West Bank  
P.O. Box: 25128 Shu‘fat Jerusalem  
Email: parc@pal-arc.org - Email: parc@parc.ps  
www.pal-arc.org  www.parc.ps  

Gaza  
P.O. Box: 225 Gaza  
Email: parc-arc-gaza@pal-arc.org - Email: parc-gaza@parc.ps  

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PARC at a glance:

Vision:
The Agriculture Development Association (PARC) is a pioneer national development organization with a regional orientation and firm commitment to rural and agricultural development, social justice and national liberation.

Mission
To develop the agricultural sector, strengthen the resilience of farmers, reach out to the poor and marginalized groups, mobilize, develop and empower the rural people to control their resources. A top-notch staff and loyal volunteers work shoulder to shoulder to have our mission complete through creative leading programs cemented by transparent management and technical practices in pursuit of a free democratic Palestinian society that is rock-bedded on the value system of social justice.

Development Objective:
To attain a strong Palestinian rural communities fortified by their agricultural sector and reinforced by sovereignty over resources.
### Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nassir Abu Al-Atta</td>
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<td>Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohamad Brigheith</td>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Ramallah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abd Al Rahman Al Tamimi</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ramallah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mohammed Alnaqa</td>
<td>Vice Treasurer</td>
<td>Khanyounis</td>
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<td>Nassir Al-Far</td>
<td>Secretary General</td>
<td>Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manal Al-Shamali</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Jabalia</td>
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<td>Khalil Qankar</td>
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<td>Hashem Barahmeh</td>
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<td>Ahlam Khdair</td>
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<td>Sameih Muhsain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahmoud Abu Ajeneh</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Beit Lahya</td>
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<td>Ghassan Ghanem</td>
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<td>Asma Al Atawneh</td>
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### Supervision Committee

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<tr>
<td>Sami Daoud</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Nablus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salam Al Zagha</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Nablus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saher Sarsor</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Salfit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayad Albatnij</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Shuja’ieh</td>
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Board of Directors’ Message
Palestinians have gone through major challenges during 2018; one of the most significant out of these was the deal of the century. It negatively impacted all life aspects including the economic, social and political ones. It also impacted all components of the Palestinian people including the authority, the government, NGOs, and private sector institutions. These circumstances together forced each territory to suffer from new and intertwined crises led by the USA, which is also known as the first and most significant supporter of the occupation government, Israel.

However, PARC continued to put forward the effort needed as a Palestinian nongovernmental social institution, which is specialized in agriculture and sustainable rural development. Moreover, PARC is a Palestinian lever of the Palestinian civil society, and the leader of many activities and events regarding positively influencing the national policies in general, and the agricultural and rural policies in specific.

PARC was distinguished in 2018 with its focus on Jerusalem, approaching it with many leading development projects. The Project to Empower Jerusalemite Youth, funded by the Arab Fund and Taawon, highlights these projects. It awarded USD 1.3 million in over 80 scholarships to young Jerusalemite girls and boys. Furthermore, the valleys and the Gaza Strip took the lion’s share of the concentration and targeting of the projects.

PARC completed its strategic plan in 2018 which covered the years 2015 through 2018. It started preparing the new strategic plan of the years 2019 to 2022, providing a quantum leap forward and standing out with its work. It also keeps pace with the new positive developments that took place in the agricultural and rural sectors. Alongside, it has cherished and gathered considerable experiences for decades and protected its deep roots in the Palestinian countryside. It has always favored smaller farmers of men and women and supported the private sector which serves them and addresses their qualitative and quantitative requirements.

As for the Gaza Strip, it still enjoys the greatest focus of the work of PARC through monitoring the budgets and the qualitative activities for the Gaza Strip. The institution benefits the Gaza Strip through protecting the institution in a unified manner on the level of the BoD and Executive Management, and through remaining unimpaired by the division process.
**PARC Approach for 2019:**
1. Finalizing the strategic plan for the years 2019-2022.
2. Handling the outcomes of the evaluation of the institution.
3. Focusing on the cooperatives’ work.
4. Focusing on developing the idea of business accelerators in cooperation with partner universities and the private sector.
5. Increasing in the Membership of the General Assembly.
6. Developing the portfolio of PARC properties.
7. Cooperating and coordinating with the partner institutions including the privately owned ones.
8. Carrying on with concentrating on Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip and Area C.

**Summary of the Most Significant Causes Solved by the BoD during 2018:**
2. Supervising the comprehensive assessment of the works of the institution during the past decade.
4. Setting the institution plan 2018.
6. Amending and developing the structure, and creating the post of the Vice General Manager.
7. Handling the institution works after the resignation of the General Manager.
8. Adjusting the positions of the Higher Administration in the institution.
9. Operating the Membership Committee in the General Assembly, and agreeing on expanding the Membership in the forthcoming session.
10. Operating the Properties Committee, and proposing new ideas regarding properties management.
11. Cementing the relationship with the owned companies by the PARC (Al-Reef for Investment and Agricultural Marketing Company, Reef Finance).
12. Building relationships with our partners (Youth Development Association (YDA), Rural Women’s Development Society, and the Palestinian Farmers’ Union).
13. Engaging the members of the BoD with several grass-roots and field-based activities.
14. Representing the institution in a number of local events, official meetings and conferences and activities.
15. Participating in and supervising generous tendering that fall within the responsibility of the BoD.
16. Participating in the special events of the institution on the PARC establishment thirty-fifth anniversary.
17. Supervising of Gaza campaign.

**Obstacles Encountered the Bod during 2018:**
1. Incompletion of structuring the institution.
2. Implementation of several changes in the higher positions in the institution.
3. Lack of communication between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
4. Lack of funding some governorates.
5. Late implementation of some projects.
6. Cumulative deficit of cash flow that has lasted for several years.
7. Low productivity of some employees.
8. General changes that took place on the funding environment.

**Recommendations:**
1. Finalizing the structuring of the institution in a clear manner.
2. Working on bringing stability again to the higher positions in the institution.
3. Boosting the communication efficiency between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
4. Recruiting new expertise concerning financing issues.
5. Putting forward extra efforts to implement the project in their due time.
6. Limiting the cash flow deficiency.
7. Conducting a comprehensive assessment on the employees.
Glance at the Palestinian Economic and Social Situation in 2018
Foreword

The year 2018 represents a turning point in the Palestinian historical cause in general, and in the Palestinian struggle to reconstruct the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in specific. Given it was filled with political and social events, starting with the series of the American resolutions and the social security crisis, analytics think it might be the worst year politically, economically and on the human rights level.

One-fourth of a decade passed on Oslo Accords in 2018. The most significant mistake in this experience and the path of “reconciliation” lurks in the outburst of the internal division aspects. Namely, the Palestinian political system failed to maintain its unity and efficiency, much less identifying itself. It is inapt to depend on the system actors, those who created the crisis, to develop “a new National Strategy” and to amend and revive the PLO.

Successive Political Developments:

It was evident since 2015 that the world was drifting to a new historical era and was witnessing dramatic transformations on all levels. Palestine, moreover, lies in the midst of these transformations. The image darkens with the rise of populism, the escalation of the democratic crisis, the danger of climate change, the failure of the democratic transformation wave in the Arab countries, along with the consequences that followed including the wars, foreign interferences and the overall deterioration.

On the Palestinian front, the future appears even darker; given the continuous internal division, the unprecedented occupying cannibalism, the loss of hope and the accompanying different forms of “self harm”. These consequences include “shrinking the public space” for human rights, civil works, activism and freedom of expression.

As a result of the assassination attempt on the motorcade of the Prime Minister after his entrance through Beit Hanoun checkpoint, the reconciliation agreement signed in October 2017 rapidly collapsed. Meanwhile, the Great March of Return began on the 30th of June, and the Palestinian National Council was held in Ramallah. Towards the end of the year, the Palestinian Central Council was held and announced the dissolution of the Legislative Council, and called for holding legislative elections. In the same vein, the racist “Patriot” Act was passed, which started the ball rolling for the Arab normalization with Israel.
On the 14th of May, 2018 president Trump decided to move the American Embassy to the occupied city of Jerusalem after announcing Jerusalem the capital of the occupying state. Correspondingly, the Palestinian president announced a boycott on the United States. These events accompanied approaching the deal of the century, taking the American decisions to cut off the financial support to Palestinians including UNRWA, the Palestinian Authority and NGOs, in addition to closing the PLO Office.

Surveys have shown 241 of martyrs during the Great March of Return including 42 children, 5 women, 3 medical first-responders and 2 journalists. Moreover, it resulted in 25700 injuries, including wounded, suffocated and amputated casualties.

The National and Central Councils though were boycotted by some political parties, issued main resolutions. The main resolutions were to:

a. Stop all kinds of security coordination.
b. Renounce the economic dependence established in the economic agreement of Oslo.
c. Suspend the recognition of Israel.
d. Call for holding an international conference with full powers.
e. End the transitional period including its consequent duties.
f. Reject the deal of the century.
g. Condemn the Israeli attempts towards enshrining the division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and demolishing the possibility of founding an independent Palestinian State with full powers with Jerusalem as its capital.

The year 2018 witnessed the worst Israeli settlement encroachment in the West Bank. Around %42 of the lands of the West Bank and Jerusalem were taken over. The size of the settlement expansion doubled several times since signing Oslo Agreement. The occupying government linked the five settlement blocks with bypass roads that are over 1400 km in length, which was established after the confiscation over thousands of dunams of the Palestinian lands. Furthermore, the occupation made up “the sterile roads” that are specifically designed for the use of the settlers in the West Bank, through which Palestinians are banned to drive. The occupation took over the majority of the valleys (%28 of the West Bank). Moreover, it is trying to take over %60 of the West Bank.

The attacks of the settlers significantly increased to the point they started to go after Palestinians who plan to build a house, dig a well or repair a land in Area C. Additionally, these

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1 “The National Bureau for Defending Land and Resisting Settlements” and its different media sources.
occupying attacks accompanied demolishing 450 houses and buildings in 2018 and the threats to demolish 580 more. Moreover, the attacks of the settlement departments cut across 14,130 trees and directly took over 3,877 dunams of the Palestinian lands. The Israeli occupation continues its attempts to take over the Palestinian lands and properties by forgery or illusory international representatives as in Jerusalem and Hebron.

The direct and indirect Palestinian losses reached USD 7 billion, due to the occupation and settlements, and 3.4 billion due to the Israeli restrictions on reaching the lands and works in Area C. The total annual losses in the Palestinian economy in the Mining and Quarrying sector reached around USD 575 million. Moreover, the water consumption of settlers in the West Bank amounts to six folds the Palestinian water consumption.

The “Patriot Act” enforces the Judaism and racism of Israel. Some think that this Act is an attempt from the extremist right wing in Israel to end the controversies that accompanied the establishment of Zionism and the Israeli state. It is also thought to be an attempt to form its identity and its public domain and its political administration. This Act also represents an attempt to obscure the Palestinian national identity, to abolish the right of return and the right of self-determination, to annex Jerusalem, to legalize the settlements and to endanger the 48 Palestinians with further marginalization, exclusion, deprivation and quasi-citizenship.

During their tour to a number of Arab countries in July 2018, Jared Kushner, Trump’s adviser, along with Middle East envoy Jason Greenblatt, Trump was announced to work out a solution for the situation in the Gaza Strip as the first stage of his peace plan. He also intends to exceed the authority of president Abbas due to the noncooperation of the latter.

The path of solving the cause of Gaza includes a long-term truce and the implementation of a series of economic project and emergency plans. Some expect that this path may result in announcing Gaza as an independent state with parts of the West Bank excluding the Ease Jerusalem. This situation means that the Palestinian capital will become the village of Abu Dis. The recent events show that the Gaza Strip is the most prominent cause in any suggested American peace agreement that is exclusively focused on the humanitarian aspects.
The Economic and Social Situation

The year 2018 witnessed an evident economic deterioration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip that cannot be reformed with the international aid that gradually declined; neither will it be reformed by the private sector activities. The private sector faces obstacles due to the Israeli restrictions on the movement, basic necessities and trade. It can also be foreseen that the financial gap may reach USD 600 million in the budget of the Authority. This expectation stems from the low international financial support, in addition to the deficiency that reached USD 1.24 billion and withholding clearance revenues that amounted to USD 350 million per annum².

Some sources foresee an increasing collapse and slow development in 2019 and the decreasing support of the donors in addition to the decreasing amounts of clearance revenues, keeping the movement of people and products on checkpoints the way it is and the increasing population. As a result, the Palestinian economy in 2018 had the following characteristics: (i) the slow growth of the gross domestic product in Palestine reaching %0.7 whereas it was %3 in 2017. This slow growth caused the decrease of the per capita by %1.5. (ii) The significant difference between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The economic growth reached %2.3 in the West Bank. However, the economic situation in the Gaza Strip deteriorated to a negative growth by %8. Of course, this matter influenced the operational level in terms of increasing the unemployment rate (it increased in 2018 to amount to %31, whereas it was %29 in 2017. It is expected to rise further to reach %31.5 in case the current circumstances do not change.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Farid Ghannam, announced: “We achieved the target revenues, and we were able to control the unreasonable expenses.” He added, “During the year 2018, our dependence rate on the local revenues reached %85, whereas it reached %15 on the donor aid. This is a major accomplishment.” Moreover, the government maintained the same level of foreign debt at USD 1.06 billion. It also reduced its operational expenses by %6, which was a result of referring 26,000 employees in Gaza for early retirement.

² The World Bank: The economic situation in Palestine is concerning… and Gaza entered a phase of collapse, 25 July, 2018 via this link: http://www.palestineeconomy.ps
Indicators and Events:

The Human Situation in the Gaza Strip: the World Bank recognizes that the Gaza Strip entered a phase of “economic collapse”. The human basic services provided are at major risk, given the lack of the cash flow. Blockade, further, limited the capacity of the productive activities, and the industrial base is no longer existent. Therefore, there must be a long-term sustainable solution which revolves around creating a sustainable growth model in Gaza through developing the access and movement conditions. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, described the current situation in Gaza as: “one of the most dramatic human crises” that he had witnessed during his long years of working in the humanitarian field in the UN.

Provided that Hamas formed a committee to manage the Gaza Strip, sanctions were imposed onto Gaza in April 2017. These sanctions include: referring around 26,000 employees to forced retirement, salaries deduction that amounted to 50% and included the salaries of 62,000 personnel, reducing the number of the government employees in the Gaza Strip as compared to the West Bank (which was only 35%). The government continued to implement its measures in 2018 and escalated them by: closing bank accounts, stopping the operational budgets for the Ministries of Education and Health and steeply deducting the coverage of the medical transfers outside. The consequences of this matter include: (i) the bankruptcy of many firms and shops leading them to close their businesses, (ii) the discharge of employees, which caused increasing the poverty rates, (iii) damaging the economic cycle, (iv) the lack of cash flow and the increasing numbers of financial crimes, (v) weakening the commercial traffic due to reducing the volume of funds transferred into the market. This rate decreased to reach around USD 21 million because the banks deducted the loan receivables, the Ministry of Health could not cover the health-related requirements of the people due to the lack of medicines and medical supplies, and lastly, because of the inability of banks to collect the installments and interests of loans and banking commissions.
Unemployment rate (unemployed 300,000) 52%
Poverty rate 53%
Food insecurity rate 68%
Lack of Purchasing Power and Reduction in Imports 20%
Amount of Bounced Checks during 2018 USD 87 million
Compensation rate Not over 16.5% of the total damages of the economic sector
Reconstructed demolished housing units 72%
Number of homeless people who remain displaced due to war families (around 13,300 homeless 2,370 people)

“The factors of war, isolation, internal conflicts assailed one another leaving the economy of Gaza paralyzed. Moreover, the human crises intensified. People are severely suffering the current circumstances; unable to maintain the basic life requirements. They fight against the deteriorating poverty and unemployment, as well as the deterioration of public services. These public services include health care and sanitation. This situation requires urgent, real and sustainable actions and solutions.”

Reduction of the International Funding Sources: the donor support reached around USD 1.8 billion per annum in 1999-2000. However, it does not exceed USD 500 million nowadays. The American Congress passed Taylor Force Act in March 2018 that stipulates blocking the financial support from the Palestinian Authority so long it pays the benefits of the Palestinian prisoners and martyrs. Moreover, the USA froze its fund of USD 125 million of its contribution to the budget of UNRWA by the beginning of 2018. UNRWA in turn reduced its services and ended the permanent work contracts of hundreds of its employees and turned them into temporary work contracts. Although the American funds completely stopped in 2018, the sum of the international support to the Palestinian budget this year rose by 14% to reach around USD 500 million by the end of November. This case was a result to the increasing Arab support, especially the Saudi support, by 165% to amount to USD 303 million.

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3 Marina Weis the Director of the World Bank in West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Resident Representative
However, the general revenue net deteriorated by 4% to reach around USD 3.150 million by the end of November, majorly influenced by the deterioration of the clearance revenues withheld by Israel by 8% to reach USD 2 billion. Moreover, there is an evident increase in local collection by 11.5% that reaches USD 1.06 billion.

The Agricultural Activity: the agricultural activities witnessed a raise in the added value by 4% against 2017. The agricultural sector contributed with 2.8% whereas the industrial sector contributed with 11.5% and the construction and real estate with 6.5%... This condition caused a major deficiency in the structure of the GDP. It is necessary to give interest to the output of products, especially the agricultural product, given its dependence on the land, and the maintenance of areas devoted for agricultural use at least. Moreover, agriculture requires regularly maximizing such areas; either to replace the imports or to foster the resistance of people and farmers to protect their lands. The contribution of the industrial and agricultural sectors reduced among the GDP and operations. However, these two sectors used to employ the vast majority of Palestinian employees. The agricultural sector used to make 12% of the GDP in 1994. Though in 2017, this percentage fell to 3.7%. Meanwhile, as for the industrial sector, the percentage fell from 21.3% to 9.2%. As for the operations, the contribution of these sectors decreased to 6.7% for agriculture in 2017. However it was 13.7% and 14.3% in 2000. The percent of employees in the agricultural sector among the youth reached 7.5% (7.9% for males, 4.7% for females).

**The Palestinian Economy and the Sustainable Development Goals:**
The Palestinian Human Development Indicator according to the League of Arab States classification reached 0.686 (medium human development, No 12 in order). However, the interested Ministries set “performance indicators“ to assess the level of development in achieving their strategies. These indicators were not yet published, which makes it difficult to recognize the readiness of the decision-makers to lead the national effort towards achieving sustainable development in the coming years and to coordinate them. For example, the Palestinian National Priority No 6 in the National Agenda stipulates the necessity of building an independent economy through adapting a national policy. To achieve that goal, it suggests a set of political interventions like: restructuring the productive sectors in Palestine concentrating on the industrial, agricultural and tourism sectors and regaining the industrial base in Gaza. This Priority serves the SDGs in general, and the eighth goal in specific. More specifically, it serves the productive sectors with giving more interest to the industrial, agricultural and tourism sectors. However, these interventions lack the technical approaches and measures,
through which the restructuring of these sectors takes place. For instance, the support to smaller farmers can be provided by reducing the water tariff for agricultural uses, and providing them with the required fertilizers.

Customer Basket: the average of the overall index of customer prices in Palestine during 2018 presented a small reduction compared to 2017. The Palestinian customer basket constitutes of around 650 products and services distributed to 12 main groups. One of the most significant out of them was the sources of food, drinks, accommodation and related sources and transportation. The Palestinian expenses on the food groups makes 31% of the per capita average monthly expenditure (29% in the West Bank, and 36% in the Gaza Strip). The proportion of expenditure on transportation and telecommunication follows with 19% and accommodation with 9%. The lowest expenditure percent was among the entertainment, cultural and personal care groups with 2% each in Palestine. The customer prices increased during the past decade in Palestine by around 30% (32% in the West Bank, and 24% in the Gaza Strip).

The average per capita expenditure in the West Bank exceeds the double average per capita expenditure in the Gaza Strip.

The data shows an evident difference in the monthly average per capita expenditure between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by JD 220 in the West Bank against JD 91 in the Gaza Strip.

**Poverty and Unemployment:**
The total number of employed people in the labor market increased by 2% in 2018 compared to 2017. This increase stems from the increase of number of personnel in the construction and industrial activities. However, the unemployment rate increased to reach 31%, and the poverty rate reached 14%, whereas the percentage of the latter reached 53% in the Gaza Strip.

**Palestinian Women:**
According to the work force, Palestinian women lead 11% of the families (12% in the West Bank, and 9% in the Gaza Strip). There is a decrease in the early marriage rate (for girls younger than 18 y/o). Around two-thirds of the girls at the age of 18 and older are married. The rates of school enrolment among the males in the secondary school reached around 71% against 91% among the females. Moreover, according to the data of the Ministry of

4 Dr Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 07/03/2019, The Situation of the Palestinian Woman on the Eve of the International Women’s Day
Education and Higher Education for the school year 2017/2018, the rate of female students enrolled in the institutions of the MoEHE reached 60% of the total number of students. However, women participation in the general life aspects is still limited compared to it among men.

The decline of the actual wage levels for men and women:
The unemployment rates among women engaged in the work force reached 51% in 2018 against 25% among men. The unemployment rates among women with 13 years or more of education reached 54%. According to the main results of the living standards in Palestine (expenditures, consumption and poverty), the poverty rate among families led by women in the Gaza Strip reached 54%, whereas it was 19% of the total number of families led by women in 2017.

There was a significant gap in the percentages of participation in the work force and the daily wage between women and men (the daily wage rate among women reached ILS 92, against ILS 129 for men.

This gap of the participation in the work force of women and men with disabilities widens.

**Water in Palestine:**
The rate of ground and surface water extracted is high in comparison with the available water in Palestine. This percentage reached 77% for the year 2017. Moreover, the Israeli occupation has prevented the Palestinians from exploiting their right of using the Jordan River water since 1967, which amounts to around 250 cubic meter per annum.

**General Data:**
- 62% of the Palestinian families use a secure water resource.
- 88 liter is the Palestinian average consumption per capita per day.
- 22% of the available water in Palestine is bought by Mekorot water company;
- The greatest temperature range increased from the general range.
Human Rights Conditions:

The High Constitutional Court passed a judgment to dissolve the Legislative Council, and called for holding the elections. This judgment led to major legal and political controversy. The Palestinian NGOs considered this judgment as anti-constitutional and a violation to the independence of the Judiciary. These organizations considered forming the “Constitutional Court” of itself as a violation to the Basic Law, and that it contributed to deepening the division between the political parties. Therefore, they asked to immediately dissolve it. Further, these organizations thought the Constitutional Court to cause a serious threat against the entire political system. Their aforesaid opinion stemmed from the recurrent violations of the Court to the Basic Law and its superiority and to rights and freedoms. Further, the Court is incompliant with the ruling objective conditions on the interpretative resolutions. Provided the engagement of the judgment, the organizations called again for announcing the time to hold general simultaneous elections based on the electoral law and a Tribunal for electoral cases.

The elections must also be under the national consensus, the preparation of a free and transparent electoral environment to conduct the elections and the democratic transition. Though the Social Security Law was passed several years ago, 2018 approached its actual implementation, and accordingly it faced a wide popular opposition to dissolve it. Thousands of citizens engaged in popular protests in a number of cities in the West Bank, to reject this Law. Soon, the president Mahmoud Abbas decided on dissolving the Law along with its amendments.

Ever since, the NGOs started to sense the threatening position they are in, especially after publishing a report of the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs. They recognize they are facing a challenge of “remaining viable”. This challenge requires the coordination between the forced adjustments with requirements of the challenge, and continuing to play their role in the Palestinian context, given the critical social needs for their services and support.

The Palestinian public space, despite the occupation and the internal division beside the traditions and its dependence on support and solidarity, remained the safety valve. It still provided the needed services, and it played its role concerning advocacy and lobbying and raising the voice of the people. However, it did not fully make it, until it started to get methodologically and intentionally targeted by many sides. It is notable that the world nowadays
witnesses imposing increasing limitations on the freedom of peaceful communities, freedom of expression and forming associations. Related reports show that shrinking the public space around the world is proceeding and expanding to include a large group of countries; secure democracies, emerging economies and fragile countries torn by internal conflicts.

The limitation of freedoms and rights started right after the division between Fatah and Hamas in 2007. However, the baseless limitations imposed by the two parties of the division intensified further in the recent years, especially with standing no chances of reconciliation. The Independent Association of Human Rights issued a report about the violations against human rights and freedoms in the occupied Palestinian lands (2017-2018). The review of the aforesaid report shows that the violations took place at different paces. These violations reached the freedoms of opinion, expression, media, peaceful communities, and the freedom to form associations. The Palestinian civil society relies on its core traditions, strong relationships and valued expertise to effectively engage with the efforts put forward to establish an international front that defends democracy, human rights and social equality. They face this challenge and the large dependence on the international donors and the weak internal structures for many organizations. Additionally, they face the popular trends and extremism regardless of their kind and defend “the public space” and basic freedoms. Moreover, they start to plan for preparing an alternative financial framework in the view of strengthening the internal structure of these organizations to foster their pillars: dependence, accountability and sustainability.

The National Coalition that aimed to supervise the legislative process called for holding an extended meeting. This meeting aimed to discuss the Presidential Decree of 2018 on amending the Law of Charitable Associations and Community Organizations of 2000 and its amendments. This Law was presented on the agenda of the Council of Ministers, though it was not yet up for a community discussion. The Presidential Decree risks the sustainability of the works of the NGOs, and it gives the Ministry of the Interior a wide range of authorities to take over the former. These authorities include immediately segregating the Chairman of their BoD without prior notice. Moreover, it violates the authorities of the General Assembly.
The Coalition called for putting an end to passing Presidential Decrees, for they violate the Basic Law. Further, they called for avoiding the approval on the draft Presidential Decree, as it violates the Basic Law and the international covenant on the civil and political rights and the international covenant on the economic, social and cultural rights and the related international standards that ensure providing the right of freedom to establish associations and the freedom of their activities.
This report is given over to shed the light on the milestones achieved by the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) for 2018 under PARC’s Driving Change Strategic Plan 2014-2018. In principle, the strategy aimed to realize strong Palestinian rural communities fortified by the agriculture sector and cemented by achieving the following projects and activities in all governorates:

**1-Strengthening the agricultural sector profitability and its competitiveness.**

1.1 Developed and improved productivity of agricultural land and access for it.

In order to achieve this objective 210 dunams of lands were rehabilitated, which directly benefitted 51 males and a female, and indirectly benefitted 137 males and 140 females. In addition to creating 3629 working days for 240 workers where the reclamation included the following:

1. Level 150 dunams
2. Construction of 10,836 square meters of retaining walls.
3. Establishment of six collection wells of 270 cubic meters.
4. Fencing 150 dunams.
5. Distribution of 6000 seedlings.
6. Distribution of composite fertilizer for 150 dunams.

**Rehabilitation of 933 dunams of lands, which directly benefitted 497 males and 71 females and indirectly benefitted 706 males and 709 females. In addition to creating 5833 working days for 434 workers where the reclamation included the following:**

1. Simple works for 100 dunams.
2. Construction of 28-water collection wells of 1275 cubic meters.
3. Fencing 265 dunams.
5. Ploughing and clearing 480 dunams.
6. Extend internal networks to 264 dunams.
8. Tree pruning for 90 dunams.
9. Distribution of 6264 seedlings for lands within the Rehabilitation program.
10. Distribution of seeds and seedlings for 90 dunams.
Carrying out a Range of Activities out of the Rehabilitation Program, Which Includes:

1. Distribution of 43,352 seedlings to 2,493 dunams of lands that are not included in the rehabilitation program. Which directly benefited 660 males and 16 females, and indirectly benefited 16 males and 2,243 females.

2. Construction of 33 livestock water wells of 2,710 cubic meters on an area of 296 dunams, that directly benefited 275 males and 180 females, and indirectly benefitted 147 males and 145 females. Which created 103 job opportunities for 1,642 working days.

3. Extension of irrigation networks to 579 dunams that directly benefited 195 males and 6 females, and indirectly benefitted 597 males and 546 females. Which created 34 job opportunities for 252 working days.

4. Rehabilitation of 214 greenhouses for 214 dunams, which directly benefited 138 males and females, and indirectly benefitted 510 males and 426 females.

5. Construction of 14 km of agricultural roads to serve 13,432 dunams that directly benefitted 1,035 males and 93 females, and indirectly benefitted 3,127 males and 3,343 females. Which created 91 job opportunities for 1,115 working days.

6. Build 2,700 square meters of retaining walls for 80 dunams and created 22 job opportunities within 675 working days.

1.2 Trained and qualified agriculture labor: This objective has been achieved through:

1. Hold 23 farmer’s workshops for 306 beneficiaries (wastewater reuse, compatibility on modern irrigation techniques, composite manufacturing for the farm, Palestinian specification for composite, waste-separation and recycling, composite manufacturing method, etc.)

2. Grow fodder seeds on an area of 4,407 dunams that directly benefitted 560 males and 36 females, and indirectly benefitted 1,918 males and 1,798 females.

3. Carrying out four spraying and trimming campaigns on 1144 dunams to directly serve 100 male farmers and 35 females, also indirectly serve 324 males and 324 females. Which created eight job opportunities for 160 working days.

4. Carrying out an olive picking campaign on 100 dunams of olive trees for 12 farmers. For applying sound practice in the harvesting process, whether at the appropriate time for picking and helping the farmer to reduce picking costs.
5. Implement an agricultural extension program for farmers, which directly benefited 1,700 males and 2,234 females.
6. Distribute five veterinary equipment bags that benefited 15 females.
7. Make 355 extension visits to develop the technical skills of farmers in agriculture, livestock, poultry, and sound environmental practices, which directly benefited 70 males and 25 females.
8. Design and print (500 copies) of a technical booklet entitled “Technical Guidance for White Chicken Breeding”, and a legal booklet entitled “Rural Women’s Rights and The Training Program of Newly Graduated Agronomists. In addition, the issuance and distribution of an agricultural calendar for the olive crop, 300 copies of agricultural practices.
9. Develop 40 solar chicken farms that benefited 38 males and 2 females.
10. Carrying out 173 awareness sessions on wastewater uses for agriculture, in Al-Shawka and Al-Mawasi areas. In the presence of 1,615 people, including 732 women.
11. Hold 77 technical courses to train male and female farmers (management of sheep farms, greenhouses, organic agriculture, integrated control, food processing, animal production, composite, etc.) directly benefitted 1,025 males and 297 females, and indirectly benefitted 1,552 males and 1,552 females.
12. Hold two specialized technical training courses on grapes and olives, which directly benefited 80 males and 15 females.
13. Training and rehabilitation of 49 newly graduated agricultural engineers, including 16 females. Through developing their technical and administrative capacities by carrying out practical and theoretical training.
14. Organize 32 exchange visits to provide farmers with successful experience-earning models, benefiting 253 males and 339 females.
15. Organize 20 extension visits on olives and grapes, benefiting 300 males and 90 females directly.
16. Organize an exchange visit abroad.
17. Conduct 20 demonstrations (avocados, grapes, olives), directly benefited 53 males and 3 females, and indirectly benefitted 118 males and 118 females.
1.3 Improved Household Economies of the Small-Scale Farmers Producers and Greater Integration of Small-Scale Farmers Producers in the Market
This objective has been achieved through:

1. Extend 15 irrigation networks for gardens that directly benefited 15 females and indirectly benefited 35 males and 30 females. Which created three job opportunities within 15 days. In addition to planting gardens with seeds and seedlings and drilling 15 collection wells.
2. Establish 30 home gardens on an area of nine dunams, which directly benefited 30 females, and indirectly benefited 72 males and 72 females.
3. Supply 11 waste-separation containers, which directly benefited 11 females and indirectly benefited 26 male and 27 females.
4. Hold three food-processing courses, which directly benefited 45 females.
5. Hold 6 agricultural courses on home gardens, which directly benefited 102 males and 5 females
6. Hold 13 workshops on the composite, waste separation and recycling that directly benefited 110 males and 58 females.

1.4 Enhancement and Empowerment of Farmers’ Committees
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Formation of three protection committees and building their capacity with 34 males and 36 females.
2. Hold 72 workshops on the methodology of participation capacities and vulnerabilities, adopted terms and methodologies, risk identification by explaining the context of risk growing, community mapping, and capacity classification. Which benefited 441 males and 367 females.
3. Hold eight training courses on capacity building, farm management, financial and administrative management, marketing, leadership and communication …Which benefited 24 males and 26 females.
4. Distribute three public safety units.
4. Conduct four community initiatives (rehabilitation of a disabled center, build retaining walls for a school, installing railing for a school, and garden afforestation). That directly benefited 1,250 males and 50 females, and indirectly benefited 2,625 males and 2,625 females. Which created 36 job opportunities within 180 working days.
5. Make a plan for the Protection Committees.

1.5 Improved Access to Water Resources
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Development of a groundwater-recharge system that directly benefited 127 males and 8 females, and indirectly benefited 762 males and 48 females.
2. Extension of 22 km of irrigation lines over an area of 4,970 dunams that directly benefited 682 males and 12 females, and indirectly benefited 2,341 males and 1,912 females. Which provided 42 job opportunities within 637 working days.
3. Construction of five mineral pools of 800 cubic meters and four mineral pools of 1000 cubic meters over an area of 508 dunams. That directly benefited 29 males and indirectly benefited 99 males and 110 females. Which created eight job opportunities within 48 working days.
4. The establishment of 60 ponds for 69 beneficiaries to collect rainwater from the rooftops of agricultural greenhouses with a total size of 100 cubic meters per beneficiary,
5. Rehabilitation of four earthen ponds of 9,000 cubic meters on an area of 40 dunams. Which directly benefited eight males, and indirectly benefited 21 males and 23 females. Which created eight jobs within 200 working days.
6. Rehabilitation of two water treatment plants on an area of 200 dunams that directly benefited 90 males and 10 females, also indirectly benefited 225 males and 240 females. Which created 12 job opportunities within 200 working days.
7. The establishment of 20 modern irrigation systems for greenhouses using solar energy that directly benefited 59 males and 3 females.
8. Organization of 181 workshops on (water), which directly benefited 1,010 males and 740 females.
9. Organization of 21 training courses on water, which directly benefited 238 males and 50 females.
10. Execution of a study on water
11. Organization of an extension visit to enhance awareness about irrigation enterprises using treated wastewater, which directly benefited five males and a female.
1.6 Enhanced Cooperation and Networking amongst the Stakeholders
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Rehabilitation of three school toilet units, directly benefiting 4,788 males and 3,895 females. Also creating 40 job opportunities within 380 working days.
2. Carrying out four school (environmental) awareness campaigns.
3. Organization of 42 workshops on risk management and documentation of human rights violations, which directly benefited 150 males and 150 females.
4. Establishment of six school gardens, directly benefiting 500 males and 500 females.
5. The establishment and rehabilitation of three public parks, of which generally benefited 5,000 males and 5,000 females.
6. Rehabilitation of a nature reserve in Beitillu, which generally benefited 5,000 males and 5,000 females.
7. Organization of six workshops on the nature reserve, generally benefited 78 males and 73 females.
8. Organization of eight extension visits to eight beneficiary schools for 200 students within eight environmental clubs. For exchanging experiences with regard to sound environmental practices, developing relations between club members and raising awareness about the environment and conservation.

1.7 Successful Business Models
As part of the work, PARC built several successful business models, including:

1. Distribution of 69 grants for income-generating (individual) enterprises that directly benefited 27 males and 43 females, and indirectly benefited 208 males and 207 females.
2. Development of 22 existing projects (individual grants) directly benefited 13 males and 9 females, and indirectly benefited 91 males and 92 females.
3. Organization of 13 training courses (business plans, marketing, and project management) directly benefited 103 males and 141 females.
4. Organization of 18 economic feasibility studies for enterprises (16 males and 2 females)
5. Make 81 consultations for enterprises, including 40 males and 41 females.
6. Creation of 240 job opportunities, including 212 males and 28 females with 15,840 working days.
7. Preparation of a worksheet that includes the concept of women’s empowerment of rural women and the experience of the PARC for working over 35 years with women.
1.8 Developed Production Value Chain Infrastructure
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Make a strategic intervention to improve the market system for avocado crop.
2. Make a strategic intervention to improve the market system for the crop of seedless grapes.
3. Hold eight workshops (round table between associations and distributors) benefiting 60 women.

2- Legal environment and governmental policies for the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas

2.1 Developing an emergency response system:
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Distribution of 840 packages of assistance directly to 672 males and 168 females, and indirectly to 2,100 males and 2,100 females.
2. Distribution of 5,200 packages of food aid directly to 4,160 males and 1,040 females, and indirectly to 13,000 males and 13,000 females.
3. Distribution of 5,016 stationery packages, which directly benefited 2,508 males and 2,508 females.

3- Greater Development Role by the Rural and Agricultural Cooperatives and Grass Root Organizations

3.1 Purchasing and agricultural marketing
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Launched an internal campaign to market local products, which directly benefited 57 males and 19 females.
2. Launched an external campaign to market local products, which directly benefited 3 males and 4 females.
3. Held six local marketing exhibitions, which directly benefited 650 males and 710 females.
4. Obtained quality certificates for eight beneficiaries.
5. Organized three courses for the market.
6. Held two workshops that directly benefited 20 males and 20 females.
7. Launched a campaign to network farmers with the market directly benefited 2,700 males and 2,700 females.

3.2 Building Capacities
**On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:**

1. Developed two business accelerators that directly benefited 30 males and 30 females.
2. Conducted five training sessions that directly benefited 44 males and 40 females.
3. Conducted 27 extension visits that directly benefited 4 males and 2 females.
4. Conducted two meetings for local and international networking and promoting.
5. Supported 22 new enterprises that directly benefited 2 males and 20 females.
6. Developed two existing projects.
7. Conducted two promoting films.
8. Conducted marketing campaign that directly benefited 100 males and 100 females.
9. Conducted four conferences.

3.3 Formation of Cooperatives
**PARC accomplished several missions, including:**

1. Distributed nine grants for cooperatives that directly benefited 7 males and 179 females. In addition, it indirectly benefited 322 males and 326 females.
2. Distributed production inputs (tools) for 70 males and 30 females.
3. Provided logistical support for three associations by providing an administrative staff and tractor and holding a series of session on olives.
4. Conducted eight spots and ten films.
5. Conducted a study and technical consultation for Al-Hashmi Reserve.
6. Conducted two surveys for Beitillu Nature Reserve.
7. Built the capacity of six associations through a series of exercises (marketing, farm management.)
4-Enhancement of efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and accountability of PARC

4.1 Training the staff
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:
1. Implement a training workshop regarding methods of preparing and writing success stories, study cases, reviewing and discussing MEAL guide in order to adopt it in PARC.
2. Implement three training sessions on community accountability, humanitarian accountability standards, emergency plans, presentation skills and training of trainers.
3. Implement two capacity-building sessions for the staff.

4.2 Improving Logistic Support and Information and Communication Systems.
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Renovation of three training centers.
2. Development of an administrative personnel system (portal).

4.3 Improving Developmental Media:
On this front, PARC accomplished several missions, including:

1. Organizing a central ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of the foundation along with an exhibition of agricultural and national products. The celebration included a rhetorical and artistic aspect, which was presented in an unconventional way, based on the storyteller approach (farmer and his wife). The ceremony was documented by video and photographs. As well as an artistic and financial report regarding the concert.
2. Design and create a Facebook page, regarding the development of the olive sector through raising awareness and promoting the local product.
3. Offer and send condolences to the family of the late Jacques Sall, founder of the European Solidarity Movement with the Palestinian people.
4. Publishing (100) news regarding the activities of PARC in electronic and print media.
5. Participate in elections and access seats in the Board of Directors in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, also to obtain the presidency of the network.
6. Conduct nine TV interviews regarding the agricultural sector, the interventions of the PARC in the agricultural sector, workshops related to farmers guidelines in heat waves in summer and cold waves in winter. Also workshops regarding grapes and guava crops.
Chapter Four

Beneficiaries and Target Groups
Chapter Four

Beneficiaries and Target Groups
The efforts of PARC in 2018 covered the governorates of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It targeted (162) locations which directly benefited (57017) citizens, where women represented 44% of them. Moreover, it indirectly benefited (34245) citizens, where women represented 51% of them. It also provided (29414) work days for (1198) workers.

The Work Locations of PARC in 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Names of villages/ work locations</th>
<th>Number of village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Rafat, Bir nabala, Al Jadera, Al Jib, Beddo, Beit Ijza, Beit Duququ, Beit ‘Anan, Qatanna, Beit Surik, Beit Ikwa, Abu Dis, Anata, Jaba, Al Ram, Mukhmas, Qalandia</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramallah</td>
<td>Al- Mughayer, Sinjel, Deir Abu Meshal, Turmusaya, Betlo, Beit Liqya, Abu Falah, Shuqba</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
<td>Arab Rawa’een, Beit Fajjar, Khallet Al Haddad, Al-Khader village, Nahalin, Alwaljeh</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jericho</td>
<td>Al- Oja, Al- Jeftlik, Khan Al- Ahmar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nablus</td>
<td>Burqa, Beita, Al- Nasseriya, Salim, Kufr Qallil, Deir Sharaf, asira al shamiya, Awarta, Jurish, Al-Naqura, Beit Dajan, Talfeet, Beit Hassan, Iraq Burin, Qusra, Ein Shibli, Al-Aqrabaniya, Furush Beit Dajan</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Salfit: Rafat, Bir nabala, Al Jadera, Al Jib, Beddo, Beit Ijza, Beit Duqqu, Beit’Anan, Qatanna, Beit Surik, Beit Iksa, Abu Dis, Anata, Jaba, Al Ram, Mukhmas, Qalandia

Tubas: Atuf, Al-Sakut, Tabun, Tayasir, Al-Aqaba-Bardala-Al-Maleh.

Jenin: Anin, Raba, Al- Judeida, Fahma, Siris, Zububa, Al-Moghayer, Atuf, Zababdeh, Meithalun, Faqqua


Qalqilya: Azzun, Atma, Al-Nabi Ilyas, Hableh, Kafr Thulth, Immatain, Sir, Jayyous, Flamya, Al-Mudawar, Asla

North Gaza: Beit Lahya, Beit Hanun, Al-Shawka, Mawasi Rafah

Gaza: Al-Shuja’eyeh, Sheikh Ijlin, Al-Mughraqa, Zeitoun, Juhar Al-Deek, district of Nasser

Central Gaza: Deir- Al-Balah, Alnserat, Wadi- Al-Salqa, Al-Bureij, Al-Masdar, Az-Zawayda

EKhan Younis: Al-Zenah, Khuza’a, al-Qarara, Abasan al-Kabera, Abasan al-Saghira, Bani Suheila, Al-Mawasi, al-Fukhari, Qa’al-Qurein

Total

Salfit: 7
Tubas: 7
Jenin: 12
Tulkarm: 13
Qalqilya: 11
North Gaza: 5
Gaza: 6
Central Gaza: 6
EKhan Younis: 9
Reef Finance

Reef Finance. Palestinian Inc. is a private, non-profit company. An initiative by PARC in 2007 and was recorded on 2007 in the Ministry of National Economy under No. (563143734). The actual work started by giving agricultural grants at the beginnings of 2008. The total value of the company’s share is currently 1,700,000 shares. These shares are distributed on foundations, cooperatives and individual shareholders; PARC is one of the company’s major shareholders, contributing by 92% of the total shares.

The company’s work is concentrated in the Palestinian countryside. Where it provides diversified, specialized and sustainable financial services for small enterprises. As well as poor and low-income female and male youth farmers. The company adopts programs of Payment In-Kind (PIK) loans and Cash Loans in its financing work.

The vision and mission of the company is to establish a rural development/cooperative bank in Palestine. Furthermore, to provide diversified, equitable, sustainable, high-quality developmental financial services. That are accessible to all poor and low-income rural people, in partnership with cooperatives and individuals in the Palestinian rural areas, depending on an efficient team. However, the overall goal of the company is to achieve sustainable and equitable development in the Palestinian countryside. In addition to supporting and strengthening the resilience of the economic pillars. Furthermore, to maintain and develop agricultural work and to maximize its role in food security and food sovereignty.

In 2018, Reef Company continues strengthening its career and role, also solidifying its internal construction. Moreover, developing its development/financing indicators, and to focus its financial/lending target for the development and establishment of operating productive, and income-generating enterprises. Especially agricultural enterprises, as a result of deep and high sense of its national and developmental responsibilities. As well as its orientation and policies which is based on the active contribution in strengthening the factors of resilience and survival of our Palestinian people. The major key performance and work indicators in this company include:

1- From the beginning of its work on 1 January 2008 until the end of 2018, the company granted approximately USD 59 million. Which benefited more than 10,300 rural borrowers, 80% of which were awarded for the establishment and development of agricultural
development enterprises (agriculture, productive, operational, and income generating). Agricultural projects alone accounted for 55% of the total value of loans granted, and the company’s portfolio at the end of 2018 reached approximately USD 16 million.

2- The number of active women loans continued to rise from 19% of the total number of active loans at the end of 2016 to 22% at the end of 2017 to 26% at the end of 2018.

3- Since the beginning of the student loan program in 2012, Reef has granted approximately 1,100 student loans to students at local universities (on concessional terms and standards), benefiting 650 university students.

4- During 2018, more than 15 young graduates and students of Palestinian universities trained in the company’s branches and offices in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Academic/research consultations and assistance have also been provided to a number of post-graduate studies students.

5- During 2018, the company issued four updated studies on the impact of the company’s finances on sustainable rural/agricultural development. In addition to the impact of these funds on enhancing the role and status of rural woman at the productive and social level. Moreover, to updating the study of the overall developmental impact of the company’s funds on the different aspects of rural people’s lives, and their financial needs. The issuance of two reports, regarding the results of the survey on the reality of job satisfaction and the financial priorities of rural people. In addition to issuing reports on the reality of social performance and the reality of financial inclusion.

• An Overview of Reef

Al Reef for Investment and Agricultural Marketing Company is a private shareholder limited company. It is owned by the Agricultural Development Association previously called Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC) and was established in 1993 in an attempt to provide promotional, marketing, canning and packaging services for Palestinian agricultural products and to develop its quality. The company exports its products to numerous organizations in Europe, USA, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and U.A.E, in addition to the Palestinian local market.
Al Reef Fair Trade applies the principle of fair trade in cooperation with PARC and World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO). Accordingly, the principle of fair trade aims to regulate the efforts of agricultural cooperatives, males and females farmers to improve their social and economic situation. Through developing their production capacities and improving the quality of their products. The overall-goal is to obtain fair prices for farmers' products to ensure them a decent and equitable life.

The majority of these cooperatives have female and male members. Men who represent 80-85% usually work in the agricultural works while women work in food processing.

- **Al Reef for Fair Trade Certificates:**
  - SO 22000 Certification for olive oil
  - WFTO Certification (World Fair Trade Organization)
  - PSI Certification (The Palestinian Quality Marks Standards)
  - “Eu Organic Farming Certification
  - NOP Certification (National Organic Program)

- **Return to the British Market:**

Since 2015, Al Reef has launched a campaign to return to the UK market in collaboration with Christian Aid UK. In 2016, Al Reef participated in a food products exhibition in London to find importers in that market, which is considered one of the most significant markets in Europe. A market study was implemented to identify the most types consumed in the market. In 2018, Al Reef succeeded in exporting a shipment of olive oil, Maftoul, Dates, and Almonds to the UK under a new developed trademark holding the name Piece of Palestine. Furthermore, Al Reef participated in another exhibition and business meetings to promote the product in 2018.

The company’s sales for 2018 by category where oil comes first with 59% of the company’s sales and then dates by 19%.
• Participation in Local Exhibitions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Palestinian rural products exhibition (rural Palestinian)</td>
<td>13-3-2018</td>
<td>Ramallah and Al-Bireh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The first marketing day exhibition of the grapes, guava, avocado and dates</td>
<td>30-9-2018</td>
<td>Qalqilya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Our Food Exhibition</td>
<td>21-11-2018</td>
<td>Jenin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>First Cooperative Conference</td>
<td>03-12-2018</td>
<td>Bethlehem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Organic Agriculture:

Al-Reef Fair Trade and Company of Organic Agriculture in Palestine (COAP) in cooperation with PARC, and an active and entrepreneur farmer Mr. Amjad Barakat from the village of Al-Jeftlik succeed in reaching the final stage of licensing the first organic Medjoul Date farm in Palestine. In addition, Al Reef supported wheat farmers in Jenin to produce organic wheat for producing Maftoul through Jericho Women's Association. Farmers are expected to receive an organic production certificate in 2019 or 2020 as decided by the Company of Organic Agriculture in Palestine. This plan will be important in opening up marketing prospects for Maftoul and increasing its sales as many European fair trade institutions want to market the organic product.
Chapter Six

Distinguished Models of 2018
“Training program of fresh graduates of agronomists”

The PARC has adopted the training program of Newly Graduate Agronomists from local and foreign universities in the 90s. In order to develop their different knowledge and skills and enhance their abilities to acquire different experiences. Through several, varied and intensive programs and exercises that the training program has, which is specially designed by a group of specialized experts and professionals. In order to suit the training needs on the one hand and to take into account the needs of agronomists from the training process on the other. Thus, meet the needs and requirements of the local labor market by trained and qualified human resources and staffs.

The PARC implements the training program through its qualified and equipped training centers, to provide an integrated training environment suitable for all practical and theoretical training areas. In addition to providing the appropriate daily life and social environment by providing qualified and equipped housing and facilities. There are three training centers for agronomists in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip: the Martyr Raja Abu Amasha Center in Jericho, the Martyr Naeem Khader Center in Zababda and the Training Center in the Gaza Strip.

Highlights on the training program of fresh graduate agronomists:

- The idea of launching the program started in 1992 as the first training program specialized for agronomists nationwide in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Where it is the first and only program specialized in training fresh graduate agronomists and developing their technical, practical and personal skills and capacities. In addition to qualifying them for the labor market, which has characterized the PARC at the national level.

- Since its inception, more than 1,250 female and male agronomists from different disciplines of agricultural sciences (plant production, animal production, veterinary medicine, food processing) have graduated from the program in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. With 56 training courses, one training course took 5-9 months of specialized practical and theoretical training as well as building and developing the personal and administrative skills of agronomists.
The program was characterized by the qualitative addition to its graduates, prioritizing employment and allowing them to have access to employment opportunities. The said opportunities can be in different local and international institutions, companies and work sectors. The program also benefits its graduates through the establishment of special production enterprises by the graduates. A large number of graduates of the program held senior administrative and technical positions with Palestinian ministries, local and international institutions, and private sector companies locally and internationally. A large number of graduates of the program held senior administrative and technical positions with Palestinian ministries, local and international institutions and private sector companies.

The program was characterized by providing an opportunity for trainees to learn about the experiences of neighboring countries in modern agricultural technologies and systems and research centers. Through the external learning visit of trainees to one of the neighboring countries in Jordan and Syria.

The program has been characterized by leaving positive effects on personal and social relations among graduates. In addition to the great resonance and success of various donors over the years of its implementation, as for more than 27 years.

Through 2017-2018:
- Graduation of 35 newly graduate agronomists including 12 females and 23 males from different specialties. These specialties include plant production, livestock production, food-processing environment and sustainable agriculture. They have graduated from the training program in its 32nd session in the West Bank and its 23rd in the Gaza Strip. These graduates are from different Palestinian Universities, and from different governorates of the country. Training period was 16 months in the West Bank and Gaza. Including hands-on, and theory training, building technical, administrative and personal capacities that qualified them to join the labor market and establish their own different business enterprises. This training is conducted by providing trainers, technical experts, and intensive training on development projects implemented by the Agricultural Development Association (PARC).
- 15 female and male agronomists of the trainees have joined an external training course in Jordan to learn about modern and advanced agricultural techniques and systems.
- 19 agronomists joined the labor market in different fields for private agricultural companies, Government, non-government, local, international organizations and civil society organizations.
- 6 graduates joined international training courses in India in cooperation with the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Also in China in cooperation with Palestinian Chinese Friendship Society.

Graduation of the 31st training course of the training program in the West Bank -2017
Graduation of the 22nd training course of the training program in the Gaza Strip -2017
Since its inception from the womb of the voluntary movement in the late 1970s, PARC has been ensuring and maximizing community participation. To achieve this goal it has worked to form local committees and organize target groups in demanding frameworks that correspond to the needs and rights of Palestinians of the most marginalized areas. In view of the growing suffering of rural areas also the occupation and settlers acts on the one hand, and the aggravated effects of climate change, natural disasters and their negative effects on their livelihoods on the other. PARC has developed a strategic concept and methods to ensure the broadest participation of emergency management through community protection committees. As a way to ensure the broadest participation, access to rights and a tool for lobbying and advocating decision makers.

Part of the desired-goal (to integrate protection into disaster response readiness at the civil society level, community participation and raising the value of volunteering). PARC has formed protection groups in the target areas. These groups help to strengthen the readiness of the community, its ability to manage situations, crises and emergencies, also mitigate their effects, especially in the event of disasters. Where the Protection Committee unites the efforts of volunteers with a sense of social and civic responsibility. Also it prepares them to be qualified to manage and deal with emergencies on the local level. In addition, it provides support to the institutions and competent authorities.

To complement the national effort, which was culminated by forming a higher committee to manage emergencies. Officially, PARC has formed committees in the most vulnerable areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Where PARC formed 40 protection committees in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These committees include 400 members (200 males, 200 females). PARC built their capacities based on the Disaster risk reduction (DRR), PVCA, managing and designing lobby and advocacy campaigns. Besides other courses which are useful in facing risks and emergencies-preparedness (course in civil defense, first aid, human rights, and documentation of Israeli violations). In addition to providing them with equipment and tools to face disasters (civil defense and first aid tools, cameras to document the violations. As well as implementing a project from the society’s priorities as a community-based-initiative).
At the foundation level: The Foundation has qualified a team of specialists from its staff. Who received sufficient training and knowledge on the methodology of Disaster Risk Reduction, in order to play their role in the formation of committees. As well as to create a guide to apply PVCA tool, circulate the manual, and to train PARC staff and protection committees to apply the tool. Moreover, to create a guide to form protection committees and explain their objectives, roles, mechanism of formation, functions, regulatory values of its work and monitoring mechanisms, follow-up, and evaluation.
In the framework of the Agricultural Development Association various programs, especially in the programs of supporting the youth and creating job opportunities. PARC in partnership with the Oxfam organization adopted the idea of social institutions in Palestine. In order to spread and promote this idea, for it is a key driver for creating job opportunities as well as reducing the proportions of unemployment. In accordance with the impact of these institutions on society. Where the social economic system in Europe consists of 2 million institutions as 10% of the total of the European Union (EU) institutions. That employs more than 14.5 million people, which is equivalent to 6.5% of the population of the EU.

The status of social institutions in the Mediterranean basin is still in progress, with the common perception (mainly at the institutional level) of social institutions is based on the old concept of social economy, which refers primarily to cooperatives. Despite the lack of awareness about the concept of a social institution, and the absence of any regulatory framework. There is a growing trend of organizations (international and local organizations) to support social innovation as a means of combining social impact with financial sustainability.

In addition, to avoid the misperception of what a social institution is, it is necessary to identify a set of indicators for stakeholders to recognize it. Which could create a base for a national policy with a stimulating legal context. These indications are based on different theoretical definitions as well as some of the facts on the ground, including:

1- A new concept for an old practice: social entrepreneurship initiatives were always present in the daily practices and activities. Even before the dissemination of the concept of social entrepreneurship initiatives, for it emerged from the culture of solidarity, especially in the rural areas.

2- Variety of legal frameworks: Sometimes-social institutions are informal initiatives, and once they are registered, they place themselves under various legal forms. These forms are non-for-profit corporations, Cooperatives, Charities of zakat committees… and others.
3- The definition of social innovation by context: social issues vary between countries and between urban and rural cities and villages. This is why more appropriate definitions of the context of social innovation and social business models are needed, to deal with challenges and social, economic, cultural local surrounding situations.

4- International contradiction in definitions and approaches: Although the public awareness in the concept of social entrepreneurship is still greatly low. The segments of society that were most exposed to it are middle-class youth. The exposition was done by involving them in discussions or let them acknowledge international contexts, or through initiatives by European and international actors in the surrounding region.
“A night where rain did not stop pouring. All municipality staffs were mobilized on 24/7, Trucks, employees, and everyone in the village center saving drowned people, facilitating movements, transferring the damaged families to the school, and closing the entrances of homes, with sand berms”.

“All of this and the sky won’t calm down, and in one deadly moment the water flooded from the sewage pump and started moving towards the electricity meters. It almost burned the whole village if it had not been for the mercy of God which stopped the rain”. Said Ayman Abu Qliq an employee in the water and sanitation department of Umm al Nasr municipality, about one of the most dangerous nights that passed on them.

● Source of Problem

For 13 years since its founding in 2005, the village of Um Nasr, in the northern Gaza Strip, has been drowning every winter with residents, houses and streets. Where water is collected in the center of the village because there is only one sewage pump and two refineries that cannot draw huge amounts of rainwater. Which disrupts the movement of traffic for several days and causes a crisis for the population of about 6,000.

Through examining the problem, we have met the citizen Mousa Al-Madani, and he said: “in atmospheric depression we used to leave to schools after our homes drowned, where water
enters and reaches almost a meter. Therefore, our furniture is broken and we cannot move inside the house. Also sometimes, the municipality closes the entrance of the house with sand in order to prevent the leaking of water.

However, the child Rami Abu Dheil (12 years old), He spoke about his suffering since first grade until sixth grade. He said, “In rainy days we are trapped in our houses, we dismiss school, and cannot leave the house to fulfill our daily needs. If it was exams period we have to leave but we go through bypass roads. Even so we drown in the water in front of the school gate so we enter with our clothes wet”.

This was not the case of Rami alone, but expanded to be the case of more than 600 students in Hamza bin Abdul-Mutalib School. As well as the faculty, the school principal says: “This is the problem of every year. The students come wet, the water has reached their underwear, and the child stands in front of me as a cool piece shivering. We do not have a heater neither alternative clothes. So we have to call the guardian immediately to take his child”.

Mona Saad-Eddin said: this is the case of students who came to school in cold and rainy days, about two-thirds of the students were absent. Moreover, she ensured that those present had to be absent for several days and in some cases a full week after they had been exposed to colds and bed-sick.

In addition, the same with the faculty, who most of them come from outside the village, the cars refuse to enter them to the entrance of the school where the water is wasted. Therefore, they always enter the school with wet clothes. As a result, the school was forced to postpone classes and exams, in order to work on an emergency schedule for periods of weather fluctuations in the shadow of atmospheric depressions.
The secret of change

This year, the situation of the village is completely different. You wander under the rainwater, nothing will get wet more than your shoes. This is after the PARC established a pond to collect, filter and recover rainwater as part of the project “strengthening the resilience of the citizens of Gaza against water crisis”. Which it implements in partnership with the German Foundation (DKH) Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, funded by bread for the world/BMZ.

In detail, project manager Arad Abed said: “The period of construction and implementation of the pond lasted four months. In which the best samples were selected and we dealt with an excellent implementing company. In order to benefit all the residents of the village. It was established to alleviate the crisis and suffering of the people, in every winter, from drowning, confusion and the closure they were experiencing.”

As for the municipality of Umm al-Nasr, which participated with PARC in implementing the pond and its establishment, closely followed the selection of samples. The engineer of the projects, Ahmed Fayyad said: “We used to choose samples according to specifications, from pipes and intakes, and all what is necessary, and we do for it periodic examination. But now we follow-up the progress of its work after the drought of the rainwater we plow the floor to disassemble the soil and remove impurities that close the pores, in addition to keeping an ongoing monitoring and cleaning rainwater drainage culverts.”
Success Story

- Beneficiary: Nawahy Ahmad Abu-Eid
- Area: Beddo- Jerusalem
- Private enterprise of the beneficiary: beekeeping
- Supporter: Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Number of workers in the enterprise and direct and in-direct beneficiaries: 2 work in the enterprise
- The enterprise produced in the first season (200 kg of honey) and they have been sold out.

A woman married to a man who had (3 children and a daughter) from his deceased wife. She took care of them in addition to her new children (two boys), she has completed her studies and refused to remain unemployed. For life needs high expenses, especially as one of the girls is preparing to register in a university, except that the husband is a daily worker.

In the past, the husband bought two beekeepers in order to make an income for the family and Nawahy did not have any experience in beekeeping, but she was helping. When she heard the announcement of the project to support the resilience of the Jerusalemite Youth, She quickly applied for this grant.

From the very first moments of the interview, Nawahy introduced herself, expressed her desire, the strength of her will, and the importance of receiving this grant. Because in her opinion it is a gateway to development, independence and family building.
She was distinguished in the training, in her search for information and her determination to achieve excellence between her peers. Also she strived to provide a feasibility study and action plan that received the attention of everyone. Her husband says: Before the training, I thought I knew more information about beekeeping than Nawahy might know through training, but it was a surprise when I realized that she had outdone me in all aspects regarding the bee project.

Nawahy did not stop at this point; she started preparing to win the grant also she prepared for receiving the tools and materials of project that the grant will provide. So she worked with the family (her husband and children) in preparing the place and providing whatever it needs. The family was special in its preparations, Nawahy says when I started preparing I knew I have enough strength and happiness to push me to believe the mile journey has started, and that there is a promising future for this business. That I share with my family but with a clear and big print from me.

Nawahy was able to build a great relationship with the suppliers, where she was able to have all the detailed information about all the tools and materials that she received from the project. It was not enough for her to receive it as quantity, but tried to know the smallest details regarding these tools and materials and the best way to use them. This reflected positively on her work in her beekeeping project. The apiary was special since day one. As Nawahy caring, and doing all the necessary procedures to achieve her and her family’s goal (a special apiary in its production), and she got what she wanted. In the first harvest for honey, it was (170 kg of honey) only after three months of receiving the project. Despite the low estimates for this year due to the high temperatures and damage to flowers and pastures.

Today, Nawahy is preparing for the harvest of the second crop of honey. In addition, she prepares to make a division of cells so that the number of beekeeper cells grow. Moreover, she is preparing to register her daughter in the university, she says that anxiety and tension about the university installments and its impact on the expenses of the family is gone. I can provide and do whatever I want, I am independent woman, as I am able to work and be more productive.