



“Mustaqbaluna (Our future) – Increasing job opportunities for vulnerable people in Palestine”

The project

“Mustaqbaluna (Our future) – Increasing job opportunities for vulnerable people in Palestine” is a project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and implemented by AVSI foundation in partnership with Regione Emilia Romagna (REF); Nazareno Cooperative sociali – Nazareno; Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR); Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA); Palestinians Shippers’ Council (PSC); Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection (PFESP); Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD), the Palestinian Ministry of Labor.

The project’s goal is to increase the employment opportunities for the vulnerable population of the areas of Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus and Jenin by supporting inclusive businesses initiatives implemented by people with disabilities, women and low income artisans.

The project will be implemented in the governorates of Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, Tubas and Qalqilya.

The intervention will be implemented within a period of 3 years, from 2018/04/1 to 2021/03/31.

The main expected results of the project

- The project will increase the access to resources and services for People with Disabilities in order to increase their employment opportunities.
- Formal and informal groups of women will have access to training, resources and increased opportunities to promote their products and develop their business.
- The working conditions in local handicraft workshops will be safer and healthier thanks to rehabilitation interventions and training.
- Opportunities to access the market will increase for selected microenterprises thanks to training on Supply Chain Management and Quality control.
- Competences and awareness of communities and local authorities will increase on the topic of inclusive business thanks to awareness activities and exchange experiences with Italian partners.

The partners of the project

AVSI

AVSI, created in 1972, is a non-profit organization which carries out 169 development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects in 31 countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe, Middle East and Asia. AVSI implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self discovery and recognition that the other person is a resource. AVSI has been active in Palestine since 1993 carrying out education, social and economic development projects in the West Bank.

BASR

Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation is a non-profit non-government organization founded in 1960 that provides comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services to beneficiaries from different parts of Palestine. Through various programs and services BASR works to enhance the overall quality of life of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, inspired by its mission for their total inclusion into all aspects of community life.

YWCA Jericho

The Young Women Christian Association initiated its work in Palestine in 1893 and was established in Jericho after Al Nakbah in Aqbet Jaber Refugee Camp. Throughout the years, the YWCA has developed a wide range of programs and projects with the aim of empowering women and girls and improving their status through enhancing the accessibility of educational and cultural activities, creating and developing economic opportunities, and raising awareness, and advocating for their individual and national rights.

PSC

The Palestinian Shippers' Council was founded in 2006 as a non profit association that provides technical, legal, and training services to individuals and institutions from the trade sector. The PSC seeks to contribute to the development of the Palestinian economy, through providing specialized studies, expanding, and facilitating trade, in addition to increasing the awareness in the laws and policies that govern and impacts the Palestinian import and export, and industrial sector.

ACAD and ACAD Finance

Although ACAD and ACAD Finance are integrated within the concept of comprehensive intergration that target marginalized and poor communities and support their steadfastness through contributing to the success of their small agricultural enterprises or others.

Arab Center for Agricultural Development was established in 1988, it's a non-government non-profit organization which identified its general objectives in developing the agricultural sector and helping small farmers through financing, marketing and technical support.

ACAD Finance Company is a regulated finance company based in Palestine that provides sustainable efficient financial services to women and poor families, mainly in rural areas, to contribute to poverty alleviation and economic development of Palestine.

Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection

The establishment of the Palestinian Fund for Employment came by a Presidential Decree No. (9) of 2003, to support economic development through activating and stimulating labor market policies, with the aim of creating and generating permanent employment opportunities and developing social capital. The Minister of Labor assumes the chairmanship and administration of the Board of Management of the Fund.

Palestinian Ministry of Labor

The Ministry of Labor was established in 1994 as the main government institution dealing with labor issues. It is responsible for labor policies, such as: employment, labor legislation, occupational safety and health, vocational training, labor relations and cooperatives. The Ministry is responsible for regulating the Palestinian labor market by developing and developing legislation, laws and regulations to provide vocational training and operating services that enable it to deal with the continuous changes in the labor market and to achieve effective participation of the workforce in all economic sectors.

Regione Emilia Romagna

Regione Emilia Romagna is an Italian Local Entity that operates in the development cooperation sector on the bases of the law LR 2002/12. Since many years RER supports development cooperation initiatives with the main objectives of encouraging the network of organizations operating for the international solidarity and for contributing to create the conditions for peace and development at a global level together with public and private institutions.

Nazareno Cooperative sociali

Nazareno is a social cooperative funded with the aim of promoting the social integration within the community according to mutualism and solidarity principles. The cooperative support the labor inclusion of vulnerable people, since 1990 it runs a training center for PWS; since 2003 it promotes through a shop handicraft products.

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Some figures

791

Direct Beneficiaries



300

PWDs seeking employment trained to participate successfully in a job interview



110

loans delivered to PWDs to start their small business



16

Artisans working in 16 handicraft workshops will work in safe and healthy conditions



70

women socially and economically empowered



245

200 members of the families of the PWDs, 20 representatives of local enterprises, 20 representatives of job centers, 15 people from local authorities trained and sensitized to encourage the development of an inclusive labor market



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