

Laje'oon (Lajee) Center

Aida camp – Bethlehem- Palestine

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www.lajee.org

مركز لاجئون (لاجي)

مخيم عايدة - بيت لحم - فلسطين

تلفاكس: 00972-2750789

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

To: 1for3.org and the Palestine Foundation

Shatha Al-Azzah

Director of the Environmental Unit

Lajee Center

A. General Information

Project Title:	Environmental Education Program in Al Walajah village		
Project Location:	Al Walajah Village/ Ansar center	Report Date:	October20, 2018
Project start date:	October 1, 2017	Project end date:	September 29, 2018
Reporting period:	From: June 1, 2018	Till:	September 29, 2018

Significant information/indicators related to the project success:

As the Environmental Education Program in Al Walajah village ends, we would like to acknowledge that its success would have been impossible without the support of 1for3.org and the Palestine Foundation. We would like to thank them for their ongoing partnership, especially through the many challenges we as Palestinians have faced. Particularly during the period of June till now, the geo-political situation in Al Walajah has increasingly worsened. Many houses and farms in Al Walajah have been demolished, even those of some of our beneficiaries. Despite this, we have continued with our project and have successfully accomplished all our objectives, thanks to your generous support and the continued active collaboration with the communities in Al Walajah.

Regarding our role in the Al-Walajah Village, we are very proud of what we have accomplished there thus far. However, we observe that the continuation of this project in Al Walajah is vital as the communities have greatly benefitted from the project but need continued support in recycling, water testing, crop cultivation and improving more activities in the future. [Photo #1-4: Environmental Summer Camp]

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Here are few links that explain the worsening political situation in the village:

<https://vimeo.com/80599955>

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-flouting-israeli-courts-work-on-new-jerusalem-checkpoint-goes-on-1.5824744>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/13/al-walaja-palestinian-village-being-squeezed-off-the-map>

Here is a link to a video about some of the activities we conducted, and documented by the media unit of Lajee Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/219381873634/videos/10155893938553635/>

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Total beneficiaries of the current phase:

Since we started the work in Al Walajah, we focused all of our energy on the youth. The number of participants is 30, and they range between the ages of 13-17 years old. They were involved in water testing programs, recycling, agriculture, and environment and health education. [Photos #5-11: The activities of the environmental unit in Al walajah village included: agricultural, greenhouses, water testing, recycling of organic and non organic materials, and educational field trips.]



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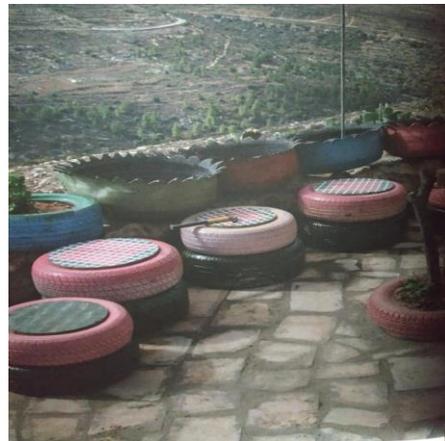
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The Recycling project in Al Walajah continued in collaboration with Lajee Center. The community in Al Walajah utilized their new skills of constructing furniture out of recycled pallets for the rooftop garden of Lajee Center. [Photos #12-13: Recycled flowerbed workshop with the two locations.]



After participating in our project, the communities in Al Walajah have founded their own space for constructing and displaying furniture out of recycled objects for the residents of the village. In this way, we were successful in transferring our ideas to the community of Al Walajah which allowed them to embark on their own environment projects alongside ours. [Photos #14-15: Recycled furniture in Al Walajah.]



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The main outcomes and impacts that have been undertaken:

Through the advancement and implementation of this program, the participants have gained significant knowledge of the causes and implications of the main environmental problems that Al Walajah village faces such as loss of land, restrictions to building and development of the land, lack of access to clean water resources and increasing levels of waste. As such, they understand more deeply now, how vital it is to combat these environmental issues. This includes knowing how to plan and execute simple, feasible, and cost effective local solutions to these problems. In addition, the participants have now become bearers of knowledge and are now sharing the information they possess, raising awareness about the environment among their families and members of the community, including in their local schools.

The program provided for more awareness about the environment through hands on, real life projects that they could understand and relate to. For instance, a simple but long lasting change is the fact that the participants have picked up environmentally friendly habits such as no longer discarding of waste material on the street of the village; also, they have become experts in recycling, therefore reducing the issue of mounting levels of garbage and waste in the environment. Moreover, the participants now know how to cultivate in their lands, and are empowered through the knowledge of crop cultivation. They now also know how to monitor the quality of their water and are equipped with the knowledge of maintaining the quality of their water storage containers. These skills make the community more self-reliant and self-sustaining. Moreover, the participants also acquired knowledge on various environmental science topics and are now skilled in water testing and analysing the process and results.

Taking these factors into consideration, it is essential for the Environmental Education Program to continue in Al Walajah, particularly because of the nuanced geo-political affects they are experiencing due to the ongoing occupation. The community in Al Walajah needs Units especially dedicated to environment, recycling and water testing. They continue to suffer from home and property demolitions, land confiscation and water shortages due to the settler communities now having complete control over the water supply in the area. The fact that the village is located in Area C makes it almost impossible for them to attain building permits or to cultivate their lands. Thus, a possible solution that our program could implement would be to build greenhouses for crop cultivation in other areas. With the support of 1for3.org and the Palestine Foundation, we were able to build the bridge between Aida and Camp and Al-Walajah for them to share knowledge and resources and deepen the relationship between the village and the camp, Walajah especially through our joint projects such as the educational summer camps and workshops on water and recycling.

Therefore, we are asking 1for3 and the Palestine Foundation to continue their support for our work in Walajah to be able to replicate all the wonderful and sustained work we did in Aida Camp.

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Information on shortcomings, delays or changes in project actions

Activities and results:

Activity 1: Workshop with the international experts

Location and date: Al Walajah village, June1, 2018

Number of participants: 18 participants

Results: A workshop was organised for international experts to collaborate with the residents of the village to conduct environmental conservation activities.

Activity 2:Environment Summer Camp

Location and date: Lajee Center and the surrounding areas, June 14-16, 2018

Number of participants: 20youth from Aida and 20 youth from Al Walajah

Results: Organise environment activities around the topics of water testing, recycling and cultivation.

Activity 3:Focus groups on farming

Location and date: Al Walajah village, July 6, 2018

Number of participants: 30 participants and farmers

Results: facilitated focus group discussions between project participants and local female farmers to benefit from their knowledge of cultivation and agriculture

Activity 4: Awareness lecture on global warming

Location and date: Al Walajah village, July 13, 2018

Number of participants: 30 participants

Results: Organised a lecture raising awareness on global warming and its dire effects on the environment.

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Activity 5: Painting murals in a kindergarten

Location and date: Kindergarten, July 27, 2018

Number of participants: 50 participants

Results: Painted murals with kindergarteners in their school compound to beautify the area and remind them of caring for the environment

Activity 6: Visiting greenhouses

Location and date: Aida Camp, August 3, 2018

Number of participants: 30 participants

Results: The participants visited greenhouses in Aida camp – another environmental project run by the Environment Unit of Lajee Center. The visits demonstrated to the participants how they could cultivate greenhouses.

Activity 7: Film production documenting the environment project

Location and date: Lajee Center, August 10, 2018

Number of participants: 30 participants

Results: We documented the outputs of the environment project to be presented during the final celebration marking the successful conclusion of the project.

Activity 8: Water testing

Location and date: Al Walajah village, August 17, 2018

Number of participants: 4 groups

Results: 4 groups of students collected water samples from the houses in taps and cisterns of Al Walajah village. They tested the water for coliform or E.coli bacteria and checked if there was sufficient residual chlorine to kill any microorganisms inside.

Activity 9: Making recycled pots out of old tyres

Location and date: Al walajah village, August 24, 2018
Number of participants: 30 participants

Results: We recycled old tyres by painting them in vibrant colours and planting flowers inside of them to be set within the garden of Ansar Center.

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Activity 10: Visiting the Educational Center of Talitha Kumi

Location and date: Beit Jala, September 1, 2018 Number of participants: 30participants

Results: The participants visited the educational center of Talitha Kumi in Beit Jala where they learnt of the different environmental activities carried out there.

Activity 11: Evaluation discussion in Ansar center

Location and date: Ansar center, September 8, 2018

Number of participants: 30participants

Results: We held interview discussions with the coordinator and director of the project as well as some participants to evaluate the initial goals set and the actual outcomes achieved.

Activity 12: Focus group session with beneficiaries

Location and date: Al Walajah village, September 22, 2018

Number of participants: 15 participants

Results: Focus group discussion with the beneficiaries of the program were held to discuss the next steps that should be taken and the sustainability of the project

Activity 13: Final celebration

Location and date: Lajee Center, October 31, 2018

Number of participants: 20 participants

Results: A final celebration ceremony will be held in Lajee center showcasing the products made in Al Walajah village as well as to publicise the success of the program to both the communities of Aida and Al Walajah.