

Annual Report



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ESDC 2012

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Chairman of the Board Word.

Colleagues and distinguished members of the General Assembly,

I am honored on my behalf and on the behalf of my fellow board members to submit to you, the esteemed 2012 annual report. This report includes a presentation of the Centre's activities and achievements of the target groups of rural cooperatives, marginalized farmers and their families in line with the vision and mission of the Center in building a sustainable rural economy in Palestine through economic and social empowerment of the target groups.

The year 2012 witnessed a remarkable development in the performance of the Center in terms of both increasing funding and implementation of programs and projects. The Center entered new partnerships with donors and expanded the implementation of projects and programs in partnership with international institutions, which reflected positively on the Center's work at all levels during 2012 compared to 2011. At the institutional level, the Center updated its internal bylaws within its basic belief of development and continued expansion. Also serving as a prelude to the best achievements in the areas of governance and improved performance for the coming years.

At the end of the year 2012, the Center celebrated its 10 year anniversary. During the short time since its establishment, the Center became well-known in the field of rural development in Palestine.

We all hope that we continue our hard work through the next stage for increased quality development services for the target groups to enhance their steadfastness on their land and economically and socially empower them.

Khaled Daodi

Chairman of the Board

About

The Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine is an independent Palestinian non-profit civil society organization. The Center was established in 2003 by renowned Palestinian development practitioners committed on developing the Palestinian social economy in rural and marginalized areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Vision

A sustainable social economy in Palestine

Our Mission

ESDC works towards prompting integrated rural development in Palestine through economic and social development of cooperatives, individuals and marginalized target groups

Goals:

ESDC seeks to contribute to:

1. Developing the Palestinian Cooperative sector and increase the effectiveness of cooperatives in poverty alleviation.
2. Building and developing the capacities of cooperatives and grassroots community organizations to provide better services to its members.
3. Empowering women socially and economically through cooperatives and grassroots community organizations.
4. Improving the level of food security at the household and community levels
5. Improving the management and development of natural resources
6. Working to restore agriculture activity for small farmers and livestock breeders who are subject to Occupation measures and natural disasters and Providing humanitarian assistance and inputs necessary to meet the basic needs of marginalized poor families

Our programs:

1. Capacity Building and Institutionalization of economic cooperatives and CBOs.
2. Improving the livelihood of poverty groups in the most disadvantaged areas. targeting in our programs: food insecure households, poor households, and small –scale farmers, whose livelihoods are at risk.

Our target group:

We are target mainly agriculture cooperatives and CBOS and women working groups in rural communities and marginalized areas throughout Palestine. The livelihood program targets small-scale farmers, livestock breeders and poor families whose livelihood is threatened.

Local partners

- Cooperative and grassroots community based organizations
- Farmers and livestock breeders
- Community Based Organizations
- Local committees
- NewFarm Marketing and Agro-processing Company
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Agriculture

Summary of ESDC's achievements during the year 2012

This report covers the most significant results of the programs of the Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine during 2012, consistent with the strategic goals, vision and mission aimed at contributing to sustainable development in Palestine.

ESDC seeks to achieve its strategic objectives through its two major programs; through building the capacities and institutionalization of cooperatives and CBOs and improving the livelihood of poverty groups in that are subject to risk and threats resulting from Occupation and natural disasters.

In 2012, all of the governorates in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were reached through ESDC's projects and interventions. The achieved tangible results were on the individual, organizational and national level.

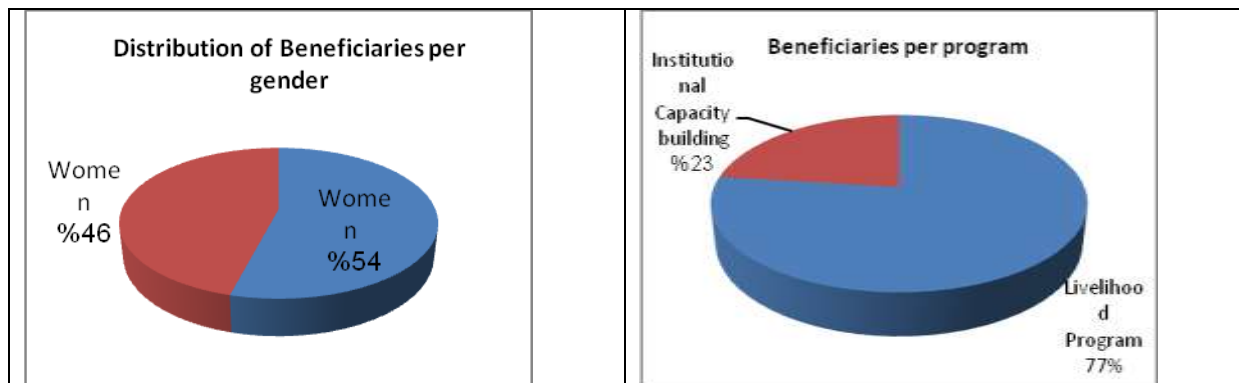
Firstly, significant results were achieved within the Institutional **Capacity Building program** by working on the dissemination of Cooperative thought among the young generation and social classes of society in new geographical areas. Secondly, targeted cooperatives were supported with business plans and systems. These cooperatives also received support for their income generating activities to support their viability and sustainability. Also, new tools to build the capacity of cooperatives in partnership with the General Directorate of Cooperatives to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Cooperative Sector and follow up with the concerned authorities. Further, ESDC led activities for the International Year for Cooperatives in Palestine, leading coordination within the National Working Group, which was formed for this purpose.

Within the **Improving Livelihood Programme** of improving the standard of living, ESDC's supported the olive growers in the targeted governorates with technical assistance, capacity building and necessary equipment to improve the quality and quantity of their olive production. Also through the programme, 6.8 km of agriculture roads were opened and/or rehabilitated to increase olive farmers ability to reach their farming land increasing agricultural areas for targeted farmers. ESDC also supported farmers and livestock breeders whose livelihood are threatened by Occupation practices in the targeted areas helping them to restore their agricultural activity. In addition, ESDC supported the stability and survival of farmers threatened by displacement due to their inability to cultivate their agricultural land within the region enclaved by the Isolation Wall due to the high price of irrigation water. ESDC also supported the food security of needy families in area C, and rehabilitated 400 greenhouses that were damaged as a result of the storm in the Gaza Strip. ESDC also worked

with international and local institutions to distribute food baskets to 7,000 families in the Gaza Strip.

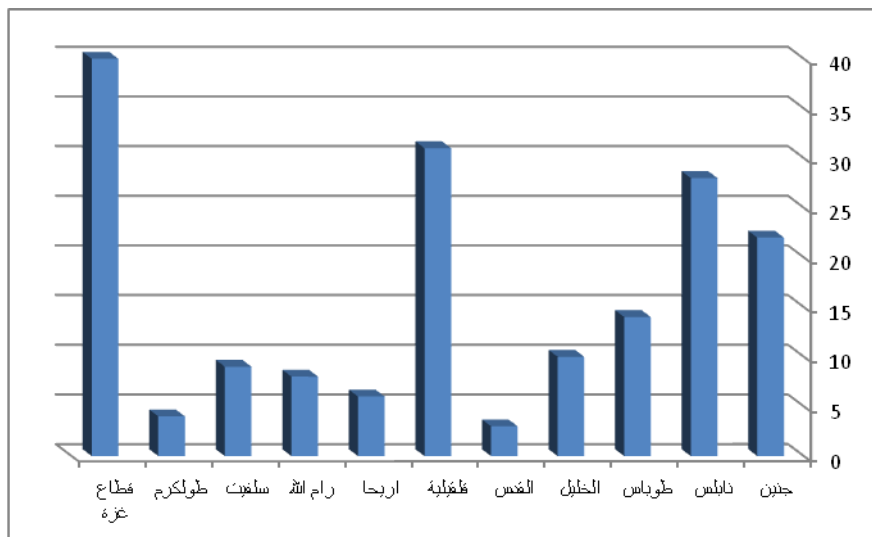
First: Beneficiaries:

There were 12,520 direct beneficiaries and 23,412 indirect beneficiaries from ESDC projects and interventions during the year directly. Forty percent of the direct beneficiaries are in the Gaza Strip. Women constituted 46% of the total direct beneficiaries were women and 48% of the indirect beneficiaries. The number of direct beneficiaries of the Institutional Capacity Building program was 2,885 beneficiary, of which women accounted for 39%, while the number of beneficiaries of the Livelihood was 9,635, of which 48% were women.



Second: Targeted areas

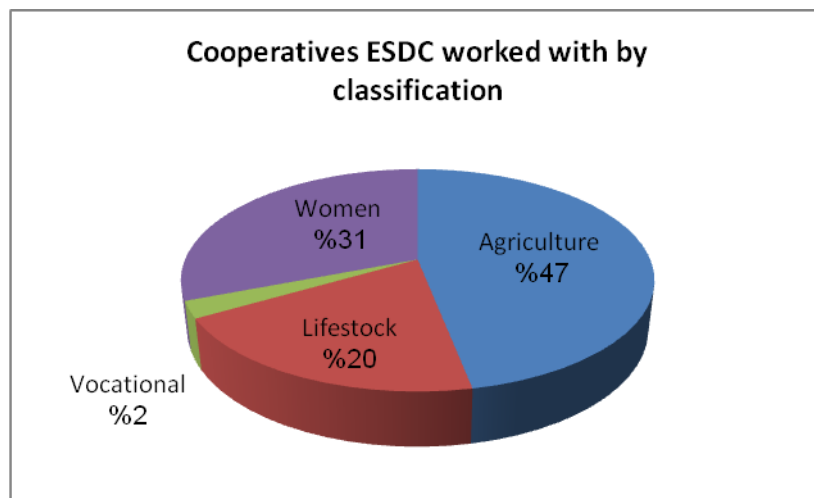
With the exception of the Jerusalem and Bethlehem governorates, ESDC achieved working in all of the West Bank governorates for all sectors. The Center distributed activity during the year 2012 in 175 cluster areas, with 23% of them in the Gaza Strip.



Third: Cooperative and Grassroots Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

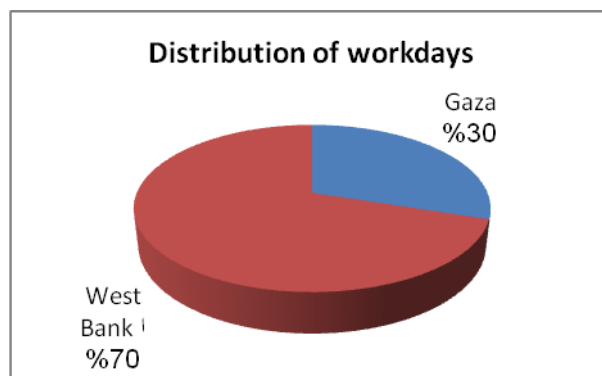
The Center succeeded in working with 81 cooperative and grassroots community based organizations, 95% of which were cooperatives throughout the country, including 10 cooperatives in the Gaza Strip. The work of the Centre in 2012 focused on productive plant

and livestock agricultural cooperatives where the ratio of the latter was 67% while women cooperatives accounted for 31%.



Fourth: Work opportunities Produced by ESDC projects and interventions in the community

Through the implementation of development and relief projects during the year, 71,669 working days were created. In the West Bank, 50,168 working days benefited 1,672 workers, and 21,501 working days in the Gaza Strip benefited 717 workers. The total workers (male and female) who benefited from working days is 2,389 workers.



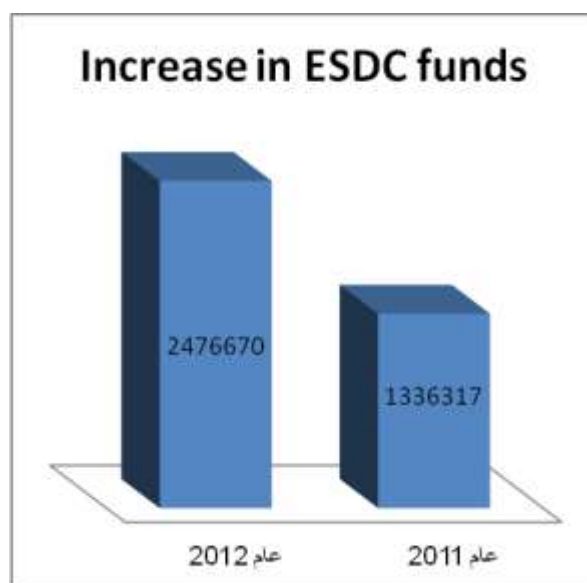
Fifth: Hours of trainings and courses implemented

ESDC implemented 4,059 hours of training distributed over 313 training sessions. The training topics covered topics directly related to the Centers programs. In building the capacity of cooperatives and grassroots organization, 194 training sessions, were implemented and was attended by 2,328 trainees. Also, 119 training session within the livelihood program were attended by 1,384 trainees who also received a total of 3,704 extension visits.

Sixth: Distribution of ESDC programs.

ESDCs overall 2012 budget increased 85% compared to the previous year. A total of US\$ 2,476,670 of which 75% on programs and direct beneficiaries and the remainder on

administrative expenses. The audited budget for the year 2012 reflects that the Center has spent 31% on the Institutional Capacity Building program, while 69% on the Livelihood program.



Seventh: ESDC staff

The number of employees who were employed by the Center in 2012, full or part-time, reached 38 employees, including those who have worked on various projects. Employees in Gaza Strip accounted for 10 and 28 in the West Bank. Of those employed, 42% were women.



Summary table: interventions and beneficiaries throughin 2012.

Project Name / intervention	Number of direct beneficiaries	Males	Females	Number of indirect beneficiaries	Males	Females	locations#
Improvement	1144	1001	143	7329	3614	3715	35

Program olive oil							
Land development program in Beit Duqqu	78	77	1	543	310	312	1
Development program land in Kvrrai	42	36	6	168	77	91	1
Relief for the stability of the level of living of Palestinian farmers in isolated areas of the wall (1)	398	388	10	2508	1252	1256	4
Relief for the stability of the level of living of Palestinian farmers in isolated areas of the wall (2)	108	103	5	670	341	329	5
Protection of greenhouses for farmers to reduce the impact of natural disasters - Gaza Strip	400	379	21	2697	1306	1396	5
Protect the level of living and food Oualemsaadat (vegetable basket)	7000	3500	3500				5
Humanitarian agricultural subsidies for the poor in marginalized communities (in Area C and the seam zone)	222	111	111	1437	747	691	10
Agricultural rehabilitation of roads in the seam zone - Jayyous فلامية the / Qalqilya	243	742	802				3

Total beneficiaries and locations of the program to improve the level of living	9635	6337	4599	15352	7647	7790	69
Project to support the economic and institutional capacities of Cooperatives	1188	502	686	6258	3579	2679	38
Small Enterprise Development Project	813	608	205				13
Improve the standard of living and the development of civil society institutions	181	112	69	214	139	75	10
Improving food security through food processing cooperatives	206	174	32	1246	600	643	8
cooperative capacity building in Hebron	146	120	26				2
Project to support and strengthen the cooperative societies in the district of Salfit and Qalqilya	351	249	102	342	296	46	19
Total beneficiaries sites and institutional capacity-building program	2885	1765	1120	8060	4614	3443	90
Total	12520	8102	5719	23412	12261	11233	159

Main Results and Achievements

Cooperatives Capacity Building Program in Palestine:

The Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine implemented a number of projects and interventions in 2012 that are consistent with the vision, mission, and the strategic objectives of the Center. The interventions sought to bring about the desired change in the political reality and the difficult economic and social circumstances of Palestinians in all the governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In this context, the year saw achievements distinctive within this program. During 2012 the Center completed work with 38 cooperatives in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the three year program "Strengthening the Institutional and Business Capacity of Cooperatives in Palestine". In 2012 the work was completed with 19 cooperative within the project "Supporting and Strengthening Cooperative in the Governorates of Salfit and Qalqilya" which lasted for two years. The Centre also completed work on the "Improve Food Security" project through 8 food manufacturing cooperatives in the area of Jenin and Nablus. At the same time, the Center continued to work with the 10 cooperatives and grassroots organization as part of a project to improve the standard of living through development of civil society organizations for the fourth consecutive year in Jenin and Tubas. In addition to continuing work with the 13 cooperatives in the West Bank under the project "Develop Small Enterprises", work has also continued with the two cooperative in Hebron within the project in partnership with the Spanish Action Against Hunger.



Results:

First Result: Institutional Capacity Building and Institutionalization of targeted cooperatives

ESDC worked with 14 cooperatives in developing and implementing their strategic plans. ESDC also worked with an additional ten cooperatives in preparing their annual operating plans including follow-up. In the same context, the targeted cooperatives' financial and administrative systems were developed and the adoption and application



of the systems were monitored by ESDC. Further, through this programme, five cooperatives installed five computerized accounting systems and were trained in their application and use.



The Center also work on institutionalizing small farmers and rural producers groups, and to this end supported 5 groups in both the West Bank and Gaza in forming registered cooperatives. Further capacity-building tools were used to build the institutional capacity of the said cooperatives with ESDC conducting follow-up guidance to the cooperatives. ESDC conducted 345 field visits to targeted cooperatives and held 17 training session in institutional building for the new cooperatives.

Second Result: Increased capacity of cooperative in their economic businesses Activities of the ESDC within this result are summarized as follows:

- Organizing and implementing 153 training sessions to build the capacity of targeted cooperatives in different subjects such as marketing, best practices, applying regulations, financial and administrative matters as well as the principles of cooperation and economic planning.
- ESDC supported cooperatives through the employment of the younger generation to lead the process of capacity building for the target cooperatives. ESDC trained 24 young men and women graduates from the target areas. These graduates with the supervision and support of ESDC were employed in these cooperatives and participated in the cooperatives administrative and financial affairs and economic development.



- Through the year, ESDC supported 38 Business Plans for 38 cooperatives. The plans were built on the foundations of sound analysis of the business through a feasibility study of the existing business and development of feasible business plans. Through follow-up and support, 30 cooperatives began implementation of their plans.

- Support economic projects of 16 cooperatives by providing them with the necessary equipment and machines for production development.
- Support economic projects for 16 cooperatives by providing them with a small grant to buy supplies and equipment necessary for the development and production with ESDC overseeing the procurement process.
- Organize exchange visits among 10 cooperative for exchange of knowledge and skills.
- Organized and implemented two central workshops for exchange of knowledge and skills among cooperatives that share similar economic endeavors.
- Within the capacity building activities of production and marketing, ESDC organized and participated in 20 marketing exhibition for dozens of cooperatives and their products.



- Strengthened the working capital of 11 cooperative through small loans ranging between six thousand and ten thousand US dollars.
- Product development of cooperatives through building productive capacities of cooperatives through quality control, consistency and packaging for 20 cooperative products.



- Conducted two marketing studies and linking cooperative products to the local market.
- ESDC organized 12 training sessions to build the capacity of targeted cooperatives in relation to techniques.

Third Result: Cooperative thought and collective work principles dissemination in the target cooperatives and the local community, through:

- Disseminated cooperative thought and collective work principles through implementation of 12 workshops for public awareness.
- Organized a public awareness campaign in regards to the importance of the role of youth and women in cooperative work.
- Organized two summer camps through two cooperatives for 210 youth with the goal of disseminating Cooperative thought among youth.



Within this component, ESDC also published and distributed a summer camp manual for other similar organizations.



- ESDC organized 22 introductory workshops for the targeted cooperatives to explain the planned interventions and projects as well as the work of ESDC in general.
- ESDC printed and distributed 3 training manuals in the field of collective work and hygienic food processing.



Fourth Result: Developing the Palestinian cooperative movement in cooperation with the cooperative sector and the Ministry of Labor General Directorate of Cooperatives with the following events:

- ESDC coordinated for the second Cooperative Conference in Palestine, under the hospice and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, the Minister of Labor Dr. Ahmed Majdalani, and many national and international organizations, held



on July 7, 2012 with 375 participants. The conference was organized under the National Year of Cooperatives Celebration. three working papers on the cooperative sector was presented and discussed with the recommendations of the

conference raised to decision-makers. The conference also included an appeal to the Palestinian President to approve the proposed New Cooperation Law.

- ESDC led a media campaign to highlight the important role of collective work in development. This campaign was one of the national events during the International Year of Cooperatives. The campaign included many television and radio interviews, publications and promotional materials and text messages.
- ESDC participated in the International Summit for Cooperatives, which was held in Canada.
- The Center organized a central workshop with the General Directorate of Cooperatives (GDC) to unify the concepts of work and cooperative extensions to the GDC staff in the various governorates of the West Bank.
- ESDC worked to reactivate the website of the cooperatives in Palestine.
 ((www.palcoop.ps))



Improved Livelihood Program

This program aims to strengthen the resilience of farmers in their lands and restore their agricultural activity. This program aims to help families increase their access to food security in light of the Israeli practices and the resulting economic and social impacts on the lives of citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Within this program, ESDC implemented 9 projects related to food security and support to farmers which accounted for 64% of the projects carried out by the Centre during the year. ESDC has distinctive achievements in this field in spite of the difficult conditions and challenges of the projects and staff.

All the activities and its interventions in this program during 2012 remained in line with the vision, mission and strategic objectives of ESDC in relation to improving the standard of living for farmers and families in need. All of the interventions are also consistent with the Strategic Plan for the Agricultural Sector.

During the year 2012 ESDC completed the intervention of land development in Jerusalem in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme UNDP. The Center also carried out three emergency projects funded by the Humanitarian Emergency Response Fund, administered by the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA. Two Also, in partnership with the Swedish Cooperative Centre through funding by the Swedish International Development Agency ESDC implemented a project for humanitarian assistance for marginalized areas C and the Seam Zone. Also ESDC, with the French Consulate, through the Swedish Cooperative Center rehabilitated agricultural road within the seam zone.

At the same time, ESDC continued to work with farmers to develop the olive sector in the areas targeted by the project "From grove to market. " Also, land Development in Kafr Rayee in Jenin governorate, funded by the Agricultural Development Fund through the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. In addition in Gaza an aid project funded by the European Union through CARE International is also being implemented.



Within the program to improve the livelihood, ESDC worked to achieve the following results:

First: Support resilience and restore agriculture activities of farmers and livestock breeders whose livelihood is threatened by displacement as a result of Occupation practices and natural disaster

Support farmers in areas isolated by the wall:



ESDC worked to achieve the first result by reducing the cost of irrigation water by 52% for five months during the summer irrigation season for farmers who depend on irrigated agricultural crops in the region isolated by the wall in Tulkarm and Qalqilya. ESDC provided 13 artesian diesel operated wells inside the wall with 68,998 liters of diesel. The project succeeded in reducing the irrigation cost of water by an average of 735 \$ for each of the farmers. This was important to the resilience of the farmers because compounded by the farmers daily suffering in accessing their land with the permit regime, and

prohibition of the farmers from converting these wells to electrical power, which would reduce the cost of water by more than half. As it stands, the cost of irrigation water inside the wall is twice the cost of water outside the wall. Water extracted from these wells is used to irrigate 4890 dunums of land planted with various fruit trees and vegetables, in what is considered the most fertile agricultural and the most abundant water for irrigation in Palestine



1. Rehabilitation and support agricultural activity for farmers and livestock breeders who are most vulnerable to the threat of occupation action:

In 2012 ESDC was able to rehabilitate 37.5 dunums of greenhouses for farmers in areas threatened and affected by occupation practices. As a result of the assistance, 38 farms regained agriculture activity, also re-claimed 27.5 dunums of exposed land, In addition, 30 mobile tents were distributed to livestock breeders whose sheds were destroyed by

occupation practices. Livestock breeders also were assisted in the rehabilitation of 32 external sheds, distribution of 32 veterinary basket, and distribution 7 mobile water tanks. Further, ESDC held 17 training session and workshops for the beneficiaries and carried out 1,200 extension visits.



2. Rehabilitation of damaged greenhouses from the storm in the Gaza Strip

ESDC supported 400 farmers from the Gaza Strip whose greenhouses were affected by the storm that hit the Gaza Strip at the beginning of 2012 which left serious damage to agricultural infrastructure including greenhouses. As a result of the storm, greenhouse farmers activity halted and thus cut off their incomes. Through the HERF fund, ESDC succeeded in supporting farmers to resume their agriculture activity through rehabilitating 400 dunums of affected greenhouses.

Second: Improved food security through backyard food production

1. Support backyard food production:

ESDC worked on improving food security for poor food insecure families as a result of occupation practices in the areas adjacent to the wall and in Gaza Strip. To achieve this, the Center worked on food production at the household level through the creation of 30 poultry units containing 120 layer chickens with cages and nozzles, distribution of 120 beehives with necessary equipment to 30 families, distributing 86 pregnant sheep to 43 households and creation of 6 home gardens.



2. Distribution of food baskets for poor families that do not have the necessary assets for backyard food production:

On another level, and in order to achieve the second result, ESDC supported food insecure families that do not have the possibilities of food production units through the distribution of food baskets. Eleven food baskets were distributed in the Qalqiliya area. The baskets had a market value of \$800 dollars. In addition, in the Gaza Strip, distribution of vegetable baskets were delivered weekly for a period of six months, benefiting 7,000 families.



Third: Developed natural resources

Increasing the productive agricultural areas of targeted farmers.

In 2012 ESDC worked on reclamation of 213 dunums and rehabilitated of 94 dunums, created 8,700 square meters of retaining walls, planted 7,101 fruit trees, and created 16 water collection wells with the capacity to store 900 cubic meters of water for irrigation use. A total of 120 farmers benefited from

these outputs in both the Bait Duqqu province of Jerusalem and Kafr El Rayee of Jenin governorate.

Fourth: Increased ability of farmers to access their land:

Under increasing the capacity of farmers access to their lands, ESDC rehabilitated 6.8 km of agricultural roads. And for the first time, in the seam zone of Qalqiliya since the establishment of the Apartheid Wall in 2002, 3.5 km of agriculture road serving 243 farmers was rehabilitated inside the seam zone. The area is an important agricultural region in the West Bank, where the abundance of irrigation water and production. The road alleviated the suffering of farmers and reduced waste production during the transport operations of the fruits of guava, citrus, avocado and other crops. Implementation of this intervention could form a model for the integration of efforts to reach this result. Namely, this result has been achieved in cooperation and coordination with the municipalities that contributed to the rehabilitation costs and the Ministry of Public Works provided mechanisms and drivers enabling the Center to double the results and access twice the distance along the planned route.



Fifth: Improved production and marketing of the olive sector in targeted areas.

ESDC supported olive farmers in the target governorates with the necessary guidance and equipment to improve their production and productivity, both quantitatively and qualitatively. ESDC targeted the 1,144 olive farms in 34 sites in Jenin, Nablus, Tubas and Hebron governorates. The provision of 102 technical theoretical and practical training for farmers were implemented. Also, 34 demonstration sites were created for the practical training. The Center also organized and stimulated collective agricultural practices among the farmers through spraying,



collective storage & olive press to decrease costs.

Also within this result, ESDC provided farmers with the necessary equipment for proper olive








picking. Also part of the work to improve the quality of oil, ESDC worked rehabilitated two olive presses. In addition, the Center monitored the work of the olive presses in targeted sites to confirm the required specifications of olive oil are being met. Also within this line, farmer groups were provided with, and trained on, laboratories to test the quality Oil.

Publications Center 2012

2012 witnessed an increase in the number of publications, promotional materials and media attention. The Center issued 15 kinds of publications and information materials including training materials and guidance bulletins and news reports, television series and radio spots, in addition to a special site on Facebook. Of the most significant of these publications:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social-Economic impact of Cooperatives in the West Bank
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative Summer Camp Manual
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and Training Manual for Cooperatives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principles of Collective Work in the Framework of planning and Communication

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Manual in Food Processing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Training Manual in Breeding Rabbits
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Training Manual in Breeding Chickens
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Training Manual in Sheep and Goats
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Training Manual in Home Gardening
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures for targeted Cooperatives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters to publish Collective Ideology

Success Stories:

Second Cooperative Conference.

A decision of the United Nations adopted 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives under the banner of the role of cooperatives in building a better world.

Since the onset of 2012, the Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine led the work of the preparation, implementation and financing activities related to the International Year of Cooperatives in Palestine. Also, on the onset, a preparatory committee was formed by ESDC and included ESDC, the Swedish Cooperative Center, the General Directorate of Cooperatives, the six cooperative unions and New Farm Co. (marketer of cooperative products). Among the activities related to the International Year of Cooperatives was the commencing the Second National Cooperative Conference.

The Second National Cooperative Conference was held on July 7, 2012, the international day of cooperatives, in Al-Bireh under the banner "The role of cooperatives in achieving better development of Palestinian" under the auspice and the presence of The Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, the Minister of Labor, Dr. Ahmed Majdalani, Chairmen's of the cooperative unions, and Chairman of ESDC Mr. Khalid Daoudi, as well as the Country Director of the Swedish Cooperative Centre Mr. Mohammed Khalid. In addition to representatives of many organizations, the Palestinian cooperative unions, international institutions, a number of legal persons, and the media attended this important conference. In all, about 400 people attended the conference of which, 120 women.

The conference aimed to raise public awareness of cooperatives and their contribution to economic and social development. Especially enhanced development of cooperatives to effectively handle economic and social needs of society. This conference was also an opportunity to call on the governmental bodies for a review of policies and the adoption of the New Cooperative law and the regulations and systems within.

After opening of the conference a short film was played about the reality of the Palestinian cooperative movement which was produced by ESDC in the preparatory period for the conference. The video highlighted the importance of the Palestinian Cooperative movement through the presentation of successful models of the cooperative sector. The film is the first of its kind in Palestine as it monitors the cooperative movement, and tells about the reality between past and present and aspirations into the future. The film was aired on local and satellite TV stations and open the door for discussion on these local and regional satellite channels. This led to dialogue on international cooperation through cooperative, which became heard by decision-makers particular in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

During the conference three working papers were presented and discussed:

3. The economic and social role of cooperatives;
4. The establishment of the Public Authority for the cooperative sector;
5. The establishment of the Cooperative Development Savings and Credit Box

Each of the working papers were presented in detail, and the floor was opened for discussion and comments on each paper.



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Through these various activities, the media presented more on development and cooperatives and encouraged the cooperative movement to harness the many possibilities to serve the cooperative sector and overcome a lot of obstacles.

Most importantly, the Palestinian cooperative movement has become coherent and unified without regards to political and geographical belonging.



2012 shed light to the reality of the Palestine cooperative movement. The efforts and achievements would not have been possible without the support, funding and follow-up of the Swedish Cooperative Centre and the Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine and all those who contributed effectively in the activities of the International Cooperatives Year, 2012.

Aqaba Cooperative Association able to complete the circle of production

Aqaba is a Palestinian village constantly threatened by occupation practices and is frequently targeted by organizations working in both development and relief. The many donor signs indicate that projects had been carried out in the village, but the effects of these interventions is not clear, and sometimes



ineffective, because they lack the elements of sustainability. However in 2012, ESDC began working with the cooperative in building its capacities in their economic project of herbal teas through technical and managerial training and product development in terms of quality control and good practices in production. In addition to packing and a large marketing and delivery effort, their product is now on the shelves in markets with tangible results.

Achievements of the project did not stop at the herbal teas but ESDC has been providing support to the farmers to grow varieties of medicinal herbs as raw materials for the production of Medical Herbs.

The of work expansion of work has resulted in an increases production in the factory, which contributed to creating 20 jobs including women who increased their income and improve the quality of life from their herbal gardens. Also through the activities of the Centre, marketing channels were opened for product marketing, through the presentation of co- products in local fairs that were held during the year, through networking visits to the cooperatives and shops and wholesalers as well as commercial announcements for the product in the newspapers, product and cooperative brochures. A first sign of success is the cooperative signed an agreement with a wholesaler to distribute these products, which amounted to 6 varieties of medicinal herbs, and work is progressing on the work of mixtures combining more than one class together.

Mincer Abu Rugged Overcame poverty by joining the Blessed Tree Cooperative



Rama Mohammed Yousef Abu rugged 36 in one of the Members the Blessed Tree Cooperative that was targeted in the Small Enterprise Development Project. She has 5, two in university and the rest are in school and her husband is unemployed the majority of the year.

Rama has sought to help her husband and children through active membership of the Blessed Tree Cooperative which provides an opportunity for her training on organic farming and the quality of fertilizers appropriate to the soil. She also received accounting and computer management, packaging, food processing, public relations and communication training. A study of her business project was conducted and the plan of action for her baby plant nursery.

Says Rama, “Contributed to this experience building my character and increase my confidence and my culture from society. After my training I had the determination and ambition to challenge and succeed in this is a new phase in my life.

The Rama uses her relatives land for cultivating a home garden produce products that generate about 150 shekels a month income for her family. Rama also manufactures soap 5 kinds of soap a soap camel milk, herbal soap and soap sage and aromatic soap and soap Mornga all kinds of soap used to



treat skin problems, from which you can achieve a net profit of \$ 100 monthly shekels per month.

Rama managed through various activities to raise family income of NIS 900 per month, which is Adel earned by her husband and thus overcame poverty willingly and sticking.



Relief and Stabilizing the livelihood of farmers

Palestinian farmers in the seam zone face big challenges, leading to deterioration in farmers' farming capacities. One of the factors that lead to threatening the farmers' livelihood is the increased farming input due to preventing transforming the artesian wells into electrical energy keeping the price of irrigation water high and becoming one of the most costly inputs. Most of the farmers were not able to afford such high production costs any longer.

So, the project ESDC through HERF project supported 506 farmers, through 13 wells, livelihoods, through decreasing their irrigation costs, for farmers, by at least **52%**.

The project enabled farmers to irrigate their orchards and crop sufficiently, as well as reducing the inputs' cost. Significant improvement in fruit quality, increased production quantity per production unit and new agricultural areas were planted.

Abdulateef Fahmi is one of the targeted farmers, he owns 4 dunums Lemon and 16 dunum Juafa, he used to irrigate 400 cubic meter weekly before the intervention, (which is less than the crops needs) which was cost 320 NIS Weekly, during the project he is irrigated 500 cubic meter weekly with cost 80 NIS.



He Said “ *the quality of lemon fruit is bitter than previous seasons, you can see the brightness on the fruit it's because of the adequate amount of irrigation* ” also he added “you can see the new pale green branches on the tree is also due the adequate amount of irrigation”



Muntaser Sami , he is the breadwinner of family composed of 8 members, he has 4

dunums of Juava, 3 dunums of avocado and 14 dunums without planting, he used to pay 100 NIS per operating irrigation hours(80cubic meters) but during the project he was paying 20 NIS per hour. The project enabled him to plant new area (10 dunums) with vegetables. Previously, the Jauva fruit was dropping from the tree due to shortage of water, but after the project fruit became stable on the tree. During the past three years a Muntasers debt accumulated to 20,000 NIS, which he paid most of during the summer season during the course of the project.

Rehabilitation of agricultural roads in isolated areas of the wall

To add to the suffering of farmers within the areas of the wall, the farm roads in the isolated area in Tulkarm and Qalqilya have not been rehabilitated since the establishment of the Apartheid Wall in 2002. The poor agriculture roads were unsuitable for use as a result of potholes and other factors, which reflected negatively on farmers' access to their lands, and the quality of their crops as a result of the damage during the transportation process. However, as a result of a model cooperation, ESDC was able to assist these farmers and rehabilitate the agriculture road in partnership with SCC and in coordination with municipalities and official bodies in areas. After budget savings from a livelihood project, additional financing from the French Consulate, machinery and man-power from the Ministry of Public Works and the Department of Agriculture coordinating permits necessary to enter inside the wall for the crew and equipment set a model of cooperation that led to doubling the output possible with 4800 meters of agricultural roads within the area of the wall, rehabilitated. Without the superb coordination, the budget was enough for half the distance.

One farmer that benefited from this road is a livestock breeder in the region, farmer Khalil Ibrahim Moussao. He owns 200 head of sheep, and was suffering when transferring fodder for sheep and the transfer of animal by-products to the outside of the wall because he does not have a tractor or truck, he was incurring about 5,000 shekels a year costs for renting transport. However, after rehabilitation of the agricultural road he is able to transport via cart horse giving him the amounts that were paid instead of freight and this in turn will improve the standard of living for his family of 15 people.



Kufordan Coop for Agriculture

Located in Marj Ibn Amer to the 6 km west of Jenin, 6 km, is blessed with fertile soil and most of the villagers depend on agriculture farms Subhi Tiger Younis Mari

A 51-year-old is married and has two children cultivated an area of 17 acres of vegetables (lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber) throughout the year, suffering from a shortage of water. He requires 1,200 cubic meters a month at 3 shekels a total of 3,600 NIS per month which is very high and difficult for him to get which caused damage in the quantity and quality of production. It was difficult for him to

rehabilitate his water well until ***Kufordan Coop for Agriculture and Irrigation*** assisted in rehabilitation of the well and were able to re- run its production capacity to 8 m³ per hour. He now has the water that is in need, at NIS 0.8 instead of 3.0 shekels for each m³ of water making it easier for him to expand. He saves NIS 31,680 per annum now.

Now Subhi is able to provide for his family and make payments for his son's University after he had stopped going to university because of his economic situation. Because of the coop, improved the situation for his family in general and has the ability to expand the area of

A group of farmers registered and the cooperatives for irrigation to contribute to solving the problem and initiated communication with the relevant authorities, whether governmental or civil which connects the continuous work in order to get to grab our right of minimum water with increasing agricultural. The Assembly purchased officially licensed excavator from the Water Authority carried out maintenance and rehabilitation of wells, farmers and members alike, especially for senior members almost at cost to contribute to the provision of service to its members and is not commercially profitable.



2012 Partners

 <p>OXFAM</p>	 <p>KOOPERATION UTAN GRÄNSER SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE</p>
	
 <p>UNITED NATIONS Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory</p>	
 <p>IFAD Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty</p>	
	
	 <p>ACTED</p>

	 <p>Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra</p> <p>Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC</p>
	<p>Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development (<i>niccod</i>)</p>

General trends for 2013

The year 2012 is the last year in of the three year strategic plan of the center. The strategic planning process and the development of programs for the coming period will:

- During 2013, ESDC will organize special events for its 10 year anniversary.
- A 2013-2016 strategic plan will be prepared.
- ESDC will continue to build the capacity of the cooperative sector and informal groups, and encourage cooperation between cooperatives through collaborative work with unions.
- Continue to normal work programs and the development of services provided to the target groups

Annual Plan 2013

The annual plan for the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development for the year 2013 / Institutional capacity building program					
Name of Project/Intervention	Donor/Partner	Implementation Period	Expected Beneficiaries	No. of targeted sites	Budget 2013 \$
Institutional capacity and economic development of cooperative societies	Sida/SCC	2013	3000	150	262,299
Improve the living conditions of the marginalized areas	ACF	2013	100	2	29236

in Palestine					
Small enterprise development EDP	Oxfam GB	11 months	547	13	141041
Enhanced living standards of Palestinians- Tatweer	Care/ Ausaid	May to end2013	2360	10	421740
Enhance the standard of living of rural women through food processing cooperatives	Ausaid	January to end 2013	160	8	21243
Strengthening institutional capacity-building program of ESDC by supporting a capacity building employee	GIZ	April- end 2013	200	10	14400
Expected number of capacity building beneficiaries 2013	6207		Capacity Building Budget 889,959		
The annual plan for the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development for the year 2013 / Livelihood program					
From Grove to Market	Oxfam GB	2013	1480	34	416,331
Participatory Resource Management IFAD 4	MAO/IFAD	From April to end 2013	35	1	70906
Participatory Resource Management IFAD 5	MAO/IFAD	From May to end 2013	45	1	150000
Distribution of vegetable basket project in the Gaza Strip	Care/ EU	End of May	7000	20	101513
Agricultural humanitarian aid to the poor in Area C seam zone	SCC/Sida	February 2013	40	10	80120
The total number of beneficiaries expected beneficiaries Livelihood program		8600	818,870		

Providing training services to FAO	FAO	January 2013	110	3	5400
Provide training services to FAO	FAO/CIDA	Until June	1000	20	30,000
Provide training services to YMCA	YMCA	Until April	250	6	13,000
Provide training services for the Cooperative Housing Foundation	CHF	Until July	650	20	33532
The total number of beneficiaries is expected of advisory services		2010	81,932		

Challenges faced by the Centre in 2012

The ESDC faced many challenges, which can be divided into between the external challenges resulting from the general environment surrounding the center and internal challenges relating to the internal environment of the Center:

Internal Challenges:

- ESDC lacks permanent source of funding and works on project base making its services not stable to the target groups.
- Large part of its projects are short-term which makes it difficult in sustaining the provision of services and responding to the needs of the target groups.
- ESDC needs to fill vacancies in its structure, which would facilitate work and increase efficiency, however, the Center is not able to cover the costs of these vacancies.
- Some partner organizations do not cover administration costs causing a burden for the Center
- Great difficulties in direct communication between branches West Bank and Gaza Strip.

External challenges:

- Increased Israeli attacks on Palestinians and its implications for Palestinian economy and resources, especially in areas C and areas adjacent to settlements and the Apartheid Wall

- Regional political changes and international funding and support shifting to these countries
- Restrictions on movement between parts of the country which affects communication and follow-up
- Rising prices and irregular salaries and high rates of unemployment and poverty.
- Palestine affected by climate change and the resulting low rates of rainfall and erratic rainfall distribution in the separation and frequent storms, which largely reflected their effects on farmers and livestock breeders.



No. Of communities	Female	Male	No. Of Indirect beneficiaries	Female	Male	No. Of direct beneficiaries	Name of Project/intervention	
35	3715	3614	7329	143	1001	1144	From Grove to Market	1
1	312	310	543	1	77	78	Land Development project in Jerusalem	2
1	91	77	168	6	36	42	Participatory Natural Resource Development Programme (IFAD)	3
4	1256	1252	2508	10	388	398	(1)Relief for Stabilizing Livelihood of Farmers in the Seam Zone	4
5	329	341	670	5	103	108	(2) Relief for Stabilizing Livelihood of Farmers in the Seam Zone	5
5	1396	1306	2697	21	379	400	Protection to Decrease the Effect of Natural Disasters for Green House Farmers	6
5				3500	3500	7000	Food Security Project (Fresh Basket Distribution)	7
10	691	747	1437	111	111	222	Humanitarian Agriculture Assistance for women lead households and farmers in marginalized communities (CAP)	8
3				802	742	243	Rehabilitation of Agriculture roads in the Seam Zone of Jayyous, Falammiya and Qalqiliya	9
69	7790	7647	15352	4599	6337	9635	Total Livelihood Program	
38	2679	3579	6258	686	502	1188	Strengthening the Institutional and Business Capacities of Cooperatives in Palestine	10
13				205	608	813	Enterprise Development Programme	11
10	75	139	214	69	112	181	Livelihood Improvement and Strengthening Civil Society Organizations	12
8	643	600	1246	32	174	206	Improving Food Security through Food Processing Cooperatives	13
2				26	120	146	Strengthening the Capacity of Two Cooperatives in the Hebron	

							Governorate (ACF)	
19	46	296	342	102	249	351	Strengthening the Agriculture Cooperative in Salfit and Qalqiliya	14
90	3443	4614	8060	1120	1765	2885	Total Capacity Building Programme	
159	11233	12261	23412	5719	8102	12520	Total	

Independent Audited Report-Separate

Cooperatives and CBOs targeted in 2012

No.	Name of Beneficiary Organization	No. of members	Governorate
1	Al Nuhad Al Arabeeya Cooperative for Milk products and Livestock	88	Jerusalem
2	Nour Cooperative for Rural Development	118	Nablus
3	Til Olive Oil cooperative	144	Nablus
4	Jiftlil Cooperative for food processing	25	Jericho
5	Khalit Saleh Cooperative–Yatta	47	Hebron
6	Al–Taybeh Cooperative for Rural Development	13	Ramallah
7	Beit Faruq Cooperative for Rural Development	26	Nablus
8	Zayta Agriculture Cooperative–Jamm’ayeen	23	Nablus
9	Qibia Cooperative for Rural Development	57	Ramallah
10	Shoufa Cooperative for Agriculture Services	50	Tulkarem
11	Karbath Misbah Cooperative for Agriculture	98	Ramallah
12	Agriculture Engineer cooperative for production and services	62	Jericho
13	Kufir Dan Agriculture and irrigation cooperative	59	Jenin
14	Aqraba Cooperative for Agriculture and Livestock	68	Tubos
15	Al Nasareeya Association for Irrigation	32	Jericho
16	Khan Younis Agriculture Cooperative	891	Gaza
17	Agriculture Beekeeping Cooperative	0	Gaza
18	Al Mawasi Cooperative for livestock development	84	Gaza
19	Potato producers Cooperative	148	Gaza
20	Treated Water Users Association	30	Gaza
21	Poultry Cooperative in Khan Younis and Rafah	21	Gaza
22	Al–Mustaqbal Cooperative for Dairy production and	15	Gaza

	Marketing		
23	Bint il Rafeeh Cooperative for food production and distribution	35	Gaza
24	Savings and Credits Cooperative	1500	Gaza
25	Izbit Al Tabeeb Cooperative	6	Qalqillya
26	Marda Cooperative	16	Salfit
27	Il Mantar Livestock Cooperative	33	Hebron
28	Olive oil Cooperative in Hebron	813	Hebron
29	Bazzariya Cooperative	35	Nablus
30	Tammoun Cooperative for Food Production	51	Tubos
31	Qabalan Cooperative	67	Nablus
32	Rantees Cooperative	33	Ramallah
33	Bilin Cooperative	39	Ramallah
34	Dir Ibzee Cooperative	44	Ramallah
35	Al-Aghwar Beekeeping Cooperative	53	Jericho
36	Al-Inwameh Cooperative	29	Jericho
37	Vocational Services Cooperative	16	Hebron
38	Gaza Youth Society craft for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	12	Gaza
39	Dannaba Cooperative for Agriculture Services	86	Tulkarem
40	Bakka Sharkeya for Agriculture Services	41	Tulkarem
41	Dura Cooperative for Agriculture Production	40	Hebron
42	Sinjil Cooperative for Rural Development	40	Ramallah
43	Agriculture marketing and production Cooperative-Hebron	495	Hebron
44	Jiftlik Cooperative for food Production	20	Jericho
45	Jansafur Agriculture Cooperative	26	Qalqiliya
46	Kardala Women's Group	50	Tubos

47	Blessed Tree Cooperative	50	Tubos
48	Bit Duqqo Women's Group	18	Jerusalem
49	Arrana Cooperative for Rural Development	80	Jenin
50	Raba' Livestock Cooperative	28	Jenin
51	Ein Al-Bathat Vocational Cooperative	54	Tubos
52	Bardala Cooperative Herbal Cooperative	24	Tubos
53	Tammun Agriculture Cooperative	86	Tubos
54	Al-Aqaba Livestock Cooperative	68	Tubos
55	Asserya Shamaleya Agriculture Cooperative	21	Nablus
56	Al-Jamallah Agriculture Cooperative	91	Jenin
57	Jenin Farmers Charitable Association	2200	Jenin
58	Abba Charitable Association	86	Jenin
59	Fakouh Women's Association	23	Jenin
60	Tubos Cooperative for livestock	102	Tubos
61	Aqaba Association	69	Tubos
62	Baby tree nursery Akhwar-3 cooperatives	83	Tubos
63	Farata for Agriculture development Cooperative	15	Qalqiliya
64	Sir Agriculture Cooperative	17	Qalqiliya
65	Kufir Kadoom Livestock Cooperative	15	Qalqiliya
66	Azzune Agricultrre Cooperative	30	Qalqiliya
67	Yassouf Savings and Credit Cooperative	20	Salfit
68	Salfit Agriculture Cooperative	70	Salfit
69	Bakha Livestock Cooperative	30	Salfit
70	Kufir Thilth Cooperative for olive oil production and marketing	18	Qalqiliya
71	Inzbit Il Umdawer Agriculture and irrigation Cooperative	21	Qalqiliya
72	Jayyous Agriculture Cooperative	30	Qalqiliya

73	الزراعية Cooperative جمعية الزاوية	25	Salfit
74	Azzawiya Agriculture Cooperative	25	Salfit
75	Il Nama' Agriculture Cooperative	21	Qalqiliya
76	Ras Ateya Agriculture Cooperative	20	Qalqiliya
77	Sineriya Livestock Cooperative	15	Qalqiliya
78	Kira Olive oil production cooperative	15	Qalqiliya
79	Mas'ha livestock Cooperative	27	Salfit
80	Bani Nami Cooperative	120	Hebron
81	Al Zawadeen Cooperative	50	Hebron

