

Newsletter



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Importance of the Newsletter

Communicating with the public, local and foreign Institutions is PHG's main objective. By re-issuing the newsletter, we aim to:

- Connect with local and foreign partner institutions.
- Present PHG's achievements.
- Raise awareness regarding important updates and activities in the Palestinian water sector.



Who we are?

PHG is a nongovernment organization which strives to remain the lead research and developmental organization in the water sector which contributes to the development of the capacity of water and sanitation practitioners and to the protection and development of local water and environmental resources, and seeks to ensure a fair distribution of water among the Palestinian communities.

Furthermore, to contribute in building a civil society and empowers the vulnerable groups, including women, to participate in decision making and to promote good water governance and the right to water as well as to improve water, food and energy security for the Palestinian communities.

Our Vision

Our vision is to achieve water and environmental justice for the Palestinian people.



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Our Projects

1. **Funded by the OSPERY foundation, the project which aimed at improving the water and sanitation situation within rural areas of Palestine.** The objective of the project was to improve the water and sanitation conditions for villages surrounding Ramallah Governante, which included Ein Qinya, Dur AlQare', and Al Jalazoon Refugee Camp. Two treatment plants were developed for treatment of sewage water, grey water for its reuse in irrigation. Additionally, six household wells were established. The project included training sessions for 10 families in Water Management and Water Sanitation.



2. In the framework, of the **Agricultural Land Development and Water Resources in the West Bank**, funded by the Dutch Consulate Program, and implemented by the Union of Agricultural Working Committees (UAWC) and through the Project Management Unit (PMU), Land Research Center and The Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (LRCD), and in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and community sites the following activities were implemented:

- A pumping station, water lines and four metal tanks were constructed in Western AlNazla and Shofa areas in the Tulkarem district, in addition to Beit Hasan, so as to improve the Agricultural Water Management, water efficiency and profitability for 141 families.
- Two groundwater wells in Marj Sanur valley were constructed to address the flooding and sinking of the valley.
- The construction of a 1000m³ tank for 3 reservoirs in Jayyous Village, located near Qalqilya district. In addition to, a water pumping station, and the supplying and implementation of 1950m of agricultural pipes for the Village, aimed to improve the Agricultural Management for 30 farmers.



- PHG's Hebron Office implemented a project which focused on the reuse of treated wastewater which emerges from the treatment plant for 30 farmers in Nuba Village, in the South of Hebron.

- The **rehabilitation of Al-Aroub Roman-era pond** provided Shyoukh Al-Aroub farmers with a water storage capacity of approximately, 30,000 cubic meters of water. The project aimed to accumulate the already existing spring and rainfall water, for agricultural purposes, for 250 acres of land which are owned by 50 farmers. The implementation of the project was in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and Al- Aroub Village Council.



3. The **spatial planning project for the Agricultural sector** aimed to develop the agricultural spatial planning process in Palestine through applicable planning policies which have a economical, environmental and social return rate. The project was in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government and the Belgian Development Agency.

4. A **water reform sector project**, funded by the World Bank, was implemented by PHG and Price Water House Coopers (PWC) and the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA). The project primarily focused on water sector reform through the strategic planning which includes a cross-boarder approach, and a safety plan for the monitoring of groundwater, in addition to a strategic plan for capacity building.

5. The **Emergency Intervention project's** objective, was to improve food security, and conditions in Palestinian areas. The project is funded by the World Food Bank, through the Mennoite Foundation in response to the institutional policy on improving the economical and social conditions of vulnerable families. The construction of 10 domestic wells and provided the community with the needed supplies for the construction of 17 home gardens. Additionally, a training course regarding water conservation and pollution control was provided to 17 families, in in Beit Ula' in the Hebron District.

6. **Completion of the rehabilitation of a town spring in the village of Taffuh** which is located in eight kilometers west of Hebron Governante. The rehabilitation was funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in partnership with Taffuh Village council. 15,000 citizens benefited from the project as it aimed to increase the per capita from 40 liters per day to 70 liters per day, which was positively reflected on the environmental health and agriculture of the village.



7. **Completion of the fifth stage, of the construction of a sewage network system project**, which was implemented in Rafah, Gaza Strip. The project was funded by Province of Córdoba Participation (ACPP). 250 beneficiaries received improved health and living conditions, and prevented groundwater pollution.



8. **The implementation of a Development program for Boards of General services in solid waste management.** The project aimed to strengthen institutional building through developing the abilities of service councils and local bodies in the sustainable management of solid waste. The project was funded by the Japanese Agency Cooperation in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government.



9. **The construction of a 400m³ metal water tank for safe drinking water purposes in Al-Jiftlik Village, Jericho Governate**, was funded by the Spanish Foundation Valencia, through ACPP and in cooperation with Jiftlik Village Council and Jericho Governate, improved access to clean drinking water for to 45 families,

10. A two –phased project entitled ‘ **Improvement of the living conditions of the population of the West Bank, Occupied Palestinian Territory, which suffers from a chronic water shortage by the improvement of the preparation and response capacity of national and international actors to deal with the crisis**’ was funded by Ayuntamiento Zaragoza through ACPP and implemented by the Palestinian Hydrology Group, aimed to assess the water and sanitation situation in twelve communities in the West Bank. A light was shed on the water situation for 127 communities, which was presented to international organizations working towards the development of the communities’ needs.

Training courses and Workshops

1. The Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG) participated in a training course entitled 'The Management and Planning of Lobbying and Advocacy on Environmental Issues' organized by the PENGON-FoE-Palestine, on January 8 & 9, 2017 at The Caesar Hotel-Ramallah. The training focused on a number of subjects such as networking, lobbying and advocacy in the environmental sector.
2. PHG's employees took part in a Water Conflict Management course which was organized by the United Nations (UN) from November 20-23, 2016. The aim was to develop the Palestinian capabilities in negotiation, mediation and decision-making processes, so as to prevent, manage and resolve water conflicts. Specialists from the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other institutions attended the session.
3. On November 25, 2016, a training course regarding Water Integrity was organized by AL QUDS University, in which PHG and other representatives from municipalities attended. The organization presented the concepts of integrity, and transparency in the water sector, the institutional and legal framework, and the Israeli practices on the sector.
4. On November 5th, 2016 PHG participated in a workshop with The Ministry of Education/ Health Department and the UNICEF in the Gaza Strip. Participants discussed the development project which supported receiving access to clean water for schools, which was funded by the Australian Agency for International Development through UNICEF.
5. Within the framework of a project which aimed to strengthen environmental governance at a municipal level, PHG participated in a workshop to introduce a drafted manual for the community accountability for environmental performance. In addition to training the participants on the community assessment card, in an environmental NGO workshop on November 11, 2016 in Ankras Hotel Ramallah.



6. PHG participated in a workshop on December 29, 2016, which was entitled "Nablus Awareness Campaign - Solid Waste and Random Landfills" which was in participation with the Environmental Quality Authority (EQA).
7. The Annual Revision of UNICEF Activities in the Gaza Strip workshop, took place on November 30, 2016. PHG and other participants discussed the needs of the Gaza Strip in the Water and Sanitation Sector and strategies to meet the needs.
8. Employees from PHG completed a training course on the topic of Environmental Management and Evaluation of the project life cycle, for three days, (January 24 - 26th, 2017) at the Movenpick Hotel. The training course aimed to raise awareness of the importance of Environmental management and project life assessment, in sustainable development. In addition to the International Organization of Standardization's tools and benefits. (ISO 14001,14040,14044)
9. A final workshop was held on January 23, 2017 at PHG's Ramallah Office, in which the results of the "Improvement of living conditions of the population of the West Bank, through the improvement of the preparedness and response capacity of national and international actors to deal with water crisis" were discussed amongst water and environmental professionals. The project was funded by the Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza/and the Spanish Foundation (ACPP).
10. PHG presented a research paper entitled 'Background Information regarding the Forum and Past Activities' in a workshop regarding the Agriculture Forum for urban and semi-urban areas in the Gaza Strip, on December 29, 2016.



General Activities

- A scientific discussion for the Agricultural Development Association (PARC) in Tulkarem and Khadouri University, took place on December 21, 2016. The debate discussed the uses of recycled water in Palestine, and PHG presented a working paper on the functioning of Surra Station which presented the organization's experience in the field.
- PHG participated in a protest against the establishment of Israeli settlements, in Hamma District which was organized by Tubas governate on January 5, 2017.
- A field visit was organized by the Catholic Relief and PHG on November 18, 2017. The Solidarity Delegation of the Catholic Relief visited the water resources in the Jordan Valley. Additionally, PHG presented a lecture regarding the Israeli violations of the water resources in Palestine.
- A "Transboundary Water" meeting was held on November 19, 2016. The meeting presented the National Strategy of for Transboundary Water. Representatives of the PWA, Ministry of Agriculture, Negotiations Affairs Department, and others were present in the meeting.
- A meeting was conducting on November 11, 2016 with representatives of Al Shouroq Corporation, Consolidated Contractors Company, and Jerusalem Water Undertaking of the coast of the Gaza Strip, in which PHG discussed its' experiences in wastewater treatment projects. Additionally, a field visit to the Yasin Desalination Station took place to present and discuss the station's desalination development in the Gaza Strip.
- PHG participated in a discussion with Sunshine for Palestine Association the common projects, with regards to the Water, Environment, Renewable Energy sectors, with Oxfam-Italy, and on January 10, 2017.
- The "Water as a Basic Human Right" conference took place on December 19, 2016 at the Grand Park Hotel-Ramallah, which was funded by EU, and in partnership with PENGON-FOE, Palestine.



International Visits

- The Regional Environment Centre in Hungary invited PHG to participate in the World Water Conference in Budapest on November 26 - December 2nd, 2016.
- PHG participated in the Annual Meeting for Friends of the Earth International, which was held in Hungary on November 25, 2016 - December 5, 2016. The meeting discussed various topics such as food security, environmental justice, and fairness in access to alternative energy resources.
- The Arab Technical Committee for Environment and Development of the Arab League meeting which was held on December 3 - 5, 2016 gathered Arab Environment Ministers including PHG, to discuss common environmental interests, issues, researches, the most importantly environmental challenges facing the Arab world. Additionally, the committee discussed mechanisms to address the existing challenges.
- PHG participated in the Steering Committee Meeting which was held during December 12-15, 2016, in order to share in the discussions of the preliminary findings, and planning for a second phase of the monitoring and modeling of mixing sea water with ground water process in the Gaza Strip. The project is funded by the British Council and the University of StratSlade / Scotland.

Water and Environmental Sector in the Press

The following published articles can be found in Arabic regarding the Water and Environmental Sector in Al Quds and Al Ayyam Newspapers:

1. جريدة الأيام 3/1/2017 لمدير المؤسسة بقطاع غزة تحت عنوان "خبير مائي يدعو لإستثمار الأمطار لمواجهة النقص الحاد بالمياه صيفا"
2. الأيام 20/12/2016. القدس 22/12/2016 وكالة وفا الإخبارية 19/12/2016 مؤتمر بعنوان المياه حق من حقوق الانسان الأساسية
3. الايام 5/1/2017 . الاحتلال يهدم بركسين ويردم 7 ابار في تقوع شرق بيت لحم
4. الايام 11/1/2017 . جرافات الاحتلال تدمر خط مياه تستفيد منه 36 عائلة في منطقة الأغوار الشمالية
5. الايام 12/1/2017 . الأغوار تواجه وحشية الاحتلال بلا ماء ولا طرق
6. القدس 16/1/2017 . توقيع اتفاقية تجديد عمل لجنة المياه الفلسطينية-الاسرائيلية
7. القدس 24/1/2017 . مكبات النفايات القديمة في الضفة الغربية تدق ناقوس الخطر.. ولا رقيب عليها

