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Design: **Mohammad Abu-Gharbieh**
Tel/Fax: 02-2342828, 052-383853
E-mail: momen@jroi.com

Introduction

The year 2001 was not a normal year compared to previous years, the work started throughout the year under economical and political disturbances from the year 2000, when the second Intifada had started. PARC was well organized and prepared for this phase by building up on its past experiences on one hand and placing procedures to play an effective role on the other.

PARC started the year 2001 with plans responding to the situation and accordingly concentrated on emergency projects leading to creation of new job opportunities for the unemployed, encouraging food processing on household level and providing necessary water sources for people and animals keeping in mind the fact that the last three years were drought years. PARC also worked towards facilitating people's mobility in between villages and cities through opening and rehabilitating connecting agricultural roads which helps farmers to purchase the agricultural inputs and market their products. At the same time PARC tried to decrease the losses of farmers due to the destruction of their agricultural land and uprooting of the cultivated trees by the Israeli soldiers and settlers, where PARC distributed new seedlings and reclaimed land besides distribution of food for work. In general PARC could say that it had an outstanding role throughout the year 2001, its budget directed to projects increased, the number of families benefiting from the projects and emergency programs also increased. At the same time PARC was greatly concerned with its internal development and concentrated on organizing the beneficiaries in cooperatives and groups, which enabled them to play a bigger role in implementation of 50% of PARC's project.

PARC was able to reach all these achievements through its decentralized system, the different branches were well equipped with human resources in all regions and volunteers and friends of PARC who played a major role in all these successes and achievements showed great devotion.

We greatly appreciate the role of our partners and friends in supporting us through their visits, appeals, positions and financial support. Without all this support we could never have served this huge number of beneficiaries. PARC's staff were also generous in offering all the efforts needed to implement the work and ensure positive impact despite the difficulties of mobility and the danger they faced, where a number of them were injured, arrested, prevented from getting back to their families or had to walk for hours to reach their homes.

We pass on our gratitude to all these brave people who were able to register outstanding achievements through their unlimited constructive diligent work, which pioneered PARC as a symbol of giving and a sample of a successful non-governmental organization.

Rawya Al-Shawa
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

The General Situation in 2001

1. Political Situation:

The victory of the Right Wing Israeli extremists didn't come as a surprise to anybody nor the heroic Palestinian steadfastness both in the ability to withstand the painful Israeli hits and attacks and face Sharon's trials in forcing the Palestinians to kneel down and enforcing the Israeli rules and conditions that are against all international conventions and laws.

The Israeli militant forces have been and are still practicing all types of racial discrimination, using different means and practices, benefiting from the degrading silence of the other Arab Governments, confined by the biased American shield and the immobilized International and European communities. The effects of this policy are reflected in the cold blooded killings, demolishing of houses, bulldozing agricultural land and bombing of buildings, in addition to the continuous siege imposed on Palestinians and humiliating actions used during the occupation and incursions into cities and villages. It is worth noting that the year 2001 is not exceptional for Palestinians but it is a sound and visual proof for condemning the Israeli occupation and its leaders as war criminals.

The continuing Israeli occupation of most of the Palestinian land and the continuous siege and closure imposed on all inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, in addition to the continuing aggressive attacks lead by the Israeli army on most of the cities and villages caused losses of many lives of men, women, children and youth. All economic and social aspects have deteriorated, more than 950 persons have been killed and more than 24,000 persons injured in the different regions. A total of around 7,000 houses, 108 wells and hundreds of kilometers of roads were demolished.

Undoubtedly the most severe measures

imposed on Palestinians are the 140 military checkpoints distributed in the West Bank and Gaza dividing them into 220 huge prisons. This paralyzed mobility and economic and social continuity creating the difficulty of transporting goods and necessary food supplies; besides, around 15 people died at check points because they were obstructed from getting to hospitals and a number of women went into labor, three of them losing their newborns.

2. The Economic and Social Situation:

According to the statistics published by The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in August 2001, 14% of Palestinian families or 73,000 families have completely lost their source of income. In addition, 47.7% of Palestinian families lost more than half of their income, which they received before the current Intifada. The survey also indicated that 60.80% of the families live beyond the poverty line.

The Palestinian economy, fragile and exhausted as it is, has suffered losses of seven billion dollars that, according to the Ministry of Finance, include losses incurred as a result of the decline in production and unexpected economic burdens, in addition to the large sums of money held by the Israelis. According to the Ministry of Agriculture the losses incurred by the agricultural sector alone amount to 440 million dollars and include uprooted trees and crops, demolished farms, farmers' houses, agricultural structures and wells, losses of animals and fish, decrease in agricultural prices, paralysis of transportation, inability to market agricultural products, increase in prices of feed/fodder, loss of labor force working in agriculture, etc.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of unemployed workers at the end of 2001 reached 219,000. According to the Palestinian Minister of Labor, the poverty rate reached 67%. The World

Bank estimates the monthly deficit in the national budget at 68 million dollars, and the Palestinian Authority's unpaid obligations double the size of tax revenues.

The second Palestinian Intifada revealed the fragile and weak economic situation in Palestine, as well as the deformities that result from Palestinian dependency on the Israeli economy. There is a Palestinian lack of vision and developmental strategies, in spite of the fact that the size of external aid dropped which is closely connected to political developments. However, the Palestinian Authority has contributed to alleviating part of the suffering of the people living under partial Israeli re-occupation by financially compensating part of the damages as well as contributing to improve the harsh economic conditions for many social groups of the population.

Many studies and surveys indicate that the phenomenon of child labor and beggars among women and children has increased to a large extent. This is due to the deterioration in the traditional social system and the increase in poverty. On the other hand, there are many positive initiatives on the poor family levels that aim at fighting poverty and overcoming it. Minimizing and economizing on expenditure and starting small and successful income generating projects achieve this goal.

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3. Situation of Non-Governmental Organizations:
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The civil society organizations play a significant role in encouraging new initiatives and developing them, besides providing financial and technical support and management of all emergency programs. These organizations suffered like all of the Palestinian society and faced severe problems and threats to their sustainability and the continuation of their programs, projects and strategies due to the fact that they were not prepared to face such an emergency situation. Most of the organizations required long time to be able to modify their programs, policies and strategies of work, in addition to the fact

that they suffered, especially the grassroots organizations, from financial problems and accordingly decreased their activities or even closed down particularly if they were not supported by the larger organizations.

The current events stressed the importance of coordination and cooperation in regional and sectorial networks for the civil society organizations. They also realized the importance of conducting administrative and organizational modifications; diversification of funding resources especially the local funding resources, enlargement of the grassroots relations and working through decentralized systems.

The situation also uncovered the negligence of the non-governmental organizations in building the grassroots relations politically and ideologically, an issue that resulted in a huge gap in the Palestinian society since 1993 and transferring these organizations to implementers of projects.

Some of the nongovernmental organizations, PARC being one of them, revised their strategies of work and are trying to seek solutions to overcome the problems that they faced in working with the grassroots, and work towards developing new strategies of work in the future with a major aim of developing these relations.

One of the major components within the developmental process is the activation and participation of the grassroots. Accordingly, without any organization of the target groups and strengthening of the ideologies theoretically and practically based on civil society principles there will be a gap larger than before. Non-governmental organizations are requested to start by including these ideologies within their structures and then request other governmental and non-governmental organizations to consider and implement these principles.

PARC in the year 2001

1. Main outstanding achievements in 2001:

- 1) Opening of 325 Km of agricultural roads, which assisted mobility of the people under the imposed siege on all regions.
- 2) The number of volunteers increased to reach more than 7,000 persons, in addition to the increased interest of new volunteers to work and invest their time in projects, which highly benefit the society.
- 3) The number of employees in PARC remained the same, despite the fact that the number of funded projects has nearly doubled; this was possible through the implementation of more than 60% of the projects through the grassroots organizations and volunteers.
- 4) Establishing and cooperating with 331 rural developmental organizations and preparing for the establishment of a coalition for these organizations in Palestinian rural areas.
- 5) Activating the roles of the PNGO and enlarging its social role and developing its cadre.
- 6) Implementing 5 emergency projects in addition to planned work in PARC successfully and in due time, in addition to creating more than 250,000 working days for the unemployed and more than 200,000 working days in coordination with other organizations.
- 7) Increasing the role of three training centers and successfully implementing the training of newly graduated agronomists and the higher



education program in rural development, which is being implemented in coordination with Alquds University.

8) Successfully establishing and strengthening 54 credit and savings groups for women without dependence on any external funding.

9) Quantitative and qualitative development of water, marketing, house gardens, seeds and environmental projects in comparison to the past.

10) Training 800 male and female rural leaders, who had an outstanding role in solving their problems and in lobbying and advocacy.

11) Maintaining the widely spread relations and coordination with more than 350 local, regional and international organizations.

12) Increasing the social, organizational and governmental trust in PARC's national and developmental role especially during this Intifada.

13) Maintaining good relations with around 20 governmental organizations especially the Ministry of Agriculture.

14) The total number of benefiting cases reached 103,009 women (61.5%) and 64,363 men (38.5%) totaling to around 167,373 direct beneficiaries. As for the number of indirect beneficiaries, it is estimated to be double that of direct beneficiaries. The total number of targeted families is 40,000 rural families.

2. Project Implementation:

PARC lived and survived through difficult and unnatural situations in the year 2001. The continued closures and Israeli army checkpoints and terrorism against the innocent inhabitants in the cities, villages and on the roads between rural areas have hindered the movement of PARC's staff between the cities and some of the targeted villages; but on the other hand the decentralized system in PARC which is based on the work of 10 branches, 7,000 volunteers and more than 200

grassroots organizations assisted in implementing most of the programs and projects efficiently and effectively.

The decreased number of meetings among the technical workers in the branches and the administration in the center has left a negative impact on the level of participation and learning in PARC and caused some social and psychological stress on the workers.

PARC was able to double the funding allocated for projects and was able to implement these projects without increasing the number of its staff despite all the problems and difficulties obstructing and hindering the work through the Intifada. This will offer PARC a wide range of possibilities for implementation of activities and projects in the future, a factor that results in higher efficiency on the administrations level without any additional costs.

3. The Workers and the Branches:

The total number of workers in PARC through out the year 2001 reached 130 in the beginning of the year and 126 by the end of the year, out of which 79 are working in the branches and the rest in the headquarters of PARC in Jerusalem and Ramallah. The percentage of female workers reached 37%, while on the headquarter level it reached 44%.

Despite the current situation and events the absence of PARC's staff from work was minimal in comparison to other organizations.

The ten branches of PARC were developed, new computers and internet networks were installed, workers were trained in using these systems and a special employee was assigned to follow up on the information system and secretarial work in all branches. Additionally, a specialist was employed centrally to follow up on the development and maintenance of the computer network and training of the workers in the center and the lease line networks with the training centers. Through a program for employment of the injured and disabled from the Intifada, five injured persons

were employed to work with the computer specialist.

Additional responsibilities were given to the branches and the expenditures for all projects were done in the regions, bank accounts were opened and money was transferred from the center to these accounts for implementation of projects. The work coordination in the branches is based on teamwork and not individually. The interference and responsibility of the technical departments in the regions were reduced.

4. Evaluations of Projects and Activities:

Four central evaluations for the emergency projects - animal husbandry extension program, goat cheese campaign activity, treatment plant units and food for work project - were conducted. The recommendations were discussed with all stakeholders keeping in mind that the involved departments submitted working plans with clear terms of reference to the evaluation team.

A needs assessment study was conducted for the grassroots organizations on one hand and a second study was conducted for the agricultural extension for farmers and its relation to the indigenous knowledge.

The technical departments conducted a number of workshops with the participation of a number of field workers aiming at developing the working guideline manuals for projects and programs; as a result of these workshops part of the procedures were merged, changed or deleted to increase the efficiency of these manuals. This was followed by 41 field visits for internal auditing to ensure compliance with the set procedures in the manuals especially for the emergency projects. An external auditor audited the Ramallah region files. PARC is still upholding the ISO 9002 certification.

5. Staff Skills Development:

The higher education university program is continuing with the participation of 30 employees, some are expected to graduate

next year and the percentage of women participating in this program reached 50%. This program played a big role in developing the efficiency and performance of these employees.

Forty-one employees participated in 210 training days in and outside PARC, and the training was concentrated on technical and administrative issues related to the plans for developing the staff. Most of the workshops emphasized development of their skills in communication and leadership; information was exchanged with other participating organizations. On PARC's level the exchange of information and know-how achieved certain levels but not as desired through the exchange visits, social visits, workshops and lectures.

6. Palestinian NGO Network:

PARC is still hosting the PNGO and follows its work. More than 47 meetings of the coordinating committee were conducted for follow up on activities and development of the situation. The general assembly of the network met four times to follow up on central activities that the PNGO is monitoring.

The PNGO strengthened its coordinating and lobbying meetings locally, regionally and internationally. A number of meetings with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, developmental agencies and diplomatic missions in Palestine were conducted and aimed at informing the international community about the position of the Palestinian civil society in relation to different internal, national and developmental issues.

The PNGO started a grassroots international campaign for the protection of the Palestinian people last June. This came in response to the American veto for sending international observers to Palestine. This campaign aims at spreading out the realities of the severe Israeli measures through first hand observation by the European and American citizens, in addition to involving the international communities in supporting and lobbying for

the Palestinian case on one hand and protecting the Palestinians from Israeli brutality on the other.

A number of grassroots campaigns were arranged for more than 2,000 volunteers supporting the Palestinian case. They visited most of the cities and villages especially the ones that are mostly affected by the Israeli attacks, some of these observers were able to remove check points and military barriers, formed human shields in front of the occupying tanks to stop them from proceeding towards the Palestinians and uncovered the brutal and vicious measures imposed by the occupation policies.

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7. PARC's Response to the Emergency Situation:
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Since the start of the Intifada, PARC's administration conducted a number of meetings to discuss the framework of emergency programs to be implemented taking into consideration the abilities, know-

how and experience of PARC on one hand and the needs of farmers and women in rural areas on the other. As a result, PARC implemented five projects, which provided work for the unemployed workers who lost their jobs, supplied more than 236,680 m3 of water through implementation of water harvesting projects, opened and rehabilitated 325 km of agricultural roads connecting villages and cities, reclaimed and cultivated 1,829 dunums of land, distributed to women tens of thousands of seedlings and seeds that were cultivated through the house garden project, processed large amounts of agricultural products and marketed 119 tons of these products.

The evaluations conducted by the specialized evaluating team in PARC indicated the enormous benefit of these projects for the beneficiaries. Some of the activities helped to preserve the market price of the products such as the Olive oil and cheese, contributed directly and indirectly to the creation of jobs. It is worth noting that the evaluation also



outlined the compliance of PARC's workers with the selection criteria of the beneficiaries as stated in the manuals.

The importance of some of the previously implemented projects by PARC was felt through out this Intifada. The major achievements were as following:

1- Opening of 560 km of agricultural roads connecting 400 groupings during the past seven years played a significant role in facilitating the movement of the people since they were the only means of communication available for Palestinians.

2- The reclamation of 13,265 dunums of land during the past seven years assisted in creating permanent job opportunities and increased the income of more than 1,300 rural families through agricultural production.

3- Harvesting of 492,076 m³ of water serving 1,248 rural families and 4,198 dunums of agricultural lands through the water harvesting projects implemented during the past three years in the marginalized villages. This provided water and eased up the drinking problems for rural families and their animals during the drought seasons and the imposed closures.

4- Household economy projects through the house gardens activities and distribution of animals such as poultry, sheep, cows and rabbits helped in providing the families with basic food needs especially for children. These projects are highly demanded by rural families because they have positive impacts on their food security.

8. Voluntary Work:

Voluntary work in PARC is unique and is considered the main pillar for the target group participation in implementation of projects. All PARC employees gladly offer voluntary working hours to the organizations and its voluntary committees work in implementation and monitoring of the projects.

In PARC, employees do not abide with the working hours but concentrate on achievement of their plans with no timeframe limitation for a day's work or official days off. The total amount of voluntary work of the staff during the year 2001 was equal to 12% of the paid salaries.

As for the voluntary work on the target group level, the total number of voluntary hours during the year 2001 amounted to the work of 180 full time workers, which is equivalent to around half a million dollars (calculating this on the basis of 10 dollars per day); this includes the training hours and the monitoring and implementation of projects. Volunteers became more aware of their own needs and situation, more capable and experienced in different technical and administrative issues. They formed a wide grassroots human base able to implement and monitor projects with triple capacity of PARC.

A workshop with participation of 50 volunteer leaders from different regions and a series of training courses in 8 regions were conducted to encourage voluntary work and to enable people to receive international volunteers.

The following table illustrates the analyses of voluntary work in PARC throughout the past three years:

Activity	1999	2000	2001
Staff voluntary work by days	1,712	2,100	2,520
Volunteers work by days *	24,200	37,990	43,835
Percentage of implemented projects by volunteers	44%	54%	60%
Number of male volunteers	1,178	3,276	3,830
Number of female volunteers	872	3,200	3,910
Number of professional volunteers	315	385	805

** Numbers are estimated.*

PARC is currently exploring different possibilities for developing its volunteers' skills and increasing the dependence on their implementation and monitoring of projects. It expects the outburst of highly unused energies in the Palestinian society in the future.

9. Decrease of Local Financial Contribution:

During the past five years, PARC was able to increase the local contributions to development projects, which reached around 25% for some service and extension and training projects to 100% for the credit and savings project.

Due to the Intifada and decreasing income of farmers, the financial contribution to projects decreased from 50% to 25% and sometimes to zero, which has affected some of the projects, especially land reclamation, agricultural roads, household economy and water projects. The savings of women within the credit and savings groups also decreased from 20 shekels/week to 10 shekels/week and in some cases women stopped saving.

It is worth noting that voluntary and in-kind contributions of the beneficiaries increased significantly. The number of volunteers

increased as well, especially among professionals and youth who lost their work and who are willingly offering a lot of assistance in solving of problems and implementing activities.

PARC believes that local contribution is an important component for development and should be preserved by all institutions, especially when a large number of emergency projects are being implemented and they usually do not require any financial contributions. This would lead to work disruption within Palestinian organizations in the future because beneficiaries will get used to making no financial contributions to the projects as it was ten years ago.

PARC has been exploring new methods of contribution through collection of donations and Alzaka money from more prosperous people and using these funds on behalf of poor people as a local contribution to projects or contributions to projects with social impact



such as agricultural roads and metallic water tanks. PARC will concentrate throughout the year 2002 on building this experience based on a pilot activity successfully conducted in one of the villages.

There are good prospects for increasing farmers' and women's contributions for implementation of projects that generate income; such as receiving 2% discount on 17% VAT paid for inputs and group purchasing for farmers, which reduces the cost by 10%-30% in some cases. The same could be said in regards to joint marketing projects. PARC hopes that such programs will open up new opportunities for covering part of the running cost and raise the local contributions.

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10. Relationship with the Palestinian Authority:
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The Intifada has unified the different segments of the Palestinian nation in its struggle against the Israeli occupation and the brutal and severe suppression by the army and settlers.

Accordingly, most of the struggles and misunderstanding that overwhelmed the relations among the governmental and non-governmental organizations decreased significantly. Emergency committees were established with equal participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations, coordination in identifying priorities for projects and better implementation, based on all parties' cooperation in implementing service, health and nutritional projects. The same can be said about the media struggle with the occupation and the Grassroots International Protection for Palestinians (GIPP), lead by the PNGO where PARC played a significant role in hosting the network and monitoring its activities as well as in a widely spread network of relations in the different regions and among the different groupings.

As for work and coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, PARC has reached high levels in implementation of joint projects as well as projects implemented for the

Ministry such as the land reclamation projects through UNDP and ACDI/VOCA project and the agricultural roads projects funded by the Islamic Bank and others.

The ongoing discussions among the civil society organizations and the Ministry of Agriculture became more realistic in regards to coordinating and complementing of different roles, whereas the people in the Ministry are more convinced by the fact that project implementation should be conducted through the NGOs because of their close relations with the grassroots and concentrating the role of the Ministry on placing of policies and strategies, prioritizing the agricultural work and implementing, monitoring and applying signed agreements, regulations and building of the infrastructure.

The same could be said in regards to the relationship with other Ministries such as the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), Ministries of Labor, Education, Social Affairs and NGOs.

On the other hand there are lots of issues that are still pending in other ministries such as the Ministry of Interior, where PARC was able to arrange its legal status and get all necessary documentation but the case was not the same for other institutions and they are still in need of solving their problems with this ministry.

The biggest problems are the obstacle created by the Ministry of Labor, that has to license agricultural cooperatives based on the Palestinian Cooperative Law. The Ministry uses unrealistic excuses and places numerous obstacles and constraints in licensing of the savings and credit cooperatives, despite the fact that all documentation was submitted two years ago, the same is the case with the farmers' specialized cooperatives. PARC will use all legal and legitimate ways to ensure the licensing of these cooperatives.

As for the relation with the Legislative Council, it was strengthened by the mutual work on developing the Palestinian Agricultural Law, which was passed at the first reading. Farmers and agricultural organizations actively

participated in developing the items within this law, workshops were conducted and discussions are still taking place.

11. The Main Problems Obstructing Work in 2001:

1- The information and expertise gap between different branches and the headquarters, especially in the Gaza Strip, because the staff members have been unable to visit the branches for the past two years.

2- Local contribution reduced approximately from 50% to 25%. Emergency projects were also implemented without any financial local contribution - something that may create dependency of people on support without making contributions and it would take significant efforts and time to receive this contribution in the future.

3- Transportation cost increased by three to five times due to lower use of personal vehicles and lack of transportation facilities, which also affected the implementation cost and timing.

4- Substituting a five-day workweek with a six-day one due to the current situation, which increased the workload and stress for the staff under this difficult situation.

5- Inability of staff to attend periodical group meetings in the headquarters that deal with

general policies and strategies, in addition to cancellation of all central training courses and workshops.

6- Difficulties created by long working hours and short nursery and school hours, which sometimes prohibited staff with families from going out into the field.

7- High level of depression caused by the difficult situation and economic and security problems on one hand and the health problems of relatives and neighbors on the other in addition to depression caused by the news and surrounding media.

8- Competition among organizations over professional staff, especially by the foreign agencies who can afford paying higher salaries for workers in comparison to PARC. Due to this factor PARC lost five of its workers, which left it with a gap in the fieldwork.

9- Inability to increase productivity of some employees, or to release employees from work after their work contracts/projects are over because of their difficult family situations and lack of any other source of income. This prevented PARC from introducing new people and ideas into the organization.

10- Lack of specialized professionals due to the high demand, particularly in accounting and administration, report and proposal writing and other technical areas.



Accomplishments in relation to PARC's Objectives

This is the first time that PARC reports on its accomplishments in relation to the objectives and indicators. This has been possible after successfully linking the objectives with the indicators in the work plan. This is considered to be a major development in facilitating the verification of the objectives through a clear set of measurable indicators.

It is hoped that the structure of this report would be clearer than previous reports to the reader, researcher and all those concerned with PARC's work, especially that the objectives have been gathered to reach 12 objectives only.

First objective: Encourage farmers to implement sustainable agricultural techniques and methods and to promote safe agricultural products.

Following PARC's policy in encouraging farmers to practice organic agriculture and not to use chemicals, the extension workers at PARC supported the promotion of organic products in local markets. The trade fair organized to promote organic and women's products in Hebron as well as the shops in Tulkarem and Jenin played a very important role in marketing these products. The sale of indigenous and improved seeds was also promoted. This experience has not yet been evaluated although the primary indicators show the increase of people attending fairs and an increase in the demand of goods.

The farmers respond more positively to the integrated pest management than to organic farming. This is due to the lack of possibilities in organic farming both on the production and marketing levels. On the policies and programs levels, there is lack of expertise necessary to develop organic agriculture.

On the other hand, the need for sustainable agriculture on the local and national levels especially in this extremely difficult economic and political situation and in view of the continuous siege and harassment of people, makes it of vital importance for the people to depend on local inputs and to increase production.

A study that compared agricultural methods that depend on chemicals or their limited use shows that the cultivation of tomatoes in greenhouses costs \$4,000 whereas in a program based on alternative chemical inputs the cost is \$2,600.



Indicator	Planned amount	Accomplished amount	Rate of accomplishment %	Notes / justifications
Number of farmers practicing organic agriculture and implementing IPM	120	110	91	The average cultivated amount of land per farmer is 4.5 dunums. The average amount of compost used per dunum is 1.1 m3; produced locally from natural agricultural waste.
Number and size of agricultural inputs (alternative environmental inputs to chemicals and its spread).	10	12	120	Colored traps, Cultivation under Shash, solar sterilization, integrated agriculture, pest repelling plants, plants that attract useful insects are among the most helpful techniques used to reduce the application of chemicals in addition to introducing 9 biological and organic pesticides.
Area of land where organic and IPM agriculture is implemented	300	494	164	Increase in the area of land is a result of some organizations shifting to organic agriculture
Number of places selling safe products	6	7	116	Sales are concentrated in supermarkets, vegetable stores, and specialized trade fairs for agricultural and organic products.

Second objective: Activate the role of farmers and mobilize them towards their goals.

PARC, together with organizations and leaders, has played an important role in raising some public issues in agriculture and other issues that concern certain groups. The discussion of the agricultural law and the suggestion of amendments were met with approval and encouragement by the Legislative Council and the Ministry of Agriculture. Work is still underway to discuss other points in all the districts. Different communities have played an important role in marketing and promotion of farmers' products as is the case with the palm farmers and farmers producing grapes in the Jordan Valley. The committee for boycotting Israeli products (Al Marsad), has been very active. Farmers were encouraged to ask for the 17% VAT refund and to resist the Israeli policy that aims at destroying the agricultural sector and preventing the farmers from reaching their lands.

Although the number of direct activities under each objective has been limited, the program and activities strategy that PARC is using in all projects implemented with the clubs and farmers' gatherings contributed to achieving the objective. The workshops and internal discussions among the workers have increased their conviction to enhance the role of the leadership and rural gatherings in development, especially in the development process of PARC's strategy for the coming year.

Third objective: Improvement of quality and quantity of indigenous vegetable seeds and caring for olive trees.

PARC started its project for improving indigenous seeds around 7 years ago. Today this project has become one of the most effective and productive activities. This is especially true in the case of small farmers cultivating mountainous lands or on the level of home gardens for needy women. Through the years, PARC was successful in accumulating its experience in developing the quality of seeds needed by the farmers and their quantity and cultivation time. The most important accomplishment is adapting them to the harsh conditions in which they would normally fail and where other improved expensive seeds produced internationally would fail as well. This is the only project in Palestine that aims at preserving the genes of indigenous Palestinian varieties and at the

same time meets the small farmers' need to have seeds that resist drought conditions and are suited to the consumers' taste and purchasing powers.

Olive trees are considered to be the most important agricultural plant in the Palestinian economy in terms of production area allocated for their growth, especially in the West Bank. Based on this fact, a plan was formulated to activate the role of farmers in preserving olive trees and increasing olives/olive oil production. This has been done through several activities that focus on pruning and on minimizing the use of chemicals and carrying out field demonstrations for the farmers.

Indicator	Planned amount	Achieved amount	Rate of accomplishment %	Notes
Kind and amount of improved seeds	180 kg of 21 kinds 400	160 kg of 21 kinds	88	New kinds of seeds were introduced to certain areas especially Jenin (e.g. indigenous water melon)
Increase in the area of land cultivated with indigenous improved seeds	dunums	625 dunums and 745 beneficiaries	156	Increase is due to inclusion part of the program in other emergency programs especially in encouraging home gardens
The quality and quantity of seeds in the process of improvement	20 kgs of 9 kinds	40 kgs of 8 kinds	200	This is the result of introducing new areas and the farmers' trust in it in addition to the accumulated experience of the extension workers
The extent to which farmers are pleased with the indigenous seeds	80%	70-90%	100	The farmers' satisfaction was measured during meetings and field visits made by the coordinator and extension workers.
No. of olive tree farmers that trimmed their trees	40	22	55	PARC was unable to reach all farmers under the current situation
No. of olive tree farmers that use natural fertilizers	40	20	55	Not all farmers were targeted due to the situation

Fourth objective: Creating new job opportunities in projects and programs to preserve and enlarge the agricultural area.

The Palestinian agricultural sector forms the backbone of the Palestinian national economy in times of crisis as is happening now. The importance lies in the supply of food to the population and in employing workers, since a substantial number of the people who used to work in Israel are now employed in agriculture. This has been possible through reclamation of salty, mountainous and sandy lands, where rocks have been removed, land leveled and cultivated with trees, stone terraces built, rain water collected, agricultural roads opened which facilitated the transportation of farmers and goods to the land and marketing of agricultural goods.

Due to the prevailing conditions, the accomplishments in this area doubled. These projects maintain their priority and importance and are successful in achieving their objectives of employing workers, producing food products, protecting the land against confiscation and preventing soil erosion.

Indicator	Planned amount	Accomplished amount	Rate of accomplishment %	Notes / justifications
Number of working days	40,000	70,177	175	Average rate of unemployment increased in the rural areas.
Number of workers	1,700	8,870	329	Average rate of unemployment increased in the rural areas.
Number of dunums prepared for cultivation	1,500	1,829	122	Increase in demand for reclamation projects for lack of other work opportunities
Area of land built with stone terraces	5,550	5,550	100	The rate of employment in stone terrace building is very high
Area of fenced land	600	0	0	Rate of employment in this activity is low as there was no focus on this program
The volume of water gathered under reclamation projects	1500 m3	7229 m3	482	This activity employs huge number of people and farmers request for them is high due to the continuous drought.
The amounts of land benefiting from agricultural roads	100,000	141,437	141	The people use agricultural roads opened by PARC and there is a growing need for them. The roads in some instances were the only access to villages and towns.

Fifth objective: Improving administrative, technical and economical skills of animal and poultry breeders.

Goats and sheep constitute a major element in the animal wealth in Palestine. Goats and sheep are bred by most of rural and Bedouin families. There has been a negative implication on animal wealth due to the drought conditions of the past three years. The number of animals and revenue from breeding declined and in many cases this activity became unprofitable.

It was necessary to carry out activities that would help animal breeders to overcome this difficult phase and to increase their profitability through artificial nursing that led to decreasing the mortality rate among young goats and sheep by 1.8%, organizing reproduction, cross breeding and early

vaccination and parasite combating that used to cause great losses to farmers.

Most of these activities were accomplished in the first half of the year. PARC has abolished animal extension in its traditional form and transferred the extension activities to farmers' cooperatives dealing with animals. The idea is for the farmers to work with the extension workers and at the same time to privatize veterinary extension work.

In poultry farming, the extension activities yielded good results in decreasing young chicks mortality in most farms by 7.3%, especially in the Gaza Strip.



Sixth objective: Encourage the adoption of environment-friendly practices.

PARC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, has been successful in incorporating an environmental awareness-raising program for school children through establishment of 30 environmental clubs with a total of 732 students.

This is considered to be PARC's first experience with youth, who were never targeted by PARC before. This experience, however, proved to be successful and PARC is planning to enlarge this activity in the future to include a larger number of schools and

students and to develop the related programs and projects.

The second part of the program includes working with the rural families. The aim is to inform them about ways to save energy, conduct cleaning campaigns, and plant public areas. All these activities are part of the environment-friendly activities and practices. These kinds of activities are encouraged and supported by the whole community and especially families who benefited from the energy saving advices.

Planned objectives	Indicators		Achievements	Notes / justifications
	Year 2000	Year 2000		
Encourage the adoption of environment friendly practices	Cost of electricity dropped for 27 families	Electricity cost dropped for 58 families	215%	High demand for energy saving workshops
	6,959 persons adopted environmental friendly practices	5,946 persons adopted environmental friendly practices	85% (Decrease of 14% in rate of achievement)	Reasons: The insecure situation that lead to inability to transport material needed to conduct public cleaning campaigns. The extension department conducted forestation campaigns that are considered environmentally friendly practices. Some 1,500 people participated.
	360 persons became members in the clubs	732 new members joined the clubs	203%	There is a high demand of students to join the clubs and cooperate with the Ministry of education

Seventh objective: Development of new water sources and better utilization of some available water sources in the agricultural sector.

Drought conditions prevailed in Palestine in 1999 - 2001, which had a very negative impact on Palestinian agriculture. The water level available for drinking purposes dropped. Many springs and wells dried up and the salt levels in the water increased. A large number of fruit and forest trees died along with various crops.

Based on this situation, PARC considered it very important to intensify its efforts in dealing with this problem. One way to resolve it is complimentary irrigation of some land, providing irrigation water through the use of the Tenchometer, and reducing the salt levels through the

use of the Care Free device. These activities are a continuation of a program that was started by PARC a few years ago and proved to have a noticeable impact on the farmers' lives in the areas where PARC operates.



Indicators		Objectives Achievement	Justification/Notes
Year 2000	Year 2001		
1,017 Dunums of land irrigated by complimentary irrigation	3,121 dunums of land irrigated by complimentary irrigation	306%	More farmers are going back to agriculture
2,000 cattle benefited	47,591 cattle benefited from the wells	238%	More farmers are going back to agriculture
13 farmers benefited from the Tenchometer	25 farmers benefited from the Tenchometer	192%	The device had a noticeable effect on the citrus farms in Gaza
150 dunums were irrigated using the care free device	66 dunums were irrigated through Care free treatment	44% compared to 2000.	Inability to work and monitor the machines in the sieged areas of Gaza.
170 dunums were irrigated by complimentary irrigation	112 dunums	66%	Some areas in Gaza were inaccessible to extension workers.
171 farmers participated in specialized irrigation courses	286 farmers participated in irrigation courses	167%	Work was started in new areas. The average attendance was higher than previous years.

Eighth objective: Increase the contribution of rural women to the production process.

Through PARC's experience in working with rural women, it is clear that women face many problems, the most important of which is their inability to participate and contribute to the production process. This makes them inactive in the life of the rural communities, limits their abilities and is the main reason for their inequality with men who become the only source of income for the family.

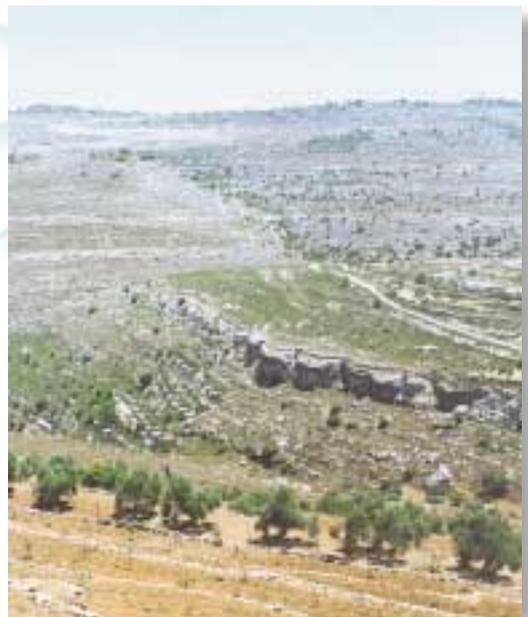
PARC's work strategy is based on enhancing the role of women in the rural society. It is closely linked with enhancing economic role of women on the family and community levels. Therefore PARC focuses on increasing the participation of women in the production process by providing them with resources to generate income for the family and helping them start income generating projects or encouraging them to join women cooperatives like the Cous Cous Cooperative, or through facilitating their receiving of loans necessary to establish projects through credit and savings groups.

PARC has worked for several years on women loans for small projects to cover the needs of poor women as part of the solution for their income problems and to empower women in the society through enhancing their economic role on the family and community levels. The majority of objectives were not achieved however, because of the increase in the administrative costs, inability of many women to repay their loans and reluctance of women to acquire loans at an interest rate charged by the bank, which is forbidden by Islamic laws.

PARC started encouraging Women Credit and Savings Cooperatives in the Women Clubs in Jenin, which became a model project. The project proved to be successful in 2000 and more cooperatives were therefore organized in 2001. At the end of 2001 the number of credit and savings cooperatives reached 47 in the West Bank and Gaza. Women saved between \$2-4/week. Loans were given

periodically to the members with service fees of 6% on small loans ranging between \$200 and \$1,000. Women nominated and elected their own representatives. This is considered to be the first experience in Palestine where the funding is self-generated without depending on external help. Total loans reached \$110,028 and benefited 210 families.

PARC's role is to enhance and strengthen these cooperatives and to transfer the experience and knowledge among different clubs. Another important thing to do is to help in developing the laws and bylaws and in registration of the cooperatives with the appropriate government bodies. The first cooperative has received its licensing and registration papers in Gaza and work is underway to register a cooperative in every district. All of these cooperatives will form a cooperative union or a credit and savings bank, which may be called the Village Bank in the future. PARC will cooperate with other institutions to develop the idea and to realize it in the near future.





Ninth objective: Activate the role of women and women organizations in the life of rural communities.

PARC has continued its work to enhance and empower women through women clubs that are located in 46 different villages in the West Bank and Gaza. PARC had planned to add another 20 new clubs but due to lack of funding, it was decided to improve and support the existing clubs, through training of women leaders and ensuring effectiveness of these clubs. At the same time, work was under way to enlarge the membership and scope of activities. PARC has also made efforts to increase the budget of the clubs that depend on income from membership fees and other activities to cover the expenses and pay the extra amounts for projects and women activities that are approved by the elected executive committees and therefore will lead to self-sustainability.

The clubs have become important community development centers on the village level.

Some have become the primary institution in terms of accountability and in terms of providing services and achieving results, in which 35 organizations implemented their activities through these clubs. These clubs have produced women leaders that possess significant energy and development creativity. The centers have become social centers on the village level that have the potential of becoming community centers in the future. Currently, there are 4539 women members in these clubs.

Tenth objective: Contributing to marketing of excess agricultural products.

As a result of obstacles in transportation and increase in unemployment, some people decided to go back to agricultural work in the rural areas, which increased the agricultural production. This has, in turn, increased the marketing problem for some products especially when the purchasing power has become weaker.

In spite of PARC's efforts to support marketing and increase exports, the problem is still unsolved. The problem lies in the weakness in the private sector to play a bigger role in marketing and the weakness in the farmers' ability to organize themselves and their efforts.

Organization of the marketing process is very important in that it will reduce the cost of promotion and will facilitate local marketing of products like olive oil and animal products that affect the lives of thousands of rural families and Bedouin communities. These two types of products face heavy competition of all sorts. Import of dairy products, milk, meat and olive oil develops in many shapes and

forms which leads to the decline in the raising of cattle and production of olives, which are major sources of income to the people.

PARC's intervention in supporting the farmers when marketing their products contributed to stopping the price reductions, especially the prices of olive oil and white cheese. At one point the wholesalers were paying 9 Shekels per kilogram of white cheese and this threatened the whole animal sector in Palestine. PARC intervened and paid 15 Shekels per kilo but unfortunately, PARC was unable to buy large quantities, as was the case with olive oil where the prices were maintained at 270 Shekels, which is the minimum price that covers the cost of production.

PARC's intervention in solving some of the marketing problems has helped the farmers in some instances to maintain reasonable prices. The estimated amounts saved by PARC's intervention reached \$ 30 million in olive oil, cheese and vegetables sales.

Indicator	Planned amounts	Accomplishment amount	Rate of accomplishment %	Justification
Sales Turnover in \$	500,000	580,000	116	The rate of external export is around 75% of the total sales
Number of quality control certificates	25	30	120	The certificates were produced by the scientific center in Nablus and Al-Quds University for wild herbs, Cous Cous and almonds
Market share for the women cooperative products in trade alternative institutions in Europe in tons	55	60	110	Work with Belgian, Italian, Swiss and German institutions.
Participation in food fairs	5 International	5 International 2 Local	100	First prize at the International Cous Cous competition in Italy. Abu Dabi fair, Al-Sharja fair, Algeria fair, Ajlun fair, Hebron fair for organic products, Gaza fair for dates.

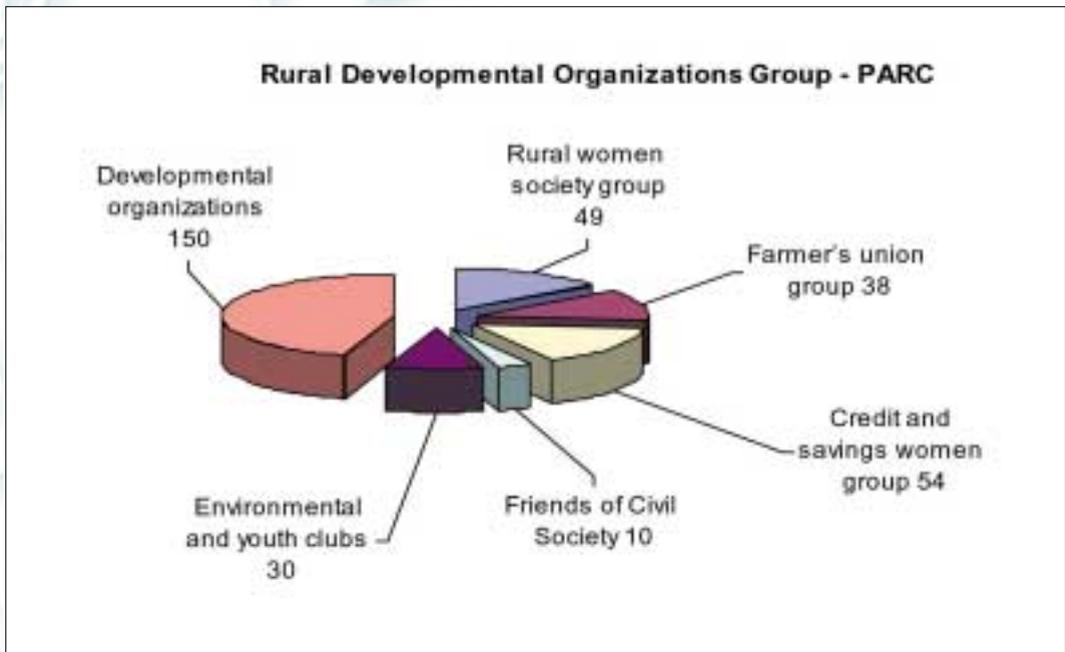
Eleventh objective: Improving the capacities of rural developmental grassroots organizations.

PARC's philosophy is based on the concept of sustainable and comprehensive development. This means encouraging grassroots organizations to work in rural areas in Palestine, by enlarging their options through a package of interventions and strategies that include organizational development and institutional building, networking, enhancing cooperation among grassroots institutions on one hand and cooperation with NGOs and governmental organizations on the other, sustainability and enhancing the spirit of voluntary work and finally lobbying and advocacy. Capacity building work has been a focus of PARC's work for the past four years and especially in 2001.

The process of organizational development and capacity building within PARC, which has

lasted for two decades, has been reflected on the local institutions network, the partners and friends and volunteers who formed a source of support and sustainability to PARC through their contribution in the planning, implementation and evaluation processes for all of PARC's projects and programs.

This was clearly reflected in PARC's accountability that was gained among these gatherings by being transparent in administrative and financial matters. PARC has also contributed to organizing the target groups in specialized associations that reached 180 rural association and cooperative.



Twelfth objective: Cooperation with local and international governmental and non-governmental organizations

One of PARC's strategies and philosophy at work is to cooperate and exchange expertise and information with other organizations that implement similar projects. PARC has therefore worked on the following:

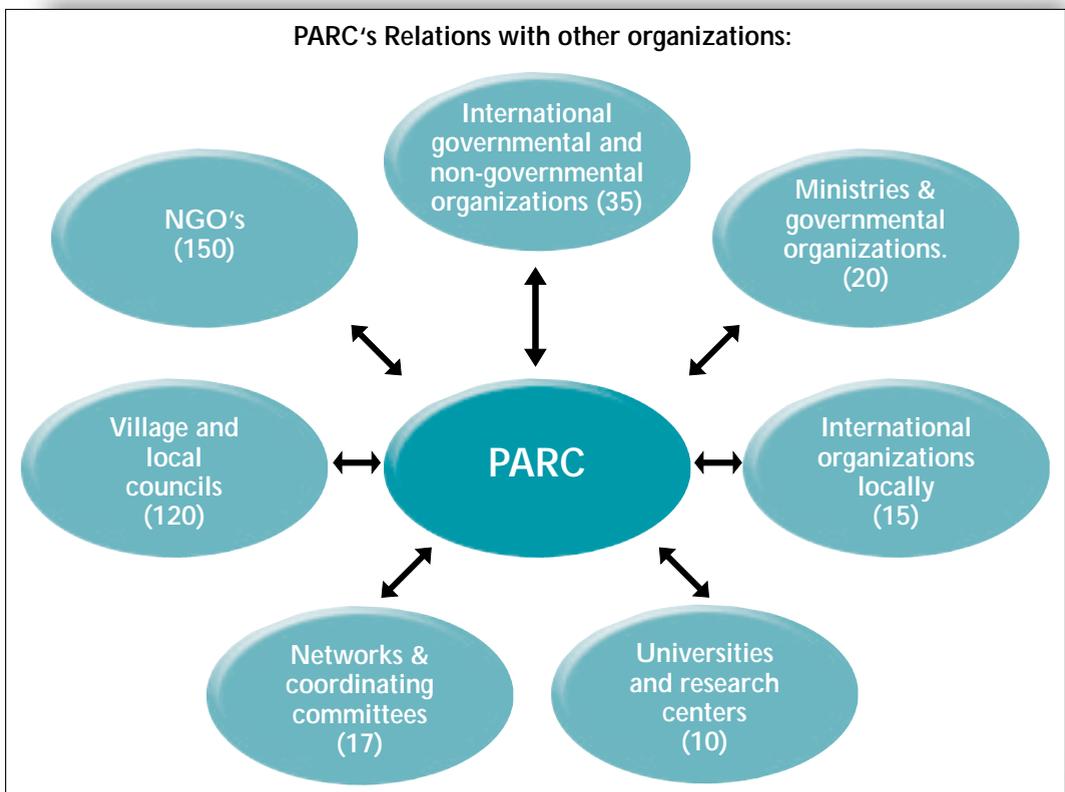
1. Establishing relations with 20 governmental organizations such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Water Authority, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor and other institutions. It is worth noting that a number of projects and activities are currently jointly implemented with governmental organizations and especially the Ministry of NGO's.

2. Cooperation with 200 rural and municipal

councils in the territories in raising the efficiency of the councils and activating its role as one of the community main pillars.

3. Cooperation with foreign and governmental organizations working in Palestine, through coordinating the projects and activities to be implemented directly with the target groups that work with PARC. Such organizations include Save the Children, ANERA, UNDP and others.

4. Working with 35 international governmental and non-governmental organizations, which provide PARC with funds and training, exchange expertise, monitor its activities, help develop reports and support



the struggle to achieve democratic, developmental, environmental and social goals.

5. Coordinating committees and networks. PARC is hosting the Palestinian Network of NGOS (PNGO) as well as the Palestinian Committee for Boycotting Israeli Settlements' Products, the Committee for Agricultural Coordination, the Arab Network for Sustainable Agriculture as well as the Organic Agriculture Network among the local and regional networks.

6. Cooperation and partnership with other 150 centralized NGOS that specialize in working with youth, children, women, handicapped, environment, law, civil society, agriculture and research.

7. Working with universities and research centers. PARC works with Al-Quds University

on a masters program in developmental studies, trains students at Al-Najah University, Hebron University, Al-Quds Open University, conducts research with Al-Najah University and the Islamic University in Gaza and other research and training centers.

The good relationship PARC has with 350 institutions opens wider scopes and improves efficiency in monitoring the projects' implementation. Through this relationship PARC has access to information needed to overcome obstacles and to complement the provision of services that are otherwise undelivered to the target groups.

8. PARC is planning to be active in a number of suggested networks to organize work of the grassroots organizations into an active network in rural areas and central network on the national level, in addition to gathering it all into one social developmental network.

PARC's network of relations:

Coalition of Rural Development Associations (CORDA)	Local NGO Network	International NGO Network
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer's union group • Rural women society group • Credit and savings women group • Established developmental organizations group • Environmental and youth clubs group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural coordinating committee • Partner organization coordinating committee • Environmental organizations committee • MOA coordinating committee and others based on projects and programs • Water Authority coordinating committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arab NGO Forum • Sustainable Agriculture Network • Organic Agriculture Network • Gender Network • Urban Agricultural Network • Arab Network for Sustainable Agriculture

The above mentioned networks require great efforts to develop and build a unique experience, especially in ensuring that different concepts are understood by different organizations and the size and role of these organizations vary and accordingly affect the productivity and services these organizations can offer, PARC has to play a bigger pioneering role within these networks.

9. Capacity Building of rural developmental grassroots organizations.

The most outstanding activities of the year 2001 with regard to Improving the capacities of rural developmental grassroots organizations:

1. Encouraging the target groups to organize themselves:

Through its Institutional Building Department, PARC succeeded to build strong and outstanding relations with the local institutions and was qualified for the World Bank project in the year 2000, where it worked on developing the skills and know-how of 31 local institutions in Gaza, Jenin and the Jordan Valley. This project was a new experiment that endorsed the importance of developing skills through implementation of projects (On Job Training), work on this project being finished in 2001.

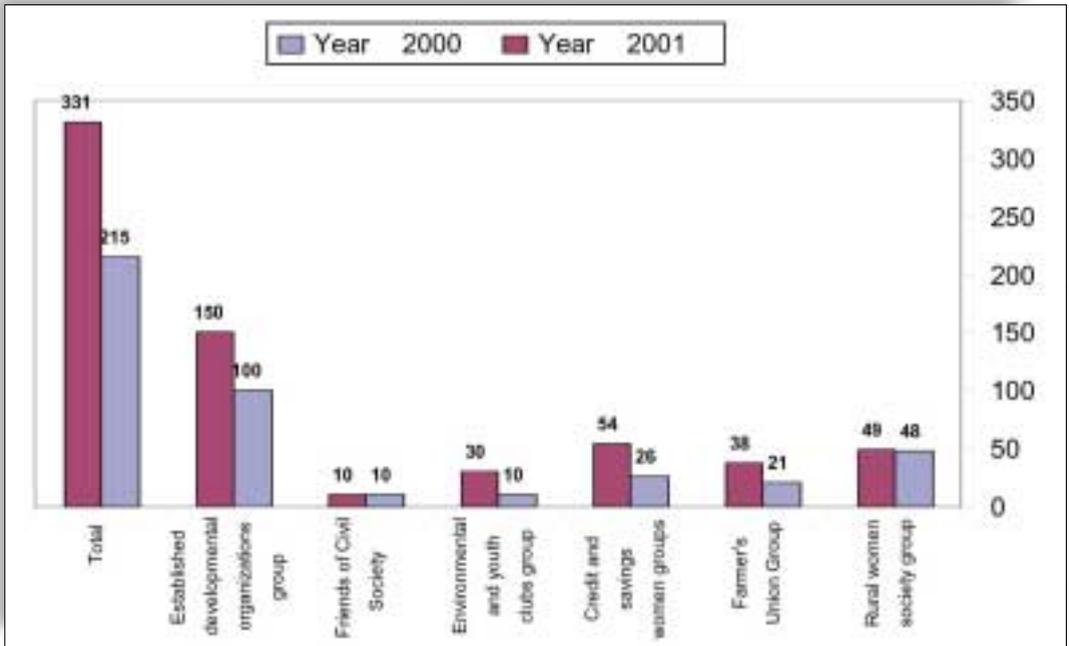
PARC's research study conducted in 2001 for

capacity building programs gave a closer look to the needs and problems of the targeted institutions, especially the weaknesses in administrative and structural systems and ambiguity of various roles, aims and needs along with weak technical skills and experiences that lead to poor coordination and cooperation among these different institutions.

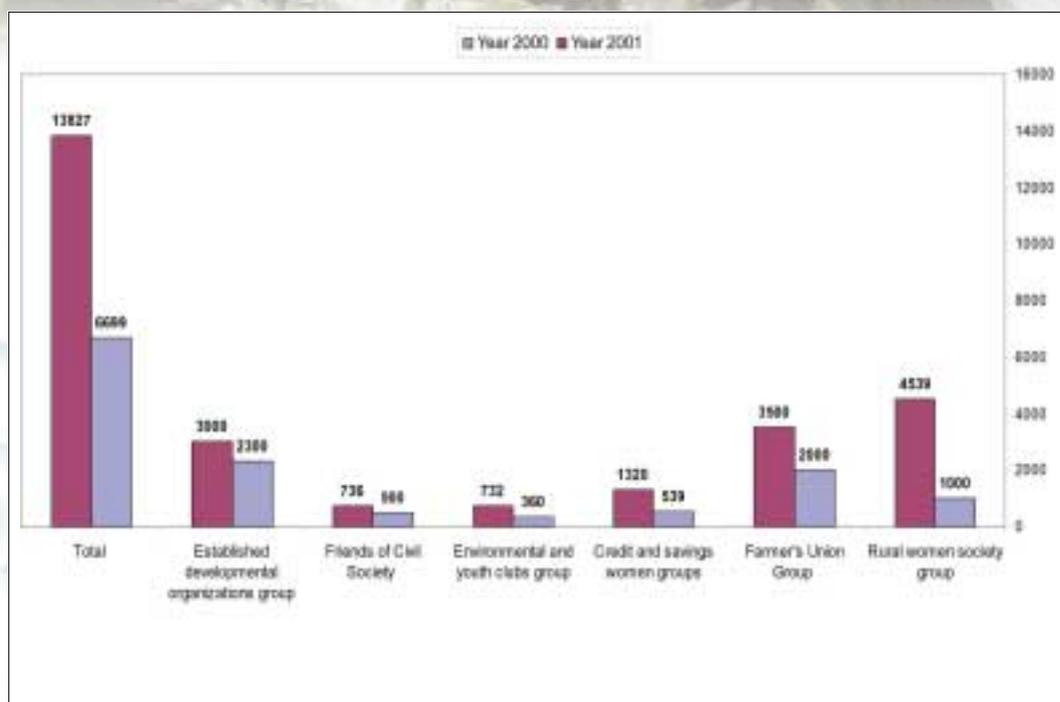
Despite all of the above, PARC sees much hope in developing these institutions through the increased awareness and conviction among these organizations of their important role in rural development.

The activities conducted by these institutions and volunteers reach 60% of the total funded projects in PARC for the year 2001. Future plans are directed to raise this percentage and eventually transfer these groups to implementing agencies. PARC will exert more efforts in building and developing the capacities of these institutions through a comprehensive developmental program.

**Year 2001 Grassroots Groups in Comparison with Year 2000
Number of Groups**



Groups Members



It can be said that PARC had a network of relations in 2001 in more than 260 villages and locations out of the total number of rural communities and villages that amount to 480. This network of relations is the base for implementation of activities for other organizations besides PARC, but it is worth noting that all the services offered do not cover the real needs of the communities.

Services provided in these communities are available not only to the members of these communities. PARC works with women in women clubs and farmers in specialized societies where it services large numbers of people and sometimes even whole villages and accordingly contributes to the comprehensive rural development process.

2. Training of rural leaders:

Three training courses were conducted and 45 persons participated. These courses concentrated on such issues as needs assessment, planning basics and skills,

coordinating and directing, project planning and report achievement. Three other training courses were also conducted with the participation of 42 women.

A four-days training course was conducted for 70 outstanding volunteers. This course dealt with the main problems facing voluntary work and the mechanism to develop it and ways of motivating volunteers and improving their technical and administrative skills.

3. Developing the skills of newly graduated agronomists:

PARC continued its work in developing the training centers in Gaza, Jericho and Zababdeh, through the development of the libraries and computer labs used for training. A total of 67 newly graduated agronomists are under training and 50 previously trained agronomists had graduated. Twenty-five out of the fifty graduated agronomists were able to find jobs in the private sector, and governmental and non-governmental

organizations. This training course is unique in the West Bank and Gaza, includes a practical training program and offers high diploma degree for its trainees. No similar courses are offered by any university or institutions.

Work on higher degree MA diplomas is going on in the fields of agricultural extension and institutional building in cooperation with Alquds University. 78 newly graduated agronomists have joined this program.

The percentage of agronomists that were able to find jobs has reached 30% of all trained people; this result was achieved despite a the high percentage of unemployment under the current situation in Palestine.

.....
4. Activation of Agricultural Training Centers:
.....

Dependence on the training centers as services centers in the regions where they are located helped to reinforce PARC's role in rural development and transferred these centers to main addresses in rural areas. Nai'm Khader Center in Zababdeh, Majida Abu Amashe Center in Jericho and Business Incubator Center in Gaza were also used as accommodations for delegations, especially for the GIPP, and a number of organizations and local universities used their facilities.

PARC also conducted all its activities directed towards women and farmer volunteers in these centers, in addition to the voluntary camps that took place in these centers. A set of training courses for other NGOs' and governmental organizations such as CARE, Women Affairs Center, Ministry of Agriculture and others was conducted in these centers.

.....
5. Development of the Farmer's Union:
.....

PARC concentrated on development of the Farmer's Union throughout the year 2001; accordingly work was concentrated on training of the staff, coordinating their work and implementing various activities. In

some cases it was difficult to separate the volunteers of PARC from the Farmers' Union. Significant work was done in the fields of marketing of olive oil, white goat cheese and fresh crops as well as implementation of land reclamation and agricultural roads emergency projects.

PARC started to nominate trained staff to work with the Union and assisted in licensing the cooperatives and societies of the Union. Part of these cooperatives and societies received grants from the Welfare Association Program. The number of societies reached 38 and they require a lot of support to empower and improve their capabilities.

.....
6. Development of the Rural Women Development Society:
.....

PARC was able to assist 49 women centers and groups in obtaining necessary licenses and official registration. PARC started the nomination of trained staff to work in the Rural Women Development Society and directed all its women projects to be implemented through it. It is preparing the basis for the establishment of 20 new clubs and 28 women groups through out the year 2002.

This experience of establishing a rural women society as an umbrella for different clubs and centers in the villages is the first of its kind in Palestine. The society is built from bottom to top and not from top to bottom the way all previous women centers were established.



PARC's Financing

Continuation of the Intifada and its effect on the national economic structure, the increased unemployment percentage and the wide distribution of poverty pockets have forced PARC to direct more efforts to raising funds for resolving these problems and to proceed with the implementation and achievement of PARC's strategic goals based on its vision. PARC was able to maintain its budget and raise funds for the emergency needs. The funding for activities in the year 2001 was distributed as follows:

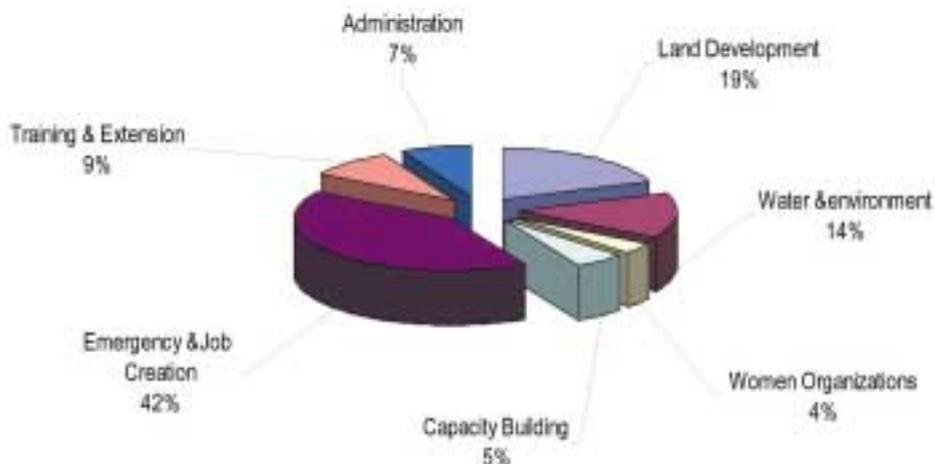
1- Direct funding through PARC's agreed funding with its partners	US\$ 8,797,425
2- Direct funding to beneficiaries managed by PARC	US\$ 886,125
3- Financial local contribution for projects	US\$ 1,071,940
4- Voluntary work contribution (in kind)	US\$ 500,000

A closer look at the numbers given above reflects the following:

- The funding for developmental projects decreased in comparison to the emergency implemented projects.
- Despite the difficult economic situation of the targeted groups, the amounts of local contribution for implementation of projects increased, even in emergency projects.

The administrative cost of PARC decreased from 9% in the year 2000 to 7.3% in 2001. This reflects PARC's ability to cope with emergency situations when emergency projects exclude the administration costs.

Disbursement According To Developmental sector



PARC's Supporters

PARC presents its deepest gratitude and application to all those who supported our projects in 2001.

Core Program Supporters:

- Christian Aid
- EED
- FPSC
- ICCO
- IEPALA
- NOVIB
- NRD
- Oxfam Belgium

Outside Core Projects Supporters:

- ACDI VOCA
- AIDOS
- AMFP
- ANERA
- ASTM
- British Consulate
- CARE
- CCFD
- CEAR
- Danish-Palestinian Friendship Association
- Dutch Representative
- European Commission
- Ford Foundation
- Friedrich Nauman
- German Representative
- Grass Roots
- GVC
- IDRC
- IFAD
- Irish AID
- Islamic Bank
- Jacksale
- Luxembourg Ministry of cooperation
- Mennonites
- Norway Representative
- Quakers
- SCF
- Sinai Tours - Switzerland
- Swedish Consulate (SIDA)
- VSF
- Welfare Association
- Welfare PMO
- World Food Program
- UNAIS
- UNDP

General Directives for the year 2002

Based on its achievements, experiences and capabilities through out the year 2001, PARC will proceed with work on issues related to poverty and marginalization of Palestinian Rural Areas taking into consideration the general directives of sustainable development and concentration of work on supporting and developing the rural developmental organizations on economic, social and environmental issues that affect the lives of youth, women and farmers. Work will also be concentrated on developing the democratic leadership and adopting supporting programs for the established organizations in rural areas to enable them to achieve sustainable development based on civil society criteria's. Besides ensuring the presence of geographical and sartorial networks active on the regional and international issues that are related to the rural Palestinian lives.

Marketing issues and the high production costs will be dealt with in supporting and organizing farmers and farmers' leaders. The issue of space and mobility and involvement of women in the production process through income generating projects, credit and savings and loans will be the main axis for supporting women organizations in addition to supporting the cultural and environmental issues for the youth and opening up new job opportunities for them.

PARC will also direct its work towards adopting the initiatives of Palestinian Volunteers in rural areas and cities and motivate them to serve general poverty and marginalization issues, exchange information and knowledge in regards to voluntary work.

One of the major developmental issues will be the provision of necessary researches and information used for lobbying and advocacy in regards to rural issues among central governmental and non-governmental organizations active in the rural development on the national level.

Raising PARC's professional administrative and financial management in PARC will lead to better partnership relations on the geographical and sectorial level and will raise the efficiency and effectiveness of the rural development services offered to Palestinians.

Accordingly, the empowerment of rural organizations and NGO's and building of clear and long-lasting relations with the governmental organizations and the private sector through networks and committees will enable the Palestinian organizations to have a leadership role on the regional level.

Last but not least, it is worth noting that all projects and activities aim at assisting farmers and rural families to overcome their problems under the prevailing emergency situation and based on their needs and priorities through different emergency projects and developmental activities implemented in the right time and place.

Ismail Daiq
General Director

PARC in Palestine

Main Offices and Branches

The main offices are located in Beit Hanina a northern suburb of Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Jerusalem

Tel. 00972-2-5833818 Fax. 00972-5831898

Ramallah

Tel. 00972-2-2963840 Fax. 00972-2-2963850

P.O.Box 25128 Shufat-Jerusalem

e-mail: pr@pal-arc.org

Internet site: <http://www.pal-arc.org>

Gaza: Tel.07-2826318 Fax. 07-2844491

Nablus: 09-2380912

Jenin: 06-2436673

Tulkarm: 09-2675944

Deir Al Balah: 07-2537833

Khan Younis: 07-2016377

Ramallah: 02-2952650

Jerusalem: 02-5831897

Hebron: 02-2224288

Bethlehem: 02-2770812

Jericho: 02-2322673

