



**Contents**

- Our Projects
- Workshops
- General Activities
- International Visits
- Water and Environmental sector in the media

***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.



**Our Vision**

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



**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

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## Our Projects

1. 40 families in bouduin communities were provided with solar cells, food, medicine, lighting and manufacturing tools. Additionally, 15 health units were provided to families in Ibizik / Tubas and Wadi Al-Sik / Ramallah. 153 members were given training sessions regarding the maintenance and usage of the solar cells. The services aimed to improve sanitary conditions and improve access to sanitation services as part of the Andalusia project which is implemented through the ACPP Foundation, and PHG and funded by the Spanish Cooperation.
2. PHG implemented a project which aims to improve access to clean water for marginalized pastoral communities in the Jerusalem and Ramallah governorates, which was funded by the Economic and Social Council of the Province of Cordoba through the Peace and Cooperation Foundation. Roman wells were rehabilitated for the purpose of collecting and exploiting rainwater for domestic and livestock purposes. The project includes training activities in the fields of water management, maintenance and well operation.



3. Funded by the Basque Government through the Peace and Cooperation Foundation (ACPP), Jiftlik village was supplied with approximately 4550m of polyethylene pipes for clean drinking water. Additionally, the a water pump was rehabilitated so as to ensure Abu Ajaj with improved access to water
4. Within the framework of the project for improving and developing farmers' capacity in the West Bank, funded by the Representative Office of Canada through the FAO Foundation and in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, 5 workshops were conducted in Nassaria, Anabta, Qabatiya, Deir Ghazala and Jericho, regarding water irrigation user committees and the development of a number of committees in the northern governorates.
5. The below activities were carried out in order to complete the project, which aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity in Tubas Governorate (CRDP):
  - Construction of a 1000 m<sup>3</sup> metal reservoir in Bardala and the installation of a water pump.
  - Supply and installation of 6" steel pipes (700m for Bardala, 2100m for Cordala) and 1600m of 4" pipes were installed in Ein Al-Baida.
  - Al-Hamma spring was rehabilitated for domestic purposes.



6. In cooperation with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the village council of Mithlon (located North of West Bank), funded by the AFD, the implementation of training workshops are currently ongoing in the village of Mithlon. The training sessions covered the following topics: wastewater, environmental hygiene, sewage and wastewater treatment and their usage for agriculture.
7. An environmental impact assessment study was completed in regards to the waste landfill in Ramallah Governante. The study was in cooperation with German consultants and Madar Consulting Engineers.
8. Funded by the Australian Agency for Development and implemented through UNICEF, in collaboration with the Directorates of Education in the areas of Jericho, Tubas and Gaza Strip, the implementation of a project which aimed to improve schools' access to sanitation services has been completed. The project included the establishment of desalination plants and the rehabilitation of several health units, and water tanks. In addition, to assembling water stripes and rainwater from schools roofs into plastic tanks, which was re-pumped and used to irrigate schools' gardens. The project reached 50 schools, and an awareness campaign was implemented regarding Personal hygiene and rationalization of water consumption.



9. Within the framework of a project to improve the food security conditions in the Palestinian Territories, funded by the World Bank of Nutrition through the Millennium Challenge Cooperation (MCC), 10 domestic wells were installed with materials for the construction of 17 home gardens in Surif-Hebron, goverenate.
10. PHG has begun the implementation a new project which is aimed at improving access to clean drinking water for more than 43 beneficiaries in Ein Qeena village\Ramallah governorate. The project is funded by the Mir Anda de Ebro Municipality, through the Peach and Cooperation Foundation (ACPP). The project aims to improve access to drinking water and household use through the construction of 3 wells. The project also includes training and awareness activities in the field of water management, maintenance and well operation.



11. In partnership with the Land Research Center and Bisan Center, and under the supervision of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees and the Agricultural Departments in Hebron and Bethlehem governorates, the implementation of the Land Development, Water Resources Development and Human Resources Development Program in marginal areas in the West Bank (Jouzoor) has begun. 103 wells have been constructed and rehabilitated, in addition to the establishment and rehabilitation of 3 dirt pools serving greenhouses for vegetable production.



12. PHG has begun implementing a new project which aims at improving agricultural water conditions and securing access through the establishment of 6 agricultural wells located in villages of northwest of Jerusalem. The project is funded by the Osprey Foundation, and includes training and awareness activities in the fields of water management, maintenance and well operation.
13. The second phase of the Sustainable Management and Comprehensive Access to Land and Water Resources (PEDER) program, financed by the Dutch Representation has begun. The program is organized by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees in cooperation with the Palestinian Hydrology Society, the Land and Research Center and the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.

## Workshops

1. PHG's employees in the Gaza branch attended a workshop on March 22, 2017, which was provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Gaza Strip. Employees received training on report writing, follow up and input the project on the GMS system.
2. Participated in a workshop organized by FAO, in which they presented their experience in aquaculture and its effectiveness in the Gaza Strip on March 9, 2017.
3. PHG participated in World Water Day events which was implemented by the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in the Gaza Strip on March 21, 2017. A working paper was presented regarding the experience of the institution on the use of treated water for irrigation.
4. On March 23, 2017, a workshop was held on the strategic plan for the next five years for UNICEF, where various programs will focus their implementation, on water, sanitation and health. The workshop was held at the Caesar Hotel in Ramallah.
5. PHG's employees in the Ramallah Branch, attended a workshop entitled "Climate Justice and Social Movements" on February 13, 2017. The workshop was held by the Palestinian Coalition for Climate Justice at the headquarters of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees in Ramallah.



6. Along with many educational/environmental institutions, PHG participated in a workshop regarding the Sustainable School Project. The project aims to establish schools concerned with the environment and alternative energy to participate in protecting the environment through the provision of awareness and activities to be implemented by students and teachers. The workshop was held at the Ministry of Education in Ramallah on February 9, 2017.
7. A workshop entitled "Drinking water crisis between Desalination and Sustainability" was held on March 27, 2017 by the Institute of Water and Environment at Al-Azhar University in the Gaza Strip which was in cooperation with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA). PHG's water experts and other environmental experts attended the workshop.
8. April 13, 2017/Hebron University - PHG participated in a workshop to achieve sustainability in Wadi Al Kef natural reserve through the achieving the results of the research of Smart Ecological Agriculture, which was funded by the GEF - UNDP.
9. April 11, 2017, PHG participated in the European Union's Consultation Workshop on the EU Strategy for the Water and Environment Sector. The workshop was part of a series of meetings held by the European Union to consult with civil society.



## General Activities

1. On April 10, 2017, PHG hosted a Belgian delegation (representatives of civil society organizations and political parties) and presented a detailed explanation of the water and environmental conditions and the effects of the occupation in the sector and the extent of the suffering of the Palestinian people.
2. PHG along with United Nations representative for Humanitarian Affairs organized on a field visit on April 13, 2017 to Ras Al-Ahmar, Aqaba and Hama areas in Tubas governorate, as the majority of activities carried out by the organization are located in Area C.
3. March 23, 2017 - PHG participated in the first environmental conference for the Salfit's Directorate of Education. A working paper was presented regarding the reality of water in the West Bank with a focus on Salfit governate.



4. Environmental field visits to Beit Furik and Kafr Qallil (North of Palestine) were organized by PHG. Lectures were given regarding the importance of water and the rationalization of the consumption of wastewater and grey water to the students, on April 25, 2017. Awareness leaflets contained information regarding environmental issues were distributed. The field visits were in cooperation with Friends of the Earth.
5. PHG participated in the meeting held for the preparation of the first climate conference in Palestine. The conference is in cooperation with the Engineers Association and the Union of Arab Engineers.
6. Participated in a ceremony organized by the Palestinian Water Authority, honoring the institutions which participated on World Water Day.



7. ACPP and PHG organized a field visit on March 20, 2017, to Tubas governorate, to address the local farmers regarding their initiatives.
8. PHG, environmental institutions and international volunteers, actively participated on Land Day as the majority of the land is threatened to confiscation in Halhul. The event included the planting of olive and almond trees.
9. The organization presented to the Australian delegation the role/importance of institutional development in Palestine and the water situation. The delegation included members of the Australian Parliament, a delegation from the Green Party and a number of Australian activists and trade unions.
10. A meeting was held on April 17, 2017 with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education in the Gaza Strip to discuss developments of the project for improving schools' access to clean drinking water and sanitation services, and to coordinate the remaining activities and awareness workshops.



11. The Palestinian Hydrology Group held a General Assembly Meeting on February 22, 2017, in PHG's headquarters in Ramallah. The meeting was meant to welcome the new members of the General Assembly, approve the financial and administrative reports, and discuss the application of the ISO system within the institution.
12. PHG participated in a meeting with the Australian Green Party delegation on April 10, 2017, explaining the Palestinian Green Party initiatives and preparing for a General Conference. The Australian Green Party was asked to assist in forming a network of relations with existing Green parties worldwide.

## International Visits

1. PHG participated in a training course regarding the formation of associations of users of irrigation water. The workshop was attended by 8 agricultural engineers from the various directorates during 23-27 / 4/2017 in Jordan was part of the project for improving and developing farmers' capacity in the West Bank, which was funded by the Representative Office of Canada through the FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.
2. PHG's employees attended a workshop in Jordan during February 6 - 9, 2017 as part of the MINARET project which will be implemented in Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.
3. PHG participation in the Arab Water Week in Jordan from March 18-21, 2017.
4. The Center for Mediterranean Integration invited PHG to participate in a training course regarding youth innovation for sustainable wastewater, on March 21-23, 2017 in France.
5. PHG participated in the Advisory Board meeting for the Rosenberg International Water Policy Forum, held in California during April 2017. As a member of the council for the forum, the aim of the meeting was to prepare for the convening of the international conference which is held every two years.
6. Upon being elected as a member for the West Asian council, PHG participated in February 2017, in a meeting with the Council of the IUCN. The meeting was held to discuss and approve the program and budget for the years 2017-2020. The three main committees of the council was identified, and the organization was assigned as the chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee. The organization is a member of the BOD and is responsible for setting policy, overseeing the work of the executive staff and ensuring the proper functioning.

## Water and Environmental sector in the Media

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

1. القدس 7/2/2017. معضلة بيئية غرب قلقيلية تسببها المياه العادمة الخطرة القادمة من المستوطنات المجاورة
2. الأيام 13/2/2017. أم النصر: كارثة بيئية تهدد السكان والأراضي الزراعية في حال انهيار الساتر الترايبي
3. القدس 15/2/2017. مشروع ترميم البركة "الرومانية" في العروب وفر المياه لمئات الدونمات من الأراضي الزراعية
4. القدس 21/2/2017. تدمير خط مياه شرب عاطوف- الحديدية- الإدارة المدنية ومستوطنون يهدمون كرفانا في الخان الأحمر ويثر مياه في دير استيا
5. الأيام 21/2/2017. تدمير خط مياه ويثر في الأغوار وسلفيت
6. الأيام 27/2/2017. كارثة صحية بيئية: تلوث المياه في قطاع غزة يصل الى 97% والأمراض الخطيرة تتفشى بشكل سريع
7. القدس 7/3/2017. الزنة منطقة زراعية مهمشة تنعشها "مجموعة الهيدرولوجيين"
8. ايكو. وطن للأنباء 22/3/2017. الهيدرولوجيين وحزب الخضر يثمنان انشاء هيئة تطوير الأغوار
9. القدس، الأيام 28/3/2017. كارثة بيئية جنوب قلقيلية تهدد كل حي
10. القدس 30/3/2017. نبع العوجا إرث طبيعي يجب المحافظة عليه والآبار الإسرائيلية تواصل سرقة مياهه
11. القدس 19/4/2017. اطلاق المرحلة الثانية من مشروع تطوير واستصلاح الأراضي وإدارة المياه