ECHO - Humanitarian Aid Office

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CISP
COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI

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Comitato
Internazionale
per lo Sviluppo
dei Popoli

EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN AID FOR BEDOUINS IN WEST BANK, PALESTINE

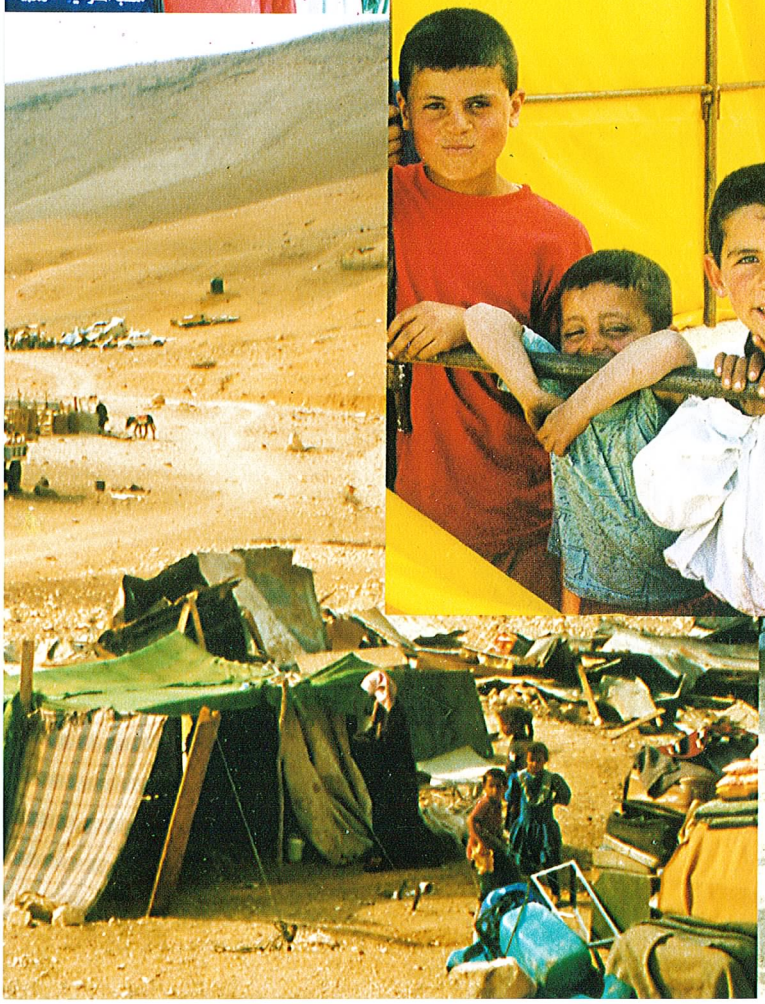
















BACKING FOR HUMANITARIAN AID WORLDWIDE

ECHO is the European Union's Humanitarian Aid Office, a service of the European Commission under the direct responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson.
ECHO funds relief to victims of both natural disasters and manmade crises outside the EU. Aid is channelled impartially, straight to victims, regardless of race, religion and political beliefs. ECHO has more than 170 partners – organisations which have signed a Framework Partnership Contract with the Commission. Its partners are the specialist agencies of the United Nations, the Red Cross family, other international organisations and non-governmental organisations.
ECHO is one of the biggest sources of humanitarian aid in the world. In 2000, it provided € 485 million in funding (not including aid that the EU's 15 Member States gave separately). ECHO support went to projects in more than 50 countries. The funds are spent on goods and services such as food, clothing, shelter, medical provisions, water supplies, sanitation, emergency repairs and mine-clearing. ECHO also funds disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation projects in regions prone to natural catastrophes.

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CISP
COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI

WHAT IS CISP?

Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) is an Italian non-governmental non-profit organization (NGO) set up in 1983 and working in the field of international cooperation.
CISP is recognised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is one of the ECHO's partners.
CISP implements humanitarian, rehabilitation and development programmes in Latin America (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Venezuela), Asia & Middle East (China, Lebanon, Palestine, Vietnam), Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia) and Africa (Algeria, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa).
In addition to humanitarian aid, the main areas of intervention are health care in urban and rural areas, agriculture and rural development, food security, supporting small enterprises, water supply, artisan fishing and aquiculture, environment.
In order to implement its programmes, the association receives funds and grants from Italian and international public entities (the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, cooperation agencies of various industrialised countries, United Nations Agencies, etc.) and from associations and private citizens.
In Western Europe CISP promote initiatives including information and solidarity and cultural policy dealing with the issues of development and combating social exclusion.

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ECHO in the Middle East

Palestine refugees are the main reason for the presence of ECHO in the Middle East. ECHO commitment to Palestinian refugees in the WBG, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria began in 1993 and gradually developped to encompass the local populations of Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. From 1993 to 2000, ECHO's contribution has accounted for EURO 77 million. Throughout that period, ECHO took due account of the perennial emergency which defines the Palestinian situation. This characteristic explains that, even if the programme strategy was to target emergency and relief-related matters, some interventions have been fluctuating in a "grey zone" between emergency and development. Since two years, the Commission has directed ECHO operations within the original mandate as stipulated in the Council Regulations. Programme strategy is to target emergency and relief-related matters, aiming at assisting the most vulnerable groups, focusing for example on emergency shelter rehabilitation, handicaped people or Bedouins and communities affected by a long lasting drought or forced displacement.

Since the outbreak of the so-called Al Aqsa Intifada last October 2000, ECHO has allocated EURO 25 million for humanitarian aid to Palestinian victims of the ongoing crises in WB and Gaza, refugee and non refugee population in Lebanon, Palestinian refugees in Syria and Jordan. Aid is mainly directed to medical structures, food supply and psychological support.

ECHO activities for the Middle East are managed from Brussels headquarters by the ECHO 3 Unit. A regional Office has been opened in Amman (Jordan) in 1997 to follow field activities and to assess the humanitarian situation.

This regional Office is also following ECHO activities in Yemen and Iraq.







Bedouins: from nomads to ethnic minority

Arturo Avendaño, CISP consultant, *Jerusalem*

The deserts of the ancient Palestine were inhabited by different nomad tribes who travelled freely all over Middle East. It was a kind of society, culture and economy based on animal breeding by means of seasonal moving in search of pasture and water.

In such life style, in the Neguev – "Naqab"-desert lived the descendants of Jahaleen, Ka'abneh, Ramadin, Amarin, Hanajra, Hazalin Bedouin tribes.

In a historical milestone of beginning of violence in the region, all these Bedouin tribes were expelled or fled, between 1948 and 1951, from the occupation of Israeli Military Forces. The Bedouin tribes moved to lands under Jordanian administration in that period, in the areas of Hebron, Bethlehem, the desert of the surroundings of Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jericho and Jordan Valley.

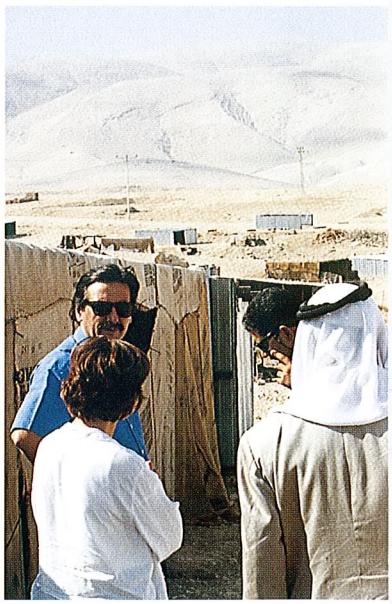
All these areas were directly affected by the war of 1967. The Israeli occupation of these territories marks the end of the nomad life of all Bedouin tribes in the West Bank.

Exact figures about the number of Bedouins living today in West Bank are not available; nevertheless, the number is likely to be around 25,000 people.

From a traditional life with nomad and semi- nomad characteristics, Bedouins are pressed to adopt a sedentary or semi- sedentary life, without being provided with the basic conditions of subsistence required by an urban or semi- urban way of life.

This is the beginning of the exclusion and the rupture of balance of the traditional nomadic life style. This is the beginning of the poverty due to the impossibility of movement in search of pasturage for the animals.

Nowadays in Beersheva, Bedouins are confined to live in villages not legally recognized and without the necessary services. Their houses are temporary constructions for Israeli Authorities allow them to use zinc as the only building material.



They are Bedouins, Israeli citizens but without the rights that an urban way of life implies.

In the West Bank, the Jahaleen tribe lives in the surroundings of Jerusalem while the Ka'abneh tribe lives in Jericho. The majority of them live in "C" area, i.e. territories under exclusive Israeli administration that correspond to about 70% of the West Bank, whilst "B" area is jointly administered by Palestinian National Authority and by Israeli Authority, and " A" area is exclusively under Palestinian administration.

At the same time, Bedouins hold Palestinian Identity Card, released by the Palestinian Authority.

Therefore they do have neither the rights and services ensured to Israeli people living in "C" area, nor full assistance by Palestinian Authority because P.A. has no jurisdiction in "C" area.

Bedouins living in "C zone" not only lack status that recognizes citizen rights, but also all Bedouins of West Bank face eviction orders issued by the Israeli Authorities. The purpose is to transfer Bedouins to "B zone", inhabited by Palestinian population but with no full Palestinian administrative autonomy.

The eviction orders are consequences of a governmental policy based on the interpretation of the old Ottoman Lands Law. This legal interpretation intends to declare wide areas as "state land". Thereby, the "land occupant" in front of the Israeli law is the Bedouin.

Then, the Israeli Civil Administration operates with studies of urban development, that favour the building of new settlements and highways for Israeli citizens.



For Bedouins, this "development" means eviction orders. The order is executed by the Israeli Civil Administration jointly with the Israeli Defense Forces and the police.

The appeal of Bedouins to the Israeli High Court is not settled with a verdict in favor of Bedouins but with a resolution postponing the eviction order.

The eviction orders are executed by the use of bulldozers to demolish tents and barracks of Bedouin encampments. The Israeli Authority proceeds to the confiscation of sheep and goats, water tanks and domestic goods.

In the last 4 years, the following tribes have been victims of this type of eviction: Jahaleen Salamat, in the surrounding of Ma'aleh Adumim and Bir Al Maskub; Jahaleen Sara'ia in Wadi Abu Hindi; Jahaleen Dayafeen and Ka'abneh Qrab in the village of 'Anata; Ka'abneh Najadeh in Al Ouja.

The building and enlargement of the Israeli settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim cause the eviction of Bedouins Al Jahaleen.

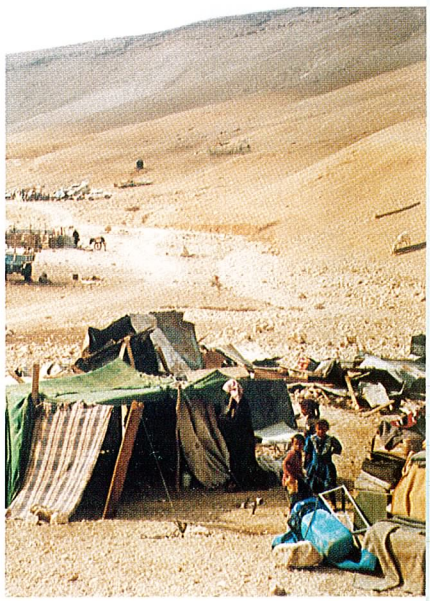
These Bedouins loose their traditional way of subsistence by means of the grazing and live in poverty conditions, in an urban marginal life few meters away from the settlement which caused them the eviction.

Ma'aleh Adumim is an Israeli settlement located 7 Km East of Jerusalem, with an extension of 50 km^2. The population is 28,000 people, but the enlargement plans consider a future population of 50,000. The settlement counts with 8 health centers, 38 kindergartens, 9 educational centers and emergency services.

It reflects the high standard of living of the Israeli population, with an income "per capita" of 17,000 USD per year, in front of their Bedouin neighbors who lack the most elementary services. There are also aspects which make even deeper the differences: Ma'aleh Adumim has veterinary services for domestic animals, while Bedouins cannot afford these services that could preserve the health of their sheep and goats, which represents their only source of living.

Animals breeding devoid of veterinary services increases the levels of mortality in the cattle. Also due to the bad conditions of the stables, built with zinc of old water tanks, junk chassis of refrigerators and old barrel of fuel full of stones used as fences to close the cattlepen.

Without any possibility of grazing the livestock, Bedouins are obliged to buy fodder for their sheep and goats. It is a sum of negative elements in the animal breeding, which makes this activity not able to obtain enough income to ensure the sustenance of the family.



In Bedouin groups of Jerusalem and Jericho, a field research was carried out by CISP in summer 2000, in which Bedouin poverty has been verified. They do not meet adequately one or more basic living conditions, such as access to sufficient levels of food consumption, water, housing and health.

In the Bedouin situation, we must consider the relationship between ethnic discrimination and deep poverty.

Bedouins constitute an ethnic minority, which gives rise to "dominant" cultures to refer about them with impressions, generalizations and valuations that imply a disqualification of the minority. Like in other countries where there are indigenous or immigrants, here the minority is also defined as "lazy", "lying", "dirty", so questioning the real poverty and problems of Bedouins.

It also happens among professional levels, where the lack of interest about Bedouins provokes sometimes uninformed opinions and the use of stereotypes.

The Arab- Israeli conflict has been intensified dramatically at the end of the year 2000 and in the course of this year. Bedouins, as the most vulnerable social groups, suffer from the direct consequences in safety and economical subsistence. Fear for unsettled eviction orders increases.

Due to the closure of roads, the mobility in the work with animals and provision of water in water tanks is more restricted and the basic needs are intensified.

It is a situation that still requires attention and support by the International Community.





Words from a Bedouin Mukhtar

Sheikh Mohamed Suleyman Jahaleen Dayafeen

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The name "Bedouin" is not related to the concept of moving and transfer from one place to another. The Bedouin is part of a culture and work that use the resources of the land in water and pasture as his only income.

Nomadism and Freedom are two inseparable concepts, as Nomadism represents the daily life of the Bedouin in the sense of dignity and freedom.

The identity of Bedouins nowadays faces an aggressive campaign which endangers their surviving and original way of life, transforming them into neglected and marginal communities, but this identity resists to surrender. Bedouins reject marginalisation and injustice.

The largest Bedouin community before the Israeli occupation was in Beir Al- Sabe' "Beer Sheva". When in 1951 the Israeli Army started occupying the Bedouin lands, Bedouins rapidly became homeless, expelled by force from their lands.

Some of the Bedouin groups who were expelled were: Jahaleen, which is the biggest tribe that was exiled, including the following groups: Kurshan, Dayafeen, Abu Dahouk, Ghawanma, Salamat, Fakeer. Other tribes that were moved are: Ramadeen, Hanajera, Azzazmeh.

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, the Israeli forces started to use their pressure, surrounding Bedouin groups towards the internal borders of villages and cities. This action contradicts the nature of Bedouins and their source of living, for they need open areas.

There are some Bedouin groups who remain in their lands in the southern part of the West Bank, but suffer from the occupation and its consequences in restriction of movement.





The major problems faced by these Bedouin communities are as follows:

- Drought due to the lack of rain, lack of grazing areas.
- High cost of animal food and scarcity of pasturage.
- Absence of veterinarian services for the livestock, as far as treatment and medication are concerned.
- Educational problems. As it is difficult for Bedouin to reach the schools in the villages, it has been noticed a high percentage of illiteracy among them.
- Bad health conditions. There are no medical centers, mother and child centers or a health insurance system among Bedouin communities, which increases the percentage of deaths especially among the children.
- Unemployment, as Bedouins live far from industrial areas and Bedouin young people lack of knowledge in crafts and industry, the percentage of unemployment among the youth is high.
- Absence of infrastructures and services in the Bedouin communities. There are no water pipes, roads, transportation, electricity or communication services.



What we Bedouins ask as the most needed for us is:

- Enriching the livestock sector through animal food, grazing areas, veterinarian services.
- Affording Health services for the Bedouins, mother and child centers.
- Affording schools and kindergartens to the Bedouin children, obtaining university educational scholarships for Bedouin students.
- Affording water resources for the service of Bedouins.

We Bedouin express our gratitude to the European Union that assists Bedouin through CISP in the various mentioned sectors. We express our thanks and appreciation for the support they provide to Bedouin communities, trying to enable us to feel secure.









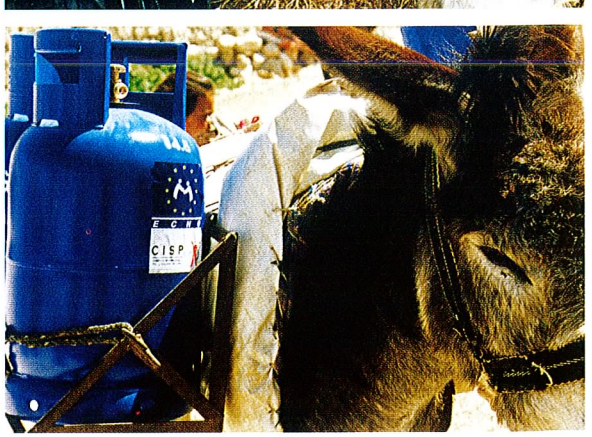
ECHO PROJECTS IN FAVOUR OF BEDOUINS IN WEST BANK, PALESTINE

NGO	ECHO Code Value of the project (in euro)	Title of the project	Number of beneficiaries	Location	Duration Year/s	Local partner/s	Description
CISP Italy	ECHO/ TPS/ B7- 210/ 1997/ 0203C € 300,000	"Humanitarian Assistance to displaced Bedouin families living to the South East and North of Jerusalem"	N. families: 517 N. persons: 3,140 N. communities: 4	Jerusalem.	6 months 1998	LRC- Land Research Center	The project was designed to improve the living conditions of Bedouin Al Jahaeen families expelled by the Israeli Authorities from their locations for the enlargement of the Israeli settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim. The project provided each family with foodstuff and gas cookers; electric generators and basic electric materials were distributed per groups of families; one tractor, one trolley and one water tank were given to the biggest group for common use. Training in the use and maintenance of the electric generators was given to each group.
CRIC Italy	ECHO/ TPS/ 210/ 1998/ 09003 € 350,000	"Humanitarian Assistance to kindergartens in the Gaza Strip and Bedouin nomadic families in West Bank"	N. families: 748 N. persons: 4,043 N. communities: 10	Hebron and Bethlehem districts.	6 months 1998-1999	LRC- Land Research Center	Emergency assistance aimed at improving the living conditions of 10 Bedouin communities. Distribution of relief items: gas cookers, water tanks, generators, fractors. Materials for pen fences. Training on health/ hygienic related issues.
CRIC Italy	ECHO/TPS/ 210/ 1999/04004 € 585,000	"Operation aimed at alleviating the impact of drought on the Bedouin communities in the central and southern West Bank"	N. of families: 569 N. of persons: 3,983 N. communities: 11	Hebron and Bethlehem districts.	6 months 1998-2000	LRC- Land Research Center PHG- Palestinian Hydrology Group	Provision of fodder and mobile water tanks for 11 Bedouin communities. Awareness campaign on water use and related issues. Technical training on the correct use, maintenance and cleaning of the mobile water tanks.
PTM Spain	ECHO/ TPS/ 210/ 1999/ 04003 € 388,000	"Humanitarian aid for the return and definitive settlement of seven displaced Bedouin communities in Jericho and definitive resettlement of the population of Arab Al-Rashaideh"	N. families: 228 N. persons: 1,617 N. communities: 2	Bethlehem and Jericho.	1999-2000	Palestinian Ministry of Housing Palestinian Ministry of Education Palestinian Departament of Water. West Bank Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture Palestinian Ministry of Health Union of Health Work Committees	Building of 100 houses in Arab el Rashaide, Bethlehem. Rehabilitation of the school at Arab al Rasahide. Provision of electric generator. Provision of 45 mobile water tanks. Rehabilitation of the main water connection. Emergency medical assistance. Training courses in first aid, preventive health, women health. Training in herd management and agriculture. Transfer of Jericho community to Arab el Rashaide in Bethlehem.
CISP Italy	ECHO/ TPS/ 210/ 1999/ 04005 € 585,000 ECHO/ TPS/ 210/ 1999/ 04017 € 90,000	"Urgent actions to alleviate the impact of the drought in the Bedouin communities" "Additional urgent actions to alleviate the impact of the drought in the Bedouin communities"	No. families: 2,280 N. persons: 13,500 N. communities: 38	Jerusalem Jericho Jordan Valley	6 months 1999-2000	PARC- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees	As a consequence of the drought occurred in summer 1999, which caused shortage of pasturage and water rationing, CISP was entrusted by ECHO to implement humanitarian actions to alleviate the emergency situation among Bedouin communities. 2,300 tons of barley, 110 mobile water tanks, 1,111 plastic water containers of different sizes and water were distributed among Bedouin communities and some groups of "fellaheen" (peasants) living close to Bedouins and sharing the same way of life.

NGO	ECHO Code Value of the project (in euro)	Title of the project	Number of beneficiaries	Location	Duration Year/s	Local partner/s	Description
CISP Italy	ECHO/ TPS/ 210/ 2000/ 04001 € 200,000	"Urgent actions to alleviate the havoc of recent storms in Bedouin and poor fellaheen communities"	N. families: 2,542 N. persons: 13,000 N. communities: 46	Jerusalem Jericho Jordan Valley Hebron	4 months 2000	PARC- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees LDC- Land Defense Centre	In January 2000, a severe snow storm hit the Bedouin camps of Jerusalem, Jericho and Jordan Valley areas, leaving more than 2,000 Bedouin and fellaheen families without appropriate shelter to live under extreme temperature conditions. CISP was entrusted by ECHO with the implementation of an urgent action for the provision of shelters. Another intervention was carried out in the area of Hebron, where 42 families were expelled from the caves they used as dwellers, by the Israeli Authorities. The project consisted in the provision of rehabilitation material for 45 groups of Bedouin and fellaheen: planks of wood, metal pipes, canvas and sheets of zinc were distributed, working in partnership with PARC. For the 42 families of Hebron, the project provided them with essential relief items: shoes, mattresses, gas cookers, canvas and metal pipes for 28 tents, fodder for the livestock. The project was implemented in partnership with LDC.
CRIC Italy	ECHO/TPS/ 210/ 2000/11003 € 440,000	"Assistance to the Bedouin Communities aimed at maintaining and preserving their only source of living"	N. families: 725 N. persons: 4,598 N. Communities: 12	Hebron and Betlehem Districts.	8 months 2000-2001	LRC- Land Research Center	Veterinary awareness campaign for Bedouin men, women and young shepherds realised in co-operation with the Department of Animal Health and Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture in 11 Bedouin communities; production of educational materials for a correct dealing with sick and infectious animals; provision of nutrients and fodder to the communities.
CISP Italy	ECHO/ TPS/ 210/ 2000/ 11002 € 435,000	"Urgent actions to upgrade the living conditions of the poorest among the Bedouin communities"	N. families: 1,500 N. persons: 8,500 N. communities: 26	Jerusalem Jericho Jordan Valley	9 months 2000-2001	PARC- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees	The project was aimed at alleviating the living conditions of the poorest among the poor Bedouin families, with special attention to widows and abandoned women, by the provision of fodder for livestock, gas cookers, gas ovens, plastic water reservoirs and water distribution. The beneficiary groups were selected according to a Feasibility Study carried out by CISP in summer 2000.







Working with Bedouins

Luisa Rueda, CISP's Representative in Palestine, *Jerusalem*

CISP
COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE
PER LO SVILUPPO DEI POPOLI
المجلس الدولي لتطوير المجتمع

In the year 1997, CISP started implementing a social action with the aim of facing the serious problems of Bedouin communities.

The first work was with the Bedouin community of Jahaleen Salamat, victim of the destruction of their encampment located in the surrounding of the Israeli settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim, in Jerusalem. 60 families were forcibly transferred by bus to a nearby hill, adjacent to the Arab village of Al Ezzariye and about 500 meters from the garbage dump. After destroying their tents and barracks, the Israeli Authorities gave them ship containers as houses.

We approached the Arab Al Jahaleen tribe in order to support them in their forced displacement, but in our field visits we observed that the needs to be attended were the most basic ones: water, food, housing, health, education, veterinary assistance for the livestock, food for animals, electricity.

We could identify the same elementary needs in each new group we investigated, from the Jahaleen descendants in the area of Jerusalem.

At the beginning, we dealt with problems of about 1,500 families of the Jahaleen tribe, leaded by 12 Bedouin representatives, "Muktar".

In 1999 it was necessary to expand the area of CISP social intervention in order to face the needs of Bedouins of the Ka'abneh tribe in Jericho and Jordan Valley and small groups of families belonging to the Azazme and Ramadeen tribes. We also integrated groups of poor farmers "fellaheen" who, even not being Bedouins, adopt the Bedouin way of living.

CISP wide intervention meant to cover a total of 2,500 families represented by 45 muktars.

Ka'abneh tribe in Jericho and Jahaleen tribe in Jerusalem, have also suffered the negative effects of the drought of 1999, with serious consequences for the cattle.

In January 2000, a snow storm caused the lowest temperatures of the last 50 years in the region.







The strength of the wind destroyed Bedouin shelters built with zinc sheets, plastics and wood, as well as tents made with jute sacks and old carpets made with sheep and goat hair.

To alleviate the needs and to respond to the arisen emergencies, the most important support has come from humanitarian aid programs of the European Union – European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO). We must stress the relevant role played by ECHO in support of Bedouin population in Palestine.

By these programs, different emergency situations have been faced through the provision of food stuffs, gas cooker, electric generators, one tractor, one trolley and one water tank for common use, fodder for the livestock, mobile water tanks, plastic water reservoirs, distribution of water, rehabilitation material for shelters and tents.

CISP has paid special attention to the situation of Bedouin women, identifying and supporting specially vulnerable groups such as widows and abandoned women.

In all CISP interventions, the confidence and collaboration of the representatives of the groups "muktars" have been highly useful in order to gather the most accurate information about beneficiary families, locations, identification of needs, problems of all kind faced by Bedouins.

During these years working with Bedouin tribes, we have counted on the collaboration of Palestinian governmental institutions, like Orient House in Jerusalem, the Department of Refugees in Ramallah and the Ministries of Agriculture and Local Government. The Ministry of Local Government has a department in Jericho in charge of the relations with Bedouin communities.

The implementation of the projects have been carried out in partnership with two Palestinian Non-Governmental Organisations: LRC- Land Research Centre and PARC- Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees.

CISP is willing to continue its social work with Bedouin communities. We think that the severity of Bedouin problems requires a continuation of CISP support, Palestinian NGOS and governmental institutions and ECHO, specially in the current crisis situation.







CRIC activity with the Bedouins: 1997-2001

Carla Pagano – [Centro Regionale d'Intervento per la Cooperazione] *CRIC Palestine*

CRIC
CENTRO REGIONALE DI INTERVENTO PER LA COOPERAZIONE







In the aftermath of the recent reversal of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in September 2000, and the tragic consequences of the actual conflict, Bedouins in Palestine are living the most difficult historical moment. Their survival as culturally and socially distinct entities is directly connected to the availability of land in which to live. And the land is the first element of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Their survival as human beings is dramatically menaced by the poverty and the uncertainty for the future. Since the eviction from their original sites (1948 and 1967) the 90% of Bedouins live as refugees mainly in C area (70,2% of the total area assigned by Oslo Agreements to the Palestinian Territory), registered at UNRWA.

In the 1997 CRIC realised the first assessment at the Bedouin tribes' sites, semi-settled mostly in C area, in the desert of the Eastern Slopes, along the Dead Sea in the district of Bethlehem and Hebron, and in Gaza Strip in the areas of Mawasi Khan-Yunis, Rafah and in the village of Beit Lahiya. The first evaluation highlighted the necessity of interventions able to preserve Bedouins from close disappearance as cultural entities, marked by a nomad character and by a lifestyle, to which they seem to be condemned by the political situation in the region.

From 1997 to 2001 CRIC carried out four projects of humanitarian assistance, all funded by ECHO, in West Bank and in Gaza Strip. In West Bank the projects were aimed at assisting 12 Bedouin communities belonging to the Azazma, Hanajra, Jahaliyyn and Rashayda tribes located in Bethlehem and Hebron district in West Bank and 1 community of former Bedouins now settled down, the Keisan. In Gaza Strip one project was implemented in support of the tribe Bani Amer located in the village of Beit Lahiya. A further action, also funded by ECHO in the year 2000, regarding the drilling of a well and the repair of housing units for female headed households in the Bedouin community of Mawasi-Khan Yunis in the southern district of Gaza Strip, is actually frozen because of the obstructions to the project activities raised by the current political crisis, i.e. shootings by Israeli soldiers on workers and on the excavator, lack of raw materials, demolition of a wall of the well, total closure of the area of Mawasi-Khan Yunis.

In West Bank the programmes focused on the alleviation of different needs and emergencies, and provided general relief through the supply of water tanks and trolleys, water reservoirs, electric generator, tractor, fodder for livestock, materials for the rehabilitation of shelters and pens, and were carried out in co-operation with the Palestinian NGOs Land Research Centre and Palestinian Hydrology Group, and the Ministries of Agriculture and Local Government. The programmes included awareness campaigns concerning water issues and health. As regards this last matter, a wide veterinary awareness campaign has been implemented from August to December 2000 concerning health, management and breeding of the livestock in Bedouin areas.

Particular attention CRIC paid to this issue considering the general emergency situation of the Bedouin flocks suffering of mortality, abortions, diseases and malnutrition, underlined especially during 1999-2000, and its dangerous consequences on the human health since Bedouins live in close contact with their animals. Ten veterinarians of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, Health and Veterinary Services Departments of Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron, carried out the veterinary awareness campaign in co-operation with a CRIC veterinarian expatriate. The awareness campaign involved 1200 Bedouin men, women and young people in all the communities. The participation of the Bedouin women, who are the real shepherds in the community, was very satisfactory and lively.

Educational materials were produced and examples showed for a correct management of the livestock especially related to the human health, i.e. the ways to deal appropriately with sick, infectious and dead animals, and methods to keep them healthful and to optimise their productivity, also in relation to the economy of the communities and the different environments and situations in which they are living.

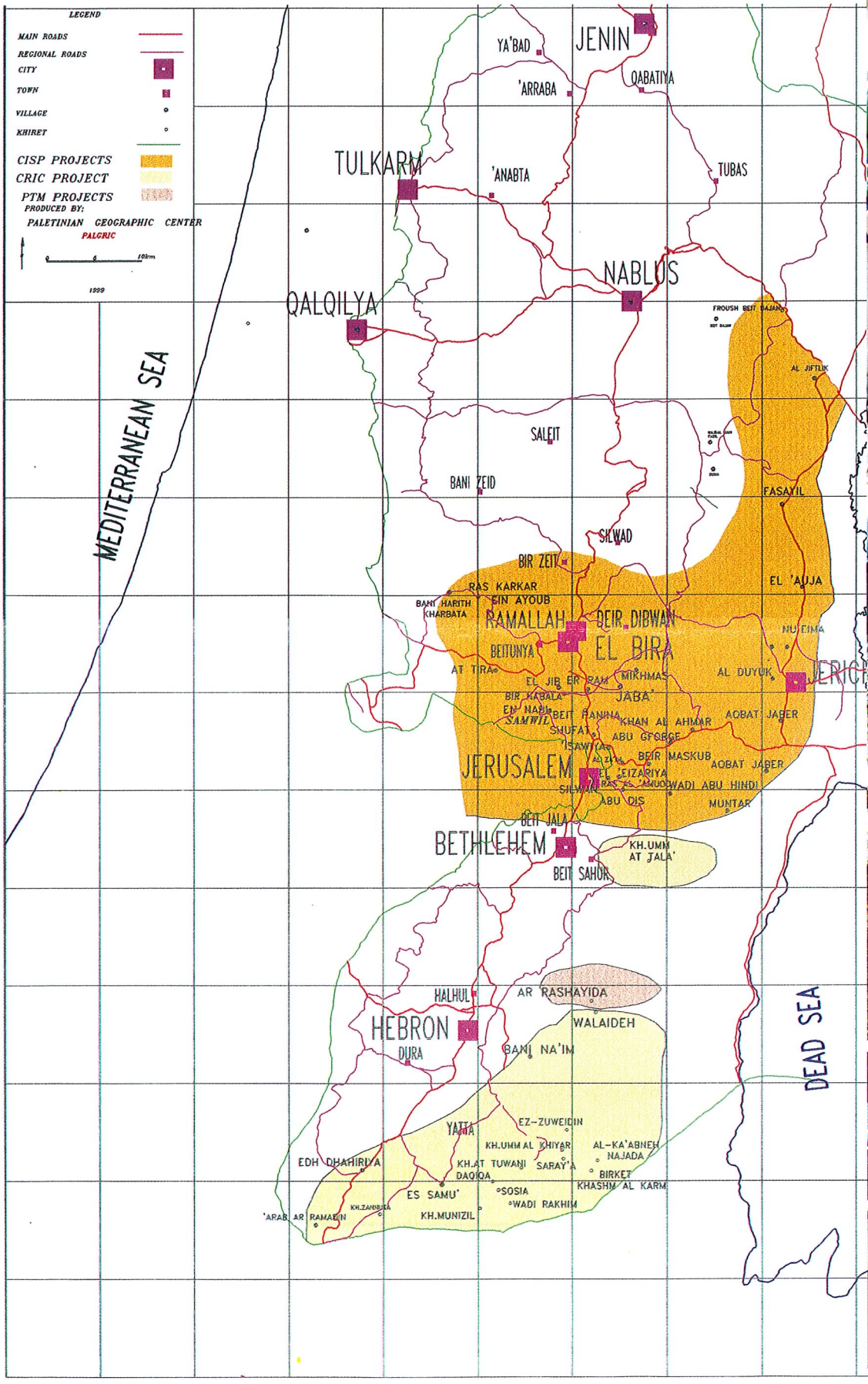
For the Bedouin community of the Bani Amer in the village of Beit Lahiya in Gaza Strip, living at a short distance from a polluted open air cesspool, the project provided the construction of a kindergarten and related facilities and a disinfection campaign, in order to allow Bedouin children to meet their basic right to the education in a safe environment. Training on educational methods was realised and directed to the mothers and the teachers at the kindergarten.

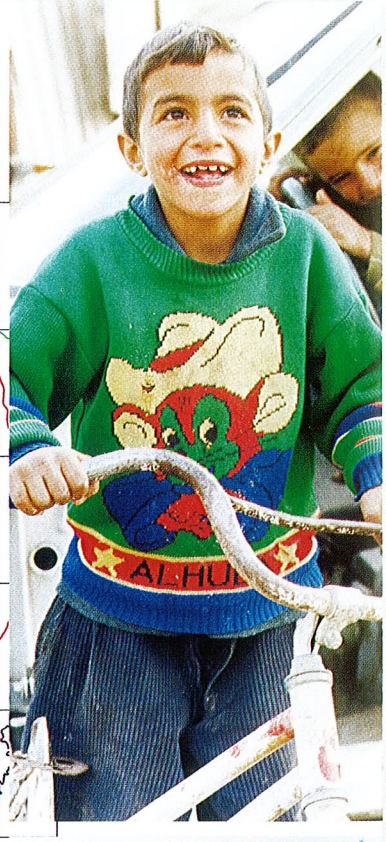


Nowadays, due to the unstable general situation, the image of the future of the region and of its cultural identities is still far to be clear. Meanwhile, even if beneficiaries of actions aimed at improving their situation, Bedouins are still living as homeless, impoverished and deprived of their right to self-determination.

For this reason it is now more than before important to continue, beside the political action for the permanent solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the humanitarian action focusing at the improvement, rehabilitation and preservation of the lifestyle and the human rights of the Palestinian Bedouins.

Map of ECHO projects in favour of Bedouins in West Bank









Settling Bedouins Arab Al Rashaideh

Javier Martin, PTM's Representative in Palestine



The project was focused in two Palestinian Bedouin communities from Bedouin Arab Al Rashaideh tribe. One of the communities is located in "C" Zone near Jericho, close to Israeli military camps and settlements. The other community is located 22 kilometres Southeast of Bethlehem, in the village Arab Al-Rashaideh on the limits of Hebron district, in "B" Zone.

The community of Jericho received eviction orders from Israeli Authority. The aim of the project has been to resettle the community of Jericho in the village Arab Al Rashaideh.

The community has been provided with 100 basic housing units. From the 100 houses, 76 have been assigned to the returnees from Jericho area and 24 houses to some families of Arab Al-Rashaideh village with severe housing needs.

The distribution of houses was the result of a general agreement between the two Bedouin communities, the Palestinian Ministry of Housing and PTM. The beneficiary families are owners of one house and a half-dunum-sized plot.

To support the definite resettlement of the Arab Al Rashaideh tribe, the rehabilitation and enlarging of the existing school has been done, in order to allocate the returnee students from Jericho. Building more classrooms not only gives capacity for more students but also a more rational distribution of pupils, according to the educational degrees.

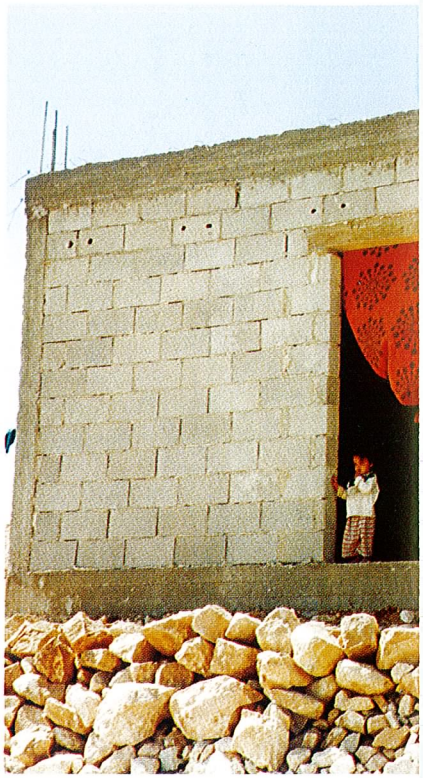
One of the main priorities of the beneficiary community is the emergency medical assistance. The already difficult health situation was expected to be increased due to the settlement of the 76 returnee families from Jericho.

An assessment about health situation of the community has been carried out; as a result of it, 749 people have received medical treatment.

A training programme and an awareness campaign about hygiene, first aid and preventive health have been implemented among women and female students. The medical team reported that the attendance to the workshops has been very encouraging, showing a great interest in acquiring knowledge.

Together with the health component, a detailed social survey of the village has been conducted. This survey has been submitted to the Department of Sociology of Bethlehem University to be used as a base for further actions such as training and awareness work inside the Bedouin community.

For the supply of a more clean and regular drinking water, the main water connection has been replaced and adapted to be connected with the well. Moreover, the community has been provided with 45 mobile water tanks. These tanks have been distributed according to the decision taken by the Rashaideh Village Council.



Veterinary assistance has been provided in order to prevent and stop high mortality rate among Bedouins herds.

Three deparasitic campaign have been carried out in collaboration with Palestinian Ministries of Agriculture and Health.

A plan for limiting the spread of the diseases as been organised. Bedouins have been trained to dispose animals carcasses appropriately and to isolate the sick animals.

This initiative can be considered as a first step of a very needed comprehensive programme of training and emergency measures to be taken in case of animal diseases.

Training in management of livestock and farming organisation has also been included.

The project has provided Arab Al Rashaideh Bedouin with the tools which allow them to live together settled in one area, being owners of their houses and plots. By this, they are able to defend their rights more strongly before the Institutions.

Bedouins Arab Al Rashaideh have been supplied with elementary services to improve the quality of life of the people for the future.



