

Laje'oon (Lajee) Center

Aida camp – Bethlehem- Palestine

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www.lajee.org

مركز لاجئون (لاجي)

مخيم عايدة - بيت لحم - فلسطين

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To dream together, to work together, to decide together, to build a future together...

(Interim Report #1)

A. General Information			
Project Title:	Environmental Education Program in Al Wallajah village		
Project Location:	Al Wallajah Village/ Ansar center	Report Date:	January 31, 2018
Project start date:	October 1, 2017	Project end date:	September 29, 2018
Reporting period:	From: October 1, 2017	Till:	January 31, 2018
Information on shortcomings, delays or changes in project actions			
<p>During the past four months, we have completed most of the scheduled activities successfully. We had some changes in the schedule and we managed to finalize most of the activities as planned. We postponed two activities to the next month. Because of the bad weather, we didn't paint the wall in the entrance of the village, and the lecture by the specialist about chemical pesticides didn't happen because the speaker had to cancel and postpone. We went for a trip with the students of the environment unit in Aida camp and Alwallajah village to Alwallajah instead of going to Nablus because of the political situation but will go next month. However, we did extra activities in the village with the help of international volunteers as planting olive trees, and also distributing flowers by the students of the unit to the local residents. We are committed to implementing the three missing activities from the last months and will do the activities as presented in the action plan.</p>			

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B. Activities and results

Activity 1: Orientation day with students

Location and date: Ansar Center, October 6, 2017

Number of participants: 18 students

Results: The first meeting was a great opportunity for all the students to meet one another and also to delineate the upcoming activities over the next three months. This was an orientation event, focusing on describing the program and ensuring the student participants understand the activity schedule fully. The participants were enthusiastic to meet and discuss the activities with each other, and are eager to begin working together.

Activity 2: Orientation day with local residents in Al Wallajah

Location and date: Al Wallajah village, October 11, 2017

Number of participants: Four groups

Results: We divided the students in four groups and introduced them to the local families of Al Wallajah to explain to them about the project and its activities.

Activity 3: Workshop in UNRWA school

Location and date: UNRWA school in Al Wallajah, October 20, 2017

Number of participants: 40 students

Results: Presentation on the topic of water quantity in Palestine, and tools on how to check the water quantity.

Activity 4: Lecture on solid waste management

Location and date: Lajee center , October 27, 2017

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: Lecture for the women of Al Wallajha village about the solid waste management and how to produce the smallest amount of waste in their households and to protect the environment through small changes in their everyday lives.

Activity 5: Lecture on water quality in Aida camp

Location and date: Lajee center , November 3, 2017

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: Lecture on water quality in Aida camp to educate students about the water issues in the

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West Bank, especially in Aida camp.

Activity 6: Field trip to Al Wallajah village

Location and date: Al Wallajah village, November 10, 2017

Number of participants: 40 students

Results: The students of the environment unit of Aida camp and Al Wallajah village went for a trip in Al Wallajah village so they could see and study the biodiversity in Palestine. They also took water samples from the spring and did some hiking.

Activity 7: Distribution of seeds and plants for the ten families

Location and date: Al Wallajah village, November 17, 2017

Number of participants: Ten houses

Results: Distribution of seeds and plants for ten families who have gardens in the village. The Environment Unit helped the families cultivating the gardens with cucumber, tomato, lettuce, mints, and parsley. Then, presented awareness lectures for people to take care of them.

Activity 8: Making compost

Location and date: Al Wallajah, November 24, 2017

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: We made compost by recycling the organic material and each student brought organic materials from their homes such as leftover fruit and vegetables. We cut them into small pieces and then mixed them with dry grass. After two months we will use the natural fertilizers within the compost, mixed with the soil, for the plants and trees.

Activity 9: Workshop about recycling of tires

Location and date: Al Wallajah village, December 1, 2017

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: The students collected the tires, colored them and planted flowers inside. After that, they placed them in some gardens in the village. These kinds of activities are increasing the vibrant and colorful atmosphere within the center and provide students the opportunity to express and explore their creative side.

Activity10: Planting olive trees

Location and date: Al wallajah village, December 8, 2017

Number of participants: 27 students

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Results: A group from Norway with the help of the students and local volunteers planted olive trees in area c of the village.

Activity 11: Water testing in Al Wallajah village

Location and date: Al Wallajah village, December 15, 2017

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: the students were divided into four groups to collect water samples from the houses in taps and cisterns of Al Wallajah village. They tested the water for any *coliform* or E.coli bacteria in the water, and checked if there was enough residual chlorine to kill any microorganisms inside.

Activity 12: Paint a mural

Location and date : UNRWA school in Al Wallajah village, December 22 , 2017

Number of participants: 27 students

Results: The students created a mural in UNRWA school. In a mural they painted about different environmental topics.

Activity 13: Distribution of flowers

Location and date : Al Wallajah village, January 5, 2018

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: The students distributed flowers to the local residents in the village and helped them to plant the flowers.

Activity 14: Recycling workshop

Location and date: Al Wallajah village, January 12, 2018

Number of participants: 20 students

Results: Workshop about recycled paper, bottles, and wood. Then they painted the paper with different colors.

Activity 15: Working on Magazine

Location and date: Al Wallajah Village, January 19, 2018

Number of participants: 25 students

Results: The students of the Environment Unit designed the magazine, and each student started to write one section of the paper. Some of the topics included were about agriculture, the

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Apartheid and its effect on the Palestinian biodiversity, poetry and about fauna in Palestine.

C. The main outcomes and impact that have been undertaken:

Through the development and the implementation of this program, the students will have a considerable knowledge of the causes and effects of the main environmental problems that Al Wallajah village faces. This includes knowing how to implement simple, local-scale and affordable solutions to the environmental problems. Additionally, students have begun to share the knowledge that they have gained about the environment with their families and members of the community, including in their local schools.

Since the implementation of the project, a change can be observed in the student's behavior as they have become more environmentally friendly. For example, the students no longer burn car tires, which cause air pollution and use organic materials to make compost. Additionally, students are aware of the effects of drinking contaminated water and how they can prevent the consumption of this water.

Some changes observed in the village were the gardens made out of tires and other activity such as painting a mural to make the village look nicer. Al wallajah also benefited from collecting wastes and recycling of organic and inorganic materials such as compost and papers.

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D. Beneficiaries

Total beneficiaries of the current phase:

The direct beneficiaries of this project are the 20 youth who participated in the program as well as the staff members related to the project. The 20 youth are aged between 13 and 17 and are members of Al Wallajah village.

All of the residents of Al Wallajah village were indirect beneficiaries, as they received various services such as water testing and access to education about maintaining a cleaner household water supply. Also they received seeds and plants from the unit, and gardens made out of recycled tires.

Since the youth participated in the program, they have presented workshops to the residents in the neighboring communities. This means that the residents of the neighboring communities have indirectly benefited from the program as they too have gained knowledge about the environment, though not to the same extent to those living in Al Wallajaha village. The schools and other students are benefiting from the youth who are involved, who are considered as multipliers of spreading knowledge on the environment.

Ten families, especially women, from the village have directly benefited from the seeds to their gardens. This project reduces dependence on short-term projects by providing long-term sustainable agricultural produce in the village.

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E. General Remarks

significant information/indicators related to the project success:

Since the implementation of the project, the 20 participants of the program have benefited immensely as they were able to share their knowledge and experience with their friends and families.

One of the most important activities of the Environment Unit during the last four months was the recycling workshops. These were very successful workshops and a great chance to show the residents of the community the work done by the Unit.

“Lubna and the students with the women from the village have done a wonderful work. It’s incredible what such a small group of youth have been able to do here. I think the ideas that they promote here are incredibly important for all the youth here at the village.”

- Amjad Al Atrash,

Al Ansar center itself has also benefited from the program as they have adopted eco-friendly policies in all the departments. The staff of Al Ansar has received training and information which has empowered the center as a whole as everyone is environmentally conscious. The center now uses recycled paper for the children’s activities, for example, for arts and crafts. The center has also planted various trees outside the building. Recycled tires which were painted using bright colors were used for these trees, as the trees were planted inside the tires.

Name and title of responsible person	Shatha Mohammad Alazzah Director of the Environmental Unit at the Lajee Center.
Signature	Shatha Alazzah
Date	31/1/2018