Supply & IT Equipment	78,208
Administrative Project Cost (7%)	80,557
Training Workshops	82,219
Transportation	130,081
Administrative/ support staff (Human Resource)	176,942
Co-finance	274,211
Technical Extension (Human resource)	668,407
Partner Exp.	1,125,666
Direct Implementation	1,200,289
	3,911,079

The table below shows the budget per project line:

Projects 2021	Total (USD)
Towards Social Inclusion in Community Development by Providing Platforms for Planning and Advocacy	787,958
Towards Better Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Area C and Gaza Strip	646,423
My Economic Empowerment, Our Future	452,197
Assessing the impediments before the Two-State Solution	402,672
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	384,903
Using Green and Environmental Technologies To Obtain Energy, Water and Food in a Sustainable Manner	256,208
WFP's Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) project for enhancing resilience, local food production and income of the most climate - vulnerable communities in Palestine	210,704
Economic Empowerment and Building Livelihood Resilience of Vulnerable men and women headed households in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	148,854
Emergency WASH intervention to improve the water supply chain in unconnected communities in Area C to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 crisis	140,102
Towards Inclusive and Just Cooperative Sector in the West Bank	120,037
Souquna – Our Market Phase II	84,511
Implement water productivity improvements at a watershed level and Scaling in-situ water harvesting for orchard agriculture (Olive trees)	73,637
Environmental and Climate Justice programme - Palestine	53,354
ARIJ	41,300
East Bethlehem ARD initiative	37,908
Youth in action	30,930
Building resilience to enhance food security and nutrition of poor families through Practicing Innovative Green Agro-Technologies in Palestine-II (PIGAT-II)	19,998
Enhance Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala	15,300
A replicable model of affordable renewable energy for poor – communities in Bethlehem-Palestine	4,082
	3,911,079


Estimated Budget Per Project 2021
EKO
PCUSA
MCC
Safir
ARD
ARIJ
Climate Justice
FAO
Amenca
We Effect
Acted - Wash
WFP
WFP 3
الصندوق العربي
SWIM
Sett8
Telethon
HR
East Jerusalem
4,082
15,300
19,998
30,930
37,908
41,300
53,354
73,637
84,511
120,037
140,102
148,854
210,704
256,208
384,903
402,672
452,197
646,423
787,958
0
100,000
200,000
300,000
400,000
500,000
600,000
700,000
800,000
900,000

Strategic Goals Alliance with Programs-2021 Work Plan

The Sustainable Agriculture Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2021
Goal 1: To disseminate ARIJ research & information related to sustainable development in Palestine. *Objective 1.1: To improve dissemination of ARIJ's reports and work to the various stakeholders.* *Task 1.1.4: Network with regional and national related institutions.*	***Networking, partnership and new approaches for fund raising:*** 1. Establish new cooperation and strengthen the existing partnership and joint activities with the agricultural governmental bodies, research institutes, civil society, UN agencies and international organizations as well as the accessible specialized consortiums, and networks. 2. Activate, empower and reactivate the existing partnerships and/or relations with We Effect, CARE International, POLISH CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AID (PCPM), ICARDA, Spanish Cooperation, MCC, CFGB, FAO, GEF Small Grant Program, UNDP, UNRWA, EC, SDC, AusAid, GIZ, BMZ-Germany, WFP, Pontifical Mission, United Methodist Church ("Global Ministries"), UN Habitat and PADUCO, etc. 3. Enrich the cooperation and partnership with the governmental bodies by providing and sharing experience with Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Directorates in the Palestinian Governorates as well as NARC and Ministry of Social Development. 4. Working closely with the Palestinian Agricultural Institutions -Coalition (PAIC) member organizations to empower its role and to institutionalize its structure and catalyzing its role in agricultural sector. 5. Support the New Farm Company and Green Palestine Company: by enhancing their socially based and eco-green tools practices and technologies. Also, to enhance production of healthy and safe products.
Goal 8: To adapt ARIJ managerial performance to local and international standards. *Objective 8.2: To improve resource mobilization and devising new approaches of fundraising.* *Task 8:2:1: Continue and further promote diversification of funding sources*	***Fundraising:*** 1. Applying for funding opportunities which fit with ARIJ's vision and strategic objectives individually and through joining specialized consortiums, unilateral or through the partnership.

Goal 1: To disseminate ARIJ research & information related to sustainable development in Palestine. *Objective 1.1: To improve dissemination of ARIJ's reports and work to the various stakeholders.* *Task 1.1.2: Diversify communication channels via websites, social media, and publications.* *Task 1.1.5: Create special tools and mechanisms for effective dissemination of information*	***Publications and dissemination of information:*** 1. Prepare and publish research papers, fact sheets, InfoGraphs, operational and management manuals, leaflets and articles in the following fields: a. Land use, crop and water management b. Hydroponic/wicking technology for food security and better livelihood. c. Ecosystems/crop suitability mapping system d. Rangeland preservation, and improvement practices e. Rural socially based enterprises focusing on community benefits, and the involvement of youth and women cooperatives. f. Climate Change impact on Crop Water Requirements (CWR) through climatic gridded observations.
Goal 4: To promote sound natural resource management in Palestine. *Objective 4.1: To improve management of environment and utilization of land and water resources.* *Task 4.1.4: Promote science and technology research and development (R&D)in field of environment* *Objective 4.2: To enhance conservation, management and utilization of Palestinian natural ecosystems and biodiversity.* *Tasks 4.2.1-4.*	***Research and Development Activities:*** 1. *Focus on the following important and viable research and development topics:* poverty alleviation, resilience to food security, improving food security (consumption vs. livelihood), climate change (drought mitigation) and adaptation, biodiversity, nature reserves management and biosphere improvement, rangeland protection, adopting environmentally sound agro-practices, conservation agriculture, optimization of water use by crops, rangeland preservation and enhancement, urban agriculture techniques, encouraging the creation of social enterprise models towards community development, studying the value chain of rural agro-food commodities, shift towards safe agriculture and healthy agro-food. 2. Studying and innovating different types of composting techniques. 3. Continue improving the adoption of hydroponic agriculture techniques for food and feed production. 4. Following up the issue of climate change green fund and searching for creating strong consortiums to apply for this

	funding opportunity. 5. Improve the small ruminants' and dairy production value chain. 6. Investigating the possibility of applying smart digital agriculture (SDA) - digital way for planning and decision-making. 7. Searching the possibilities of domestication of wild plants into agricultural system. 8. Also, adopting new agro-technology to control plant growth in hydro-agriculture systems digitally and smartly, using sensors and wireless connections. *Continue performing, accomplishing the ongoing projects and star implanting the new ones: MCC, Telethone (Duroob), Amenca III (Souqona-phase Two), and WFP-phase one and phase two, UN Habitat, and Environmental and Climate Justice programme (SIDA (Sweden)).*
Goal 8: To adapt ARIJ managerial performance to local and international standards. *Objective 8.3: To strengthen ARIJ organizational & human resources capacity.* *Task 8.3.2: Enhance professional skills and capabilities of ARIJ Staff.*	***Building the Capacities of Human Resource:*** 1. Encourage the employees' participation in the specialized workshops and training courses to improve their experiences and know-how in different related topics. 2. Encourage the specialists to participate in the local, regional and international events. 3. Conduct research consultancies and provide training courses. Improve 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, most feasible approach and conducting cost benefit analysis. Additionally, focusing on innovative practices towards adaptation to climate change.

Natural Resource Management Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2021
Goal 1: To collect, analyze and disseminate information related to sustainable development in the Israeli occupied Palestine **Objective 1.1:** Enhanced accessibility to reliable environmental, socio-economic, and geopolitical information and knowledge in the Israeli occupied Palestine **Objective 1.2:** Improved dissemination of ARIJ's reports and data to the various stakeholders. **Goal 2: To foster initiatives that lead to clean and healthy environment through improving natural resource management in the Israeli occupied Palestine.** **Objective 2.1:** Improved conservation, management, and utilization of land, environment and water resources in the Israeli occupied Palestine. **Goal 3: To play an active role in advocating for the Palestinian human development and security at local, regional and international levels.** **Objective 3.1:** Increased international community knowledge on the of Palestinian human security level	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). 2. Emergency Responses to promote access to Adequate sanitation, safer water and Best Knowledge on Hygiene practices (in partnership with Union of Agricultural Work Committees) 3. Towards Better Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Area C and Gaza Strip (in partnership with the Good governance programmer at ARIJ). In partnership with the GG program at ARIJ. 4. Increasing availability and access to quality WASH facilities and services for the most 45 vulnerable communities and households (HH) across nine governorate in Area C of the West Bank. In partnership with ACTED 5. Providing 23 physical sanitation and hygiene units (Hand washing units) in selected public spaces in the Bethlehem area, to response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Urbanization Monitoring

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2021
Goal 1: disseminate information related to sustainable development in Palestine. **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* **Objective 7.1:** *advocate for Palestinian human rights under the prolonged Israeli*	1. Research issues in line with the department goals and objectives 2. Carryout activities of settlement monitoring department 3. Prepare and produce the daily, monthly, and quarterly reports 4. Prepare administrative and technical reports related to the department's activities 5. Prepare and deliver presentations to stakeholders 6. Write proposals for future projects

	7. Write thematic papers and news articles 8. Represent ARIJ at national committees meetings, workshops, etc. 9. Prepare statistical pamphlets and hand-outs of issues related to department and projects' objectives 10. 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 11. Prepare, print and publish posters, maps, Info graphics of relation to department and projects' objectives

Information Technology Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2021
Goal 1: disseminate information related to sustainable development in Palestine. **Objective 1.1:** *improve dissemination of ARIJ's reports and work to the various stakeholders.* **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** **Objective 7.1:** *advocate for Palestinian human rights under the prolonged Israeli occupation.* **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)*	1. The IT program in cooperation with the GIS & remote sensing department will in the year 2021 keep 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 will be monitored and coordinated by the IT program. As this year is last year of the project, so the main activity for this year is to communicate the output of the project to the public, that includes TV interview, social media marketing campaigns, workshops and training for the different stakeholders in the intended information system. 2. ARIJ e-office suite version 2: The IT Program has in 2005 developed an E-office system for ARIJ that is currently used by all employees at ARIJ. The current system is very old and requires many updates as new internal manuals have been published therefore, we are planning to develop new

	version of the system to take in consideration all the changes that have been implemented on our HR, Financial, Project and Administration manuals. 3. ARIJ Fauna & Flora web information system: The IT Program has started in the last of month of 2020 the development of the Fauna Flora database which will be accessible through the web. 4. Designs: The IT Program will go on with its work in designing and printing materials related to ARIJ work and the projects implemented by ARIJ. 5. Advocacy: The IT Program will continue its work in publishing on the different social media tools available to increase the number of followers and connections to be able to promote ARIJ work around the world. The program will also be responsible for creating documentaries related to ARIJ work and mission and publish all materials on our YouTube channel.

The Good Governance Program

Strategic Goals and Objectives Strategy 2018-2022	Planned activities for the year 2021
Goal 2: promote good governance and democracy in Palestine. ***Objective 2.1:*** *promote inclusive and accountable decision-making.* ***Objective 2.2:*** *promote effective public service delivery and government responsibility.* ***Objective 2.3:*** *promote equitable civic participation and voice.* ***Objective 2.4****: promote government fair policies and openness.* ***Objective 2.5:*** *increase women and youth participation in economic development.*	**Funded Projects:** 1. Third year of "Enhancing Local Authorities' contribution to governance and development processes in Palestine" funded by the EU. 2. Second year of "Towards Inclusive and Just Cooperative Sector in the West Bank" funded by We Effect. 3. Second Year of "Towards Better Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Area C and Gaza Strip" funded by the EU. 4. First Year of "SAFIR -Youth in Action"

Section 4: Publications

4.1 Conference Papers

- Dr. Jad Isaac and Nader Hrimat, 2020. Legislations of maintaining surveillance over markets, prices and agents/Middlemen. Electronic Workshop organized by UAWC, PAIC and al-Ta'awon Titled "Towards national agricultural policies that are in support of small-scale producers"

4.2 Leaflets

- Good Governance Program (2020). Abu dis Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Bani Na'im Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Beitunia Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Halhul Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Howwara Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). As-Samu Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Ya'bad Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Qabalan Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Sebastia Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Qalqilya Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Silat ad-Dhahr Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Zababdeh Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Tarqumiya Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Biddu Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Deir Istiya Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Deir Ballout Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Deir Debwan Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Salfit Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Anabta Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Kafr Thulth Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Beit Sahour Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Qabatiya Municipality Citizens Budget 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Tubas Municipality Citizens Budget 2020

4.3 Monthly & Quarterly Reports

- Water and Environment Research Department (2020). Annual reports for the project entitled Increasing access to improved water sources for domestic purposes mainly for drinking water through the rehabilitation of household cisterns and its catchments areas in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour area.

- Water and Environment Research Department (2020). Two Quarterly progress and final reports for the project entitled "Emergency Response to Promote Access to Adequate Sanitation, Safe Water and Best Knowledge on Hygiene Practices
- Water and Environment Research Department (2020). Third annual report for the project entitled "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"

4.4 Special Reports

- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Abu-Dis Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Al Ouja Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Al Zababdeh Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Bireh Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Ram Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Al-Samou' Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Beit Jala Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Beitsahour Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Beitounia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Biddu Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Deir Ballout Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Deir Dibwan Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Deir Iystia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Halhoul Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Howwara Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Kufr-Thelt Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Qabalan Municipality.

- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Qabatiya Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Qaffin Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Sabastia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Silet Al-Daher Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Tamoun Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Tarqumia Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index report for Ya'bad Municipality.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index Final Report.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Impact of COVID-19 on Palestinian Municipalities.

4.5 Info-graphs links

- Palestinian movement under Trump Plan
  http://poica.org/2020/07/infographic-palestinian-movement-under-trump-plan/
- The Palestinian enclaves under Trump Plan
  http://poica.org/2020/07/infograph-the-palestinian-enclaves-under-trump-plan/
- The Israeli Segregation Wall redrawing Jerusalem Boundary
  http://poica.org/2020/06/the-israeli-segregation-wall-redrawing-jerusalem-boundary/
- Israeli Settler Attacks in the occupied West Bank Amid COVID-19
  http://poica.org/2020/05/israeli-settler-attacks-in-the-occupied-west-bank-amid-covid-19/
- Israeli Settlement Plans during the first quarter of 2020 (JanMarch)/2020
  http://poica.org/2020/04/infograph-israeli-settlement-plans-during-the-first-quarter-of-2020-jan-march-2020/

4.6 Posters

- 12 water, sanitation and hygiene practices posters to teach about good WASH practices"
- 6 WASH Murals.

4.7 Brochure

- Two leaflets water, sanitation and hygiene practices.
- A technical user's manual for chlorination plant.
- Safety instructions for chlorination plant.
- Users instructions chlorination plant.
- Chlorination plant system diagram.

4.8 Guides and Manuals Project Related

- Sustainable Agriculture Program (2020). Rangeland manual: This manual focused on the methods and procedures to be used by the rangelands rangers from the MoA.
- Sustainable Agriculture Program (2020). Wicking bed management leaflet (Arabic). It covers wicking bed structure, operation, cultivation and crop management (diseases, pest and fertilization).
- Sustainable Agriculture Program (2020). Booklets (Arabic). This booklet focused on the milk derivatives processing (mainly Jameed).
- Sustainable Agriculture Program (2020). Booklets (Arabic). This booklet focused on the best farm management.
- Sustainable Agriculture Program (2020). Computing guides (Arabic). This is a practical and simple guide to use the composting bin.

4.9 Social Media

- Good Governance Program (2020). Financial Transparency Index Website. www.fti.arij.org
- Good Governance Program (2020). Testimonial Video: Right to Health Public Campaign.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Animation Video: Right to Health Public Campaign.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Video: International Day of Cooperatives 2020.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Video: International Youth Day 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign video: Akaba cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2020). Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign video: Arab Al sawahra cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2020). Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign video: Sourif cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2020). Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign video: KuferThulth cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2020). Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign video: Burken cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2020). Voices from Rural Palestine Campaign video: Bani Na'im cooperative
- Good Governance Program (2020). Four Video Testimonies from Women Coops.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Poster: International Rural Woman Day 2020
- Good Governance Program (2020). Promotional Videos for 13 cooperatives.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can’t Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign’s billboard.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can’t Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign’s animation video.
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can’t Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign’s video

- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can't Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign's press releases
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can't Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign's newspaper posters
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can't Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign's T.V Programs
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can't Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign's Radio Programs
- Good Governance Program (2020). Land can't Flourish/Survive Without Us (women) campaign's Radio Spots.
- 1 Radio advertisement spots about water conservation messages
- 3 TV episode about Wastewater management
- 1 animation video about the important of Treated waste water reuse in agriculture
- 3 posters regarding Palestinian water management.
- Awareness Facebook posts on ARIJ social media and other related partners in regards to climate change and environmental protection, water conservation and Hygiene practices

الملخص التنفيذي

في عام 2020، واصل معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية – القدس (أريج) نشر رسالته الهادفة الى تعزيز التنمية المستدامة في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة على الرغم من انتشار جائحة كورونا ***"كوفيد 19"*** وتهدف هذه الرسالة إلى زيادة الاعتماد على الذات للشعب الفلسطيني من خلال سيطرة أكبر على موارده الطبيعية. واستمرت أريج في لعب دور رئيسي كمؤسسة وطنية أحدثت تأثيرات كبيرة من خلال طاقمها المؤهل تأهيلا عاليا من خلال مهاراتهم في مجالات الزراعة المستدامة، المياه، معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي والبيئة، الطاقة المتجددة، التمكين الاقتصادي، الحكم الرشيد، البحث والتطوير، مراقبة النشاط الاستيطاني الإسرائيلي، تكنولوجيا المعلومات ونظم المعلومات الجغرافية. ***راجع الخريطة الموجزة التي توضح مناطق تدخلات أريج وعملها (5).***

بمكن وصف عام 2020 بأنه أكثر الأعوام المهمة والحرجة التي واجهتها أريج منذ إنشائها في عام 1990. ففي الشهرين الأولين من عام 2020، عملت أريج على وضع خطة إعادة تأهيل وتطوير لمواجهة تقلص المساحة التي تواجه مؤسسات المجتمع المدني عندما ضرب فيروس كورونا المستجد (كوفيد 19) فلسطين في أوائل آذار 2020 ابتداء من بيت لحم. تم عقد اجتماع طارئ مع موظفي أريج في صباح يوم الخميس 5 أذار 2020 تم خلاله اعتماد خطة طوارئ تسمح للموظفين بالعمل من المنزل والقيام بالأعمال الميدانية كلما أمكن ذلك. قام موظفو أريج من منطقة الخليل بترتيب مكتب مؤقت في مدينة الخليل واستخدموا مكتب شركاؤنا مركز أبحاث الأراضي (LRC) للتواصل والدعم اللوجستي بينما تولى مكتب أريج في طوباس مسؤولية العمل الميداني في شمال الضفة الغربية بالإضافة الى ذلك تم عمل الترتيبات اللازمة لإبقاء المكتب الرئيسي لمعهد الأبحاث التطبيقية – القدس (أريج) مفتوحا مع وجود عدد محدود من الموظفين خلال فترة الإغلاق.

شهد هذا العام أيضا تنفيذ العديد من التدخلات الزراعية والتي ساهمت في تحسين إدارة الموارد الطبيعية المتوفرة والمتاحة والتي يمكن الوصول إليها ومنها الإنتاج الزراعي وتحسين الظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للمزارعين. أدى تكامل البحوث التطبيقية واعتماد الممارسات الزراعية المبتكرة الخضراء والآمنة إلى العديد من النماذج التنموية الزراعية الناجحة والمجدية والمستدامة كما هو موضح بمزيد من التفصيل في برنامج الزراعة المستدامة SAP. في عام 2020 تمكن برنامج الزراعة المستدامة SAP من تنفيذ العديد من التدخلات الزراعية التنموية وتحقيق الصمود الغذائي حيث استفاد من البرنامج 723 أسرة فقيرة ومحتاجة من الريف والمدن (343 أسرة تعيلها امرأة و 380 أسرة يعيلها رجل) بالإضافة الى العمل مع 3 مراكز رعاية وتدريب (تخدم 86 شخصًا) وتزويدهم بأنظمة زراعة مائية كبيرة جماعية الأمر الذي ساعدهم على إنتاج الغذاء لمساكنهم كنموذج تدريبي لفتيات المركز. بالإضافة إلى ذلك عمل البرنامج على تعزيز مشاركة القطاع الخاص لإنشاء مشاريع مشتركة مع صغار المزارعين المتخصصين في سلسلة قيمة إنتاج الخضروات بما في ذلك أصحاب الآبار الارتوازية، غرف التعبئة، نقاط البيع، المشاتل، الموردين وأكثر من 48 تعاونية زراعية في الضفة الغربية.

تم تنفيذ الأنشطة من خلال نهج تشاركي بشكل رئيسي مع وزارة الزراعة الفلسطينية ووزارة التنمية الاجتماعية الفلسطينية وقد ركزت هذه الأنشطة على إدارة الموارد الطبيعية، تنمية وتطوير القطاع الزراعي، الأسر الفقيرة والضعيفة والتعاونيات بالتركيز على دعم قطاع الشباب والنساء في إنشاء الأعمال التجارية الزراعية. ومن ناحية أخرى فقد عقد فريق برنامج الزراعة المستدامة ما مجمعه 189 اجتماعًا تنسيقيًا وأجرى 3128 زيارة ميدانية للمستفيدين من أنشطة الإنتاج الزراعي بالإضافة إلى 37 جلسة تدريبية وورشة عمل ومحاضرة وتدريب عملي لمنفعة 615 شخصًا. أيضًا ركز برنامج الزراعة المستدامة SAP على دعم المزارعين والنساء والشباب بهدف حماية والحفاظ على أعمالهم التجارية الزراعية من خلال التخفيف من التحديات والمخاطر الناتجة عن انتشار جائحة COVID-19. دعم البرنامج 60

مزارعًا (32 ذكورًا و 28 إناثًا) لشراء المدخلات الزراعية المطلوبة و 50 مزارعًا لتسويق 000,320 كغم من الخضروات المنتجة بأسعار عادلة. علاوة على ذلك، نجح معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية – القدس (أريج) وبالتعاون مع 5 منظمات من ائتلاف المؤسسات الزراعية الفلسطينية (PAIC) في توزيع البذور وأشتال الخضروات والأسمدة على أكثر من 6800 عائلة لزراعة حدائقهم المنزلية في الضفة الغربية خلال فترة الإغلاق والتواجد في المنازل نتيجة لظروف جائحة كورونا وعمل هذا النشاط في مساعدة العائلات الفلسطينية على العودة لزراعة حدائقها المنزلية لإنتاج جزء من الخضار بأنفسهم للحد من الآثار الاقتصادية والنفسية لوباء فيروس كورونا. ومن الجدير بالذكر أن معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية – القدس (أريج) يعمل كسكرتير لائتلاف المؤسسات الزراعية الفلسطينية (PAIC).

واصل قسم أبحاث المياه والبيئة (WERD) تنفيذ الأنشطة المتعلقة بتطوير وتعزيز محطة معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي في وادي العروب في منطقة سعير باستخدام عمليات معالجة مياه الصرف الصحي الحمأة النشطة لجعلها أكثر استدامة. كما نفذت الدائرة مشاريع مختلفة تتعلق بتعزيز الوصول إلى مياه الشرب النظيفة والآمنة وتحسين مرافق الصرف الصحي. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، وكاستجابة سريعة لجائحة كورونا COVID-19 هذا العام عمل قسم WERD على مساعدة الفلسطينيين على التعامل مع الوباء من خلال زيادة وتوفير والوصول إلى مرافق وخدمات المياه والصرف الصحي عالية الجودة للمجتمعات الأكثر ضعفاً.

على المستوى الجيوسياسي، واصلت أريج مراقبة جميع الأنشطة الإسرائيلية ذات الصلة في الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة من خلال توفير المعلومات ذات الصلة للوزارات المعنية والمسؤولين المحليين وممثلي البعثات الأجنبية المعتمدة لدى دولة فلسطين بالإضافة إلى منظمات المجتمع المدني الدولية بما في ذلك منظمات المجتمع المدني المحلي والقواعد الشعبية والمنظمات تمثلت في توفير البيانات الإحصائية والتقارير والخرائط والسجلات الجغرافية لمجموعة متنوعة من الأغراض وتضمنت حصيلة الفترة المشمولة إصدار 611 دراسة حالة، 366 تقريرًا يوميًا، 12 تقريرًا شهريًا، 4 تقارير ربع سنوية من خلال تنفيذ 49 زيارة ميدانية لمواقع مختلفة في الضفة الغربية وجمع 483 أمرًا عسكريًا. علاوة على ذلك فقد تم إجراء 355 مقابلة إذاعية وتلفزيونية، نشر 131 مقالة في الصحف ومواقع إخبارية إلكترونية، عمل 16 محاضرة عبر المنصات المختلفة، عمل 9 تقارير خاصة و 5 Info Graphs حيث تم بالمحصلة النهائية نشر جميع التقارير والمواد على الموقع الإلكتروني لأريج (ARIJ.org) والتي سجلت ما يقرب من 36 مليون زيارة من قبل المهتمين للصفحة الإلكترونية للمعهد ومتابعة قناة اليوتيوب التابعة للمعهد أيضا.

استمر برنامج الحكم الرشيد في أريج العمل على أرض الواقع من أجل ضمان أن تستند الأولويات السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية وحصولها على إجماع واسع في المجتمع الفلسطيني وأن أصوات الأكثر فقرا وضعفاً يتم سماعها في عملية صنع القرار بالاستناد الى استراتيجية معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية – القدس (أريج) للأعوام 2018-2022 وتعزيز الحكم الرشيد والديمقراطية في فلسطين. في عام 2020، واصل برنامج الحكم الرشيد العمل مع أكثر من 1008 مستفيد (71 ذكر و 937 أنثى) في 68 تجمعا في الضفة الغربية للسنة التاسعة على التوالي، كما عمل البرنامج على تحسين ممارسات وقدرات الحكم الرشيد بين البلديات والتعاونيات والوزارات والمنظمات المجتمعية. في العام 2020، أجرى برنامج الحكم الرشيد 35 زيارة ميدانية للتعاونيات، 131 زيارة للبلديات، 5 زيارات للوزارات التي يتم التعاون معها في تنفيذ الأنشطة، 5 زيارات لمجالس الخدمات المشتركة، 40 زيارة لمنظمات المجتمع المدني والمؤسسات المجتمعية. علاوة على ذلك، فقد واصل البرنامج العمل على مؤشر الشفافية المالية (FTI) منذ العام 2018. مؤشر الشفافية المالية (FTI) عمل كآلية للوصول السريع للمعلومات والتحقق من شفافية وثائق الموازنة العامة للهيئات المحلية في 30 بلدية مستهدفة وهاذا العمل مرتبط بطريقة وثيقة بالهدف رقم 16 من أهداف التنمية المستدامة (السلام والعدالة والمؤسسات القوية).

علاوة على ذلك فان برنامج الحكم الرشيد في أريج كان عاقدا العزم بأن البيئة التمكينية للقطاع التعاوني أن لا تتضرر أو يتأثر عملها نتيجة لجائحة كورونا COVID-19. لقد كان التأكد من عدم استخدام الجائحة والوباء بأي شكل من الأشكال لتعزيز أي مصلحة على مصلحة التعاونيات التي نعتبرها كأولوية قصوى. وبناءً على ذلك، فقد نفذ البرنامج أربع مبادرات تتعلق بالمناصرة على المستوى الوطني هدفت إلى تحسين التنسيق بين أصحاب المصلحة والجهات الفاعلة في القطاع التعاوني ودعت إلى إدخال تعديلات على القانون التعاوني لعام 2017.

تنبع قوة أريج من روح التعاون وحسن النية والقضية المشتركة التي يمتاز بها موظفي أريج، الهيئة الإدارية، الهيئة العامة والمانحين والشركاء. وأخيرًا وليس أخرا والأهم من ذلك أن الأنشطة المخطط لها لبرامج أريج لعام2021 ستشمل على سبيل المثال لا الحصر البحث عن أفكار لأبحاث جديدة وأبحاث تطويرية بالإضافة الى مشاريع تجريبية مبتكرة تصب في شعار أريج "نحو فلسطين مستدامة" بما يتماشى مع أهداف التنمية المستدامة.

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