

Annual Report 2008



UAWC

Union of Agricultural Work Committees

About the Union:

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) is a non-governmental, non-profit, developmental Palestinian organization. UAWC has no religious or political affiliations of any kind. UAWC was established in 1986 in Jerusalem and encompasses several branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UAWC is an independent entity in accordance with the Law of Palestinian NGOs and Charitable Organizations. It aims at improving farmers' income from agricultural products, as well as improving and enhancing the quantity and quality of agricultural products.

Our Vision

To maintain a food secure agricultural society, that is firmly connected to its land in a free Palestinian independent state, while contributing effectively in social, political, and economic life without discrimination.

Our Mission

To improve the living conditions of the Palestinian agricultural society, within a comprehensive framework of sustainable rural development in a manner that would enhance self-reliance and activate the role of local agricultural committees and the concept of voluntary and team work.

Our Objectives

- To improve agricultural revenues of the rural society.
- To protect farmers' rights, lands, and water supplies from all marginalizing policies and natural disasters.
- To respond to emergencies, especially those related to poverty, unemployment, and the level of food security.
- To contribute to support and empower rural women.
- To improve the Union's efficiency towards achieving its

UAWC Programs:

- Agricultural Services Program
- Advocacy for Farmers' Rights Program
- Emergency Response Program, especially in cases concerning unemployment and poverty elimination, and raising the level of food security.
- Enabling and Empowering Rural Women Program
- Improving UAWC Organizational Capacities and Financial

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Message from the Board of Directors

Union of Agricultural Work Committees has worked diligently, since its establishment in 1986, on protecting Palestinian lands from confiscation, bulldozing, and settlement growth, which consumes vast areas of Palestinian agricultural lands. The Union has also worked on reinforcing the steadfastness of Palestinian farmers and on protecting their rights, and on resisting poverty within the ranks of Palestinian agricultural families. This work was incorporated through enrooting within these families the notion of volunteer teamwork through a series of projects which targets impoverished farmers and areas which are under threat of confiscation, or which are located near the Wall of Apartheid.

2008 featured holding the convention of the general assembly of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, where a new Board of Directors of 13 members was elected, with 7 members from the West Bank and 6 members from Gaza Strip. The board administered the activities of the Union in accordance with the strategic plan and the governing codes of the Union, and conducted several meetings with the executive branch of the Union. It also organized field visits to check on the executed projects and on projects being executed.

2008 also witnessed a criminal war launched against the Palestinian people in Gaza Strip, which in turn required from the board of directors rapid action in terms of supervising the launching of a solidarity campaign through the Union's agricultural committees, which supported and stood by our Palestinian brothers in Gaza, who were subjected to mass murder and who suffered from mass destruction.

The Union's vision for 2009 is moving toward promoting public action in an effective manner that will serve the public interest, and will strengthen the direct relationship with the public through the agricultural committees, who are the mouthpiece of a large audience of farmers in different areas. In addition, the Union has set its goal to develop local networking through extensive relationships with partner institutions and local institutions. On the international level, it has strengthened partnerships with supporting institutions that are in line with its policy. UAWC is looking forward

to promoting the idea of field research, as well as reviewing of the annual plans, and updating its Strategic Plan based on current developments. UAWC also aims at initiating follow-up and self-evaluation procedures of the various activities of the Union.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, the monitoring committee in West Bank and Gaza Strip, and myself, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the men and women farmers who did not hesitate for one instant in their steadfastness despite the destructive policies of the Occupation Forces of land, water, and crops.

I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to all the friendly institutions; locally, regionally, and internationally, for their generous support of UAWC projects.

Bashir Al Khairy

President of UAWC Board of Trustees

A Message of Gratitude

UAWC's Board of Directors and its executive and managerial committee, as well as all its cadres and agricultural committees would like to express their deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to all their friends in Palestine, the Arab world, and in the whole world, who have supported UAWC's programs and projects in both its branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

We express our genuine gratitude to the following institutions and organizations, which funded UAWC projects:

- 1- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture
- 2- Islamic Bank
- 3- Oxfam Solidarite – Belgium
- 4- The Representative Office of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Palestinian Authority
- 5- Gruppo di Volontariato Civil - GVC
- 6- United Nations Development Program - UNDP
- 7- Spanish Cooperation Office - AECID
- 8- Norwegian People's Aid - NPA
- 9- Fundación Desarrollo Sostenido - Fundeso
- 10- Solidaridad Internacional – SI
- 11- Mundobat
- 12- Italian Cooperation
- 13- Catholic Relief Services - CRS
- 14- UCODEP - Italy
- 15- Italian Association for Solidarity Among People - AISPO
- 16- Action Against Hunger - ACF
- 17- NGO Development Center – NDC
- 18- Welfare Association
- 19- World Vision
- 20- Australian Government
- 21- Australian Government's Overseas Aid Program - AUSAID
- 22- United Nations Relief and Works Agency - UNRWA
- 23- Young Men's Christian Association - YMCA
- 24- Japanese Government
- 25- Centro Regionale d' Intervento Per la Cooperazione - CRIC
- 26- International Orthodox Christian Charities - IOCC
- 27- The Social Promotion of the Culture Foundation - FPSC
- 28- SCP
- 29- Local Councils in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
- 30- The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- 31- Grassroots International

The Social, Economic, and Political Axis Points of 2008

FIRST: The Social Axis Point

Comprehensive sustainable development takes many forms and paths. In order for development to be sustainable, it should encompass all elements; economic, social, cultural, and environmental. The human being is our first and foremost concern,



and is the true beneficiary of the positive change process, the change that aspires to lead to development. And here lies the intrinsic difference in work from one institution to another, as the identity of each institution is drawn and built on its system of values which defines its imprint.

The Union has realized from the very beginning the controversial nature of the Palestinian reality in its political, economical, social, cultural aspects. It has as well realized the individual

and collective behaviors, and worked on developing its mission and goal so as to achieve the aspired change.

And so, UAWC has defined the following steps that will lead to the future community:

- 1- Forming public frameworks that are capable of achieving all the objective goals for the development process.
- 2- To call for the group to protect its project and forming frameworks and cooperatives that will defend their real interests.
- 3- Strengthening and empowering Women's role to be in parallel with Men's role.
- 4- Reaching a production surplus that will be profitable to a degree that will change and improve the agricultural family's reality.

5- Spreading awareness among the ranks of farmers to the importance of standing in the face of the occupation's policies that aim at embezzling land and water resources.

6- Celebrating agricultural seasons which are deeply embedded in the collective memories of the Palestinian community.

In summary, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees have successfully achieved two important tasks for development,

1- Reaching a wide portion from the Palestinian agricultural community through its programs and projects.

2- Framing the agricultural community through agricultural committees, which work to promote and enhance public work.

UAWC's field activities and participation in all national, social, and cultural events, are set as important pinpoints which work on forging the collective memory of the Palestinian people, and that is best demonstrated through:



- Annual celebration of the "Yom el Ard", (Land Day)
- Celebrating agricultural seasons, which is considered an important aspect in the Union's work.

SECOND: The Economic Axis Point

The economic situation in 2008 had certain disparities. The economic indicators in the West Bank were generally stable, while the economic and social indicators in Gaza Strip fell back in 2008 due to the political and economic blockades imposed on Gaza Strip since 2007. In addition, by the end of 2008, Israeli forces launched a full-scale war on Gaza Strip which destroyed much of its infrastructure and directly affected all economic fields.

Data published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics indicated that there was a growth in the Palestinian GNP in 2008 by 2.3% in comparison with 2007. On the other hand, the process of the collection of governmental revenues has risen according to the statements of the Ministry of Finance in 2008 by 23.2% in comparison to 2007.

The contribution of the agricultural sector in Palestinian economy varies from one year to another. The contribution of the agricultural sector in the Palestinian economy in 2004 reached 11.4%. However, this percentage fell to 7% and 8% in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Agricultural products' contribution to the Palestinian international trade sector reached 25%. Fruits, especially dates and strawberries, olives, olive oil, vegetables and flowers are considered some of the major exported crops.

In total, the agricultural production of Palestinian territories in the agricultural season of 2006/2007 reached 1,114 Million U.S. Dollars; distributed in the form of 56.4% for plant production (the contribution of the West Bank was 40%, and that of Gaza Strip was 16.4%, of the total agricultural production), and the percentage of animal production reached 43.6% (the contribution of the West Bank was 33.5%, and that of Gaza Strip was 10.1%, of the total animal production). The value of agricultural production inputs reached 617.7 Million U.S. Dollars.

THIRD: The Political Axis Point

2008 was characterized by the continuation of years of occupation by the Israeli forces over Palestinian lands. Such a notion carries with it the anguishes and tribulations which were imposed on the Palestinian people both in Palestine and in refugee camps.

On the international level, 2008 witnessed the election of the new American President, Barack Obama, along with a new administration. However, due to lessons learnt from the history of the Palestinian nation, it is better to preserve one's optimism regarding the newly elected administration, for the American stand towards the Palestinian case was never a fair one. Yet, it is safe to say that Obama's administration cannot be worse than that of former president George W. Bush.

Israel, on the other hand, carried on with its oppression and occupation policies directed against the Palestinian nation. This is asserted through Israeli forces' continuous efforts to confiscate more lands in favor of settlements, while also not ceasing their activities in uprooting trees and destroying agricultural crops, and prohibiting Palestinians from their rights in their own water resources, in addition to manacling the freedom and movement of both Palestinian people and products. Israel extended its aggression and oppression of the Palestinian lands by launching a war against the Palestinian nation in Gaza Strip by the end of 2008, a war which left in its wake thousands dead and injured, and which destroyed countless houses, properties, and agricultural lands.

On the national scale, 2008 was characterized as a year of Palestinian division, with 2 opposing and repelling poles; where one is in the West Bank and the other in Gaza Strip, and each with its own organizations and governing body, which affected all aspects of life in the Palestinian territories.

UAWC calls for all parties and sectors on the Palestinian stage to rise above the narrow-minded mentality of political partiality, and to work collectively for the general benefit of the Palestinian nation, and especially for Palestinian farmers, who are clinging to their ancestors' lands, and who strive daily for their right to exist and for their right to a dignified respectful life.

Programs and Projects Executed in 2008

Since 2006, UAWC is working on devising new work procedures that are based on the Union's strategy. The strategy consists of five major points which were developed in accordance with studies and with broad comprehensive analysis of the situation of UAWC and the agriculture sector in Palestine through a series of workshops, meetings, and assessments. This enabled the Union to set its course for the upcoming 5 years in what is to be known as UAWC strategic plan.

Since approving its strategic plan, the department of programs and projects has been trying to re-design and to re-develop its work procedures and the projects that are being implemented in accordance with the new situation that serves and supports the implementation of the plan and its 5 points. It is safe to say that UAWC is using all the capacities available, despite the various obstacles ahead; and in a relatively short time, UAWC managed to improve its coordination in between projects while keeping in check with the plan's main axes which are:



First Objective: Improving Returns from Agriculture to Agricultural Communities

This axis is considered the most important dimension in the Union's work, and that's due to its important and significant contribution to improving living conditions, increasing the income of Palestinian families, providing employment opportunities, and to doubling the exploited agricultural areas in a concrete and obvious way. Under this axis falls several partial objectives such as:

1- Improving Agricultural Output for Agricultural Communities:

This axis point is considered the most prominent dimension in the Union's work; for all the significance it implies and the great contribution it provides for improving the living conditions and increasing the income of thousands of Palestinian families. It also implies the creation of many job opportunities and considerably expands agricultural areas. This point consists of 3 main sub-points which are:



✓ Increasing Agricultural Area:

through the reclamation of marginalized agricultural lands and planting them with productive trees. UAWC incessantly worked on developing agricultural lands through the implementation of several land reclamation and rehabilitation projects and through planting fruitful seedlings. It also supported farmers with high expense materials that formed an obstacle for farmers in order to strengthen their infrastructure which would allow them to make progress in their ventures towards securing their livelihoods. UAWC also implemented several agricultural roads openings and rehabilitation projects; keeping in mind the problems that face the Palestinian farmer in terms of closures and blockades, where these roads are intended to lighten the burden of the farmer and are thus an important issue to which UAWC directs much attention. Another important aspect of UAWC's work is developing public and private water resources projects, since water deficiency, due to Israeli control over water resources, made water resources projects of the utmost importance to UAWC and to the farmers and increased the urgency of digging rain-water collecting wells to make most use of rain water.



✓ Improving the Marketing of Agricultural Products:

through enhancing the marketing abilities of farmers. This is made possible by increasing marketing opportunities and improving conditions through training farmers in the field of marketing and by bringing international experts who introduce international experiences in the field. Also, UAWC is keen on grouping farmers and organizing them to form cooperatives and groups who have much in common. This collective work philosophy of UAWC improved the marketing mechanism for farmers both in the local and the international markets.



✓ Developing Sustainable Agricultural Techniques and Skills:

the local seeds preservation and multiplying project, which later evolved into the creation of a local seeds bank that uses up-to-date preservation techniques, is one example for the development that occurred in the field of developing agricultural techniques and skills. In addition, preserving the local brands through hereditary imprint is considered another leap in the field of introducing new techniques.



The following table illustrates what was achieved in 2008 within this objective:
 First Objective: Improving Agricultural Output for agricultural communities through several short-term goals

Short-Term Goals	Outputs	Planned for 2008		Achieved in 2008 (WB)	Achieved in 2008 (Gaza)	% of Achievement
Outcome	Output	Unit	# of Units	# of Units	# of Units	%
1.1 Increasing agricultural area	Land Reclamation	Dunum	1500	2015	800	187.7
	Agricultural Roads	Km	30	40	3	143.3
	Providing New Water Resources	m³	15,000	44835	73350	787.9
1.2 Improving the marketing of agricultural products	Marketing Procedures	Activity	5	10	0	200
	Farmers' Training	Farmer	200	519	0	259.5
	Marketing Services Centers	Center	1	1	0	100
1.3 Developing Sustainable Agricultural Techniques and Skills	Model Agricultural Guidance	Topic	15	12	5	113.3
	Model Farms and Demonstrations for Farmers	Farm	4	4	2	150
	Providing Production Inputs for Modern Techniques	Technique	3	18	9	900
	Farmers' Training	Farmer	500	3796	300	819.2
1.4 Increasing Agricultural Area Dependent on Irrigation	Establishing and Rehabilitating Water Harvesting Facilities (apart from water-collecting cisterns)	Facility	15	5	0	33.3
	Training	Farmer	100	0	300	300
	Executing and Rehabilitating Irrigation Networks	Dunum	500	1484	750	446.8

The indicators that measure the first goal as found in the table above, demonstrate that the percentage of compatibility between the planned and the achieved is very high, and that the Union has increased in 2008 the pace of work and coverage through several activities on the level of outputs. The achieved work in the West Bank and Gaza was significantly higher, when compared to the planned, and had reached in some cases 7 folds more than what was planned, while it is doubled regarding the

establishment of marketing centers. The one exception that one notices is in terms of the establishment and rehabilitation of water harvesting facilities, where one can notice that the percentage of completion in this regard was 33.3% from the planned, which is considered a low percentage of the total completed volume during the year. This is due to the fact that the establishment of such new water facilities requires licensing and many procedures



from the Israeli side, which makes the work in this area more difficult. For such reasons, what has been achieved in this regard is only the rehabilitation of current existing facilities.



Second Objective: Empowerment of Rural Women

UAWC has been targeting rural women in many of its recent projects, especially in marginalized rural areas where women suffer greatly. This is portrayed through the creation of several women cooperatives last year and the creation of several training courses for rural women. It is also important to perceive the enrollment of women in designing and identifying the needs of the women sector, and recognizing their priorities and the establishing of women committees in several areas in which UAWC executes its projects. UAWC also assists women from poor and marginalized regions to start small projects that would generate a steady income.

The Following Table Illustrates what was Achieved in 2008 within this Objective:
Second Objective: Empowerment of Rural Women through several short-term goals:

Short-Term Goals	Outputs	Planed for 2008		Achieved in 2008 (WB)	Achieved in 2008 (Gaza)	% of Achievement
Outcome	Output	Unit	of # Units	of # Units	of Units #	%
2.1 Empowerment of Rural Women in the Agricultural Sector	Women's Training	Course	22	45	57	463
	Awareness Campaigns	Workshop	10	6	11	170
	Execution of Agricultural Projects	Beneficiary	300	519	155	224.7

Through the analysis of the numbers in the above table, and in light of the strategic objective, it is clear that the Union has increased its focus on activities and programs that target the Palestinian women during the past year, whether through training, workshops, or through small projects for women. And by comparing what was achieved and planned in 2008 with what was achieved in 2007, one notices that there is an increase and a difference between the successive two years which indicates to the importance the Union allots to the empowerment of Palestinian women, especially in rural areas.



3- Advocacy for Farmers' Rights, Lands, and Water Resources from Marginalizing Policies and from Natural Disasters

UAWC focused on the issue of preserving and advocating farmer's rights and the importance of raising the awareness of farmers. This is implemented by creating training courses and extension visits, and by expanding the abilities and awareness of the farmers through the introduction of a legislative background of their rights, from which certain committees were established that follow up certain issues concerning their rights, this is done by implementing a variety of mechanisms such as:

- Grassroots Activities

UAWC organized Palestinian farmers within active agricultural committees that are aware of the reality of Palestinian rural areas, and which are effectively working to contribute to solving the diverse problems of farmers. It also organized rural women in women committees, and focused on empowering them and building their agricultural capacities, and supporting the capacities of these committees in terms of standing for their rights through providing them with the proper skills and

abilities. UAWC also worked on establishing wide-reaching relation networks and contacts with organizations and individuals which are active in the agricultural sector, in order to sustain the national and vital issues for Palestinian rural areas and to enhance the Union's role and its status on the national level.



• Establishing Agricultural Work Committee

Agricultural Work committees are committees which spring from UAWC in the rural and agricultural areas in collaboration with the local community. They consist of volunteer farmers who believe in the Union's vision, message, and objectives, and who work collectively to achieve these objectives. The members of each committee elect their delegate to represent them in the Union's general assembly. The agricultural committees are considered to be the basis which relate to and understand the Palestinian farmers' problems and needs, and which work with the specialized body in UAWC to plan programs and projects, which are to be implemented in order to comply with such needs.



In 2008, permanent agricultural committees were established in the following governorates. The following table shows the distribution of agricultural committees in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 2008

# of Women Farmers	# of Men Farmers	#Of Members in the Committees	# of Agricultural Committees in 2008	Governorate
12	127	139	9	Ramallah
4	41	45	7	Qalqiliya
22	120	142	12	Nablus
25	30	55	3	Tubas
10	80	90	13	Tulkarm
5	90	95	11	Jenin
135	265	400	27	Hebron
105	203	308	44	Gaza Strip
318	956	1274	126	Total



❖ Voluntary work

In line with the Union's philosophy in enhancing and spreading the spirit of voluntary work, UAWC initiated many campaigns and activities to motivate and empower voluntary work on the local and international levels. This has been achieved through the Olive Harvesting Campaign, where many local and international organizations were invited to take part in this activity, so as to support farmers and enhance the role of voluntary work, especially in areas that are under direct threat from occupation forces and Israeli settlements. The total number of international volunteers reached a total of 80 volunteers.

In addition to celebrating "Land Day", a national event which is directly related to the Union's activities, UAWC also executed the 2008 Land Day Campaign by supporting farmers through providing them with seedlings and through conducting public celebrations in all of the Palestinian governorates.

• National and International Awareness about Agricultural Issue

- Forming an anti-GMOs national committee in the West Bank which encompasses several organizations. In addition, technical workshops are being organized in cooperation with the Palestinian Polytechnic University in Hebron.
- Fair trade: UAWC is considered among the first organizations which worked and signed contracts with international organizations working in the field of fair trade, and especially in terms of marketing olive oil, “A” brand. Farmers were trained on producing and marketing this brand in subsidized prices. Different meetings were conducted in that regard, the last one being conducted in Bethlehem University.
- Training the agricultural committees on different subjects, such as management, capacity building, legal rights, lobbying and advocacy.
- Producing special brochures which focus on topics such land employment, farmers’ legitimate rights, and the field survey statement of the social, economic and agricultural indi



• Solidarity with Gaza Campaign

The Union worked through its voluntary agricultural committees, which are spread all over the West Bank, and with full support from the Board of Directors and staff, to launch a public solidarity campaign to collect from local communities food, clothes and sheets to be sent to anguished families in Gaza Strip. The agricultural committees succeeded in collecting tens of tons of basic materials at different collection points in the West Bank, and which were delivered through UN offices to Gaza, which suffered from daily continuous bombardment.

The Union contacted several friendly international organizations in order to provide monetary and spiritual support to our brothers and sisters in Gaza Strip. UAWC was approved to implement many diverse projects for our families in Gaza through the support of these international organizations.

In addition, many of these organizations planed and participated in numerous demonstrations and protests in many countries around the world as a sign of objection and rejection for the hostile attack on Gaza Strip.



Third goal: protecting farmers rights, lands, water from polices that neglect them and from disasters, through many short term goals which are:

Short- term goals	outputs	Planned for 2008		Achieved in 2008 (WB)	Achieved in 2008 (Gaza)	% of Achievement
Outcome	Output	Unit	# of Units	# of Units	# of Units	%
2.1 capacity building for Agricultural committee	Training	Agricultural committee	50	55	44	198.0
	Centers and equipments (Cumulative)	Center	5	6	2	160.0
	Piloting projects	project	7	6	7	185.7
	Number of Agricultural committee	committee	50	82	44	252.0
	Number of the members of the agricultural committees	Number of members	1000	910	1413	232.3
2.2 General awareness raising regarding agricultural issues, GMOs, fair trade compensations against disasters,	Studies	study	3	3	1	133.3
	General awareness campaigns	subject	6	4	5	150.0
	Reaching supporters from activists and international and local institution for violated farmers right by occupation	volunteer	60	150	320	783.3
	Program development for the agricultural coordination committee	meeting	4	0	1	25.0
2.3contributing in building active networks for institution working in rural areas and agriculture	Supporting the specialized committees initiatives	meeting	4	4	0	100.0

The Union focused noticeably on the human and legislative rights aspect of Palestinian farmers in the West Bank in general, and in Gaza Strip in particular, after the atrocious attack by the occupation forces which affected all aspects and manners of life in Gaza Strip, especially their human and basic rights. As the aggression on the Palestinian farmers rights has dramatically increased in 2008, this has driven the Union to attempt to support the farmers in facing the occupation's policies. And as a reaction to Israeli policies, the Union focused during 2008 on the issue of framing and organizing the farmers through agricultural committees in its different working locations, and opening various centers that will facilitate the process of organizing farmers, and creating leaderships capable of representing farmers and defending them and their rights, and representing them in front of all official and non-official parties. The Union also has conducted a number of related activities; the most important activity was holding the First Agricultural Committees Conference, which succeeded within three days to approve the organizing chart for the agricultural committees, and to approve the work plan for the committees, and to define the stand point of the agricultural committees in regard to different general issues which concern them and affect their rights. The Union also invited hundreds of volunteers and international supporters from different nationalities. The presence of these volunteers was exceptionally important for farmers and agricultural committees, which find themselves standing alone in the first line of defense in terms of defending Palestinian lands at a time when Israeli authorities have increasingly attacked Palestinian lands and products. Henceforth, this strategy is considered one of the most significant strategies of UAWC, and which the Union directly targets since it is attached to the essential cause and objectives of UAWC. And through comparing 2007 achievements with 2008, UAWC finds that it should even focus more and increase its efforts within the next year on this strategic axis point, in order to achieve the anticipated objectives.

Forth Objective: Emergency Response Particularly in Cases of Unemployment and Poverty elimination, and Raising Food Security Level

UAWC attempts to maintain a quick response capacity in face of emergencies and catastrophes. This is portrayed by dedicating one of its main strategies to dealing with this issue. The Union has worked in the past year on implementing many emergency projects, one of which was the Emergency Response Project for Livestock breeders in Southern West Bank in which thousands of tons of fodder were distributed on hundreds of farmers suffering from the dry conditions that affected the area.

Most important achievement under this objective:

The Fourth Objective: Emergency Response Especially Regarding Decreasing Unemployment and Poverty, and Increasing Food Security

Short - Term goals	Outputs	Planned for 2008		Achieved in 2008 (WB)	Achieved in 2008 (Gaza)	% of Achievement
Outcome	Output	Unit	of # Units	of # Units	of # Units	%
3.1 Emergency response especially regarding decreasing unemployment	Agricultural projects	Number of working days	15000	0	15743	105.0
	Providing production supplies	Number of families	400	1481	600	520.3
	Food baskets	Number of families	800	834	13200	1754.3

After the drought wave that hit the Palestinian territories, which was incidentally the most intense in the last sixty years, and with the deterioration of the economic situation within the different areas of the Palestinian territories, as well as the



continuation of the siege and blockade on Gaza Strip, and the ongoing severing of the different parts of the West Bank through the oppressive presence of more than six hundred military checkpoints; all these elements combined resulted in the deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation for the Palestinians in all areas. All that drove UAWC to double its interventions and efforts to aid thousands of Palestinian

families from different social groups (farmers, poor families, sheep breeders), through rapid responses by providing 15000 working days, and in order to support the distressed families by providing the needed production inputs so that to assure the sustainability of the production process; which in turn will assist them in maintaining an acceptable income through which they can manage and tolerate the different life challenges that they have to face on daily basis. And by comparing what was achieved and planned in 2008 with that of 2007, it is quite noticeable that the size of the intervention in 2008 was the highest ever in the history of UAWC, both in quality and quantity, in a manner which responds to the size of emergency needs for the thousands of families living under the above mentioned circumstances.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Department worked relentlessly to enhance funding opportunities which maintain the sustainability of UAWC, and which play an important role in its development. The Public Relations Department also worked on sustaining positive and fruitful relations with different parties which are related to the Union's activities (such as; local communities, partner organizations, donor organizations, governmental institutions, international organizations, Media, ...etc).

As a result of this, the PR Department increased its efforts concerning the issue of local and international networking, while also emphasizing on public work, especially through its agricultural committees which are present in different regions within the Palestinian territories. In addition, PR Department was also responsible for supporting all activities of the Union through assuring media coverage, in all its forms, of its activities in order to spread awareness to the community about the important activities and issues that UAWC covers. Such coverage would allow to spread awareness and knowledge to all sectors, especially in marginalized areas.

Among the general goals of the PR department is offering logistic support in the field of strengthening the Union's general relations with donor organizations, the local community, and all other institutions and organizations working in the agricultural sector, while also maintaining its dynamic role in publishing researches and studies. A work plan for 2008 was designed and devised in order to invest in the capacities and specialized potentials and experiences of the Union, while focusing on enhancing local networking and broadening UAWC's work base, which all aims at serving Palestinian farmers. In addition, the work plan for 2008 aimed at creating and expanding UAWC's international relations network through civil voluntary partner organizations and through all other international partner organizations.

UAWC prepared a work plan for 2008 based on the needs of UAWC in general, and its specific departments in particular. This work plan enables and enhances the capacities of the Union to execute its activities and perform its duties, while taking

into consideration the importance of strengthening relations with UAWC's partners, and creating new relations and partnerships, as well as empowering the Union's local and preexisting partnerships, and finally, maintaining cooperation with farmers, especially in marginalized areas through local agricultural committees.

Implemented Activities in 2008

1. International Relations:

UAWC maintained its strategy concerning strengthening its international relations within its capacities; focusing specifically on deepening relations with its current partners, and at the same time establishing new partnerships with new organizations. The most important achievements in this regard are as follows:

- Participating in international conferences:

1. Al-Quds International Network in Qatar: participating in Al Quds International Institution 6th Conference, and the Fourth Forum of the Network of Organizations Working for Jerusalem. UAWC's participation in this event was active and successful in general, and especially on the level of coordination meetings with the participating delegations.

It is anticipated that 2009 will witness and set off new and unique relations with the Arab and Islamic worlds.

2. The Right to Return to Our Lands Conference in Damascus.

3. The Environmental Conference in Spain



4. Conducting a workshop for all of UAWC's Spanish partners; the Union's branch in Gaza participated in the workshop via video conference.
5. The Union participated as a member in OCHA Projects Evaluation Committee. In addition, several of the Union's proposals were approved and were posted on the funding website.
6. Following up the specific arrangements concerning international volunteers participating in the Olive Harvesting Campaign.
7. UAWC arranged and conducted several field visits to different locations for visiting international delegations.
8. UAWC participated actively in the Fair Trade Convention by submitting a work paper and by exhibiting some agricultural products.
9. Conducting a workshop with Spanish Cooperation and several other Spanish organizations working in the agricultural field, and which resulted in creating a new cooperation and coordination policy between UAWC and these organizations.



2. Local Relations:

The Union maintained its active and positive presence on the local and national levels through its initiatives and participations in events and activities conducted by local and national institutions and organizations. UAWC is considered an active member in the Palestinian NGOs network, and in all the different branches and sectors it is involved in such as agricultural and education. UAWC is also maintains active membership in local different coalitions, as in the case of the poverty coalition, the school environment coalition, the developmental coalition, and the coalition against the Apartheid Wall.

The Union maintains distinctive relations on the local level with community based organizations through its staff and its agricultural committees which are spread in all the Palestinian governorates. A team was allocated to follow up the Union's relations and to develop them with different interested institution; on the agricultural, social, political, economic levels.

Moreover, the Union maintains distinctive relations with governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Water Authority, and the Environmental Authority. UAWC also maintains good ties and relations with Palestinian universities; especially with Bethlehem University and the University of Hebron. The main local partners are:

- ✓ Palestinian NGOs Network : the Union participated and contributed in the general assembly board meetings, and had an integral role in the process of decision making. The Union attended most of the periodic meetings of the board and contributed in the planning, execution, and monitoring procedures of its sector committees, especially in the educational and agricultural sectors.
- ✓ Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network: UAWC participated as a coordinating member in this network, in addition to following up and monitoring its duties and meetings.
- ✓ Al-Quds Committee / Palestinian NGOs network : a committee that was

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- ✓ Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network: UAWC participated as a coordinating member in this network, in addition to following up and monitoring its duties and meetings.
- ✓ Al-Quds Committee / Palestinian NGOs network : a committee that was formed from the Palestinian NGOs Network. Health Work Committees is in charge for the coordination of this committee. The Union contributed with all its capacity to develop the work of Al Quds Committee.
- ✓ Coalition for Jerusalem.
- ✓ Ramallah Forestation Campaign: an initiative from Ramallah Municipality, and along with the cooperation of agricultural organizations and a number of engineers and activists in the city.
- ✓ The Public Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza: UAWC had a distinctive role as a coordinating member for this campaign through its contributions in the meetings, and along with coordinating with agricultural committees in monitoring the activities of the campaign.
- ✓ The Public Campaign Against the Wall: UAWC continued in following up the meetings of the campaign and the duties and activities issuing from it, and following up the tasks allotted to the agricultural committees.
- ✓ The Palestinian Development Coalition: UAWC actively participated in the meetings of this coalition, and followed up with its activities.
- ✓ The Agricultural Production Exhibition: UAWC actively participated in the exhibition, especially in Ramallah City.
- ✓ Participating in all the Workshops by the Strategic Group for Conflict

Resolution: training several crews for partner organizations to build the capacities of field supervisors and enhancing their skills with tools and skills that will aid them in resolving conflicts that might arise in their field of work.

- ✓ Special Education Sector Committee, under the supervision of Teacher Creativity Center: it is a committee which issues a special developmental program for schools' extracurricular activities (environmental, water, and agriculture) that aims at enhancing the concepts of environmental clubs between students and at enhancing the concepts of applied agricultural.
- ✓ Reviewing UAWC's Strategic Plan for the time period of 2008-2010: A workshop for the Union's board and staff was conducted in Gaza and Ramallah under the supervision of specialized facilitator teams, which aimed at designating the most important variables, suggestions, recommendations, and alterations in order to forge a revised and updated Strategic Plan, which will be translated to English, and which will be approved for both UAWC's branches in Gaza Strip and West Bank.
- ✓ Preparing a research paper about the implications of the joint industrial zones on agricultural sectors.
- ✓ Continuing the coordination and work on the conflict resolution strategic group.
- ✓ Contribution in preparing documents and studies which clarify the vision of NGOs concerning the agricultural sector.

Fifth Objective: Organizational Program and the Financial and Administrative Resources of UAWC

UAWC concentrated on developing its human and financial resources in 2008 through developing its cadres and through developing its managerial and financial systems, so that they can be used efficiently by all its staff. A special emphasis was allotted to building and enhancing the capacities of UAWC's employees through a number of educational and training programs which involved all its cadres. With support from Oxfam, English courses were given to 60 UAWC employees with an average of 96 training hours. UAWC also worked on improving the capacities of its employees in the field of computers and in using the internet. In addition, 10 new graduates and volunteers in the field of Management and Agriculture benefited from the training programs which were conducted by UAWC in collaboration with other organizations, and some were recruited to work in the Union after the end of their training period.

By the end of 2008, the number of employees in UAWC reached 60 employees, with an increase of 36% in comparison to 2007. Such an increase propelled UAWC to expand so as to accommodate the increase in the number of its staff, and which resulted in renting larger-area offices in Tulkarm and Jenin, and in renting new offices in Ramallah and Hebron.

UAWC worked on improving the output of its employees and developing its cadres in the field of communication skills. All offices are now connected to ADSL internet connections, and all computers are connected to an internal computer network to facilitate the communication of its cadres. UAWC also launched its website, which is updated regularly with news about its activities and programs. UAWC is also working on launching its own database, which encompasses all its work, activities, and programs.

The Executive Managerial Board of UAWC held 15 meetings in 2008, in order to monitor and evaluate all proceedings and activities within the Union.

Among the most important events in 2008 was holding the meeting of the General Assembly of UAWC, on October 17th, 2008, and the election of a new board with 13 members from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Assets	2007	2008
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,606,854.00	5,320,832.78
Checks	-	59,987.00
Account Receivable	1,008,738.00	928,943.00
Receivable from Donors	469,758.00	395,436.00
Prepaid Expenses and other Receivables	222,786.00	180,240.59
Inventory	89,507.00	49,444.00
Total Current Assets	7,397,643.00	6,934,883.49
Fixed Assets		
Cost	3,974,411.00	4,080,255.50
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,061,332.00)	(1,179,753.85)
Net Assets	2,913,079.00	2,900,501.65
Long Term Investments	191,092.00	761,452.00
Total Assets	10,501,814.00	10,596,837.14
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Outstanding Checks	25,767.00	337,687.00
Account Payable	885,890.00	1,653,071.45
Donation Received in Advance	1,963,721.00	3,374,524.91
Accrued Expense and other Accounts Payable	319,352.00	189,835.80
Total Current Liabilities	3,194,730.00	5,554,822.16
Provisions Fund	1,021,072.00	1,546,134.90
Net Assets – End of Year	4,497,650.00	1,628,385.08
Assess the Value of Fixed Assets	1,788,362.00	1,867,495.00
Total Net Assets	6,286,012.00	3,495,880.08
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	10,501,814.00	10,596,837.14

Financial Report:

Financial Report: Union of Agricultural Work Committees Ramallah – Palestine Balance Sheet As of December 31 2008 (Currency in New Israeli Shekels)

Revenues	2007	2008
Net Revenues and Expenses of Tulkarm Plantation and Departments	(106,248.00)	(42,260.19)
Other Donations and Revenues	2,038,213.00	1,658,724.23
Restricted Donations	12,257,433.00	20,738,176.24
Other Revenues	134,377.00	127,649.47
Loss) Gain From) Currency Variance	117,813.00	102,126.78
Membership Fees	11,730.00	13,290.00
Total Revenues	14,453,318.00	22,597,706.53
Expenses		
Projects' Expenses	9,899,427.00	23,266,424.32
General and Administrative Expenses	1,919,078.00	1,955,111.76
Depreciation Expenses	129,734.00	265,185.85
Loss from Investments	764,368.00	-
Net Gain (Loss) from Excluding Assets	11,847.00	(66,892.00)
Union's Contribution in Programs and Projects	52,429.00	47,141.52
Total Expenses	12,776,883.00	25,466,971.45
Net Change in Assets during the Year	1,676,435.00	(2,869,264.92)
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year	2,821,215.00	4,497,650.00
Net Assets at the End of the Year	4,497,650.00	1,628,385.08

Financial Report:

Union of Agricultural
Work Committees
Ramallah – Palestine
Statement of
Activities
For the Year Ended
December 31 2008
(Currency in New
Israeli Shekels)

Cash Flow From Operating Activities	2007	2008
Net Change of Assets During the Year	1,676,435.00	(2,869,264.92)
Depreciation of Assets	72,685.00	281,455.85
Provision for Doubtful Debts	-	(8,365.00)
Provision for Staff Indemnity	94,983.00	525,062.90
Gain form Sale of Assets	-	(64,850.00)
Changes in Assets and Operating Liabilities		
Accrued Donations	(233,891.00)	74,322.00
Accounts Receivable	757,152.00	88,159.88
Inventory	(20,201.00)	40,063.00
Prepaid Expenses and Other Receivables	54,484.00	42,545.41
Accounts Payables	569,541.00	767,181.45
Accrued Expenses and other Liabilities	(361,871.00)	(129,813.20)
Donation Received in Advance	1,072,335.00	1,410,803.91
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	3,681,652.00	157,301.28
Cash Flow from Investment Activities		
Fixed Assets	(2,100,633.00)	(422,704.50)
Long-Term Investments	764,368.00	(570,360.00)
Return From Sale of Assets	-	218,676.00
Total Cash Flow from Investment Activities	(1,336,265.00)	(774,388.50)
Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Short Term Loans	1,684,812.00	79,133.00
Total Cash Flow from Financing Activities	1,684,812.00	79,133.00
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year	4,030,199.00	(537,954.22)
Cash and Cash Equivalent - Beginning of the Year	1,550,888.00	5,581,087.00
Cash and Cash Equivalent – End of the Year	5,581,087.00	5,043,132.78

Financial Report:

Union of Agricultural Work
 Committees
 Ramallah – Palestine
 Statement of Cash Flow
 For the Year Ended December 31
 2008
 (Currency in New Israeli Shekels)