



Australian Government
AusAID



With funding from the Australian Government

CARE International and its Palestinian partners

launch an Agricultural development project

supporting Palestinian farmers in the Jenin and Tubas governorates

Press release

Ramallah, June 11th 2009, With funding from the Australian Government and through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), CARE International, in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and in partnership with the Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ) and the Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC), has announced the launch of a new five year agricultural development and food security project to be implemented in 17 communities in the Jenin and Tubas districts.

The **Livelihood Security and Civil Society strengthening in the occupied Palestinian Territory “TATWEER”** project will reduce vulnerability in the target communities by improving sustainable livelihoods and increasing capacity of civil society organizations that serve those communities. TATWEER will build on the success of the previous phase of the project which was completed last year.

The project will provide support to 6,325 vulnerable Palestinian farmers working in rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, women, and livestock breeders living in Arabbuna, Faqu'u, Beit Qad al Janubi, Deir Abu Da'if, Jalbun, Kardala, Ein Beda, Bardala, Arrana, Aba ash Sharqiya, Aba al Gharbia, Raba, Al Mughayyir, Al Jalama, Al Malih, Tubas and Aqqaba. The project will also provide support to two local partner NGOs, 1 farmers' association and 17 community based organizations.

Over the five years, the project will establish a seed bank, modern sheep farm, packing house, a unit for queen bee production, a nursery for vegetable seedlings and will support farmers and households with production inputs. As a result of this project, farmers will be able to access high quality agricultural inputs, produced locally at affordable prices. Farmers will be able to obtain high quality seed from the seed bank, livestock breeders will have access to high quality rams, beekeepers will be able to get affordable queen bees locally, and, farmers in the North of the Jordan Valley should be able to obtain their seedlings and pack and label their vegetables before they send to the markets.

“CARE is delighted that, thanks to the support of AusAID, we can continue to work with communities we have partnered for years supporting citizen's efforts to make a living and support their families in dignity. The AusAID project is a very welcome opportunity to shift gears from emergency response to the kind of development work that ensures people will be able to stand on their own at the end of the day.” Martha Myers, Country Director said.

Ben Scott, Australian Representative to the Palestinian Authority said: The Tatweer project represents a long term commitment to farming communities in Jenin and Tubas. It is the first product of a rigorous design process and we hope to be able to announce more partnerships of this sort soon. Australia will provide over 30 million dollars in development assistance to the Palestinian people in the coming year.

ABOUT CARE: CARE is one of the world's largest independent aid organizations providing emergency relief and development projects in nearly 70 countries around the world.

For the last 14 years, CARE has been implementing programs in Palestinian communities in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, economic development, education, emergency relief, health, water and sanitation, and civil society strengthening. For additional information about CARE's activities in the West Bank and Gaza, please visit www.carewb.org.

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