

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND ISRAEL



In the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Oxfam's focus is on helping people affected by the Israeli occupation; from supporting olive farmers to bypassing the blockade in Gaza through technology. We are also working to build a stronger civil society, and empower communities to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.



OXFAM



Overleaf: Sair Khassab and his aunt, Fatiyah Hasseeb harvest olives in the West Bank. Photo: David Levene; Above left: Women from the Sir Co-operative, an all women co-operative, gather together to harvest their olive crop. Collectively, the women own around 1,750 olive trees. Photo: David Levene; Above centre: Abdel Kareem, 30, has switched to crabbing these days as he doesn't think he can catch enough fish to cover the costs of taking a boat out to sea. With the sewage system in Gaza nearing collapse, everyday somewhere between 60 to 80 million litres of waste water runs straight into the sea. Photo: David Levene; Above right: Mohammed al Hawajiri, one of a collective of artists at Eltiqa Gallery in Gaza, struggles to make a living under the blockade. Photo: Simon Rawles.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, Oxfam is supporting people affected by the occupation.

From grove to market

Farmers living under the occupation are often prevented from accessing their land, water and markets, or building agricultural infrastructure. Oxfam works with 80 agricultural groups and olive growing co-operatives throughout the West Bank to improve the quality and marketing of their olive oil and obtain Fairtrade accreditation. We also support women's organisations to produce olive soap as well as market honey and specialty foods such as tapenade.

"THE CO-OPERATIVE BENEFITS US ALL. I'M NOT ALONE. WE ALL KNOW EACH OTHER AND HELP EACH OTHER, NOT JUST AT HARVEST TIME BUT IN OUR DAILY LIVES." INTESAR ZAAROR, HEAD OF THE SIR CO-OPERATIVE.

Supporting Israeli and Palestinian civil society

Oxfam works closely with Palestinian and Israeli civil society groups. Oxfam's partners in Israel focus on promoting a just and sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and improving human rights. In Israel, our partners work to increase awareness and understanding of the conflict's impact.

Gaza's young tech entrepreneurs

Restrictions on travel and trade in and out of Gaza make life extremely difficult for businesses. But the emerging technology sector offers a way to work across borders virtually. Oxfam and partners are providing technical assistance as well as small startup loans to more than a hundred online businesses throughout Gaza, and connecting young ICT graduates with global markets and investors.

Helping Gaza's dairy farmers

The blockade of Gaza has left the economy in crisis and unemployment extremely high. Oxfam is providing technical assistance and training to around 350 dairy producers and food

producers so that they can meet local demand. Farmers can now sell their milk at a fair price, dairy farmers are able to employ more people, and women have been empowered to start their own businesses.

"MY PROFITS ARE ALREADY UP 50%. I USED TO HAVE TWO EMPLOYEES AND NOW I HAVE NINE. THE EXPANSION OF THE BUSINESS ISN'T JUST HELPING ME, BUT EVERYONE AROUND ME TOO."
JAMIL ABU EITA, A DAIRY PRODUCER FROM GAZA.

Supporting the local market and ensuring people have enough food

Due to high levels of poverty in Gaza, we also run a food voucher programme, helping people to meet their immediate food needs. People spend the vouchers in local shops and buy produce from the dairy farmers we work with, contributing to the local economy and giving people a choice of what to buy.

Improving access to safe water

The blockade has led to a breakdown of water and sanitation services in Gaza partly due to restrictions on materials to repair damaged systems. Up to 90% of Gaza's water is contaminated and the only water source is predicted to become unusable by 2016. Oxfam provides 8,500 people with water vouchers, guaranteeing access to clean drinking water, and works with private vendors and regulators to improve water quality.

Empowering communities to speak out

Oxfam is supporting communities across the West Bank and Gaza to form committees to raise their voices to local government and call for changes in their lives. Oxfam is also working to strengthen civil society in Gaza and encouraging vulnerable people to voice their rights. We also work to ensure that decision-makers are aware of the impact of the occupation and protracted blockade on the lives of Palestinians.