

**PARC and Al-Reef developmental interventions for 2019  
in Jericho city and Jordan Valley**

The Palestinian Jordan valley, especially the northern areas of the Jordan Valley, are the most targeted areas by Israeli occupation throughout Palestine. Over the decades, there has been systematic forced displacement of the inhabitants in this area by the occupation. The population in the Jordan Valley and until 1967 was estimated at about 250,000<sup>1</sup> Palestinian inhabitants. Population growth would be normal like anywhere in the world, however, in the Palestinian case it is different. Today, the city of Jericho, which also includes the Palestinian inhabitants in the Jordan Valley, constitutes about 55,000 inhabitants; only 2 percent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank. This is due to the previous and continuous occupation policies and practices in this vital area; the food basket for Palestinians.

The Jordan valley comprises almost 30% of the West Bank total area and almost 90% of its area has been designated as area C, which means it's under full Israeli control; Palestinian Authority cannot work in this area, and the only services are provided through Non-Governmental Organizations. Those areas suffer from demolitions and direct methods for displacements. The remaining 10% are home for Palestinian communities and the city of Jericho.



The Agricultural Development Association (PARC) started its work in the Jordan Valley in 1983; the year of its establishment by a group of agronomists volunteers, to strengthen the resilience of farmers and women in their lands in the Jordan Valley. It built farmers and women capacities in agriculture and best practices and provided tailored extension services; to enhance the production skills, knowledge and productivity of farmers.

PARC work in the Jordan Valley has 6 pillars; household economy, resources utilization (land and water), modern extension services, climate change, mobilization of small producers, and service bundle for access to market (i.e. linkages, certifications, ...etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.alhaq.org/search>

In 1997, PARC introduced and distributed the medjoul dates seedlings for small farmers, as it captured opportunity in this high value variety of dates, and which the occupation has started to grow, and at a large scale. The small farmers were capacitated in best practices, received extension services, and service bundle to access local and international markets.

Today, Palestinian medjoul dates are exported to international markets including the EU, such as Italy. This is the result of many years of work on farmer's resilience in one of the most oppressed areas and communities in the West Bank. This is done through the cooperation between PARC and Al Reef for Investment and Agricultural Marketing, which used to be a department in PARC, and now it is an independent company (LTD), that provides quality assurance, linkages, and marketing services for small scale producers.

Since 1983 and until this moment, PARC has provided and is still providing urgent humanitarian intervention in this critical area, because of the very complex situations and violations of basic human rights and international human rights. PARC continues to incorporate development work even in humanitarian interventions; finding itself in situations that force the Palestinian case to de-development, where urgent humanitarian interventions are more pressing, existent and continuous.

**Some of the developmental activities and projects:**

1. Providing agricultural and drinkable water conveyor lines in villages: Tammoun, Atouf, Kardala, Bardala, Ein Al-Beida, Jiftlik and Ouja.  
Donors: Canada, OCHA and Arab bank funds.



2. Construction of houses of filling stations (3) for seedless grapes and other harvests in: Jiftlik, Tammoun and Nasarieh.  
Donors: Oxfam International and The Netherlands Representative office in P.A.



3. Opening agricultural roads in: Nasarieh, Jiftlik, Ouja, Tammoun, Kardala and Bardala. Different funds.



4. Planting seedlings (a yearly campaign) such as grapes, avocado and guava...etc. in the Jordan valley.



5. Planting rang seeds for livestock breeders in: Atouf and the northern and central Jordan valley.



6. Rehabilitation and construction of houses (more than 200 houses) for marginalized and small scale farmers and livestock breeders (Bedouins) in: Jiftlik, Ouja, Marj Ne'meh, Al-Faroush and Beit Dajan.



7. Rehabilitation and establishment of collective water wells for livestock breeders in the northern and central valley (40 wells for Bedouins).



8. Rehabilitation for livestock sheds and Bedouins gatherings (200 sheds) in: Al Khan Al-Ahmar, and the Bedouins Gatherings in Jordan valley.



9. School rehabilitation for Bedouins in Al Khan Al-Ahmar.



10. Organizing a program for developing and certifying organic agriculture for medjoul dates in: Jiftlik, Ouja and Jericho.



11. Agronomists training program for fresh graduates in Jericho at the Agronomists Training Center, which 1600 agronomists graduated from throughout 18 years.



12. Planting Za'tar for women co-operatives for export purposes in: Ein Al-Beida, Kardala and Nasarieh.



13. Construction of water dams in Froush Beit Dajan.



14. Supporting construction units for goat cheese manufacturers.



15. Since 2009, Al-Reef established a modern factory for dates filling, packaging and cooling refredgirators to support Palestinian farmers in Jericho and Jordan Valley. It created job opportunities for 40 workers. Al-Reef also established a lab to test the dates quality.



16. Support for establishing a women cooperative in Jericho to produce Maftoul, this contributed in providing job opportunities for 30 women and exporting hundreds of tons of this product.



## Organic Agriculture:

### An alternative agricultural system

Al-Reef Fair Trade encourages farmers to change their farming practices by going organic, this requires time and investment. Al-Reef plays a huge role in supporting and meeting farmers' needs in order to export and sell the best quality of Palestinian agricultural products locally and internationally.

Al-Reef has succeeded to obtain several organic certificates issued by Company of Organic Agriculture in Palestine (COAP).

Organic Certification for:

1. Al-Reef's Medjoul dates factory in Jericho.
2. Al-Reef's dates farm in Jericho.
3. Amjad Barakat's (Palestinian farmer) dates farm in Jiftlik.
4. Aman farm for producing organic wheat in Jenin.

Company of Organic Agriculture in Palestine Sabat Building 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Masyon Heights – Ramallah Palestine P.O.Box: 4295 Tel:+972 2 295 8902 Info@coap.org.ps www.coap.org.ps	 الشركة الفلسطينية للزراعة العضوية عمارة صابات الطابق الثاني - المصيون - رام الله - فلسطين ص.ب: 4295 تلفون: +972 2 295 8902 Info@coap.org.ps www.coap.org.ps
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## Certificate

No. COAP:"1"

### Alreef for Investment and agriculture Marketing Company Palestine / Al Ram PS-Proc- Alreef

According to the decision of the certification director **Hasanein Hasanein** adopted in **30.12.2018**. The abovementioned organization The Company of Organic Agriculture in Palestine (COAP) hereby confirms that the declared operator has submitted their activities for control and meets the requirements of "IACB" Equivalent European Union Organic Production & Processing Standard in the current version for the equivalence in third countries, Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labeling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91, and COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 889/2008 on organic production and labeling of organic products with regard to organic production, labeling and control.

#### Main Activity

Organic Exporter

sell the certified products " Dates , Maftool, Olive Oil "

#### Scope of Certification:

D-Process Product

**First Registration :2013**

#### Issuance Date

30.12.2018 By COAP – Code number: PS-BIO-163

#### Validity

Form issuance date Until: **30-12-2019**

#### Date of inspection

7.10.2018

26.12.2018

This document has been issued on the basis of article 29(1) of regulation (EC) NO. 834/2007 and regulation (EC) NO. 889/2008. The declared operator has submitted his activities under control, and meeting the requirements laid down in the named regulations.

Signature

General Manger : **Dalal Hussien**



الشركة الفلسطينية للزراعة العضوية  
رقم التسجيل 562464917  
DALAL Hussien

**Certification body:** Company of Organic Agriculture in Palestine (COAP), Ramallah, A:-massion, Sabat building,

tel. :00972-2958902.

**Date reception:** 3.1.2019

Based on the annual inspections done by COAP, this certificate is updated and validated. It can be surrendered, suspended or revoked in case of termination of the license contract or deviations of the above mentioned regulations occur. This document has been issued on the basis of IACB Standard for third countries. The declared operator submitted his activities under control and meets the requirements laid down in mentioned regulations. Validity ends automatically with reissuing of the certificate or with termination of the inspection contract. This Certificate is issued within the scope of the accreditation issued by IOAS, Registration Number: 79 This Certificate belongs to COAP and has to be returned upon request

ASA-09 6/00 issued:15-8-2018

\* One of Al-Reef's Organic certificates\*