



The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية - القدس (أريج)

# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

التقرير السنوي







The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية - القدس (أريج)

# ANNUAL REPORT التقرير السنوي

2025



# Table Of Content

|                                                                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction: .....                                                                 | 4  |
| Executive Summary .....                                                             | 6  |
| Locality Map of ARIJ's Key Interventions in 2025 .....                              | 8  |
| Organizational Structure and Management .....                                       | 9  |
| ARIJ Donors for the Year 2025 .....                                                 | 12 |
| ARIJ Programs and Activities 2025 .....                                             | 14 |
| Sustainable Agriculture Program .....                                               | 14 |
| Information Technology Program .....                                                | 32 |
| Natural Resource Management Program .....                                           | 36 |
| Geo-Informatics (GIS & RS) Department .....                                         | 44 |
| Urbanization Monitoring Department .....                                            | 47 |
| Good Governance Program .....                                                       | 49 |
| ARIJ Partnerships and Agreements .....                                              | 54 |
| Human Resources Department .....                                                    | 55 |
| مقدمة: .....                                                                        | 56 |
| الملخص التنفيذي .....                                                               | 58 |
| خارطة تبين أهم التدخلات لعمل معهد أريج في التجمعات الفلسطينية خلال العام 2025 ..... | 60 |

## Introduction:

In 2025, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) faced a deepening and protracted crisis that permeated every stratum of Palestinian life—political, economic, social, and environmental. Building on the catastrophic developments of 2024, the situation throughout 2025 was defined by a steady trajectory of deterioration, characterized by relentless military operations in the Gaza Strip, accelerated settlement expansion and settler violence in the West Bank, and intensified restrictions on mobility. These overlapping dynamics have systematically dismantled the resilience of Palestinian communities and institutions, pushing the overall situation toward a state of unprecedented fragility and systemic uncertainty.

The Gaza Strip remained the epicenter of this humanitarian collapse. Throughout 2025, the war that began in October 2023 continued to unfold with devastating intensity, resulting in cumulative figures of over 70,000 fatalities and 170,000 injuries. Approximately 1.9 million people—nearly 90% of the population—suffered forced displacement, often multiple times. The large-scale destruction of essential infrastructure persisted, targeting hospitals, schools, and energy grids, alongside a near-total erasure of local food-production capacity through the destruction of orchards, greenhouses, irrigation networks, and fisheries. Consequently, food insecurity has reached catastrophic levels, with over 1.3 million people facing IPC Phase 4 and 5 (emergency and famine) conditions, leaving the population almost entirely dependent on severely constrained humanitarian assistance.

Simultaneously, the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) sector in Gaza has effectively collapsed; over 90% of water resources are now unsafe for human consumption due to the destruction of desalination plants and wastewater facilities. This degradation is mirrored by a sharp socioeconomic decline across the OPT, with unemployment exceeding 80% in Gaza and 40% in the West Bank. The impact on youth and women has been particularly acute, with youth unemployment surpassing 85% in Gaza and 60% in the West Bank, while over 600,000 children have been denied education for a second consecutive year.

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, witnessed a marked escalation in Israeli settlement expansion and systemic land control in 2025. More than 12,000 settlement housing units were approved for construction, while over 25,000 dunums were declared "state land" or requisitioned, severely choking agricultural production and groundwater access. Settler violence reached unprecedented levels, with over 3,200 documented incidents—including arson, livestock theft, and lethal assaults—specifically targeting rural resilience. This was compounded by a network of over 900 checkpoints and intensified military operations in northern governorates like Jenin and Tulkarm, which greatly restricted movement and displaced an additional 30,000 Palestinians.

Environmental degradation and climate change have emerged as significant multipliers of this crisis. Rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, and prolonged droughts have decimated agricultural productivity, with the cornerstone olive sector suffering from the pressures of heat stress, disrupted harvesting access, and destruction. While Palestinian communities continue to demonstrate profound resilience through local water harvesting and informal food systems, the developments of 2025 underscore an urgent need for a strategic response. It is no longer enough to address humanitarian needs in isolation; there must be a comprehensive advancement of long-term strategies for food sovereignty, WASH rehabilitation, and climate adaptation to protect the Palestinian presence on the

land against these mounting systemic shocks.

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**What is urgently required is not another round of temporary aid or symbolic-theatrical condemnation, but the effective mobilization of a rights-based, enforceable international political process, one that pushes into action decolonization, accountability, and justice as non-negotiable principles for peace.**

## Executive Summary

### Sustainable Agriculture Program in 2025

In 2025, ARIJ's Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) functioned as a critical strategic "shock absorber" for 33,460 individuals across the West Bank, mitigating the impacts of severe economic contraction, escalating conflict, and climate-related stress. Through six integrated pillars ranging from climate-smart crop production to green entrepreneurship, the program reached 7,100 direct beneficiaries, including 3,300 women, and generated an annual market value impact of approximately \$1.51 million by producing over 900,000 kg of agricultural goods. Environmental resilience was central to the strategy, with interventions such as solar-powered irrigation, biogas units, and wicking beds sequestering 2,632 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (equivalent to ~43,900 trees) while reducing household water use by up to 70% and community energy costs by 80%. Beyond infrastructure, the program invested heavily in human capital, delivering 63 technical workshops that achieved an 80% adoption rate of climate-smart practices and empowered a new generation of leaders, including 25 young female graduates who boosted cooperative sales by up to 30%. Ultimately, by fostering a green circular economy and strengthening local value chains, ARIJ's 2025 SAP interventions moved beyond emergency aid to provide a sustainable foundation for food security, livelihood protection, and the preservation of Palestinian presence on the land.

### Natural resources program in 2025

In 2025, ARIJ's Natural Resource Management Program served as a cornerstone of Palestinian environmental resilience, reaching over 98,000 individuals by bridging the gap between urgent WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) needs and long-term climate justice. Despite the severe challenge of Israeli demolition orders—which destroyed key transmission lines in Area C—the program successfully installed 3,500 meters of water networks in Yatta and Tuqu', securing safe, affordable water for 6,600 vulnerable residents and significantly reducing household expenditures. The department further advanced environmental governance through the completion of its four-year Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJP) program, which developed resilience plans for 123 high-risk communities and piloted 15 innovative, women-led climate initiatives. By integrating circular economy practices, such as converting 11 tons of dry vegetation into organic compost and deploying household biogas systems for clean energy, WERD (Water and Environment Department) bolstered community preparedness for drought and fire hazards. Complemented by the production of 35 advocacy and technical products and a robust engagement strategy that reached 1,170 students, the program successfully reinforced Palestinian water rights and institutional capacity, providing a replicable model for inclusive, rights-based natural resource management under conditions of extreme systemic instability.

### Geo-Informatics (GIS&RS) Department along with Urbanization and Monitoring in 2025

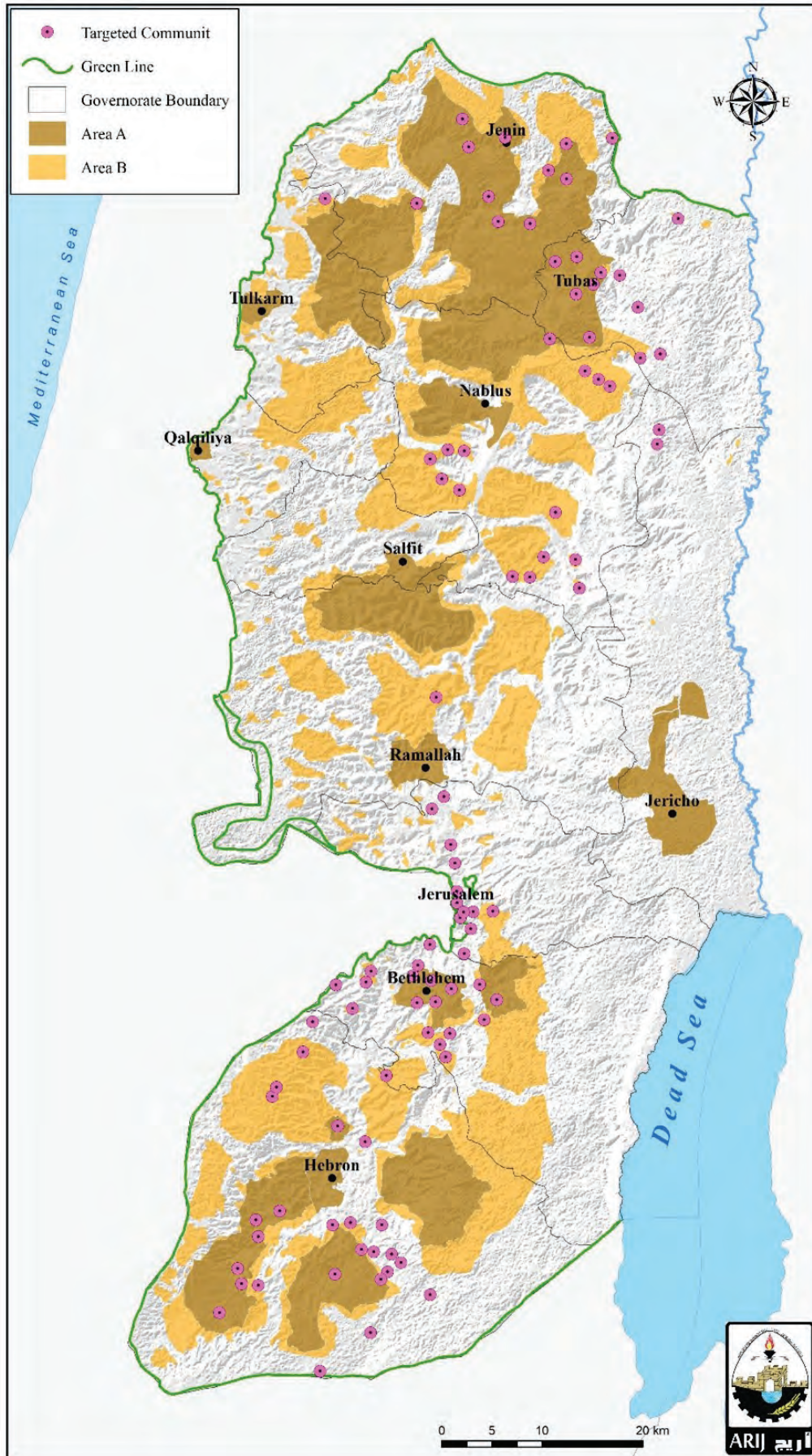
In 2025, ARIJ's Geo-Informatics (GIS & RS) Department served as a critical technical authority in

documenting the magnitude of territorial damage and settlement expansion across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Through advanced spatial modeling and remote sensing, the department provided essential evidence to monitor the Segregation Wall and colonial outposts, translating complex data into specialized maps and case studies that empowered local communities to legally challenge land confiscation in Israeli courts. The department's strategic influence extended through high-level partnerships, including the Endurance project in Area C and the IRTH II initiative to preserve Jerusalem's cultural heritage, as well as regional academic collaborations with the American University of Beirut to analyze settlement evolution in South-East Bethlehem and adolescent mental health in Lebanon. By producing comprehensive geopolitical posters for Nablus and Bethlehem and supporting international organizations with aerial photography, the department bridged the gap between scientific mapping and human rights advocacy, ensuring that the geopolitical reality on the ground is accurately documented for global decision-makers and Palestinian land defense.

## ■ IT Program

In 2025, ARIJ's Information Technology (IT) Program functioned as a vital catalyst for the organization's digital transformation, leveraging advanced computing and geospatial technologies to drive socioeconomic empowerment and cultural advocacy. The program successfully spearheaded the digital infrastructure for major initiatives, including an interactive GIS platform for Waqf properties in Jerusalem's Old City—utilizing LiDAR and high-resolution imagery for property preservation—and a digital management system for the economic empowerment of Jerusalemite women. Beyond software development, the IT program served as ARIJ's multimedia hub, producing a library of over 300 documentaries and managing a social-media ecosystem that amplifies Palestinian land rights to a global audience. By maintaining a complex network of physical and virtual servers while pioneering AI-driven conflict risk analysis and international R&D partnerships, the IT program ensured that ARIJ's research is supported by a secure, innovative, and highly visible digital foundation, ultimately reinforcing evidence-based decision-making and community resilience.

## Locality Map of ARIJ's Key Interventions in 2025



## Organizational Structure and Management

### General Assembly and Administrative Committee

The General Assembly now comprises 42 professionals and 2 honorary members, 45% of whom are women. This diverse body, representing a wide range of specializations, provides the ARIJ administrative committee with strategic direction and policy guidance to support the institution's mission. The Administrative Committee is committed to achieving financial sustainability and success through effective management, transparency, good governance and strategic planning. The ARIJ Administrative Committee is responsible for implementing and following up on the strategies and policies set by the General Assembly.

Following the events of October 7, 2023, ARIJ declared a continuous state of emergency. This led to continuous staff meetings and daily briefings focused on safety, travel protocols, and commuting arrangements particularly for employees traveling from outside Bethlehem Governorate. As a result, ARIJ decided to rent a backup office in Hebron to ensure continuity of operations and staff safety. In 2024, ARIJ suspended hiring of new employees and began seriously considering the establishment of an office in Gaza. This office would support ongoing relief efforts and contribute to the revitalization of the area. ARIJ is still working towards establishing this office in Gaza.

**Seven Administrative Committee meetings were held during the year of 2025 as follows:**

| Administrative Committee meetings during 2025 |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| February 18th 2025                            |
| May 20th 2025                                 |
| July 1st 2025                                 |
| July 18th 2025                                |
| October 16th 2025                             |
| December 8th 2025                             |
| December 20th 2025                            |

## General Assembly

|                                                                                    |                                                                                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dr. Abeer Istanbuli (Entrepreneurship and Management)                              | Mr. Ahmad Rwaidd (Lawyer)                                                                                 | Mr. Anton Salman (Lawyer)                                                         | Dr. Bishara Abu Ghannam (Electrical Engineer)                                     | Dr. Bisher Marzouqa (Cardiac Surgeon)                                             | Dr. Fadi Kattan (Accounting & Business)                                             | Dr. Ferdoos Alissa (Mental Health, Psychotherapy)                                   | Ms. Fida' Abed Allatif (Urban Planner)                                              |
|   |                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dr. Kamal Araj (Nuclear Engineering / Energy Technology & Policy)                  | Mr. Ghassan Andoni (Physicist)                                                                            | Dr. Ghassan Handal, (Parasitology)                                                | Mr. Hamed Al Qawasmeh (Human Rights)                                              | Dr. Hasan Dweik (Chemist)                                                         | Mrs. Hind Khoury, (Business Administration)                                         | Mr. Husam Wahab (Accountant)                                                        | Dr. Kifah Manasra (Criminology)                                                     |
|   |                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eng. Jarasious Kharroub (Food Scientist)                                           | Ms. Jihan Anastas (Interior Architect)                                                                    | Dr. Suhair Abu Hamameh (Chemistry)                                                | Mrs. Minerva Qassiss-Jaraysah (Gender Law and Development)                        | Mr. Mohammed Khaled (Rural and Forest Areas Development)                          | Dr. Mona Matar (Information Technology)                                             | Dr. Nabeel 'Edelly (Pharmacist)                                                     | Ms. Ursula Mukarker (Clinical Psychology)                                           |
|   |                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dr. Nael Salman (Member)                                                           | Dr. Norma Hazboun (Social Scientist)                                                                      | Mrs. Roubina Ghattas (Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources)    | Mr. Ramzi Zananiri (Executive Director of Near East Council of Churches)          | Dr. Saleem Zoughbi (Computer Scientist)                                           | Mr. Salah Elian (Business and Economy)                                              | Dr. Simon El Araj (Mechanical Engineer)                                             | Dr. Spiro Tams (Dermatologist)                                                      |
|   |                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mr. Suleiman Abu Dayyeh (Social Science)                                           | Ms. Sylvia Mukarker (Environmental Studies)                                                               | Dr. Ziad 'Abdeen (Molecular Biologist)                                            | Ms. Ruba Masrouji (Business Administration)                                       | Miss. Raneen Al-Arja (Business Administration)                                    | Ms. Hannan Musleh (Civil Engineering)                                               | Ms. Arda Aghazarian (Communication)                                                 | Ms. Fadwa Khader (Education)                                                        |
|  |                         |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
| Dr. Hanadi Younan (Comparative Literature)                                         | Dr. Nassar Khamis (Obstetrics and gynaecology / Honorary consul of the Hungarian Government in Palestine) |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |

## Honorary Members



Archbishop Attalah Hana  
(Archbishop of Orthodox Church of Jerusalem)



Bishop William Shomali  
(Bishop of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)

## Administrative Committee



Mr. Suleiman Abu Dayyeh  
(President)



Mrs. Hind Khoury  
(Vice President)



Dr. Fadi Kattan  
(Treasurer)



Ms. Hannan Musleh  
(Secretary)



Mr. Ghassan Andoni  
(Member)



Dr. Nassar Khamis  
(Member)



Dr. Ghassan Handal  
(Member)



Miss. Raneen Al-Arja  
(Member)

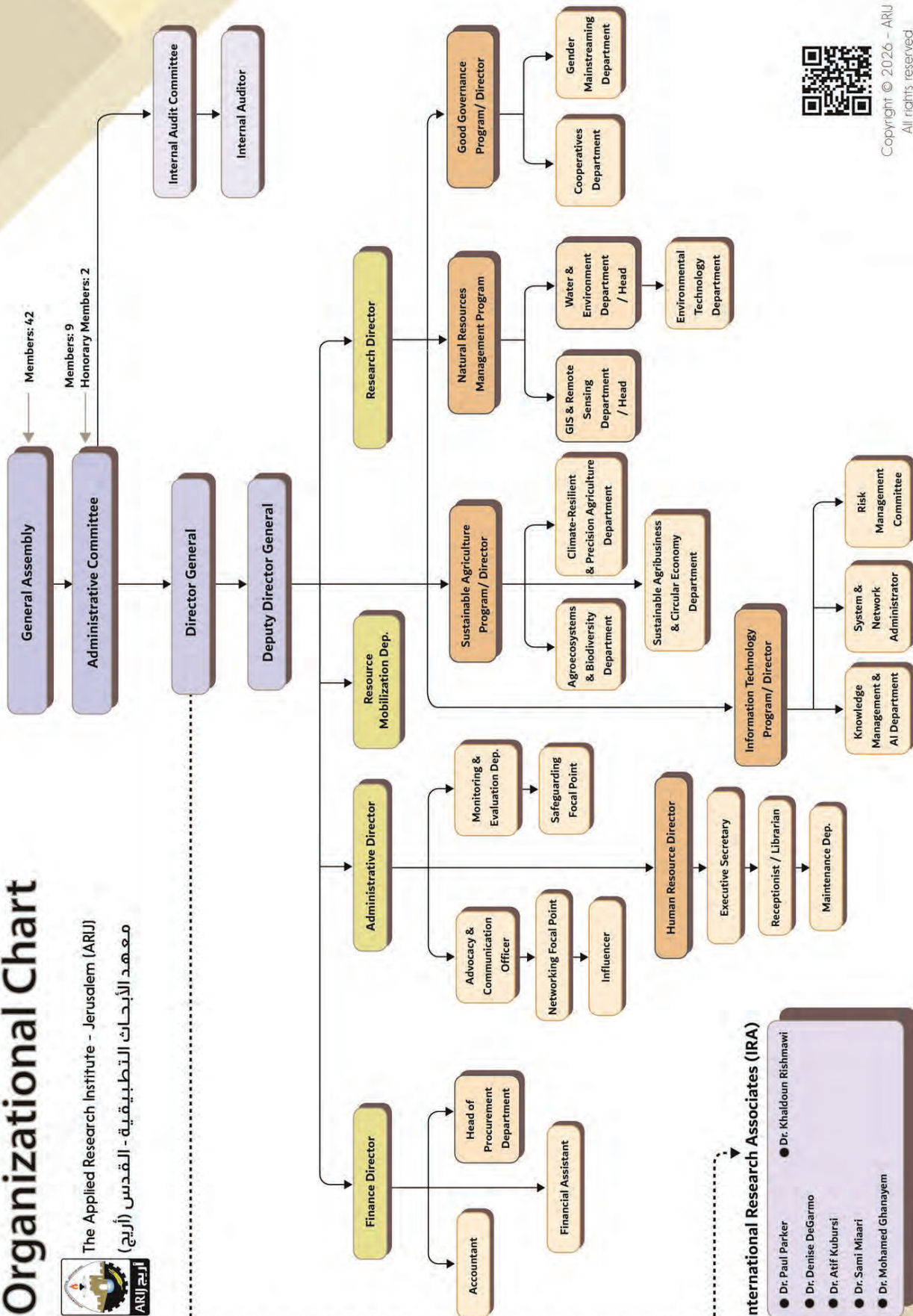


Dr. Kifah Manasra  
(Member)

# Organizational Chart



The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)  
معهد الأبحاث التطبيقية - القدس (أريج)



## International Research Associates (IRA)

- Dr. Paul Parker
- Dr. Denise DeGarmo
- Dr. Atif Kubursi
- Dr. Sami Maaari
- Dr. Mohamed Ghanayem
- Dr. Khaldoun Rishnawi



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## ARIJ Donors for the Year 2025



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**IHE**  
**DELFT** Institute for  
Water Education  
under the auspices of UNESCO



**ICRC**



**Mennonite  
Central  
Committee**



**OXFAM**



**Save the Children**



**Sida**  
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY



**UMCOR**  
Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church



**World Food  
Programme**



**OCHA**



**CARE**



**ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC  
& SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Holy Land Christian  
Solidarity Cooperative



**global  
environment  
facility**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



**التعاون  
Taawon**

**HEINRICH  
BÖLL  
STIFTUNG  
PALESTINE  
AND JORDAN**

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

COVERED BY ARIJ



### Sustainable Agriculture Program

#### ***Key Achievements of the Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) in 2025 Building Resilience, Empowering Communities, and Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture in the West Bank***

It is precisely within this context of deepening rural vulnerability, shrinking livelihood opportunities, and escalating pressure on Palestinian farming and herding communities that ARIJ's Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) operated throughout 2025. In a year marked by severe economic hardship, movement restrictions, settler violence, water scarcity, and climate stress, ARIJ's interventions were not merely development activities; they were targeted resilience and recovery measures designed to help vulnerable households remain productive, self-reliant, and rooted in their communities.

ARIJ's response in 2025 was grounded in the recognition that agriculture in the West Bank is far more than a productive sector—it is a lifeline for household survival, a mechanism for local resilience, and a critical means of protecting Palestinian presence on the land. Accordingly, SAP interventions were designed to directly address the intersecting challenges facing rural communities, while also creating practical pathways for adaptation, recovery, and longer-term sustainability.

Through its interventions, ARIJ worked to mitigate income losses and strengthen household food security by providing productive assets, agricultural inputs, and technical support that enabled families to continue generating food and income despite the collapse of off-farm employment and restricted access to markets and land. At the same time, the program sought to enhance resilience to violence, instability, and displacement by strengthening community-based agricultural systems, supporting local cooperatives, and promoting collective action mechanisms that improve social protection, mutual support, and local bargaining power.

Recognizing that water scarcity remains one of the most urgent structural constraints facing Palestinian agriculture, ARIJ also prioritized climate-smart and water-efficient solutions throughout its programming. These included practical and scalable technologies such as drip irrigation systems, wicking beds, home and community-based production models, and water harvesting structures, all aimed at maximizing the efficient use of limited water resources and improving climate resilience at the household and community levels.

In parallel, ARIJ worked to reduce dependency on volatile external markets and costly agricultural inputs by promoting localized, low-cost, and sustainable production systems. This included support for renewable energy applications, such as solar-powered systems and biogas solutions, as well as innovations in on-farm feed production, including the use of Azolla, to help farming families and cooperatives reduce operational costs and improve self-sufficiency under highly constrained conditions.

A core pillar of ARIJ's 2025 approach was also the meaningful inclusion and empowerment of women and youth as key actors in agricultural resilience and rural transformation. By supporting their active participation in production, innovation, enterprise development, and local leadership, ARIJ reinforced the role of women and youth not only as beneficiaries, but as essential drivers of adaptation, livelihood recovery, and community continuity.

Importantly, ARIJ's work also recognized the deep connection between agriculture, cultural identity, and territorial resilience in Palestine. By supporting olive oil production, traditional food processing, and local value addition, the program helped preserve elements of Palestinian agricultural heritage while also improving their economic viability. In doing so, these interventions contributed not only to livelihoods and income generation, but also to strengthening people's ability to remain connected to their land and resist pressures of marginalization and displacement.

In essence, the 2025 SAP interventions were designed and implemented as a direct response to the realities facing Palestinian rural communities. From a wicking bed supporting household food production to a solar energy system improving the productivity of a local cooperative, each intervention was intended to respond to immediate needs while also laying the foundation for greater resilience, local ownership, and sustainable rural recovery.

## **ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments and Results**

Throughout 2025, ARIJ's Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) continued to respond to the urgent and evolving needs of vulnerable farming and herding communities across the West Bank, delivering practical, community-based, and climate-resilient interventions that strengthened livelihoods, improved food production, and reinforced local resilience under increasingly fragile conditions. Operating within a highly constrained environment shaped by economic deterioration, water scarcity, access restrictions, and escalating violence, ARIJ focused on interventions that could generate immediate benefits for households while also contributing to longer-term sustainability and adaptive capacity. The program's accomplishments in 2025 reflect ARIJ's commitment to supporting agriculture not only as a productive sector, but as a critical pillar of resilience, dignity, and rural continuity.

### **ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Pillar 1: ClimateSmart Crop Production & Food Security**

In 2025, ARIJ strengthened household and farmlevel crop production through climateresilient, waterefficient, and protected agriculture systems. These interventions directly addressed food insecurity, income generation, and livelihood vulnerability under conditions of land restrictions, water scarcity, and economic shocks.

- **Household & Community Resilience:** 144 households, including 27 headed by women, benefited from improved access to seeds, seedlings, and protective technologies. Interventions such as 250 dunums of cereals and 25 dunums of forage cultivation enhanced selfsufficiency, reduced food expenditure, and cut livestock feed costs by 50%.

- **Water Security:** Installation of 68 wicking beds (saving 70% water and enabling three crop cycles annually), 88 drip irrigation networks (saving 25,300 m<sup>3</sup> annually), and 3 irrigation ponds (securing 6,600 m<sup>3</sup> storage) expanded cultivation by over 400 dunums, ensuring reliable irrigation under scarcity.
- **Productivity & Market Value:** Crop yields rose by 25–70%. 14 rehabilitated greenhouses alone produced 196,000 kg of vegetables annually. Across all interventions, production reached 698,300 kg of crops and forage, generating \$889,650 in market value.
- **Climate & Pest Resilience:** Protected agriculture and meshcovered greenhouses reduced pest damage by 60%, while balanced irrigation cut postharvest losses by 18%, stabilizing yields under variable climate conditions.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Households headed by women actively participated, strengthening women's role in food security and resilience.
- **Labor Absorption:** Agriculture acted as a shock absorber for displaced workers, integrating families who lost offfarm employment and safeguarding livelihoods during crises.
- **Climate Impact:** Interventions collectively sequestered 1,200 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, equivalent to 20,000 mature forest trees, underscoring agriculture's dual role in livelihood recovery and climate mitigation.
- **Relevant SDGs:** 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, and 15.

## ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Pillar 2: Livestock & Dairy Value Chain Enhancement

In 2025, ARIJ advanced animal productivity, health, and dairy value addition through integrated interventions that strengthened household income, food security, and climate resilience. These actions directly supported rural families facing feed shortages, declining productivity, and market disruptions across the West Bank.

- **Household & Community Resilience:** 79 households, including 37 womenheaded, benefited from upgraded barns, feed security programs, veterinary support, and dairy processing equipment. Five rehabilitated sheep barns (250 m<sup>2</sup> total) increased milk yield per ewe by 35% and reduced livestock mortality by 22%, stabilizing household income.
- **Livestock Productivity & Nutrition:** The Feed Security Program distributed 30,800 kg of concentrated proteinrich feed to 14 families, boosting milk yield by 35% and household dairy income by 20%. Additionally, 625 kg of powdered milk supported growth of newborns (70% increase) and reduced mortality by 40%.
- **Animal Health & Welfare:** 34 farms received veterinary sanitary kits, reducing disease incidence by 30% and livestock mortality by 22%. This intervention saved an estimated 1,000 kg of meat annually (valued at \$30,000), improved herd longevity, and reduced antibiotic use.
- **Dairy Value Addition & Quality:** Hygiene and processing capacity improved through 13 stainless steel milk jars and 10 upgraded dairy processing units, reducing postharvest losses by 8% and increasing output by 5%. These upgrades generated 34,200 kg of processed dairy products valued at \$222,300 annually.
- **Apiculture Diversification:** 11 beehives introduced honey production as an alternative income stream, yielding 100 kg annually (valued at \$3,000), while promoting pollination and biodiversity.

- **Economic Impact:** Across all interventions, total annual production reached 193,750 kg of milk, meat, honey, and dairy products, generating a combined market value of approximately \$508,820.
- **Gender Empowerment & Labor Absorption:** Womenheaded households actively participated in dairy processing and apiculture, gaining technical skills and income autonomy. Agriculture and livestock activities also absorbed displaced labor from offfarm sectors, providing stable employment and livelihood recovery (FAO DIEM, 2025).
- **Climate Impact:** Through improved feed efficiency, manure management, and reduced livestock mortality, interventions achieved an estimated 1,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent reduction/sequestration annually, equal to the carbon absorption capacity of 16,500 mature forest trees.
- **Relevant SDGs:** 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

## ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Pillar 3: Renewable Energy & Climate Mitigation

In 2025, ARIJ reduced energy costs and carbon emissions in agricultural systems by introducing biogas and solar energy solutions. These interventions addressed the dual challenges of high fuel costs and climate vulnerability, while strengthening household resilience and community sustainability across the West Bank.

- **Household Energy Resilience:** Installation of five household biogas units enabled families to recycle organic waste into clean energy, producing 183 liters of biogas annually per household and 1,825 liters of liquid fertilizer. These systems reduced dependency on chemical fertilizers by 25%, cut purchased compost use by 15%, and saved households about \$402 per year. Each unit contributed to a 5ton CO<sub>2</sub> reduction annually.
- **Water & Agricultural Integration:** Biogas systems provided concentrated liquid fertilizer, improving soil fertility, lowering production costs, and strengthening climatesmart farming practices.
- **CommunityScale Solar Irrigation:** A 25 kW solar artesian well system benefited 44 farming families, producing 37,500 kWh annually, reducing irrigation costs, and cutting 27.4 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.
- **Institutional Solar Transition:** A 25 kW solar street lighting system was installed in Tumoum village, directly benefiting 4,000 residents (including 2,000 women). The intervention reduced community energy costs by 80%, produced 37,500 kWh annually, and strengthened local infrastructure resilience.
- **Economic Impact:** Across all interventions, renewable energy systems generated a combined annual value of approximately \$15,815, while delivering longterm savings and reducing household and community dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Climate Impact:** Collectively, biogas and solar interventions reduced emissions by 32.4 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, equivalent to the carbon absorption capacity of about 540 mature forest trees, underscoring the environmental cobenefits of renewable energy adoption in rural communities.
- **Relevant SDGs:** 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

## ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Pillar 4: Cooperative & Institutional Strengthening

In 2025, ARIJ enhanced the capacity of schools and cooperatives through climatesmart production systems, valueadded processing, energyefficient infrastructure, and targeted marketing support. These interventions improved institutional sustainability, strengthened cooperative revenues, and empowered communities to adopt climateresilient practices.

- **Educational Integration of ClimateSmart Agriculture:** A schoolbased program installed 40 wicking beds, engaging 510 students in practical CSA education. Students produced 900 kg of vegetables annually (valued at \$1,530) while gaining hands on experience in waterefficient farming and sustainable food systems.
- **Cooperative Value Addition:** Tools and inputs provided to three cooperatives upgraded food processing capacity, supporting 58 cooperative family members. These interventions produced 5,500 kg of processed food products valued at \$38,500, strengthening local value chains and cooperative revenues.
- **Innovative Livestock Feed Solutions:** Establishment of six azolla greenhouse units supported 20 cooperative family members, producing 10,000 kg of fresh feed annually (valued at \$58,824). This reduced livestock feed costs by 30% and improved animal nutrition by 20%.
- **Graduate Training Program for Cooperatives:** ARIJ linked 32 youth graduates (25 women) to five food processing cooperatives. Each cooperative hosted two trainees for six months, practicing physical and digital marketing while receiving structured capacitybuilding support.
  - ▶ Benefit levels were rated excellent to very good by most cooperatives, with one reporting moderate benefit.
  - ▶ Sales performance improved across all cooperatives, with increases ranging from 8% to 30%.
  - ▶ Combined sales achieved by trainees reached \$3,375 USD, with individual results ranging from \$350 to \$1,215 USD.
  - ▶ Overall, the program enhanced marketing capacities and digital outreach, contributing to stronger cooperative visibility and revenue growth.
- **Economic Impact:** Across all interventions, total annual production reached 16,400 kg of vegetables, processed food, and azolla feed, generating a combined market value of approximately \$98,854. The graduate training program added measurable improvements in cooperative sales, reinforcing institutional sustainability.
- **Community Empowerment:** By strengthening four cooperatives, one school, and five food processing cooperatives through marketing training, ARIJ enhanced institutional resilience, promoted collective action, and empowered families, students, and youth graduates to adopt climatesmart practices and entrepreneurial skills.
- **Climate Impact:** Through reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers, improved feed efficiency, and sustainable crop production, the pillar contributed to an estimated 400 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent reduction annually, equal to the carbon absorption capacity of 6,600 mature forest trees.
- **Relevant SDGs:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 15.

## ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Pillar5: Green Circular Economy & Entrepreneurial Innovation

In 2025, ARIJ advanced its Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) by embedding green entrepreneurship and circular economy innovation to empower women, youth, and cooperatives in developing sustainable ventures that enhance productivity, reduce waste, and generate income. Anchored by the Innovative Women and Youth Entrepreneurship Hub for Green Investment and Circular Economy (2024–2026), the initiative reflects ARIJ's strategic expansion into agritech innovation and circularity.

- **Gender & Youth Inclusion:** Of the 132 participants trained across 66 projects, 54.7% were women and 45.5% youth (ages 15–29), with 3.4% inclusion of persons with disabilities. Women-led cooperatives were selected for ventures in composting, herbal products, and sustainable packaging.
- **Capacity Building & Knowledge Gains:** Each participant received 16 hours of training on circular economy, business models, pitching, and sustainability. Knowledge improvement averaged 21–30%, with 87% participant satisfaction.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Funded by Spanish Cooperation (AECID) and implemented by Bethlehem Business Incubator (BBI), Palestine Techno Park, and Bethlehem University, the program also engaged Chambers of Commerce, Agriculture Directorates, and local companies (Al Jabal, New Farm, Green Palestine) for mentorship and technical collaboration.
- **Circular Innovation Domains:**
  - ▶ Composting & Waste Management: Six projects piloted zebur treatment, vermicompost, and organic waste composting units.
  - ▶ Circular Agrifood Systems: Aquaponics, hydroponics, solarpowered feed systems, and cold storage for fresh produce.
  - ▶ Sustainable Packaging & Products: Herbal teas, loofah, and biodegradable packaging units.
  - ▶ Plastic Recycling & 3D Manufacturing: Two projects repurposed plastic waste into ecoproducts.
- **Economic Impact:** The GreenLoop Hackathon trained 66 people and selected 29 innovative projects. These ventures advanced circular solutions in composting, aquaponics, herbal products, and plastic recycling.

## ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Pillar 6: Capacity-Building & Technical Training

In 2025, ARIJ implemented an integrated package of 63 technical training workshops and awareness sessions, reaching 2,213 participants across farming communities, cooperatives, and schools. This included 960 women and girls (43.3%) and 510 students, ensuring inclusive access to knowledge and skills. Unlike other pillars focused on production and infrastructure, Pillar 6 invested in human capital development—equipping farmers, entrepreneurs, students, and caregivers with the technical and adaptive skills needed to sustain climatesmart agriculture and resilient livelihoods.

- **Technical Agricultural Training & Skills Development:** A total of 18 workshops reached 415 participants (141 women), focusing on climatesmart agriculture, greenhouse management, pest control, livestock care, beekeeping, business management, and marketing. Outcomes included:
  - ▶ 80% adoption of improved CSA practices (4 workshops, 129 participants).
  - ▶ 60% improvement in business and marketing knowledge (5 workshops, 104 participants).

- ▶ 30% improvement in greenhouse and pest-management knowledge (4 workshops, 123 participants).
- ▶ 50% improvement in beekeeping and honey-production knowledge (3 workshops, 17 participants).
- ▶ 23% improvement in livestock-farm management and animal care (2 workshops, 42 participants). These trainings strengthened the technical capacities of farmers and local producers to adopt more efficient, sustainable, and climate-resilient practices.
- **Climate Literacy, School Engagement & Community Awareness:** ARIJ conducted 45 awareness sessions reaching 1,798 participants (819 women and children), addressing climate change, food insecurity, environmental resources, child rights, and adaptation strategies. Results included:
  - ▶ 26 child rights and food security sessions (1,125 participants) – 19% improvement in climate literacy.
  - ▶ 9 community climate-adaptation sessions (251 participants) – 24% improvement in awareness.
  - ▶ 10 environmental-awareness sessions (422 participants) – 13% improvement in literacy. Importantly, 510 students participated in schoolbased awareness and learning activities, integrating climate-smart agriculture and environmental stewardship into education and empowering youth as future agents of change.
- **Gender Inclusion & Community Empowerment:** Women and girls represented 43.3% of all participants, demonstrating ARIJ's commitment to gender equity and inclusive programming. In parallel, ARIJ worked with caregivers, teachers, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to strengthen local capacities to respond to climate-change impacts on food production, nutrition, and livelihoods.
- **Relevant SDGs:** 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 13.

## ARIJ-SAP 2025 Key Accomplishments – Collective Impact of SAP (Pillars 1–6)

Through its integrated interventions, SAP reached more than 7,100 direct beneficiaries—including households, farmers, herders, cooperative members, youth, and students—representing a total of 33,460 individuals across the West Bank. Within this outreach, over 3,300 women (including girls and households headed by women) were directly supported, while collectively 14,460 females actively engaged and benefited across all program components. This scale of participation underscores ARIJ's commitment to gender equity, inclusive participation, and community resilience in vulnerable West Bank communities, ensuring that women and girls are not only recipients of support but also empowered as active agents of change in advancing food security, climate resilience, and sustainable rural livelihoods.

- **Food Security & Market Value:**
  - ▶ Crop production interventions yielded 698,300 kg of crops and forage, valued at USD 889,650.
  - ▶ Livestock and dairy interventions produced 193,750 kg of milk, meat, honey, and dairy products, valued at USD 508,820.

- ▶ Cooperative and school-based systems generated 16,400 kg of vegetables, processed food, and azolla feed, valued at USD 98,854.
- ▶ Renewable energy systems added USD 15,815 in annual value through savings and production.

**Total annual market value impact: ≈ USD \$1.51 million.**

- **Climate & Environmental Resilience:**

- ▶ Crop systems sequestered 1,200 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually (≈20,000 trees).
- ▶ Livestock and dairy interventions reduced/sequestered 1,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually (≈16,500 trees).
- ▶ Renewable energy systems cut 32.4 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually (≈540 trees).
- ▶ Cooperative and institutional interventions reduced 400 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually (≈6,600 trees).

**Total climate impact: ≈ 2,632 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, equal to ≈ 43,900 mature forest trees.**

- **Productivity & Efficiency Gains:**

- ▶ Crop yields rose by 25–70%, with rehabilitated greenhouses producing 196,000 kg of vegetables annually.
- ▶ Livestock productivity improved: 35% higher milk yield per ewe, 40% lower newborn mortality, and 30% reduced disease incidence.
- ▶ Renewable energy reduced fertilizer dependency by 25%, irrigation costs, and community energy costs by 80%.
- ▶ Cooperative graduate training improved sales by 8–30%, strengthening institutional sustainability.

- **Human Capital & Knowledge Development:**

- ▶ 63 technical workshops and awareness sessions reached 2,213 participants, including 960 women/girls and 510 students.
- ▶ Adoption rates included 80% CSA practices, 60% business/marketing knowledge, 50% beekeeping skills, and 23% livestock management improvements.
- ▶ Climate literacy improved by 13–24% across schools and communities, empowering youth as agents of change.

- **Gender Inclusion & Youth Empowerment:**

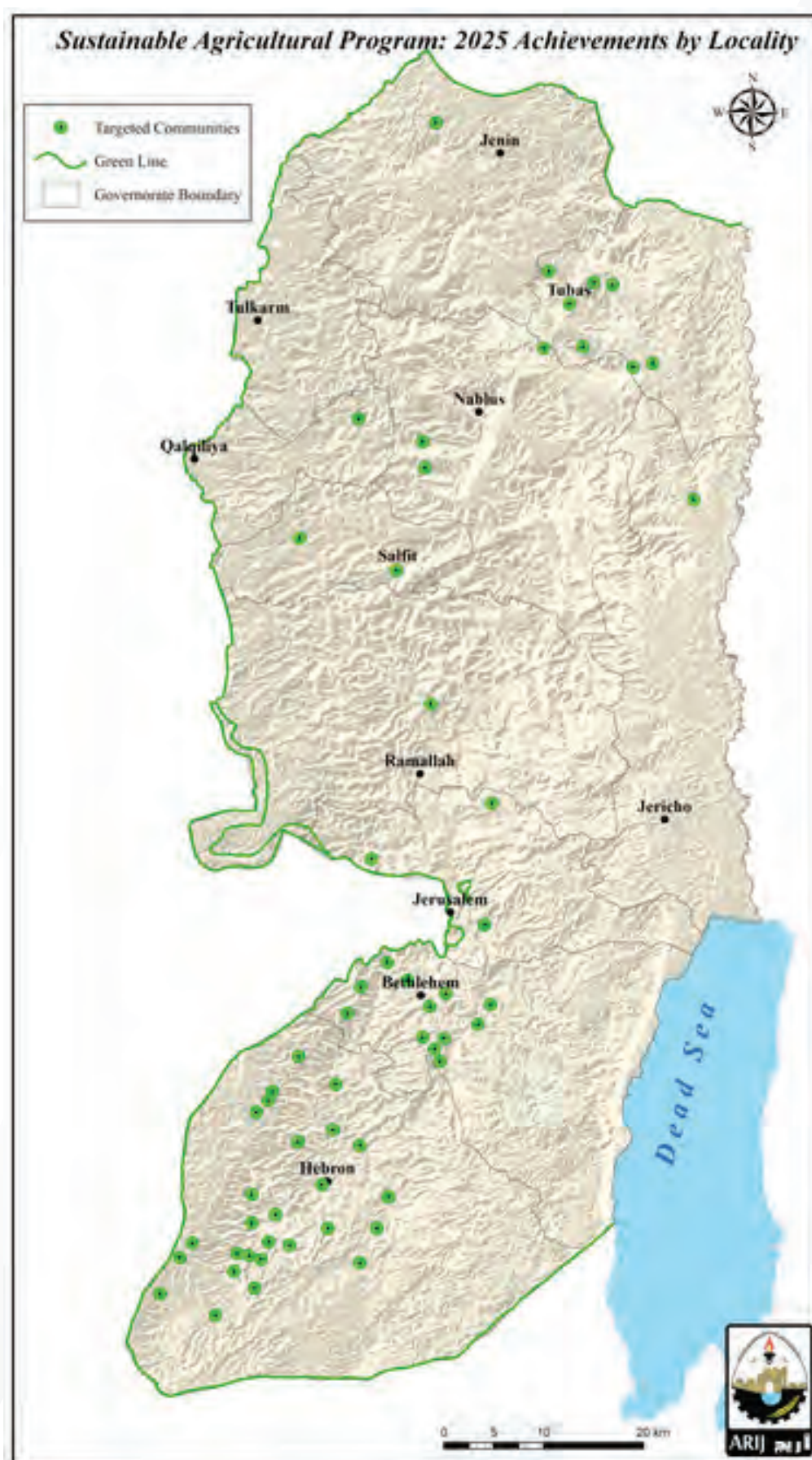
- ▶ Households headed by women were actively engaged in crops, livestock, dairy, and entrepreneurship. 54.7% of entrepreneurship participants were women and 45.5% were youth, with inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Graduate training linked 32 youth graduates (25 women) to cooperatives, boosting marketing and sales.
- ▶ Women gained technical skills, income autonomy, and leadership roles in cooperatives.

## Relevant SDGs Advanced (13 Goals):

| SDG.                                                     | Achievement / Impact                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SDG 1 – No Poverty</b>                                | Increased household income through diversified agricultural and entrepreneurial activities                                  |
| <b>SDG 2 – Zero Hunger</b>                               | Produced over 1 million kg of food and feed, directly addressing food insecurity                                            |
| <b>SDG 3 – Good Health &amp; Well Being</b>              | Veterinary kits reduced livestock disease by 30%, improving nutrition and reducing antibiotic use                           |
| <b>SDG 4 – Quality Education</b>                         | School based CSA programs engaged 510 students in climate smart agriculture                                                 |
| <b>SDG 5 – Gender Equality</b>                           | Women headed households and cooperatives gained income autonomy and leadership roles                                        |
| <b>SDG 6 – Clean Water &amp; Sanitation</b>              | Drip irrigation networks saved 25,300 m <sup>3</sup> water annually, ensuring reliable irrigation                           |
| <b>SDG 7 – Affordable &amp; Clean Energy</b>             | Biogas and solar systems reduced household and community energy costs by up to 80%                                          |
| <b>SDG 8 – Decent Work &amp; Economic Growth</b>         | Agriculture absorbed displaced labor, cooperatives improved sales, and entrepreneurship created new ventures                |
| <b>SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation &amp; Infrastructure</b> | Circular economy projects piloted aquaponics, hydroponics, plastic recycling, and sustainable packaging                     |
| <b>SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities &amp; Communities</b>     | Solar street lighting in Tumoum village benefited 4,000 residents, strengthening infrastructure resilience                  |
| <b>SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption &amp; Production</b> | Composting, waste recycling, and azolla feed reduced reliance on chemical inputs and promoted circularity                   |
| <b>SDG 13 – Climate Action</b>                           | Reduced/sequestered $\approx$ 2,632 tons CO <sub>2</sub> annually, equal to $\approx$ 43,900 trees                          |
| <b>SDG 15 – Life on Land</b>                             | Protected agriculture reduced pest damage by 60%, promoted biodiversity through apiculture, and strengthened soil fertility |



## ■ Distribution of Communities Supported by SAP – ARIJ Across West Bank Governorates in 2025



## ■ ARIJ Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) – 2025 Summary

In 2025, ARIJ's Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP) continued to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable farming and herding communities across the West Bank through practical, climate-smart, and community-based interventions. During the year, SAP interventions reached 59 communities across 10 governorates of the West Bank – Palestine, expanding ARIJ's localized support to areas most affected by agricultural and socio-economic pressures.

Through its integrated interventions, SAP reached more than 7,100 direct beneficiaries—including households, farmers, herders, cooperative members, youth, and school students—representing a total of 33,460 individuals across the West Bank. Within this outreach, over 3,300 women (including girls and households headed by women) were directly supported, while collectively 14,460 females actively engaged and benefited across all program components. This scale of participation underscores ARIJ's commitment to gender equity, inclusive participation, and community resilience, ensuring that women and girls are not only recipients of support but also empowered as active agents of change in advancing food security, climate resilience, and sustainable rural livelihoods. Households headed by women were directly supported in both crop and livestock interventions, while women played a central role in dairy processing, cooperative production, entrepreneurship, and community awareness activities. The program further strengthened women's economic participation and leadership through targeted support to women-led initiatives and inclusive capacitybuilding opportunities, positioning them at the forefront of climatesmart agriculture and rural transformation.

SAP interventions contributed to significant improvements in productivity, resilience, and livelihoods. Key achievements included the production of 698,300 kg of crops and forage and 193,750 kg of livestock and dairy products, with a combined estimated market value exceeding \$1.4 million. ARIJ also advanced renewable energy solutions, strengthened cooperatives and school-based learning systems, and supported youth- and women-centered green entrepreneurship and circular economy innovation. In parallel, 63 technical trainings and awareness sessions reached 2,213 participants,

including 960 women and girls and 510 students, strengthening technical knowledge, climate awareness, and adoption of improved practices.

Overall, SAP in 2025 demonstrated that agriculture remains a critical pillar of resilience, food security, dignity, women's empowerment, and rural continuity in Palestine. In addition to livelihood gains, SAP interventions generated an estimated 2,632 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction/sequestration annually, equivalent to the annual carbon absorption capacity of approximately 43,900 mature forest trees, reinforcing the program's contribution to climate resilience and environmental sustainability. In parallel, SAP advanced 13 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reinforced ARIJ's role as a leading actor in sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural development in Palestine.

## Information Technology Program

ARIJ's Information Technology (IT) Program continues to contribute to the development of information technology in the Occupied Palestinian Territory through the effective dissemination of information and knowledge. The program strengthens ARIJ's capabilities in computing technologies and applications, provides technical support to all departments, and develops web-based information systems and structured databases that support data analysis, interpretation, and evidence-based decision-making. The program also maintains its leadership in geospatial technologies, including remote sensing and GIS applications.

In 2025, the IT Program at the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) continued to evolve as a central pillar of the organization's digital transformation and external engagement. Building on its strong foundation of internal service delivery, the IT Program significantly expanded its reach through the implementation of two development projects: (1) "Supporting Jerusalemite Women Towards Sustainable Micro- or Small Businesses" funded by ENABEL, and (2) "GIS Mapping for the Preservation of Waqf Properties in the Old City of Jerusalem" in partnership with PalVision and funded by the European Union.

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

Furthermore, the IT program has extended its work to include video editing and publishing all of ARIJ work. The program is responsible for recording, editing and finally publishing the videos on social media accounts such as YouTube channel (<http://www.youtube.com/arijvideos>), Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/arij.org>), X ([https://x.com/arij\\_institute](https://x.com/arij_institute)), and Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/arij\\_institute/](https://www.instagram.com/arij_institute/)).

### Achievements & activities during 2025

#### Projects:

#### ■ Supporting Jerusalemite Women Towards Sustainable Micro- or Small Businesses

##### Project Summary:

This project aims to economically empower 80 unemployed women in East Jerusalem through entrepreneurship training and the development of business plans. 40 of these women will receive seed funding to establish sustainable micro- or small businesses, with a focus on green/digital sectors, home-based businesses, and those aligned with the local economy.

##### IT Program Contributions:

- Developed and maintained the online application and business plan evaluation system.
- Designed promotional materials and digital content for awareness campaigns.
- Produced videos documenting the personal and business journeys of selected participants.
- Supported digital storytelling and Enabel-branded outreach materials.
- Provided a monitoring dashboard to visualize participant progress and outcomes.

## ■ GIS Mapping for the Preservation of Waqf Properties in the Old City of Jerusalem

### Project Summary:

This action focuses on institutionalizing a digital archive and interactive GIS map for the Old City of Jerusalem that documents all registered public and private Waqf properties and their Palestinian family owners. The GIS platform will help address critical gaps in documentation and support urban planning, preservation, and restoration efforts.

### ARIJ's Role and IT Program Contributions:

- Leveraged GIS expertise to guide data collection, re-mapping, integration, and visualization.
- Collaborated with PalVision to create a user-friendly GIS system with multilayer maps of infrastructure, ownership, and property usage.
- Employed high-resolution aerial imagery, LiDAR data, and ground truthing to enhance mapping accuracy.
- Conducted data analysis to identify ownership trends and generate actionable insights.
- Ensured the long-term sustainability of the GIS platform through regular updates and collaboration with partners like Mithaq and Waqfuna.
- Delivered a mobile- and web-accessible interface to engage planners and youth alike.

## ■ The Environmental and Climate Justice Programme (ECJP)

The IT Program oversees the implementation of the Knowledge Management System and the Content Management System in cooperation with Ma'an Development Center. These systems are intended for both public and internal use, in which the public would serve the community and researchers that are interested in the project, while the backend knowledge management system would serve the project partners in sharing, editing and publishing internal content.

## ■ Monitoring Israeli Colonizing activities in the Palestinian West Banks & Gaza

The IT Program oversees the implementation of the mobile-based interactive map of the current geopolitical status (iPalestine). The app is currently available on both iOS and Android based mobiles. The functionalities include the ability to select the required layers to view and query the data that are linked to the layers.

### Application Development:

### ■ Social Media & Movie Production:

The IT Program is responsible for producing documentaries for ARIJ work and mainly movies in regards to the Israeli colonization activities in the West Bank. All movies produced are uploaded on ARIJ YouTube channel. Currently we have more than 300 movies available to view. The program is also in charge of filming, interviewing, and photo shoots for workshops that are produced by ARIJ. The program is also in charge of managing ARIJ social media accounts (ie.. Facebook, YouTube, X and Instagram). The number of people following ARIJ news the past few years has been increasing.

Moreover, the IT program was in charge of advocacy plans for the institute: the process includes creation of videos, posting on social media platforms, and design of banners and flyers.

## ■ Digital Printing & Design:

The IT Program has equipped a small print shop with gear that includes a small digital printer, a paper-folding machine, a binding machine, an electric paper cutter, and a small laminating machine. The print shop is responsible for printing small quantities of ARIJ publications. We have printed hundreds of publications for ARIJ, including books, brochures, posters, and booklets.

## ■ System Administration & Security

The IT Program's main focus is to provide technical support and assistance to the different departments at ARIJ through developing applications, installing software programs, maintaining hardware, and maintaining and updating the local area network. ARIJ has approximately 7 physical servers, 20 virtual instances, and over 30 computers to maintain.

## ■ Cooperation & Communication

1. The IT Program hosts and attends meetings with various stakeholders and beneficiaries of the East Jerusalem Project.
2. The IT Program initiated cooperation with GeoKomm, which is a network of German institutions that work in the field of R&D projects aimed at promoting technology-based solutions.
3. The IT Program has been involved in the Technopark's tourism-sector hackathon event as a speaker on geospatial data and as a member of the judging panel which selects the winning start-up ideas.

## Activities planned during 2026

1. The IT Program will co-manage NDC Project – "Nuhoud": Advancing Local Economic Empowerment for Women and Persons with Disabilities in Bethlehem Governorate. This project aims to support vulnerable women and persons with disabilities in Bethlehem Governorate by strengthening and scaling micro- and small businesses across sectors such as eco-tourism, agriculture, traditional crafts, and green/digital services. The project targets approximately 75 beneficiaries through capacity building, mentorship, and access to finance.
2. The IT Program will advance the AI for Conflict Risk Analysis initiative, with focus on developing data-driven tools and securing donor funding.
3. The IT Program will submit a project proposal with GeoKomm called ECOBOTICS, in which the objectives of the project are to foster innovation and knowledge transfer, international cooperation beyond academia, and frontier research in all fields by exchanging staff members between project partners for short periods of time.
4. The IT Program in cooperation with the GIS & remote-sensing department will work to implement and develop an internal, interactive web-based mapping solution, which can be used by various

units and projects.

5. The IT Program will develop ARIJ e-office suite version 2. In 2005, the IT Program developed an E-office system for ARIJ that is currently used by all employees at ARIJ. This system is very old, and requires many updates, as new internal manuals have been published. Therefore, we are planning to develop a new version of the system, taking into consideration all the changes that have been implemented on our HR, financial, project, and administration manuals.
6. The IT Program will continue its work in designing and printing materials related to ARIJ work and the projects implemented by ARIJ.
7. The IT Program will continue its work in publishing content on the social media platforms available, to increase the number of followers and connections, in order to promote ARIJ's work around the world. The program will also be responsible for creating documentaries related to ARIJ's work and mission, and publish all materials on our YouTube channel.



Awarding Ceremony - Supporting Jerusalemite Women Towards Sustainable Micro- or Small Businesses

### Activities and achievements in 2025:

In the year 2025, the Water and Environment Department (WERD) sustained its efforts to actively contribute to the conservation of Palestinian natural resources. The primary focus remained on safeguarding the environment as a crucial element for ensuring human health, and promoting the sustainable utilization of natural resources. Moreover, WERD worked to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, enabling them to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate change and environmental degradation. Throughout 2025, despite ongoing challenges which emerged after October 7th, WERD continues its commitment, making substantial efforts in the following areas:

#### ■ Improving access to WASH services

In 2025, WERD successfully completed a major WASH intervention to improve equitable, affordable, and safely managed water services for vulnerable Palestinian communities in Yatta (Zif and Ahreez) and Tuqu' (Al Arzeh and Khirbet ad-Deir), located in Area C. The project was funded by the OPT Humanitarian Fund and implemented in partnership with the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC). The intervention addressed the long-standing absence of a water-supply network in the targeted areas, where households had relied on expensive and unreliable water trucking. Approximately 3,500 meters of water network were installed, along with household connections, providing improved access to safe water for 6,600 vulnerable individuals (1,696 women, 1,755 men, 1,611 boys, and 1,538 girls, in addition to persons with disabilities). Among the beneficiaries, 100 internally displaced persons (27 men, 22 women, 28 boys, and 23 girls) gained improved access to safe water for drinking and domestic purposes. These improvements have reduced household water expenditures, enhanced water availability and reliability, and strengthened community resilience in highly vulnerable areas.



Pipeline installation in targeted community

Strong coordination with the Palestinian Water Authority and the municipalities of Yatta and Tuqu' ensured alignment with national standards and reinforced institutional ownership. Regular coordination meetings and joint field visits facilitated effective implementation and strengthened collaboration at both local and national levels.

To complement the infrastructure works, community-engagement activities promoted safe-hygiene practices and responsible water use. Awareness sessions conducted in schools reached 1,170 students through interactive, drama-based approaches that effectively delivered key WASH messages. In addition, focus-group discussions enhanced community participation and reinforced shared responsibility for sustaining the newly established water infrastructure.



Interactive WASH awareness sessions in targeted schools

**Challenges Encountered:** Since the project was implemented in Area C, it has faced the risk of demolition. In April 2025, Israeli authorities destroyed key components of the water-transmission network that had been completed and handed over to Yatta Municipality. The damaged assets included approximately 81 meters of 4-inch and 2-inch steel double transmission pipeline, 208 meters of 4-inch steel single transmission pipeline, 41 meters of 2-inch steel double transmission pipeline, and one air valve chamber manhole. The destruction caused an immediate interruption of water services for approximately 1,000 residents in the eastern part of Zif, reversing the progress achieved by the project and exposing the community to increased water scarcity. Although the project had been successfully completed, this incident compromised the sustainability and functionality of the water network, limiting its long-term impact and jeopardizing reliable access to safe water for the affected community.

Despite this setback, the project successfully restored and maintained water services for the targeted communities, reinforcing the resilience of both the infrastructure and the community. By the end of 2025, water-service coverage in the targeted communities had significantly improved, contributing to better public-health conditions and enhanced dignity as well as well-being for vulnerable households. The intervention represents a sustainable step toward addressing critical service gaps

in marginalized Area C communities and advancing the department's commitment to inclusive and resilient WASH services.



Damaged water network Infrastructure following Israeli demolition in Zif – 2025

## Environment and Climate Change

### ■ Continuing WERD efforts to build the resilience of the Palestinian people

1. In 2025, WERD continued its efforts to enhance environmental resilience and strengthen community preparedness for climate- and disaster-related hazards, in collaboration with the Palestinian Civil Defense Directorate and with support from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As part of these efforts, ARIJ implemented the “Rapid Response for Emergency Drought and Fire Prevention in Bethlehem Governorate” project, aiming to reduce fire hazards in urban and peri-urban areas, and improve community resilience to drought, climate change, and other disaster shocks. Promoting environmental sustainability, the initiative removed 11 tons of dry vegetation from high-risk urban and peri-urban areas, and converted it into organic compost, supporting sustainable agriculture and promoting a circular economy. 343 volunteers (243 males, 100 females) were trained in fire risk management, rapid response, and green economy practices, while 8 awareness workshops in schools and universities increased knowledge of disaster risks and climate change. A joint Emergency Committee was established with municipalities, Civil Defense, the Directorate of Education, and local civil society organizations, enhancing emergency coordination. Through community clean-up campaigns, educational sessions, media outreach, and volunteer engagement, the project increased participation of women, youth, and children; fostered environmental responsibility; and developed skills for local resilience. The initiative indirectly reached 91,466 beneficiaries and established a replicable model for fire and drought risk management using eco-friendly practices, contributing to long-term resilience and sustainable development across the region.

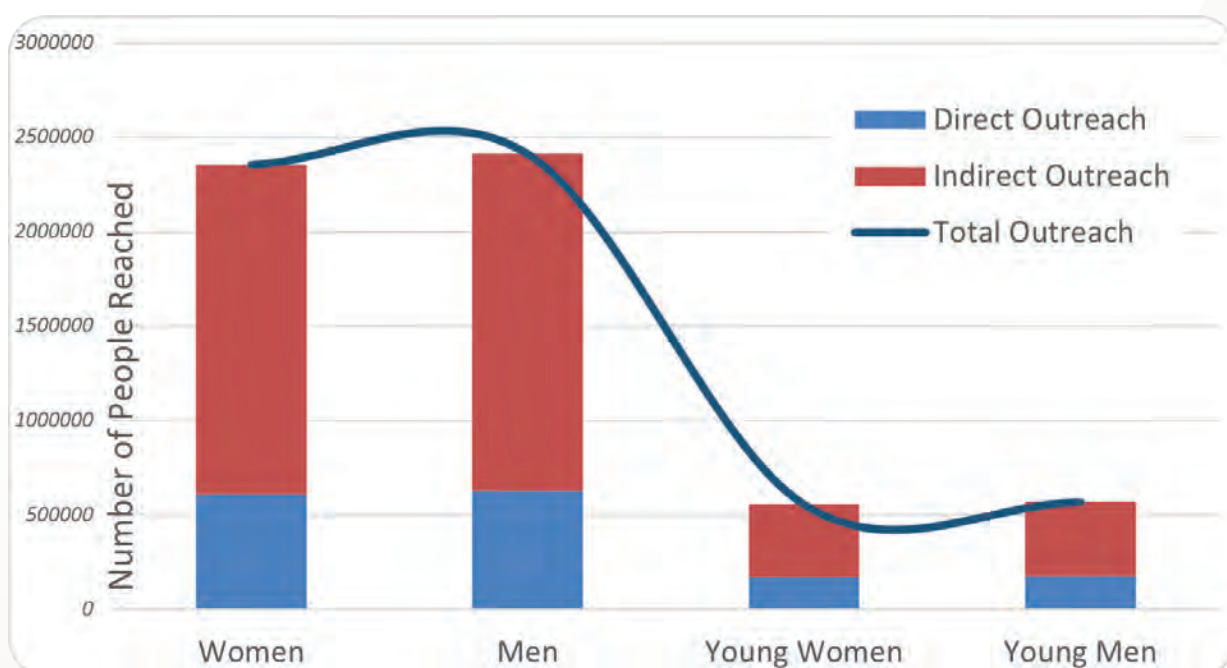


Community activities for fire prevention and environmental resilience

2. In 2025, a four-year environmental and climate-justice program in Palestine achieved significant progress in strengthening climate resilience and advancing inclusive environmental governance. The program, titled “Environmental and Climate Justice in Palestine (ECJP),” was funded by the Consulate General of Sweden through Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and implemented by We Effect in partnership with the Palestinian Agricultural Institutions Coalition (PAIC). The program was carried out across climate-vulnerable rural communities in Gaza, the West Bank (particularly Area C), Hebron District, East Jerusalem, and the Jordan Valley. Throughout its 48-month implementation period (2021–2025), the ARIJ intervention within the program strengthened environmental sustainability through a gender-mainstreamed and human-rights-based approach in several targeted communities, including, Bardala, Al ‘Aqaba, Al Jab’a, Artas, Beit Jala, Beit Fajar, Hebron, Nuba, and Sahel Arraba. It placed particular emphasis on empowering women, youth, and smallholder farmers, while promoting accountability among duty bearers to ensure equitable access to natural resources, environmental information, and participatory decision-making processes.

A comprehensive climate-vulnerability mapping study identified and prioritized 123 highly vulnerable communities: 115 in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip, most at risk from climate-related hazards. Environmental-planning capacities were enhanced through gap analyses and the development of four Community Resilience Plans, equipping local actors with tools to better respond to environmental threats.

Public awareness and knowledge-sharing were significantly enhanced through the launch of the PICA website, which became a central hub for climate-resilience resources. The program produced 35 advocacy and knowledge products, informed policy recommendations, and strengthened biodiversity conservation with an updated Plant Red List of the State of Palestine. Creative outreach—including drama, social media campaigns, workshops, and publications raised environmental awareness and supported policy dialogue. Community empowerment was central, with 15 innovative climate and environmental initiatives piloted, 40–50% led by female farmers, promoting gender equity. Women- and youth-led organizations actively tested and scaled solutions, while the creation of a green space and eco-garden enhanced environmental education, social inclusion, and community well-being. Overall, the program demonstrated a comprehensive and community-driven model for advancing environmental and climate justice in Palestine, combining resilience-building, policy influence, biodiversity conservation, and inclusive participation to achieve lasting impact.



- Building on the success of the Economic and Sustainability Support Project (ECJP), the LIFT (Livelihood, Infrastructure, and Food Systems Transformation) Program (2025-2029) was launched to scale up sustainable livelihoods, enhance energy independence, and strengthen resilience among vulnerable Palestinian households. As part of this initiative, a resilience plan was developed for 'Aqqaba, accompanied by detailed Community Resilience Plans (CRPs) to enhance local preparedness and adaptive capacity. Based on these plans, Project Fiches were prepared to document and guide each planned intervention in 'Aqqaba. In parallel, a comprehensive cluster mapping exercise was conducted for the Tubas Vegetable and Fruit Cluster, covering Tayasir, Al-Aqaba, 'Aqqaba, Salhab, Ath Thaghra, and the wider Tubas agricultural area. These outputs provide a strategic framework to strengthen community resilience, guide targeted interventions, and support sustainable agricultural and livelihood development across the targeted area.

4. The Economic and Sustainability Support Project in Bethlehem provided 4 extended families with biogas systems, enabling access to clean and sustainable energy. The project reduced household energy costs, improved organic waste management, and generated natural fertilizer to support sustainable farming practices. Beneficiaries, including youth and women, increased their capacity for environmentally sustainable agriculture, while one young farmer began implementing innovative and smart agricultural practices alongside the use of the biogas system. This integration of green technology is enhancing his productivity and strengthening his resilience, offering a model for sustainable livelihoods and climate adaptation in rural communities.
5. “Advocating for Palestinian Water Rights Under Occupation: The Case of Bethlehem Governorate” successfully documented environmental violations, amplified Palestinian voices, and promoted international advocacy for the protection of water resources. The project integrated a gender perspective, highlighting women’s roles in household water management, agriculture, and community resilience. Evidence pointing to the destruction of and restricted access to springs, as well as associated socio-economic consequences, was systematically collected through focus groups, individual interviews, questionnaires, and desk research. Based on this evidence, the project produced an advocacy brief, a short video, and vidographs, which were disseminated through news outlets, social media, and an advocacy webinar attended by 20 stakeholders. These outputs informed policy discussions, strengthened collaboration between local CSOs and national networks, and reinforced capacities for ongoing protection of water rights and environmental justice, demonstrating measurable progress in building community resilience and sustainable livelihoods.
6. As part of the ongoing collaboration between ARIJ and the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), WERD continued its work on the project to develop an Inclusive Master Plan for Industrial Wastewater Management for Wadi Zomer. The project also aims to enhance the governance and technical capacity of regional Palestinian authorities to implement effective pollution-control measures and safeguard water resources. The project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the implementation Organization: IHE Delft Institute, PWA, ARIJ, House of Water and Environment (HWE), Joint Service Council for Wastewater Services, and Wageningen University Department of Environmental Science (WU-DES). A technical and environmental report was developed as part of the project, presenting a comprehensive plan for managing olive mills in Wadi Zomer. The study focuses on small- to medium-scale operations that have a significant impact on local water quality. It covers 12 olive mills operating seasonally, processing approximately 3,000 t of olives per season, producing around 400 t of olive oil, 546 m<sup>3</sup> of Zibar (olive mill wastewater), and 801 t of solid waste (Jift).

### **Producing and sharing awareness material:**

To raise awareness among members of vulnerable communities for more effective energy consumption, waste reduction, protection of biodiversity, and reuse-and-recycle practices, information-reinforcing materials were produced and included, but were not limited to:

- 4 Radio spots highlighting the pressing environmental and climate challenges facing local communities, with a special focus on Rapid Response for Emergency Drought and Fire Prevention

in Bethlehem Governorate

- Advocacy Brief in Arabic and English: Protecting the Water Spring “Ein Faris” in Nahhalin – West of Bethlehem Governorate
- Documentary Video: Showcasing the stories of affected individuals from Nahline, emphasizing social, economic, and environmental impacts
- Video graphs: The Status of Water Springs in the Western Rural Areas of Bethlehem Governorate
- Awareness video about the Rapid Response for Emergency Drought and Fire Prevention in Bethlehem Governorate

Furthermore, the department delivered presentations on the status of the environment in the OPT to both local and international audiences and appeared in a number of television and radio interviews. The Department was involved in numerous workshops, conferences and lectures which focused on various topics including Palestinian water rights and the impact of Israeli practices on the Palestinian environment, amongst other issues relating to the water and environment sector.

## ■ Updates on Cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, NGOs and Institutions OR Cooperation with Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs

WERD maintained its strong cooperation ties with state- and non-state-based institutions, especially PWA, WSSA, MoA, PCBS, EQA, Municipality of Bethlehem, Municipality of Beit Jala, Municipality of Beit Sahour, Municipality of Tuqu’a, Municipality of Saiir, Jericho Directorate of Education, Jenin Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Ma'an network, Ministry of local Government, Bethlehem Directorate of Environmental Quality Authority, Palestine Standards Institution, Ministry of Higher Education, and Environmental Police. The Department also cooperated with several regional and international organizations including, but not limited to: Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, UN-Habitat, SCP/RAC, DTD, CENTA, UNCTAD, EU, Belgian Development Agency, Oxfam, ACTED, UNRWA and OCHA.

## Publications:

### ■ Monthly & Quarterly Reports/Report

The report on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the ARIJ project under the program funded by We Effect, within the framework of the Environmental and Climate Justice project includes:

- The technical reports related to the Environmental and Climate Justice project, in addition to the final report
- The technical reports related to the Wadi Zomer project, including the stakeholder analysis technical report and the proposed solutions report for the treatment of olive mill wastewater (Zibar) generated by olive presses in Wadi Zomer
- The technical reports related to the advocacy project aimed at raising international awareness on water management issues and occupation violations against springs in Bethlehem Governorate (Husan, Nahalin, Battir)

- The technical reports related to the project “Improving Access to Sustainable and Safe Water Services for the Most Vulnerable Groups” in Zif–Yatta / Hebron Governorate and Al-Arza in Tuqu’ / Bethlehem Governorate, in addition to the final report and the incident report related to the project in Zif
- The technical reports related to the project “Economic Support and Enhancing Sustainability – Installation of Biogas Production Systems and Organic Fertilizer to Support Sustainable Livelihoods and Empower Local Communities”

## ■ Brochure and Infographs

- Advocacy paper titled “Protection of ‘Ein Fares’ Water Spring in Nahalin”

## ■ Video

- Documentary video showcasing the stories of affected individuals from Nahline, emphasizing social, economic, and environmental impacts
- Video graph: The Status of Water Springs in the Western Rural Areas of Bethlehem Governorate
- Awareness video about the Rapid Response for Emergency Drought and Fire Prevention in Bethlehem Governorate

## ■ Planned activities for the year 2026

| ARIJ Strategic Goals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Planned activities for the year 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. <b>Goal 1:</b> To collect, analyze and disseminate information related to sustainable development in Israeli-occupied Palestine</p> <p>2. <b>Goal 2:</b> To foster initiatives that lead to clean and healthy environment through improving natural-resource management in Israeli-occupied Palestine</p> <p>3. <b>Goal 3:</b> To play an active role in advocating for Palestinian human development and security at local, regional and international levels</p> | <p>LIFT Palestine<br/>Livelihood, Infrastructure and Food Systems Transformation</p> <p>Social Recovery and Job Creation SRJC<br/>Project “Nuhoud”: Advancing Local Economic Empowerment for Women and Persons with Disabilities in Bethlehem Governorate</p> <p>Advocacy for the Protection of Palestinian Olive Trees in Bethlehem Governorate: Safeguarding Cultural Heritage, Promoting Climate Resilience, and Advancing Environmental Justices</p> |

The Geo-Informatics (GIS&RS) Department, along with Urbanization and Monitoring, maps communities targeted by Israeli activities on the ground in order to assess the magnitude of damage inflicted and derive conclusions. The scope of work also includes monitoring and documenting expansion in settlements; identifying outposts' locations; and detecting the development of other colonization activities, the most visible of which is the Segregation Wall under construction throughout the occupied Palestinian Territory. The information is synthesized and produced in the form of case studies containing information related to violations, showing targeted locations reinforced with the military orders (if available), and related maps that show the situation on the ground.

### Ongoing Projects

#### ■ **Endurance-Smart Agriculture Practices for Sustainable Land Development and Irrigation Water Management in Palestine**

##### **Project Objective**

The project aims to promote sustainable community-land development and water-management and agricultural practices, through enhancing the enable inclusive socio-economic development with sustainable management of natural resources in Area C. It will be conducted by the Palestinian Agricultural Institutional Coalition (PAIC), a consortium formed of six non-governmental organizations (PARC, ARIJ, Al Ard, MA'AN, LRC, and PHG).

##### **Project outcomes**

1. Enhance the PAIC Consortium's influential role in policy design, investment decisions, accountability, and good governance. PAIC Consortium will be capacitated in the field of policy influence and will target a wide spectrum of beneficiaries, and will work closely with different stakeholders to induce change at community and national levels.
2. Effectively promote local ownership and empower PAIC Consortium capacities and legitimacy within territorial approach.
3. Empower communities in Area C through territorial approach, mainly in the field of natural resources (e.g. land, water, energy).

#### ■ **Protecting Islamic and Christian Waqf Cultural Heritage in Jerusalem (IRTH II)**

In cooperation with Palestinian Vision youth Organization (Pal Vision)

This three-year project, funded by the EU, aims to preserve the Palestinian character and cultural heritage of Jerusalem by strengthening the Palestinian identity and enhancing the sense of belonging among Palestinians. The project includes a wide range of activities such as mapping of important Palestinian heritage, as well as awareness raising and advocacy work to preserve Palestinian life in Jerusalem.

## ■ Monitoring Effects of Israeli Settlement Activities on Palestinian Natural and Human Resources

### Project Objective

The overall objective of the project is to research and document information and factors affecting the geopolitical situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and to convey these findings to relevant decision-makers in official Palestinian bodies; regional Arab countries; other Western countries; all relevant or interested non-governmental and private institutions; and political, media, and academic sectors.

### Consultancies

#### 1. A Spatial Model of Settlement Expansion in the South-East of Bethlehem, West Bank Objective (American University of Beirut, Palestine Land Studies Center (PLSC))

This study aims to analyze the evolution of Israeli settlements in the South-East Bethlehem area of the West Bank from 1985 to the present; the underlying reasons for their changes; and the implications for local communities, using historical-data analysis and examination of population.

#### 2. Restoring Strength: Adolescents' Mental Health during the Ongoing War on Lebanon (American University of Beirut, Palestine Land Studies Center (PLSC))

##### Specific Aims of the Research Project

The proposed cross-sectional study has two general aims:

- To assess the mental health status of adolescents in Lebanon who are internally displaced due to the latest Israeli war on the country
- To develop psychosocial support activities that target adolescent mental-health needs and aspirations, and implement them in Lebanese schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

#### In 2025, the Geo-Informatics Department provided many services to local, regional, international institutions and NGOs by:

- ✓ Printing posters of the geopolitical status of the occupied state of Palestine (Arabic and English)
- ✓ Printing posters of the geopolitical status of Bethlehem Governorate
- ✓ Printing posters of the geopolitical status of Nablus Governorate
- ✓ Distributing maps and aerial photographs to international organizations
- ✓ Distributing maps to concerned Palestinian citizens opposing the confiscation of land
- ✓ Supporting students' graduation projects by providing data and maps on the geopolitical status of Palestine
- ✓ Providing members of the local community affected by Israeli military orders with all necessary information and maps related to land confiscation, for use in Israeli courts to demonstrate the illegality of said confiscation (maps as important documents for claims against military orders, in

Israeli courts)

✓ Having department staff participate in more than 25 meetings, 10 workshops, and TV and radio interviews



An awareness workshop on the effective management of local resources and services and the promotion of transparency and community accountability within the Endurance project

## Urbanization Monitoring Department

At the forefront of tracking geopolitical changes on the ground, the Urbanization Monitoring department leads a comprehensive effort to document Israeli settlement activities across the occupied Palestinian territory. Through continuous observation and thorough data collection, the department maintains an up-to-date database covering settlement plans and expansion, construction on the ground, house and livelihood demolitions, publication of military orders, and land confiscations. Its work also captures the widespread uprooting of trees—whether carried out by the Israeli occupation army or Israeli settlers—as well as the erection of checkpoints and other movement restrictions, and incidents of settler violence. Beyond documentation, the department plays a critical role in mapping the evolving landscape of control and expansion. It identifies emerging outposts, monitors the growth of existing settlements, and tracks broader colonization patterns. Among the most visible of these developments is the ongoing construction of the Segregation Wall, which continues to reshape the geography and daily realities of life throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.

The collected information was systematically synthesized into detailed case studies, articles, and reports, each highlighting specific violations, the locations affected, and—where available—supporting military orders or settlement plans. The case studies are further supported by maps that visually illustrate the realities on the ground; offering a comprehensive spatial understanding of each case, further strengthen these studies.

Through its ongoing documentation efforts, the Urbanization Monitoring Unit produced and published a substantial work. This includes 20 interviews (TV and Documentaries) conducted on emerging issues related to Israeli violations, 80 newspaper articles, 10 research papers (in Arabic) and 4 in English, 2,000 posters (in English and Arabic) —dedicated to the occupied West Bank and Bethlehem Governorate. The department also developed 90 case studies aimed at documenting Israeli activities and violations across the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Urbanization Monitoring Unit, in collaboration with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Unit, continued to document and map Palestinian communities affected by Israeli activities on the ground. Through systematic field monitoring, spatial analysis, and geospatial mapping, the Unit assessed the scale and impact of damages, providing evidence-based findings to support analysis and reporting. In addition, the Unit produced a range of visual outputs, including thematic maps, posters, and case-study illustrations, to effectively communicate spatial changes and documented violations.

The Unit also played a key role in disseminating field-based information and analytical findings to wide public, thereby supporting informed planning, advocacy, and policy responses. Despite these achievements, the Unit faced significant operational challenges throughout the reporting period, including an increasingly volatile political environment, heightened movement restrictions, and persistent security risks affecting field staff and data collection efforts.

The importance of the department's work is reflected in both the quantity and quality of information collected and analyzed, as well as in the numerous maps, reports, presentations, and awareness

materials produced and shared with decision-makers and the public. These outputs continue to contribute to a better understanding of ongoing developments on the ground and their implications for Palestinian communities.

## **Geopolitical Status Update for Ten Palestinian Communities in Tubas and Jericho Governorates**

1. Bardala
2. Kardala
3. Ein Al-Beida
4. Tammun
5. Khirbet Atuf
6. Ibziq
7. Tayasir
8. Al-Aqaba
9. Al-Maleh
10. Al-Jiftlik

### **Publications:**

- Geopolitical Status Poster of Bethlehem Governorate (Arabic)
- Geopolitical Status Poster of Bethlehem Governorate (English)
- Geopolitical Status Poster of the Occupied West Bank (Arabic)
- Geopolitical Status Poster of the Occupied West Bank (English)

### **Presentations:**

- The Geopolitical Status of Bethlehem Governorate – Bethlehem Governorate
- Area C: A Development Vision under Israeli Restrictions – Oxfam
- Settler Attacks and Their Impact on Palestinian Communities – Save the Children
- The Palestinian Olive Sector under Threat: Occupation, Climate Change, and Economic Losses (2025 Analysis) – U.S. Consulate, Jerusalem
- The Geopolitical Status in the Occupied Palestinian Territory – Palestine Ahliya University (80 Students)
- Lecture: Senegal–Brazil: Guiding Questions on Promoting Respect for International Law to Advance the Two-State Solution

### **Research Papers:**

- Trump's Second Presidency: A Renewed Gift to Israel's Expansionist Aspirations: Annexation of the Jordan Valley: Implications for the Two-State Solution and Regional Stability
- 58 Years since the 1967 War: Undermining the Two-State Solution
- The Israeli Knesset Winter Session 2025: Annexation as a Political and Territorial Weapon
- 21 Years of Impunity: From the ICJ's 2004-Segregation Wall Ruling to Today's Entrenched Occupation

## Good Governance Program

In 2025, the Good Governance Program, through the CIVSAM project “Towards an Inclusive and Just Cooperative Sector,” made significant progress in strengthening cooperative governance, advancing financial inclusion, and enhancing climate resilience across the West Bank. Despite a highly challenging geopolitical and environmental context, the program continued to empower cooperatives as key actors in socio-economic development and community resilience.

Throughout the year, the program reached more than 4,838 right-holders, including 2,577 women and 635 youth, contributing to the development of a more inclusive, accountable, and sustainable cooperative sector. ARIJ’s interventions promoted transparency, participation, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment while aligning closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

### Governance and Institutional Strengthening

A major accomplishment in 2025 was the revision and adoption of the Cooperative Good Governance Manual, updated to align with the 2017 Cooperative Law and the Anti-Corruption Law. The revised manual strengthened governance standards within cooperatives by promoting transparency, accountability, and improved institutional practices.

ARIJ also conducted comprehensive organizational assessments for several cooperatives to identify gaps in financial management, member participation, and strategic planning. Based on these assessments, targeted technical support was provided to strengthen internal systems and improve organizational performance.

In parallel, ARIJ successfully advocated for greater recognition of cooperatives as sustainable economic enterprises rather than solely non-profit entities. Through engagement with the Association of Banks in Palestine, the program contributed to the improvement of cooperatives’ access to formal banking and financial services, supporting their long-term economic sustainability.

The program further strengthened networking, learning, and market-exposure opportunities for cooperatives through an exchange visit to the International Food and Food Technology Exhibition in Amman, Jordan. Representatives from six cooperatives participated in the exhibition, where they engaged with regional and international actors in food processing, packaging, and agricultural development. The visit also included a learning exchange with Rawabi Farah, enabling participants to explore innovative food processing and marketing practices. Participating cooperatives returned with practical ideas that were directly applied, including the introduction of new agricultural products and improvements in packaging methods. The exchange visit additionally strengthened collaboration and product exchange among participating cooperatives.

## Food Security and Agro-ecology

ARIJ continued to promote climate-smart agricultural practices aimed at improving efficiency of resource use and strengthening food security in vulnerable communities. Interventions focused on sustainable water management through rainwater harvesting systems and greywater irrigation techniques, helping cooperatives adapt to increasing environmental and climate-related pressures.

One notable achievement was the introduction of Azolla cultivation at the Musafer Women's Cooperative. This innovative fodder production method reduced animal feed costs by approximately 40%, directly benefiting 50 families and improving the cooperative's economic resilience. Enhanced marketing support, product quality improvements, and strengthened production practices also contributed to measurable economic gains. Participating cooperatives reported an average 7% increase in annual sales, reflecting improved market access and competitiveness.



Sayidat Almasafir Cooperative

## Environmental Resilience and Renewable Practices

As part of its environmental-resilience efforts, ARIJ supported cooperatives in Tell, Biddya, and Asira al-Qibliya to improve solid-waste management practices through the introduction of machinery that compresses olive pomace (Jift) into fuel briquettes. This initiative transformed agricultural waste into an affordable heating source while simultaneously generating additional income opportunities for local cooperatives. The intervention contributed to reducing environmental pollution, promoting circular economy practices, and supporting sustainable local livelihoods.



Olive-cake presser in Tell Cooperative

## Gender and Youth Empowerment

Gender inclusion and youth participation remained central priorities throughout the program. ARIJ strengthened women-led cooperatives through tailored business-development support and market-access initiatives. Of the 19 cooperatives participating in national marketing events during the year, 14 were led by women, demonstrating the program's strong commitment to advancing women's economic empowerment.

Despite the difficult operational environment, ARIJ successfully organized a major marketing event

in Ramallah in collaboration with the Cooperative Work Agency (CWA) and the Ministry of Labour. The event brought together 19 cooperatives supported by ARIJ, We Effect partners, and CWA-recommended agencies, providing participants with valuable opportunities to market their products, strengthen professional networks, and increase their visibility among institutional and sector stakeholders.

The event generated tangible economic and institutional outcomes. Participating cooperatives reported an average 7% increase in sales compared to regular monthly averages, while several established new partnerships and collaboration opportunities with local and international organizations. Others benefited from increased media exposure, enhanced institutional recognition, and valuable peer-learning exchanges. Overall, the event demonstrated the important role of marketing fairs in expanding market access, strengthening customer engagement, and reinforcing the contribution of women-led cooperatives to local economic and social development.

Youth empowerment was also advanced through targeted livelihood initiatives. In the Abu Dis Cooperative, greenhouse projects facilitated permanent employment opportunities for young people while encouraging their active participation in cooperative governance and decision-making processes.



ARIJ Project Coordinator, We Effect team, Minister of Labor, and We Effect partner ESDC

## Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, ARIJ remains committed to strengthening the cooperative sector as a cornerstone of rural development, economic resilience, and social justice in Palestine. Building on the achievements of 2025, the organization will continue supporting cooperatives through institutional strengthening, climate-adaptation initiatives, market development, and inclusive economic opportunities for women and youth. Through these efforts, ARIJ aims to further enhance the resilience, sustainability, and transformative role of cooperatives in Palestinian society.

## ARIJ Partnerships and Agreements

In 2025, ARIJ continued fostering its relationships with related Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations in activities including but not limited to:

- WERD maintained its strong cooperation ties with state-, and non-state-based institutions, especially PWA, WSSA, MoA, PCBS, EQA, Municipality of Bethlehem, Municipality of Sair, Jericho Directorate of Education, Jenin Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Bethlehem Directorate of Education, Ma'an network, and MoLG Ministry of Higher Education, The Department also cooperated with several regional and international organizations, including but not limited to UN-Habitat, SCP/RAC, DTD, CENTA, UNCTAD, EU, Belgian Development Agency, Oxfam, ACTED, UNRWA, and IUCN.
- ARIJ Good Governance Program maintained its strong cooperative ties with several local and international bodies, including:

**Palestinian Authority Bodies:** Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Labor, Cooperative Work Agency.

**Local NGOs and Institutions:** National Team to Support the Transparency of the Public Budget, Cooperative Sector Advocacy Task Force, Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Palestinian Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Land Research Center (LRC), The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), Women Media and Development (TAM), Youth Development Resources Center-Hebron (YDRC-Hebron), Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC), legal clinics in Hebron University, and Palestine Ahliya University.

**Regional and International Institutions, Bodies and NGOs:** EU, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Institut Français, We Effect, Oxfam International, and UNDP.

- Al-Quds University and ARIJ agreed to collaborate in order to introduce a bachelor's degree in the field of geoinformatics as part of the university's dual-studies program. The IT program has been in charge of communication between the two organizations and design of the program. Additionally, ARIJ has agreed to host university students that are willing to implement their graduation projects into systems that ARIJ is currently using. Accordingly, the first project, which was agreed upon by the students and their supervisor, is to enhance the aquaponics system at ARIJ and to integrate a number of sensors (light, temperature, PH) and connect these systems wirelessly with a mobile app that sends notifications to the owner of the system.
- Focus groups met with the different stakeholders and beneficiaries of the EU East Jerusalem Project, including the education, health, environment, water and sanitation, and tourism sectors in East Jerusalem.
- ARIJ met with GIZ to coordinate and cooperate on the work being done in East Jerusalem.
- The IT Program was involved in the tourism-sector hackathon event implemented by Technopark as both a speaker on geospatial data and a member of the judging panel in charge of choosing the winning start-up ideas.
- ARIJ signed an MoU with Karama Solidarity & Karama Solidarity Palestine Branch. The collaboration will be focused on improving the quality of living and achieving sustainable development.

## Human Resources Department

Throughout the year 2025, ARIJ remained committed to strengthening its administrative systems. The institution continuously assessed opportunities for new positions and reviewed existing roles, responsibilities, internal manuals, and procedures. Recommendations for updates were made to ensure compliance with local laws and to uphold the reliability and integrity of financial information. Robust internal controls were maintained to provide management with accurate, timely, and comprehensive data necessary for effective planning, monitoring, and project reporting. ARIJ also undertook a systematic review of its internal policies and ensured their transparent communication across all staff.

### Estimated Budget 2025 by accounts

| Accounts                                         | Amount in USD    |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Technical / Extention ( Human resource )         | 519,504          |
| Administrative/ support staff ( Human Resource ) | 276,671          |
| Direct Implementation                            | 2,903,985        |
| Training Workshops                               | 83,238           |
| Travel                                           | 2,760            |
| Office Rental                                    | 7,523            |
| Communication                                    | 39,089           |
| Transportation                                   | 100,014          |
| Office Supply & IT Equipment                     | 29,908           |
| Utilities                                        | 26,843           |
| Audit Fees                                       | 15,232           |
| Printing and Publications                        | 1,208            |
| Administrative Project Cost ( 7% )               | 132,846          |
| Partner Exp.                                     | 11,960           |
|                                                  | <b>4,150,782</b> |

في عام 2025، استمرت الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة (OPT) في مواجهة أزمة عميقة وممتدة تؤثر على جميع جوانب الحياة الفلسطينية—السياسية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية والبيئية، وبشكل متزايد على النظم الزراعية، والأمن الغذائي، وخدمات المياه والصرف الصحي، إضافة إلى قيود الحركة وإمكانية الوصول إلى الخدمات الأساسية. وبناءً على التطورات الحادة التي شهدتها عام 2024، عكست الأوضاع خلال عام 2025 مزيداً من التدهور نتيجة استمرار العمليات العسكرية في قطاع غزة، وتسارع التوسع الاستيطاني وعنف المستوطنين في الضفة الغربية، وتشديد القيود على الحركة والوصول، إضافة إلى تدهور البيئة المؤسسية والاقتصادية. وقد أدت هذه الديناميكيات المتداخلة إلى إضعاف مرونة المجتمعات والمؤسسات الفلسطينية بشكل كبير، ودفع السياق العام نحو مزيد من الهشاشة وعدم الاستقرار

ظل قطاع غزة بؤرة الأزمة الإنسانية. وبحلول نهاية عام 2025، تشير التقديرات إلى استشهاد أكثر من 70,000 فلسطيني وإصابة أكثر من 170,000، مع تهجير نحو 1.9 مليون شخص—أي ما يقارب 90% من السكان—قسراً وبشكل متكرر. كما تعرضت البنية التحتية لدمار واسع النطاق شمل الوحدات السكنية والمستشفيات والمدارس وشبكات المياه والصرف الصحي، إضافة إلى انهيار شبه كامل للنظم الزراعية والإنتاج الغذائي، بما في ذلك الأراضي الزراعية والبساتين والبيوت البلاستيكية وأنظمة الري والثروة السمكية ومرافق تخزين الغذاء، مما أدى إلى تدمير القدرة المحلية على الإنتاج الغذائي

بلغت مستويات انعدام الأمن الغذائي ذروتها خلال عام 2025، حيث يعاني أكثر من 1.3 مليون شخص في قطاع غزة من انعدام أمن غذائي حاد عند المستويين الطارئ والكارثي (المرطتان 4 و 5 وفق التصنيف IPC). وتؤكد منظمة الأغذية والزراعة (FAO) وبرنامج الأغذية العالمي (WFP) انهيار النظم الزراعية والغذائية نتيجة تدمير الأراضي الزراعية، ونفوق المواشي، وتعطل أنظمة الري، وانهيار الأسواق وسلاسل الإمداد. وأصبح السكان يعتمدون بشكل شبه كامل على المساعدات الإنسانية، التي تواجه بدورها قيوداً كبيرة على الوصول والاستمرارية

كما انهار قطاع المياه والصرف الصحي (WASH) في غزة بشكل حاد، حيث أصبحت أكثر من 90% من مصادر المياه غير صالحة للاستهلاك البشري. وقد أدى تدمير محطات التحلية ومعالجة مياه الصرف الصحي والبنية الكهربائية إلى نقص حاد في المياه النظيفة وتصريف غير معالج لمياه الصرف الصحي، مما خلق مخاطر صحية وبيئية خطيرة

على الصعيد الاجتماعي والاقتصادي، شهد عام 2025 تدهوراً حاداً في المؤشرات المعيشية. فقد تجاوزت معدلات البطالة 80% في غزة ونحو 40% في الضفة الغربية، بينما تجاوزت معدلات الفقر 60% في غزة واستمرت بالارتفاع في الضفة الغربية. كما تفاقم انعدام الأمن الغذائي ليشمل أكثر من ثلثي الأسر الفلسطينية

وتأثرت الفئات الهشة بشكل غير متناسب. فقد سجلت بطالة الشباب مستويات قياسية تتجاوز 85% في غزة و60% في الضفة الغربية، مما حدّ من فرص الانتقال إلى سوق العمل وزاد من مخاطر الإقصاء الاجتماعي. كما تواجه النساء أعباءً مضاعفة نتيجة فقدان الدخل وزيادة مسؤوليات الرعاية غير المدفوعة وتراجع الوصول إلى الخدمات. أما الأطفال، فقد تأثروا بشدة نتيجة سوء التغذية والصدمات النفسية وانقطاع التعليم، حيث حُرّم أكثر من 600,000 طفل في غزة من التعليم للسنة الثانية على التوالي

في الضفة الغربية، بما فيها القدس الشرقية، شهد عام 2025 تصعيداً كبيراً في التوسع الاستيطاني الإسرائيلي، وعنف المستوطنين، وفرض قيود منهجية على الحركة وإمكانية الوصول. وتمت المصادقة أو الدفع بأكثر من 12,000 وحدة استيطانية جديدة<sup>4</sup>، مما أدى إلى مزيد من تفتيت الجغرافيا الفلسطينية وفي هذا السياق، توسعت البؤر الرعوية الاستيطانية (المراعي/الرعي) في مناطق واسعة من الضفة الغربية، خاصة في الأغوار الجنوبية ومناطق جنوب الخليل. وتعمل هذه البؤر كأداة للسيطرة على الأراضي ومنع الوصول إلى المراعي ومصادر المياه والأراضي الزراعية، مما أدى إلى تهجير المجتمعات البدوية والرعوية وتآكل أنماط المعيشة التقليدية

كما استمر نظام القيود على الحركة والتنقل، بما في ذلك أكثر من 900 حاجز دائم ومؤقت وسواتر ترابية وحواجز طيارة، في تقييد الوصول إلى الأراضي الزراعية والأسواق والمرافق الصحية والتعليمية<sup>6,14</sup>. وتصاعدت سياسات مصادرة الأراضي، حيث تمت مصادرة أو إعلان أكثر من 25,000 دونم "كأراضي دولة" خلال عام 2025<sup>5</sup>، مما أثر بشكل مباشر على النظم الزراعية والمراعي ومصادر المياه الجوفية كما سجلت اعتداءات المستوطنين أكثر من 3,200 حادثة شملت الاعتداء الجسدي، إحراق الأراضي الزراعية، اقتلاع أشجار الزيتون، تدمير أنظمة الري، وسرقة المواشي<sup>6</sup>. إضافة إلى ذلك، قُتل عشرات الفلسطينيين في عام 2025 نتيجة اعتداءات المستوطنين في الضفة الغربية، مما يعكس تصعيداً خطيراً في العنف ضد المجتمعات الريفية والزراعية<sup>15</sup>. وتستهدف هذه الاعتداءات بشكل متزايد البنية الزراعية ومصادر المياه، مما يؤدي إلى تسريع النزوح الريفي وإضعاف الصمود المجتمعي

بالتوازي مع ذلك، كثفت القوات الإسرائيلية عملياتها العسكرية في محافظات شمال الضفة الغربية، بما في ذلك جنين وطولكرم وطوباس ونابلس، مما أدى إلى تدمير البنية التحتية وتهجير أكثر من 30,000 فلسطيني اقتصادياً، شهدت الأراضي الفلسطينية انكماشاً حاداً. فقد انهار اقتصاد غزة تقريباً، خاصة في قطاعات الزراعة والصيد والغذاء، بينما استمر اقتصاد الضفة الغربية في مواجهة قيود شديدة بسبب الحركة المحدودة وتراجع الاستثمار وتجزئة سوق العمل

كما تفاقمّت الأزمة المالية للسلطة الفلسطينية نتيجة استمرار احتجاز أموال المقاصة وتراجع الدعم الخارجي، مما أثر على تقديم الخدمات العامة، بما في ذلك الإرشاد الزراعي وإدارة المياه وحماية البيئة بيئياً، تفاقم التدهور البيئي في جميع أنحاء الأراضي الفلسطينية. إضافة إلى تدهور الأراضي واستنزاف المياه، أصبح التغير المناخي عاملاً رئيسياً مسرعاً لتدهور القطاع الزراعي في الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة. فقد أدت درجات الحرارة المرتفعة، وتذبذب الأمطار، وموجات الجفاف، وتزايد الظواهر المناخية المتطرفة إلى انخفاض الإنتاجية الزراعية. ويُعد قطاع الزيتون من أكثر القطاعات تأثراً، حيث أدى الإجهاد المائي وارتفاع درجات الحرارة وانتشار الآفات إلى تراجع الإنتاج، وزيادة ظاهرة التناوب في الحمل، وتدهور جودة الزيت، إلى جانب القيود على الوصول واعتداءات المستوطنين خلال موسم القطف<sup>9,11</sup>.

وعلى الصعيد الدولي، لا تزال الاستجابة للأزمة غير كافية مقارنة بحجمها. ورغم استمرار المسارات القانونية والدبلوماسية في المحاكم الدولية، إلا أن التقدم نحو المساءلة والحل الهيكلي لا يزال محدوداً. كما تعيق فجوات التمويل الإنساني التدخلات في مجالات الأمن الغذائي، وإعادة تأهيل المياه، والتعافي الزراعي، والتنمية المستدامة

وفي هذا السياق المعقد، تواصل المجتمعات الفلسطينية إظهار مستويات عالية من الصمود عبر الزراعة المحلية، وأنظمة الغذاء غير الرسمية، وحصاد المياه، وآليات التكيف المجتمعي. إلا أن تطورات عام 2025

تؤكد الحاجة الملحة إلى استجابة شاملة ومستدامة تعالج الاحتياجات الإنسانية الفورية، وتعمل في الوقت ذاته على تعزيز التعافي الزراعي، السيادة الغذائية، إعادة تأهيل المياه والصرف الصحي، الاستدامة البيئية، حماية الحركة والوصول، الحد من الفقر، وتعزيز صمود الفئات الهشة، إلى جانب حماية الحقوق الفلسطينية

## الملخص التنفيذي

### إنجازات برنامج أريج للزراعة المستدامة لعام 2025

في العام 2025، عمل برنامج الزراعة المستدامة (SAP) في معهد أريج بمثابة «ممتص صدمات» استراتيجي وحيوي لـ 33,460 فرداً في مختلف أنحاء الضفة الغربية، مما ساهم في التخفيف من آثار الانكماش الاقتصادي الحاد، وتصاعد الصراع، والإجهاد الناجم عن تغير المناخ. ومن خلال ست ركائز متكاملة تراوحت بين الإنتاج الزراعي الذكي مناخياً وريادة الأعمال الخضراء، وصل البرنامج إلى 7,100 مستفيد مباشر، من بينهم 3,300 امرأة، ونجح في توليد قيمة سوقية سنوية بلغت حوالي 1.51 مليون دولار عبر إنتاج أكثر من 900,000 كغم من السلع الزراعية

وقد شكلت القدرة على الصمود البيئي جوهر استراتيجية البرنامج، حيث ساهمت التدخلات - مثل الري بالطاقة الشمسية، وحدات الغاز الحيوي، والأحواض الزراعية ذات الفتائل (Wicking Beds) - في عزل 2,632 طناً من ثاني أكسيد الكربون (ما يعادل زراعة حوالي 43,900 شجرة)، مع خفض استهلاك المياه المنزلي بنسبة تصل إلى 70% وتقليل تكاليف الطاقة المجتمعية بنسبة 80%. وعلاوة على البنية التحتية، استثمر البرنامج بقوة في رأس المال البشري من خلال تنفيذ 63 ورشة عمل تقنية حققت معدل تبني للممارسات الذكية مناخياً بنسبة 80%، وتمكين جيل جديد من القادة يضم 25 شابة من الخريجات اللواتي ساهمن في رفع مبيعات الجمعيات التعاونية بنسبة 30%. وفي الختام، ومن خلال تعزيز الاقتصاد الدائري الأخضر وتقوية سلاسل القيمة المحلية، تجاوزت تدخلات البرنامج حدود الإغاثة الطارئة لترسي أسساً مستدامة للأمن الغذائي وحماية سبل العيش وتعزيز الوجود الفلسطيني على الأرض

### إنجازات برنامج إدارة الموارد الطبيعية لعام 2025

برز برنامج إدارة الموارد الطبيعية في عام 2025 كحجر زاوية في تعزيز القدرة البيئية الفلسطينية على الصمود، حيث وصل إلى أكثر من 98,000 فرد عبر جسر الفجوة بين احتياجات المياه والصرف الصحي (WASH) الطارئة والعدالة المناخية طويلة الأمد. وبالرغم من التحديات الجسيمة المتمثلة في أوامر الهدم الإسرائيلية - التي دمّرت خطوط ناقلة رئيسية في المنطقة «ج» - نجح البرنامج في تركيب 3,500 متر من شبكات المياه في يطا وتقوع، مما أمن مياهاً آمنة وبأسعار معقولة لـ 6,600 مواطن من الفئات الضعيفة وساهم في خفض نفقات الأسر بشكل ملموس

كما أحرز القسم تقدماً في الحوكمة البيئية من خلال استكمال برنامج العدالة البيئية والمناخية (ECJP) الممتد لأربع سنوات، والذي تمخض عنه تطوير خطط صمود لـ 123 تجمعاً محلياً عالي المخاطر وإطلاق 15 مبادرة مناخية ريادية بقيادة نسائية. ومن خلال دمج ممارسات الاقتصاد الدائري، مثل تحويل 11 طناً من المخلفات

النباتية إلى سماد عضوي ونشر أنظمة الغاز الحيوي المنزلية، عزز القسم من جهوزية المجتمعات لمواجهة مخاطر الجفاف والحرائق. وبالتوازي مع إنتاج 35 مادة ضغط ومناصرة وتقارير فنية، نجح البرنامج في تعزيز حقوق المياه الفلسطينية وبناء القدرات المؤسسية، مقدّمًا نموذجاً قابلاً للتكرار للإدارة الشاملة للموارد الطبيعية القائمة على الحقوق في ظل ظروف عدم الاستقرار الممنهج

## إنجازات قسم المعلوماتية الجغرافية والرصد في عام 2025

شكل قسم المعلوماتية الجغرافية (GIS & RS)، بالتعاون مع وحدة التحضر والرصد، مرجعية فنية حاسمة في توثيق حجم الأضرار الإقليمية والتوسع الاستيطاني في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة خلال عام 2025. ومن خلال النمذجة المكانية المتقدمة والاستشعار عن بعد، قدم القسم أدلة جوهرية لرصد جدار الفصل العنصري والبؤر الاستيطانية، محوّلًا البيانات المعقدة إلى خرائط متخصصة ودراسات حالة مكنت المجتمعات المحلية من الاعتراض القانوني على مصادرة الأراضي في المحاكم الإسرائيلية

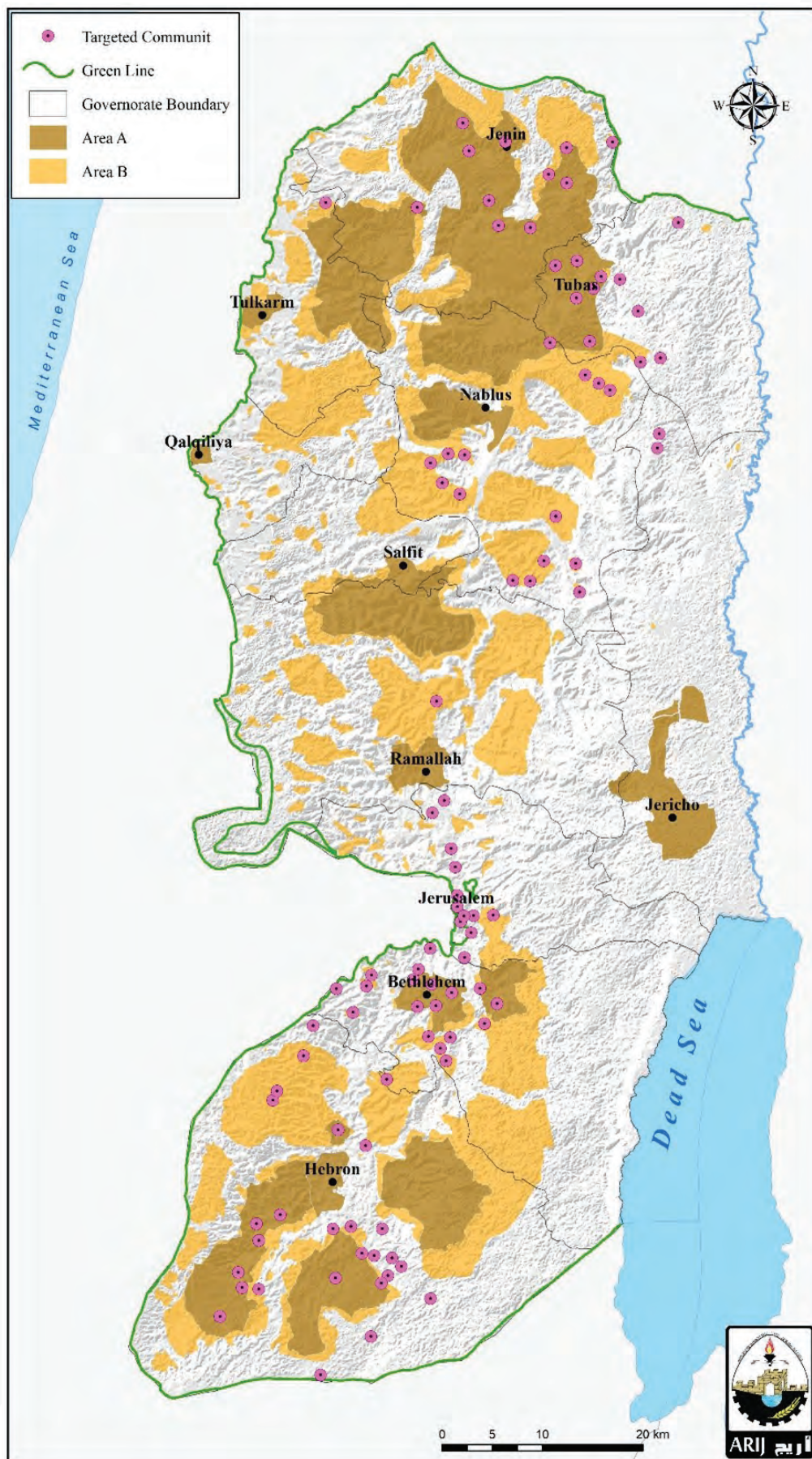
وامتد التأثير الاستراتيجي للقسم من خلال شراكات رفيعة المستوى، بما في ذلك مشروع «Endurance» في المنطقة «ج» ومبادرة «إرث 2» للحفاظ على التراث الثقافي الوقفي في القدس، بالإضافة إلى التعاون الأكاديمي الإقليمي مع الجامعة الأمريكية في بيروت لتحليل تطور المستوطنات في جنوب شرق بيت لحم ودراسة الصحة النفسية للمراهقين في لبنان. ومن خلال إنتاج ملصقات جيوسياسية شاملة لمحافظة نابلس وبيت لحم ودعم المنظمات الدولية بالصور الجوية، نجح القسم في سد الفجوة بين الخرائط العلمية والمناصرة الحقوقية، لضمان توثيق الواقع الجيوسياسي بدقة أمام صناع القرار العالمي والدفاع عن الأرض الفلسطينية

## إنجازات برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات في عام 2025

عمل برنامج تكنولوجيا المعلومات في عام 2025 كمحفز حيوي للتحول الرقمي في المؤسسة، مستفيداً من التقنيات الحوسبية والجغرافية المتقدمة لتعزيز التمكين السوسيو-اقتصادي والمناصرة الثقافية. قاد البرنامج بنجاح البنية التحتية الرقمية لمبادرات كبرى، بما في ذلك منصة المعلومات الجغرافية التفاعلية لأُملاك الأوقاف في البلدة القديمة بالقدس - باستخدام تقنيات LiDAR والصور عالية الدقة - ونظام الإدارة الرقمي للتمكين الاقتصادي للمرأة المقدسية

وإلى جانب تطوير البرمجيات، عمل البرنامج كمركز للإنتاج الإعلامي للمعهد، حيث أنتج مكتبة تضم أكثر من 300 فيلم وثائقي وأدار منظومة التواصل الاجتماعي التي تعمل على إيصال صوت الحقوق الفلسطينية في الأرض إلى الجمهور العالمي. ومن خلال الحفاظ على شبكة معقدة من الخوادم الفعلية والافتراضية، وريادة تحليل مخاطر الصراع القائم على الذكاء الاصطناعي، وشراكات البحث والتطوير الدولية، ضمن البرنامج استناد أبحاث المعهد إلى أساس رقمي آمن ومبتكر وذو رؤية واضحة، مما عزز في النهاية من صناعة القرار المستندة إلى الأدلة وزيادة قدرة المجتمع على الصمود

## خارطة تبين أهم التدخلات لعمل معهد أريج في التجمعات الفلسطينية خلال العام 2025





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