

# **ANNUAL REVIEW 2019-20**

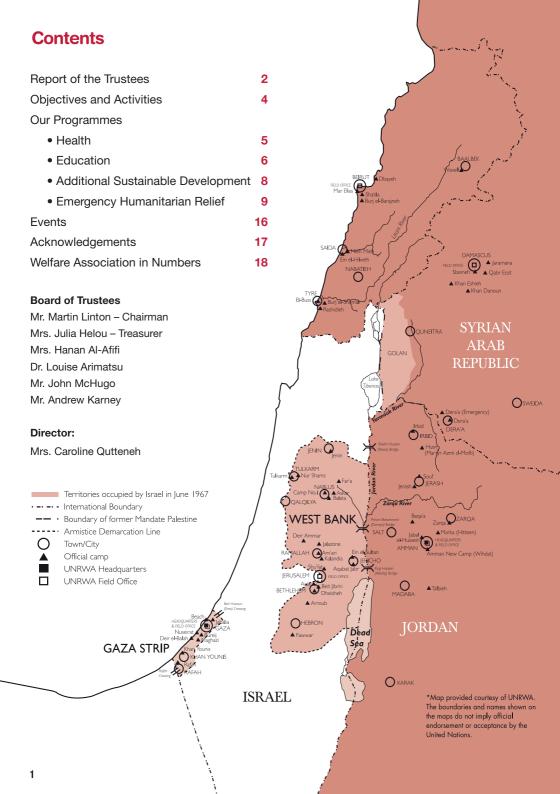






Humanitarian and Development Projects for Palestinians

Registered Charity No. 1020238



## **Report of the Trustees 2019-20**

The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs states that: some 2.4 million people have been identified as in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020, that is one in every two Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Gaza Strip faces a chronic humanitarian crisis, impacting the livelihoods and access to essential services of its two million residents. This crisis has been driven by over 12 years of an Israeli blockade (of the land, air and sea); this continuing blockade is a denial of basic human rights in contravention of international law and amounts to collective punishment. It severely restricts imports and exports, the movement of people in and out of Gaza, and access to agricultural land and fishing waters, as well as separating communities and families. The blockade, together with an unresolved internal Palestinian divide, and high numbers of casualties injured in the wars on Gaza and in the Great Return Marches, has reduced Gaza to a state of man-made permanent crisis. This was before the onset of coronavirus in 2020 and the impact of lockdown and rising numbers of coronavirus cases in Gaza.

Gaza's two million residents face conditions of destitution. Some 70% of them are refugees, half are under 18 years of age and 70% are



women and children. Estimates in June 2019 indicated that 46.7% of the population is unemployed, 80% live below the poverty line, 69% are food insecure, and four in five are dependent on aid. In 2019, the economy in Gaza saw an increase of 1.8%, after a fall of 7% in 2018.

Reinvigorating the economy is limited by overwhelming deficiencies in the infrastructure, particularly in the energy and water sectors, already in critical states prior to the bombardment of Gaza in July 2014. This left thousands homeless, forcing them to move in with relatives and unable to support their basic needs as thousands more lost their livelihoods.

In terms of health, the recommendation by the World Health Organisation is 100 litres of water per capita per day. The average amount of piped water supplied during the first half of 2019 was almost 78 litres per person per day, compared to 72 in the same period in 2018.

The piped water in Gaza is not fit for human consumption and so 90% of households purchase water from desalination/purification plants, delivered by water tankers, for drinking and cooking. Hospitals and healthcare centres in Gaza remain critically overstretched, severely underfunded, lacking key drugs and often reliant on run-down equipment that requires urgent replacement.

Palestinians in the West Bank are subject to a complex system of control, including physical (the barrier, checkpoints, roadblocks) and bureaucratic barriers (permits, closure of areas) which restrict their right to freedom of movement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/hrp\_2020.pdf (Accessed 31.1.2020)

The expansion of Israeli settlements, restrictions on access to land and natural resources and ongoing displacement due to demolitions in particular, are continuing. Israeli policies curtail the ability of Palestinians in Area C and East Jerusalem to plan their communities and build homes and infrastructure.

Lebanon is facing an economic crisis and conditions deteriorated at the end of 2019 and inflation rates increased. The Lebanese Pound lost 30-50% of its value pre-Covid-19, resulting in a reduction in purchasing power and further contraction of the economy is foreseen.

Unemployment rates are rising with estimates that more than 200,000 have lost their jobs, while many more are paid half-salaries or less. The most marginalised families have been hardest hit. In Lebanon, there are 475,075 Palestine refugees3 registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), with 180,000 estimated to be living in the country in the 12 UNRWA refugee camps and the 42 gatherings around them. Conditions in the camps are very poor, with overcrowding, inadequate housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to justice. The gatherings are home to the most vulnerable communities, with shack-like dwellings and extreme poverty for the overwhelming majority. As Palestine refugees are not formally citizens of another state, they are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon. Palestine refugees are also not allowed to work in as many as 39 professions and cannot own property.

The twice-displaced Palestinian refugees from Svria (PRS) are some of the most vulnerable. Numbering over 28.800 in total in Lebanon<sup>4</sup>, these families have found shelter in any remaining space in the refugee camps and gatherings, with 33% in Saida, 19% in Beirut, 17% in Tyre, 16% in the Bekaa Valley and 15% in Tripoli<sup>5</sup>. Approximately 40% are under 18 years of age and the overall gender ratio is 50:50<sup>6</sup>. They occupy some of the most inadequate shelter, unsuitable for human habitation. These families reach Lebanon with very few personal assets, household items or seasonally appropriate clothing and the cost of living in Lebanon is notably higher than in Syria. The majority of these families are unable to find work and are largely dependent on humanitarian aid



Lebanon was further devasted on 4th August 2020, when a warehouse containing large quantities of poorly stored ammonium nitrate exploded at the Beirut port. Damage was reported more than 20 kilometres from the port area; the port housed Beirut's main grain silos which were also destroyed. More than 190 people died, more than 6,000 were injured and over 300,000 people were left homeless.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.ochaopt.org/location/west-bank (Accessed 3.2.2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> as of 1 Jan 2019. https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/lebanon (Accessed 5.2.2020)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin Lebanon, Issue 34 - 25 February 2019 (Accessed July 2019)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Profiling the vulnerability of Palestine refugees from Syria living in Lebanon", by Sawsan Abdulrahim and Jana Harb, published by UNRWA (2015); http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9684

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UNRWA Department of Relief & Social Services PRS Statistics 10 October 2014, disseminated to partners via email

The estimated cost of the destruction is over US\$6 billion. Welfare Association is supporting Karantina Hospital, which is located 400 metres from the blast site. This hospital is the central hub for the provision of medical services for some of the poorest families in Lebanon, who do not have health insurance.

It is essential that basic services, facilities and opportunities are available to these families and communities in Palestine and Lebanon. In response to these protracted humanitarian crises, which have rendered more families in urgent need, WA has continued its emergency programmes. WA field staff and local partners work with communities to develop and adapt programmes appropriately, to ensure that they continue to provide the most effective support.

During 2019 the charity raised a total of £2,125,824 from the general public, the British Council, and a number of trusts and foundations in the UK and overseas. Emergency grants to restore farmers' livelihoods in Gaza totalled £227,145. These enabled more than 300 struggling farmers to restore and replant their land, and then to harvest and to sell their crops generating an income. The emergency fresh food distribution grant of £208,998, provided food packages to 1,845 impoverished families in Gaza each week for five weeks during Ramadan, and bought the fresh produce in them from local farmers.

A fundraising Gala Dinner at the end of 2019 in the House of Commons raised more than £200,000, and will fund important programmes such as Gaza Community Based Rehabilitation Project and Al-Aqsa Schools in Jerusalem. These funds have been allocated in 2020.

It is worth noting that funds of US\$1.5 million were received at the end of 2018, from a very generous legacy from the estate of Mr. A. M.



Al-Qattan. These were restricted to a special educational scholarship for under-privileged students at the Ramallah Friends School in Palestine and to support WA project operational costs in Palestine and Lebanon.

operational costs in Palestine and Lebanon. These funds were carried forward and allocated by June 2019. The total amount spent in 2019 was £3,126,334.

## **Objectives and Activities**

Welfare Association's main objectives are the advancement of education, the relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, and the relief of poverty, particularly for the benefit of the communities in the West Bank and Gaza.

The review in the following pages focusses on the activities of the financial year from 1st January - 31st December 2019. The main programme sectors of WA are health, education, additional sustainable development and emergency humanitarian relief



## **Programmes in 2019:**

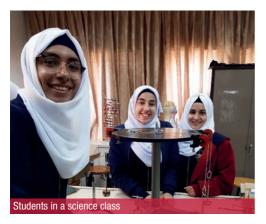
- Health: Including addressing sight issues for young children.
- Education: Supporting impoverished students, the public education programmes at the Palestinian Museum, and helping to improve educational facilities for students. A component of training and capacity building runs through many of our programmes, with the aim of upgrading local skills and ensuring self-sustainability when the programme ends.
- Additional Sustainable Development: Including building restoration and livelihoods support.
- Emergency Humanitarian Relief: A
   number of emergency programmes overlap
   other sectors. Emergency programmes
   in 2019 include: livelihoods restoration for
   Gaza farmers, distribution of food packages
   in Gaza, winter clothing for children in Gaza
   and winter fuel for marginalised families in
   the Bekaa Valley.
- Focused UK Advocacy: Raising awareness of needs, our programmes and the situation affecting our project beneficiaries overseas.

### Health

Addressing Sight Difficulties for Young Children in Kindergartens and Schools in Gaza

This six-month project began in October 2019 to provide evesight screening services for 3.000 children, as there is no national screening programme for sight and hearing impairments for young children in Gaza aged 0-5 years old. Vision impairments that go undetected can affect a child's development and mobility. Children with sight issues will often experience difficulties in reading and writing and their academic achievement can drop. leading to psychological issues and emotional and behavioural problems. The early care and treatment of children born with sight and hearing disabilities is important to maximise health and development, mobility, language acquisition and improve sensory skills. In this project, sight examinations will be conducted for over 3,000 children in Kindergartens, special education centres and schools. It is expected that at least 300 children will require prescription glasses and they will go with their parents to choose the frame they prefer. Children with eye conditions / infections will be provided with the medications they require. If there are children with more

serious eye conditions, they will be referred to a local hospital for follow-up. This project has a positive impact on the children's ability to fully participate in school, with increased confidence and participation in the classroom and improved friendships and inclusion in playtime activities.



### **Education**

#### Upgrading Al Eman Girls School, Jerusalem

This six-month project at Al Eman School was completed in June 2019. These schools have approximately 2,000 students and have achieved 100% success rates in science and arts streams for boys and girls for many years. Al Eman Schools were first established in East Jerusalem in 1984, and there are now several schools serving the marginalised communities in East Jerusalem. The schools are active in their communities and educate their students to become effective citizens with good manners. knowledge and a range of skills. The school supported in this project was established in 1991 in Shu'fat in East Jerusalem, three miles north of the Old City of Jerusalem. Shu'fat has a population of 35,000 residents. The school has classes from the 7th to the 12th grades for 297 students, with a highly qualified team including the principal and 26 teachers. This project contributed to

renovating the learning environment and improving the educational opportunities for the students, through the provision of urgently needed resources for the science laboratory and the library.

# Leila Miqdadi Al-Qattan Scholarship Fund at the Ramallah Friends School

Ramallah Friends School (RFS) is a leading educational institution in the Palestinian community. The Lower School was founded in 1869 and the upper campuses founded in 1901. The late Mrs Leila Miqdadi Al-Qattan (1934-2015) was a former pupil at the school and her wish was to safeguard educational opportunities at RFS for future generations. In memory of his wife, Mr Abdel Mohsin Al-Qattan established the Leila Miqdadi Al-Qattan Scholarship fund at RFS.

Welfare Association received the final commitment to this scholarship fund through a legacy from his estate. This fund will support academically exceptional students from economically disadvantaged families, so they may attend school until graduation. Following the planning and preparation stages by RFS in 2019, this scholarship programme began in 2020.

# Supporting Higher Education in the West Bank

With increased financial hardship and high unemployment rates, Palestinian students are at risk of dropping out of university. WA received a special grant for Birzeit University to support particularly marginalised students, enabling them to continue their studies so that severe financial hardship did not cause them to drop out. Eight students from a number of departments including Mechanical Engineering, Accounting and Media and Languages are being assisted and a couple completed the final stage of their course and were able to graduate.



#### Educational Programmes at the Palestinian Museum

The final year of this three-year project began in March 2019, focussing on educational activities around the exhibition Intimate Terrains. The exhibition featured artworks by 36 Palestinian artists spanning several decades, the oldest work being by Tawfiq Jawharieh from 1930, up to a newly commissioned piece by Sliman Mansour. The public education programmes accompanying Intimate Terrains were launched on 1st April 2019 and continued until the closing of the exhibition on 31st December 2019. Exceeding its target of 56 events, the museum ultimately organised and held 71 events, attended by students, families, academics, artists and professionals. Through its education programme, the museum welcomed 4,367 school students from over 100 public, private and UNRWA schools, in addition to 497 university students on specialised tours of the exhibition. In total, the Education, Public, and Knowledge programme events were attended by 10,874 visitors. The programme events were developed according to monthly themes: April: The Ecosystem; May: Representations of Palestine; June: Visual Arts; July: Cultural Heritage; August: Geography; September: Architecture; October: Movement; November: Literature; and December: History.

# Establishing a Conservation Studio at the Palestinian Museum

Funded by the British Council this nine-month project began in April 2019 to establish and equip a conservation studio, and to train staff to conserve historically important paper-based documents in the West Bank. Since the beginning of the 20th century, a vast amount of Palestinian cultural heritage has been lost or destroyed in past and present conflicts in Palestine. What remains is under threat, as historically significant documents are fragile and easily damaged if not properly handled and stored. The ongoing political instability and conflict throughout Palestine means documents are constantly at risk. The conservation team at the Palestinian Museum have been trained and mentored by conservation experts from the British Library. Throughout the project the team have been able to treat and conserve 3,060 items from important collections.

During the project the museum arranged 14 educational tours and two lectures, to inform students, academics and professionals of the importance of, and techniques used in, conservation. A specialised workshop on archive conservation was held in August 2019, with 26 researchers and professionals attending. Two activities for families were organised in October and November 2019 and included a visit to the conservation studio with conservation techniques demonstrated. The museum also arranged school visits, including 577 students from 14 different schools across Palestine, on a tour of the conservation studio, with learning



and engagement activities using conservation handbooks. Additionally, 50 students from Birzeit University and 55 from Al Najah University toured the studio and learned of its important role in cultural heritage conservation.

# Additional Sustainable Development

#### West Bank Childcare Programme

This project began in April 2019 to support the access of up to 1,800 marginalised children (the majority have lost one or both parents), to an adequate standard of living through the provision of key food, hygiene and school items. WA also helped these children to access basic educational services and safeguarded the children and their guardians through awareness-raising and support. The project is providing vouchers each quarter which are exchanged for food, hygiene and educational items in pre-qualified stores. There is a pre-arranged list of items the vouchers may be exchanged for. The project also helps build the capacity of small/medium shopkeepers by supporting them and systemising their work, enabling them to secure an income. The food and hygiene vouchers are provided throughout the year. 'Back to school' vouchers are provided in August and exchanged for school uniform. books and other educational items, to prepare the children for the start of the new school year.

#### A Legacy from Mr. A. M. Al-Qattan for Programme Implementation Costs in Palestine and Lebanon

The Welfare Association was originally established and registered in Geneva in 1983, with an emergency programme assisting Palestinian families in Lebanon, following the Sabra and Shatilla massacres of 1982. The board members were Palestinian businessmen and philanthropists of the diaspora. Over the years that followed, WA expanded with a range of humanitarian and development projects in Palestine and in Lebanon. In 1993, Welfare Association established a UK

office in London, registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales. Mr Abdel Mohsen Al-Qattan was one of the original founding members of the Welfare Association and a very generous contributor to its success and achievements throughout his life.

A number of the original WA founders contributed to the establishment of an endowment fund in Geneva, to secure some of the ongoing programmes' operational costs in Palestine and Lebanon, and also to cover funding gaps in emergencies. This has enabled WA to rapidly respond and be f irst on-scene providing aid, essential services and supplies, in times of crisis. At the end of 2018, a legacy was received from the estate of Mr. A. M. Al-Oattan as a further contribution to his lifetime of commitment to the Palestinian people and the Welfare Association. This grant. for the purpose of supporting WA field office costs in Palestine and Lebanon, was allocated in 2019.



# The Restoration of Al Arghuniyyah Façade in the Old City of Jerusalem

This project was completed in February 2019 and restored parts of an historic Mamluk era building dating back to 1358AD, that is now home to five families. Over the centuries, the building lost its original purpose as a school, and the internal spaces were repurposed as family homes, with subsequent internal changes over many years.



The façade of the building had fallen into a state of extreme disrepair and the families living there were unable to afford the urgent restoration cost. WA partnered with Italian restoration expert Istituto Veneto Per I Beni Culturali and also trained local craftsmen in the particular stonework required for buildings of this era. There is a five-year maintenance plan in place now the project has been successfully completed. 15 tours of Mamluk heritage in the Old City of Jerusalem were arranged for 288 students from five local secondary schools.

# **Emergency Humanitarian Relief**

# Emergency Support for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon for Eid El Adha

This two-month emergency project was completed in September 2019 and provided packages of fresh meat to some of the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS), sheltering in the camps in Lebanon, for the religious festival of Eid Al Adha.

Since the start of the conflict in Syria in 2011, over 1 million refugees have fled to neighbouring Lebanon. Approximately 6,832 PRS have sought refuge in Rashidieh, El Buss, and Burj Al Shemali refugee camps in south Lebanon.

Through this project, WA planned to provide 2kg packages of fresh beef to 1,470 of the most vulnerable families. This includes PRS

## Stories from the field

Ahmad's Story



Ahmad is a 20-year-old Palestinian refugee born in Yarmouk Camp in Damascus, Syria. He is living in Rashidieh camp with his parents and two younger brothers.

Ahmad and his family fled the conflict in Syria and came to Lebanon when he was 13 years old. As he can't afford to enrol in University he works part-time as a delivery boy whenever he can find work. Ever since Ahmad and his family moved to Lebanon, they have relied on support provided by NGOs.

"We just can't afford to buy meat for Adha this year as no one from my family has been able to find work." Ahmad said. "Everyone in my family is struggling to cover our daily living expenses as well as those related to the traditional Eid family meal.

The meat you have provided is a blessing for us this year. I would like to thank everyone working to make our lives easier".

(1,220 families) and the conflict-affected host community, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) (250 families). In total, it anticipated that 7,952 people will directly benefit from this project providing a much-needed nutritious meal for these impoverished families for Eid Al Adha. A hundred more families benefitted than planned, as our WA team in Beirut were able to get a better price for the beef and so were able to buy more packages of beef. The project was able to distribute 2kg of fresh beef to 1,570 families (8,059 individuals).

# Emergency Winter Fuel Assistance for Refugees in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

This three-month project was completed in January 2019 and provided essential winter fuel assistance for struggling families in the Bekaa Valley. At the time, over 1,800 Palestinian refugee families from Syria (over 7,000 individuals) had fled the war there and taken shelter across. the Bekaa region, where there is some of the poorest shelter provision and particularly severe winter weather conditions. The winter brings freezing weather with severe snow and rain storms, which often result in road closures. The project was able to provide 700 Palestinian refugee families from Syria (PRS) and 150 long term Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) with an US\$80 pack of vouchers (4xUS\$20 each). Vouchers were provided in smaller denominations so families could collect the fuel as required. The vouchers were exchanged for heating fuel (which can also be used for cooking) in a local pre-qualified petrol station.



Winter weather was particularly severe in the first quarter of 2019. The 850 families were appreciative of the fuel, which made a huge difference and provided some warmth, especially on the days when the bad weather forced schools to shut and their children had to stay at home.

### **Emergency Winter Support for Families in Gaza**

This three-month emergency project was completed in February 2019 and addressed the urgent needs of some of the most marginalised families and their children in Rafah, southern Gaza. The project planned to provide 157 families with a double pack of heavy-duty winter blankets and 471 children with warm winter clothing to protect them against the harsh weather conditions.

WA was able to increase the number of project beneficiaries as the price of goods was reduced in Gaza, and also as additional funds were raised in the Christmas Emergency Appeal. The project was rapidly implemented just after the main winter shopping rush in Gaza and so the WA Gaza team received very good offers during the tendering phase, when shopkeepers wanted to sell their remaining winter stock and prepare for incoming spring stock.

As a result, more families and their children could be included in this project. Double packs of winter blankets were provided to an additional 65 families, bringing the total beneficiaries to 222 families. Winter clothing packages were provided to an additional 195 children bringing the total to 666 children.

Families were provided with vouchers and went with their children to choose the correct sizes and their preferred fabrics, colours and styles. The project very effectively supported the well-being of beneficiaries, keeping families warm and so less susceptible to winter colds, flu and more serious illnesses. Each child received the following: a winter jacket, jeans, 2 sweaters, pyjamas, 3 pairs of socks, 2 sets of underwear, plus hat, scarf and gloves.

## Stories from the field

# Mohammed's Story



Mohammed's family in Gaza live in a dilapidated house in Al Mawasi, west of Rafah, very close to the border with Egypt. In winter living in the house becomes a challenge for the family, as well as a risk to the children's health as it is very cold due to its proximity to the sea and rain leaks into the house through the cracked walls, broken roofing and old broken windows.

Mohammed, the father of three children, is unemployed and unable to find work. His family received some food assistance from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Mohammed said "This project provided us with warmth. The blankets are very good quality and help keep my children warm. My children chose the items they liked for themselves and were very happy. When they tried the clothes on they refused to take them off and returned home still wearing their new clothes! They also wore them to school the next day. Thank you for bringing warmth and joy to my children."

# Emergency Support for Gaza Farmers' Livelihoods

Background: Agriculture is one of the most critical sectors for Palestine as it contributes significantly to income, exports, food security and job creation. However, due to ongoing conflict, political instability and land loss, Palestinian farmers have been unable to cover their basic costs, let alone earn a regular income. Consequently, support for restoring and developing sustainable agriculture in the West Bank and Gaza is essential.

Destruction of Agricultural Land and Property and its Impact: Since 2000, the agriculture sector has sustained huge losses with the destruction of land and property during Israeli military operations and land incursions. Between September 2000 and December 2005, the Israeli military bulldozed 13,454 dunums of planted agricultural lands in Gaza and destroyed other agricultural construction and assets, with total losses of US\$295.5 million<sup>7</sup>. More than one million trees in Gaza were uprooted following the start of the second intifada8. After the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, the Israeli government imposed an Access Restricted Area (ARA) along the Israeli borders, which constitutes 17% of Gaza's total area and 35% of Gaza's agricultural land9. During Operation Cast Lead in 2008/2009, the agriculture sector sustained damages of US\$180.7 million, causing almost 30% of the agricultural workers (11,600 people) to lose their jobs<sup>10</sup>.

The agriculture sector in Gaza further sustained over US\$100 million of damage during Israeli military operation 'Pillar of Defence' in 2012. In 2014 damages totalled US\$550 million¹¹ during Israeli military operation 'Protective Edge', with the destruction of cultivated land, greenhouses, livestock and poultry farms, water wells, irrigation networks and other productive



assets. Fishermen lost equipment and were denied access to the sea during and after the war, devastating their earning capacity and making their households highly food insecure. Losses in agriculture were in fruit tree production, greenhouse production, crops, livestock, stored products and fishing revenues.

# WA has prioritised activities to restore the livelihoods of farmers in Palestine.

In 2019 three projects supported over 300 farmers and their families in Gaza:

# 1. Emergency Support to Restore the Livelihoods of Marginalised Farmers in Gaza 2018/19

This nine-month project was completed in June 2019 and restored the livelihoods of 47 farmers in the middle of Gaza. Project activities included: assessing and verifying the needs of farmers and prioritising 47 farmers to be included in the project; recruiting 27 local farm workers to assist in key activities (employed for 904 days, generating an income for their families also); clearing and ploughing the land; installing irrigation networks and planting seedlings. Farmers were provided

with expert technical advice on which types of crops to plant according to: soil type, availability of water and gaps in local markets, to ensure quality and quantity of crops is maximised. This enabled farmers to secure a reasonable sales price and bring a regular income for their families. In this project 94 dunums<sup>12</sup> of land were rehabilitated and planted. The majority of these crops were harvested to coincide with the WA Ramadan Fresh Foods Distribution project – so the farmers had an instant market for their crops.

As well as linking some of the farmers to other marketing channels, a number of farmers also managed to restore links with their previous markets. By June 2019, the planted assets yielded 113 tons of crops, including 40,000 units of lettuce, cabbage, corn and cauliflowers! Some of the vegetables continued to grow beyond the project completion date and the farmers continued to harvest. This project enabled farmers to successfully return to their original profession, it restored their assets and livelihoods.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 2007\_agricutlure\_sector\_review\_arabic\_lr.pdf https://goo.gl/SenPI5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Besieged Palestinian Agricultural Sector, UNCTAD, 2015

<sup>9</sup> Access Restricted Areas (ARA) In The Gaza Strip, July 2013, OCHA https://goo.gl/UxCslS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> One Year After Report, Gaza Early Recovery and Reconstruction Needs Assessment https://goo.gl/m76UY6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Gaza Initial Rapid Assessment, OCHA. https://goo.gl/PIV5mX

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> One dunum of land is approximately one thousand square metres

# 2. Emergency Support to Restore the Livelihoods of Marginalised Farmers in Southern Gaza 2019/20

This one-year project began in July 2019 and is restoring the livelihoods of 200 struggling farmers in southern Gaza, enabling them to be self-sufficient and generate a regular income to support their families. Each farmer will have two dunums of land planted. The works include land clearing, ploughing, installation of irrigation networks and planting.

Technical advice and support is provided to select the crops according to soil type, water availability and gaps in the local market, to maximise the quality and quantity of crops and the farmers' sales and subsequent income. Intercropping techniques (i.e. planting fruit trees along with the vegetables, as the fruit trees will give continuous production after several years, while vegetables are quicker to harvest and with an earlier and more regular production), are used so that several types of fruit and vegetables are planted and crops can be harvested at different times to generate a more regular income throughout the year.

The project will also provide daily paid work for unemployed labourers, giving them a much-needed income for their families too. By the end of 2019: 538 farmers applied to this project, and 200 were prioritised (132 men and 68 women), in line with the project's criteria to support those most vulnerable, and works were underway on 100 dunums of land, with 50 dunums already ploughed and planted. 180 working days were created for unemployed labourers already in these project interventions.

## 3. Emergency Support to Restore the Livelihoods of Marginalised Farmers in Northern Gaza 2019/20

This project, running from 1st October 2019 through to the end of April 2020, is providing emergency assistance to 72 struggling farmers,



by rehabilitating 144 dunums of damaged agricultural land and restoring productivity. Activities include: contracting local partners in targeted areas; conducting needs assessments to prioritise 72 farmers; verifying the rehabilitation works required and preparing the Bill of Quantities for required materials and services; providing the materials required for rehabilitation works following the procurement process; completing rehabilitation works of 144 dunums including: clearing, ploughing, laying irrigation networks, planting seedlings and fertilisers.

By the end of 2019, 204 applications had been received from local farmers and 72 farmers were selected in Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia and Jabalya, and already by then 40 of the 144 dununs were cleared and replanted. This project is planned so that the harvesting of crops is linked to the Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels project. Crops will be harvested in line with the earlier date of Ramadan in 2020. As soon as the bad winter weather in Gaza ended, a team of 48 farm workers has already been recruited to speed up the completion of tasks.

### Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels: Distribution of Emergency Food Packages to Impoverished Families in Gaza

This five-month project began in April 2019 and provided support for some of the poorest families in four marginalised areas of Gaza (Tuffah, Zaitoun, Beach Camp and Tal Al Hawa).

## Stories from the field

Jamal is a farmer with a large family of eight sons. Jamal takes care of his wife and one unmarried son, plus his other seven sons also living in his home with their families. They have no other place to live given the destruction in Gaza and their inability to pay rent elsewhere. This results in Jamal caring for his large family of 46 persons. His sons struggle to find work, occasionally finding the odd day's labour, allowing them to buy food for their families.

Jamal owns two dunums of land (2,000 square metres) that he inherited from his father, a life-long farmer. Jamal used to cultivate this land with his sons until the assault on Gaza in 2014, when the land and trees (lemon and fig trees) were destroyed by missile attacks on the area. From then Jamal lost the entire family's source of income, as well as their security and happiness.

When interviewed, Mohammad (Jamal's son, pictured) noted that "This project has literally saved our lives. We love the land and cultivating the land. The

# Jamal's Story



seven of us have been able to return to work again as farmers on our family land. We will replant it all again after this season, as the project has provided us with support to rehabilitate the land and with agricultural assets to re-cultivate it. Our small land yielded 12,000 bundles of radishes, generating an income of around US\$ 6,000. We repaid all the previous debts we had. The project has also facilitated the marketing and selling of our crops; we supplied 2,200 bundles of radishes to the Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels project this year with very fair prices. We thank you for this vital support".

It aimed to reduce hardship by providing 1,000 impoverished families with a regular package of fresh food, thereby supplementing their poor diet and reducing their expenditure on food. It also aimed to protect the livelihoods of those affected by the conflict and the closure policy by buying the freshly harvested crops and other food items for the packages, from 130 small-scale farmers and producers (including female farmers and women's cooperatives).

The project provided a fresh food package containing a range of freshly harvested vegetables, fruit and herbs, together with chicken or eggs, each week for the five weeks

of Ramadan. In the final package a freshly baked pack of Eid cookies prepared by local womens' co-operatives was included, which benefitted 92 women working there so their families could also celebrate Eid.



Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign, the number of families included could be increased, so there were three project cycles with: 1,000 families in cycle 1, a further 260 families in cycle 2, and a further 585 families in the additional location of Rafah, in cycle 3.

The total number of families included in the project went up from the initial 1,000, to 1,845 families. All received fresh food packages for a five-week period and a grand total of 9,225 fresh food packages were distributed in this project!

The freshly harvested crops were purchased from 307 struggling farmers who were working in our projects to restore farmers' livelihoods. The Ramadan Food Parcels project employed 35 local workers who were unable to find work for many months; they assisted in the weighing and packaging of goods, and in the distribution to families.

All of the families were extremely happy and relieved to receive regular food packages for five weeks and their children looked forward to enjoying healthy, nutritional and traditional dishes they had not eaten in a long time. With the inclusion of all the fresh food their diets were improved throughout the project.



## Stories from the field

Barjas Story

Librar - Applied Earlies count of point

1440/2018

Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels - 2019

Supported By Jard

Support

Barjas is the father of five children (two sons and three daughters) who are all in school. Barjas and his family live in a rented house in Jabalia Refugee Camp in the north of Gaza.

He found temporary work as a packager in the Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels project in 2019. He was very happy on his first day at work as it was his first job for several months, although he was searching for work every day.

Barjas heard about this project and registered his name. He was selected by the project team to join the packaging and distribution workers.

When interviewed, Barjas said "I was about to be kicked out of the house. God blessed me through my job in this project at the distribution station, it has enabled me to pay my rent and my family can stay at the house we are renting".

Barjas thanked the WA staff for this project and this opportunity to work, as it has provided an income for him and prevented his family from displacement.

#### **Events**

#### Fundraising Gala Dinner 2019

On the 8th November 2019, Welfare Association held its fundraising Gala Dinner for the Children of Palestine in the House of Commons. The evening began with a reception in the Strangers Dining Room and then dinner in the Members Dining Room. Our event host, Baroness Tonge, provided a warm welcome to Parliament and to Welfare Association's Gala Dinner to over 140 guests.

Mr. Martin Linton, Welfare Association's Chairman, gave the keynote speech, outlining WA's role and essential work and the evening's events.

The evening included an auction where guests were able to pledge donations to WA's children's programmes, a live auction and a Grand Prize Draw, including exciting holidays, fine-dining, and Palestinian embroidery. Special thanks were given to event sponsors, who very generously covered the cost of the entire event, to our supporters who generously donated all the auctioned items, and to a local chocolatier, who provided a luxury box of chocolates for each guest.



Omar Kamal, Palestine's very own Frank Sinatra, provided the high point of the evening with an outstanding selection of songs, ending with the captivating *Mawtini* (My Homeland). The evening was closed by WA's former Chairman Rt. Hon. Clare Short, with some important words on WA's vital work and to thank everyone for their generosity and continued support.



### WA Stall at PALEXPO, Olympia, London

The PALEXPO, known as the biggest Palestine heritage event in Europe, came to London on the 6th and 7th July 2019, to celebrate and showcase Palestinian art, food and culture and discuss the conditions in Palestine that affect families every day.

Welfare Association took a stall to raise awareness of our projects working with Palestinian families and communities in Palestine and Lebanon. Our thanks go to our Trustee Hanan Al-Afifi and to Zane Qutteneh, who volunteered on our stall with us over the weekend and explained our work and how to help to all our visitors.



## **Acknowledgements**

Welfare Association Board members and staff thank every organisation and supporter who has contributed to our programmes and emergency appeals during 2019-20.

Huge thanks to Mr. Omar Al-Qattan, for his continued generosity and support in providing us with free office accommodation.

With our thanks to all our volunteers who have assisted us and to our Gala Dinner Event Ambassadors including: Sarkis, Stephan, Harriet, Mary, Deryn, Andrew, Judith, Tim, Farrah, Zane, Maria and Ken.

Thank you, we couldn't do it without you!

## **Welfare Association In Numbers**

Income and Expenditure in 2019 (1st Jan – 31 Dec 2019)

#### Income:

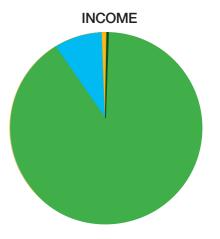
Restricted Programme Funds: £1,891,958

General Donations: £202,240

Other Activities: £22,400

Investment: £9,226

Total income: £2,125,824



## **Expenditure:**

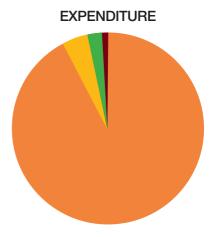
Restricted Programme Grants: £2,940,475

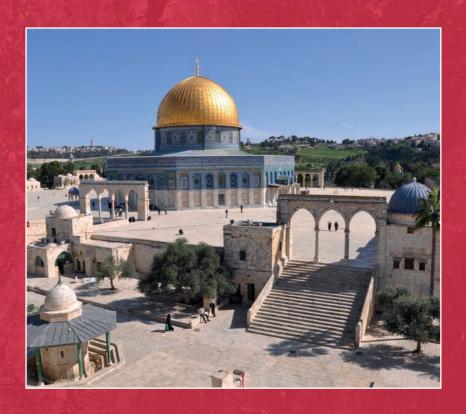
Project Activity Costs: £104,150

Cost of Generating Funds: £49,708

Awareness Raising: £32,001

Total expenditure: £3,126,334





# WELFARE SI ASSOCIATION

**Humanitarian and Development Projects for Palestinians** 

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