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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

# humanitarian interventions

**Funded by :**  
Government of the United Kingdom and  
Northern Ireland



## A project beneficiary *snapshot*

Under the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland's Department for International Development (DFID) funded project entitled, "Immediate support for endangered livelihoods of food insecure farmers, herders and fisherfolk in the Gaza Strip", FAO aimed to alleviate suffering and restore dignity through enhanced food security in the Gaza Strip.

A total of 528 food insecure households (approximately 3 700 food insecure individuals based on Gaza household average of 7) were identified through the beneficiary profiling using the piloted 'Resilience Analysis Model' (see left). These beneficiaries received combined packages, including land reclamation and leveling of land lost during the Israeli military Operation Cast Lead, inputs of sheep, irrigation networks, and seedlings, to insulate food insecurity and generate household income. The expected outcome from kick-starting the crop production cycle is estimated at NIS 2 858 440 or USD 752 220 The production capacity restored through this project will support crop production over many years.

### Resilience Analysis

To help humanitarian agencies design aid for beneficiaries, based on the extent of their vulnerability, FAO has developed a new analysis tool, which measures how 'resilient' a household and its environment are under severe stress and unpredictable shocks. Data is collected according to core variables (existing social safety net; access to public services; assets; income and food access; households' capacity to adapt; stability of food supply). The data is then converted into numeric values, which help present the level of resilience on a scale. The level of resilience, as calculated, can help determine the kind of interventions needed in acute crisis and their impact. The model also helps design long-term aid interventions and paves a solid ground for joint programming.

### More about project

The overall objective of the FAO-DFID project was to alleviate suffering and restore dignity through enhanced food security in the Gaza Strip.

There were two specific objectives. Firstly to alleviate food insecurity and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable households (with a special focus on female-headed households) through an improved approach to direct humanitarian livelihoods support and secondly, to improve humanitarian delivery through evidence based and rationalized food security information, analyses and coordination.

### Mr. Wahid Hannina Thabit

Mr. Thabit is 46 years old and lives in a wood and plastic building near Juhor ad Dik, a predominantly rural area south east of Gaza city, with his wife and 6 children. Mr. Thabit's land was destroyed during Operation Cast Lead (December 2008 – January 2009) and subsequently he and his family lost their principal source of income.

(below - Mr. Wahid Hannina Thabit outside his home near Juhor ad Dik)



The Job Creation Program, as contracted by FAO, rehabilitated two dunums of the damaged land and FAO installed an irrigation network, and gave compost organic fertilizer and seeds. Mr. Thabit received training to advance his farming skills.

He can now support his family of 8 by growing vegetables and watermelon that will be ready to sell on the local market in 2 months.

Mr. Thabit will use the extra income to support his son's education.

DFID contributed USD 1 000 000 to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the project. The project began in 1 December 2009 and concluded in March, 2010.



(above - Mr. Mospah Laham, aged 41)

#### Intervention packages

FAO appointed the Job Creation Program Office (JCP) to operate the land reclamation of damaged agricultural land including cleaning, levelling, ploughing and preparation of soil to restart agricultural activities. By clearing farming lands of the rubble of houses destroyed during Operation Cast Lead and providing them with seeds and organic fertilizer, FAO sought to enhance the resilience of households and improve food security.

FAO offered training to enhance the capabilities of beneficiaries in integrated crop management and pregnant ewes (two per family) were distributed to a total of 50 selected families in south east Gaza Strip. The sheep can be used for milk and meat and bred and sold to generate income.

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#### Mr. Mospah Laham (left)

Just off Gaza's southern coast, in Al Mawasi (Khan Yunis) Mr. Mospah Laham lives with his 9 young children and wife, in a 2 room building surrounded by a stone courtyard. Mr. Mospah Laham is 41 years old and used to be an active fisherman before Israel's blockade reduced the Gaza fishing zone to 3 nautical miles in 2007, forcing him to find another way to earn a living.

This project assisted Mr. Laham to overcome some of the challenges of the blockade, replacing fishing activities with small ruminant farming. The family received 2 pregnant sheep from the project, which produced 2 lambs that the family sold. They bought another sheep with the income. The 2 original sheep will continue to reproduce to generate additional income.



(above - Mr. Marlund ala idi' above, outside the family home with 3 of his children)

#### Mr. Marlund Ala Idi'

Mr. Marlund Ala Idi', 39, lives with his wife, 2 sons and 4 young daughters in a modest stone building he built himself using a USD 5 000 lump allowance from UNRWA. Their previous home was destroyed during Operation Cast Lead. JCP leveled and ploughed 2 dunums of the family's land who are now growing a range of vegetables for both household consumption and for sale. Before the intervention, the family had no economic activity and the household was totally reliant on external aid.

Every 3 months Mr. Ala Idi' receives food assistance (a package of staple goods, including flour, oil, sugar and rice). It is hoped that the money generated through the FAO-DFID project will help reduce Mr. Ala Idi's dependency on aid packages. With the extra income, Mr. Ala Idi' will be able to continue to develop the house he started to build and buy materials for his children's education.