



## WEEK OF COMPASSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REPORT

### For Global Ministries

*Please type or print clearly. Return electronically to Week of  
Compassion.*

#### SECTION 1: Basic Information

<b>Area Office</b>	Middle East and Europe
<b>Date of Proposal Submission</b>	Spring 2020
<b>Project Title</b>	Sustainable Agriculture for Women
<b>Project Period</b>	January 2020 – December 2020
<b>Name of Local Partner</b>	Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees
<b>Location- City/State/Country</b>	Qalqilya District of Palestine
<b>Total Amount Received from WoC</b>	USD 15,000
<b>Person Completing Report</b>	The report was completed by the DSPR and prepared by Global Ministries Resource Development office.
<b>Contact Information</b> <i>Phone, email</i>	Peter Makari, Executive for Middle East and Europe <a href="mailto:makarip@ucc.org">makarip@ucc.org</a> 216-736-3227

## SECTION 2: Project Summary

### Project Goal

*Referring back to your original proposal, what is the overall goal of the project? If your plans have changed from the original proposal, please describe.*

This project aims to aid the women in the Village of Qalqilya by helping them to establish the production of pastry, thyme, concentrated juice, and cheese products and train participants in basic financial and marketing management. DSPR and ICC will accompany the participant women as they establish their production of these products with the long-term goal of the project being to increase the women's economic opportunities and family income helping to make the community of Qalqilya more resilient through sustainable agriculture.

The scope of intervention did not change from the original plan.

### Primary Activities Implemented

*Describe administrative and programmatic activities implemented in your request for funding.*

- *Initial visit by field coordinator, projects manager with all applicants conducted, ensuring COVID-19 Health directives.*
- *Introduction of the organization and brief project highlight with mechanism.*
- *The field coordinator conducted a series of workshops to applicants on quality control, basic accounting, and pricing*
- *On site visits to designated location of the initiatives and meeting with four women associations and six female initiatives.*
- *Assessment of applicant requirements with prioritization in accordance with budgetary limitations.*
- *Preparation of bidding documents.*
- *Purchase orders issued and delivery/construction of inputs.*
- *Initial functions and handover to women associations/women.*
- *Field coordinator conducted follow-up visits with on-site training and supervision.*

### Challenges and Actions Steps Taken to Resolve

*Summarize what organizational and environmental (political, social, infrastructural, etc.) challenges arose during this past year that hindered the project achievement of its goals. Also, include how the project/program addressed them.*

In the early months of the spread of the COVID-19 virus between March and June, Palestine observed strict lockdowns coupled with fear of the unknown virus and the widespread of rumors and speculations creating a sense of distrust in the health care directives. Such rumors were driven by either religious or political motives encouraging the conspiracy theory. Therefore, access to offices and localities was difficult with high mobility restrictions and fines.

The DSPR transitioned to working from home and managed to connect through internet for this project. Sometimes this connection was hampered by electricity cuts, but overall this worked.

As the pandemic continued, the DSPR contacted the governor who arranged for biweekly permits for DSPR and project participants to access localities and resume functionality adhering to health directives. Since then, the project has continued.

## SECTION 3: Project Results

### Client/Participant Success Story or Details of a Program Achievement

*Please share a client success story or a program achievement from this project. The success story or the program achievement should be related to program activities implemented and should convey the need or impact of the project. If using a client/participant success story, please keep client confidentiality in mind. If available, include pictures as attachments to your report.*

## “Organic Carob Paste with Leila”

Leila Basheer, a 46-year-old mother of five, lives in a village within the boundaries of Qalqilya Governorate – Palestine. Although, Her husband used to work at an Israeli settlement despite his health conditions of high blood pressure and diabetes. Nevertheless, her family lives in challenging economic circumstances and her oldest daughter who has hearing impairment. The income amounts her husband made was never enough to feed and care for their family. Making carob paste has been part of Leila’s life since she was young. Growing up in a community where households produced their own products for consumption at home. Leila has started thinking of carob paste as source of income. It is very popular product and requires a lot of effort and time to collect, grind, and cook. Leila has started her project four years ago, and recently Leila arrived at a turning point. She shares about this experience below:

*In the beginning, I started making carob paste for my neighborhoods. I used to buy carob and go to another village to have it ground up. In less than a year, I began to supply the surrounding villages, so I would be able to save money and support my family’s needs as I always wanted. Right now, and after starting to use my own the grinding equipment, I can save on the cost of grinding and transporting. In addition, the resulted grinded carob is in high quality, which will not require a high physical effort before cooking. I am pleased to say that this equipment has helped to increase my income by 40 percent. After saving enough, my plan is to purchase equipment to make tomato paste.*





Women association in Kufur Thulth, comprising of 14 women participants, built a furnace for baking traditional bread. This is now the only one in the village.

### **Short and Long Term Results**

*Realistically link program activities to the difference they are making. Describe how the project's activities are making a difference in the short and long-term for both the client and the community.*

*The two pictures reflect differences did these interventions bring into women's lives. Domestic food production became a very much needed aspect during the pandemic, giving women a chance to practice their skills in a market-oriented mentality.*

*Leila became the sole family provider as her husband is with chronic diseases, children attending school, food insecure and vulnerable family. The activities contributed to enabling Leila and her family to use her skills which are supporting her family and enhancing their economic wellbeing.*

*The second photos are glimpses of the impact this project has had with the 14 women in Kufur thulth, the women's cooperative working together to produce Arabic bread and providing cooking facility for the village for all types of cooked food.*

*Women within the cooperative realized a net profit of 20% for their daily sales in the last year and these earnings are used to provide for their needed equipment and further their business and share proceeds of their initiatives.*

**Best Practices:**

*Please Identify and Describe processes or practices that you implemented in this project that were successful, and that you recommend for use in similar situations.*

During COVID-19 pandemic, the DSPR, in the spirit that they called to be close to people suffering and with challenges, determined healthy ways to continue the project and their work with Palestinian communities. This included the practice of using technology to enable remote access to work stations. Having this capacity will remain a useful tool to render the work of DSPR in the future.

**Quantitative Results**

*Provide “numeric indicators” of your work in serving people and implementing project activities.*

<b>PEOPLE Served</b> <i>Avoid Duplicate Counts between Categories</i>	<b># of People Served</b>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<b>Women</b> <i>age 18+</i>	45	<i>45 women directly engaged in three women cooperatives and three women initiatives</i>
<b>Men</b> <i>age 18+</i>	45	
<b>Youth</b> <i>age 13-18</i>	68	
<b>Children</b> <i>age 0-13</i>	67	
<b>Families/Households</b>	45	
<b>Disabled</b>	3	
<b>Other:</b> <i>specify such as employed, unemployed, immigrants, etc.</i>		

<b>ACTIVITIES Implemented</b> <i>-Specify Activities-</i>	<b># of Activities or Service Units</b>	<b># of Participants or Beneficiaries</b> <i>If applicable</i>	<b>Comments or Description</b>
<i>Example:</i>  <i>Food Distribution</i>	3	3500	<i>Participants were provided with grain and rice</i>

*Examples of Activity Descriptions: food distribution, legal assistance, trainings, workshops, clinical services, TB screening, intakes, pigs raised, wells dug, school supplies provided (units), etc.*

**SECTION 4: Financial Management**

**Required Attachment: How was funding used?**

*Provide a financial report of how gifts were put to use in support of your project. A template for this financial report is attached for your reference. Any report that does not follow this template will not be considered a completed report and not eligible for applying for WOC Sustainable Development grant.*

A financial report is attached.

**If expenses differ from the original proposal, please explain variances here:**

Funding for this project was used in line with the budget as presented. This project received funding from ACT Alliance.