



Dalia Association Newsletter

Jan-Jun 2024

Amidst the genocidal war targeting all means of Palestinian life in the Gaza Strip for over ten months, and the escalation of colonial apartheid-based violence in the West Bank, in the shadow of the international system's inability to impose a ceasefire or respond to the immense needs of Palestinians, hope and resilience emerge. Determined volunteers, activists, and community organizations, including Dalia Association, continue to utilize limited resources, taking matters into our own hands and proving, once again, that only by indigenous sovereignty over resources can we achieve our rights to freedom and self-determination.

In this newsletter, we highlight stories of hope and determination made possible by the collective efforts of the communities and fostered by Dalia Association and its partners.

Resilience Through Giving: Community Philanthropy Amidst Gaza Genocide



Food and sanitary packages prepared for distribution to the displaced in Rafah, Gaza Strip.

Patients in the Gaza Strip have long endured severe shortages of medications and treatments due to years of blockade, with cancer patients facing particularly dire circumstances.

The recent war on the Strip further compounded their suffering by depriving them not only of essential medications but also of healthy food, which significantly weakened their endurance and slowed their recovery. This hardship was exacerbated by the destruction of Gaza's sole hospital dedicated to cancer treatment by the occupying forces, severely impacting the already fragile healthcare system.

In response to these critical needs, Dalia Association recognized the urgent necessity for coordinated efforts to alleviate the adverse effects on cancer patients. Partnering with the Basmat Amal Foundation and many local volunteers, Dalia initiated a distribution of healthy food packages to 120 cancer patients in the southern region of the strip, where they had been displaced.

This initiative, along with a range of other interventions such as voluntary entertainment activities for displaced children, community kitchens, recycling events, and drinking water distribution, which were carried out through the collaboration between Dalia Association and Drossos, contributes to strengthening the resilience of the people and reinforcing the values of community philanthropy in the face of genocide and the international community's failure to support the Palestinians in Gaza.

Limited Resources, Determined Young Girls



Young girls of Saddet Al-Fahs during their meeting with Hebron's Mayor

Sarah Abu Madi, a youth leader from Saddet Al-Fahs in Hebron, led a remarkable initiative with local school girls to improve their community by installing bus stations near their school and throughout their town. These bus stations were intended to provide safe, sheltered waiting areas during harsh weather conditions.

Although the girls faced significant bureaucratic challenges with the officials, they remained undeterred. They mobilized their local community and resources, and enlisted support from older youth who had previously participated in Dalia Association's IBDA' Youth Program. This mentorship was crucial in helping them navigate bureaucratic delays and rally local support for their initiative.

A pivotal moment was their successful meeting with the Mayor of Hebron, despite initial apprehensions, the Mayor was supportive, recognizing the importance of their initiative. His endorsement, highlighted by local media, contributed to advocating for realizing the needs addressed by members of the community.

The girls also raised financial resources, materials, and labor from their community and overcame resistance from the school administration through persistent dialogue. Their project's success, marked by the installation of bus stops, showcased the power of youth-led initiatives and community mobilization.

Circular Economy in Action: Recycle, Reuse, Resell



Women reselling items at the "Recycle, Reuse, Resell Market", Kafr Aqab, Jerusalem

Promoting sustainable development and circular economy, Dalia Association launched its "Recycle, Reuse, Resell Market" through "Dukkan" initiative, which aims to provide opportunities for all community members to purchase used goods in good condition at affordable prices.

The Market has successfully highlighted participants in the circular economy, emphasizing environmental and cultural aspects while utilizing available resources. It has also raised environmental awareness and reduced waste.

At this market, recycled and refurbished products were showcased and sold. The initiative saw wide participation from individuals and groups who creatively transformed used materials into new and unique items. The market demonstrated how to maximize resource use and reduce environmental pollution. Additionally, Dalia Association focused on adding embroidery to donated items at "Dukkan," in collaboration with *Talleh* and *Hand Made Palestine*, with proceeds going to the Gaza Community Fund. Click [here](#) to view and purchase recycled products or visit Dukkan Dalia's location in Ramallah.

'Al-Ouna' in Women-Led Agroecology



Voluntary day in Hakourat Al-Farah farm, Kafr Ni'ma, Ramallah.

The first half of 2024 saw notable progress in applying the concept of 'Al-Ouna' within Dalia's programs. 'Al-Ouna' (indigenous aid system) is an ancient tradition of community cooperation and reciprocal support, focusing on collective effort to help individuals achieve their vision. Dalia aims to embody this concept by using local resources for the collective benefit and fostering a vibrant community based on integration and mutual support. To implement this concept, the Association introduced voluntary activities to support Palestinian women-led farms.

Implementing this concept, Dalia mobilized volunteers to support both Hakourat al-Farah farm in Kafr Ni'ma and Hakourat Al-Bireh urban farm. These efforts not only provided valuable learning experiences for the volunteers but also secured crucial support for the farms. By applying the concept of 'Al-Ouna,' this initiative enhanced agricultural productivity, fostered collective learning, and strengthened social bonds among women.

The Land Belongs to Those Who Cultivate It



A major milestone has been reached in the "My Green Land" campaign, which promotes food sovereignty and agroecology in the West Bank. The Directorate of Endowments and Religious Affairs and the Kafr Al-Labad Cooperative signed a landmark agreement to lease and cultivate a piece of land at a nominal fee.

This agreement marks a crucial advancement in expanding agroecological cooperatives in the region. By investing in endowment lands, we support sustainable farming practices and actively engage the community. The Kafr Al-Labad Cooperative will use the land to enhance food sovereignty and environmental stewardship, effectively connecting theoretical knowledge with practical application.

The initiative began with a proposal to allocate endowment lands to youth and women's groups, which was met with enthusiastic support. Meanwhile, the goals of this initiative aligned seamlessly with Dalia Association's vision for the mobilization of local resources.

The agreement permits the cooperative to commence land use immediately. This partnership exemplifies the collaborative support necessary to drive meaningful change and demonstrates how local resources can be harnessed for collective benefit.

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