



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 14 June 2022
(OR. en)

9943/22

COHAFA 56
DEVGEN 113
AGRI 238
MAMA 85
RELEX 751
INTER-REP 75

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 3 June 2022
To: Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject: The humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
- presentation by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees

Following the COHAFA meeting of 3 June, delegations will find in Annex presentation made by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

¹ UAWC's identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 732766146739-60.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)

Humanitarian Aid and
Food Working Group
(COHAFA)



June 2022

Page 2

UAWC

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) is an independent local Palestinian civil society organization, which has no religious, political, or sectarian affiliation. Equality and justice are basic values of our work that is guided by human rights and international law.

UAWC
إتحاد لجان العمل الزراعي

UAWC believes in:

- Justice and equality
- Poverty eradication
- Ending all forms of discrimination
- Equal opportunities
- Empowering youth and women and giving them an essential role
- Openness to other cultures
- Compliance with international humanitarian law
- Defending human rights everywhere
- Protecting children's rights
- Commitment to international conventions



UAWC's Objectives

The First Objective

Enhancing the steadfastness and sustainability of livelihoods for small farmers

The Second Objective

Protecting and defending farmers' national and democratic rights.

The Third Objective

Strengthening sovereignty over natural resources and their compatibility with climate changes



Israeli Designation

Page 5

On October 19th 2021, the “Israeli Minister of Defense”, Gantz, designated six leading Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations; apart from UAWC, these organizations are: Addameer, Al-Haq, Bisan Center, DCI-Palestine and UPWC.

UAWC supports thousands of Palestinian farmers and their families, mainly in “Area C” of the Occupied West Bank, where Israel’s illegal settlements are located. Our vital work to consolidate the Palestinian presence in “Area C” is the reason why we have been attacked for many years. Israel’s recent designation is the culmination of these attacks.



Israeli Designation

Page 6

Since the designations were announced, we have received countless messages of support. We are most grateful for these expressions of solidarity with UAWC and look forward to continuing the relationships with our governmental and civil society partners in Palestine and abroad.

We call on the international community, on Europe, to reject all designations and to mobilize effective pressure on Israel to revoke them. Apart from moral considerations, such pressure serves the interests of anyone committed to human rights and to a sustainable solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on two states.

Challenges facing UAWC after the designation:



- 01** Dealing with the significant decline in funding, which impeded the provision of services to farmers.
- 02** Loss of a large number of key expert staff.
- 03** Fear of Israeli persecution, especially by local and foreign employees, farmers, and volunteers, as well as by donors.

What did UAWC do to deal with this aggression?



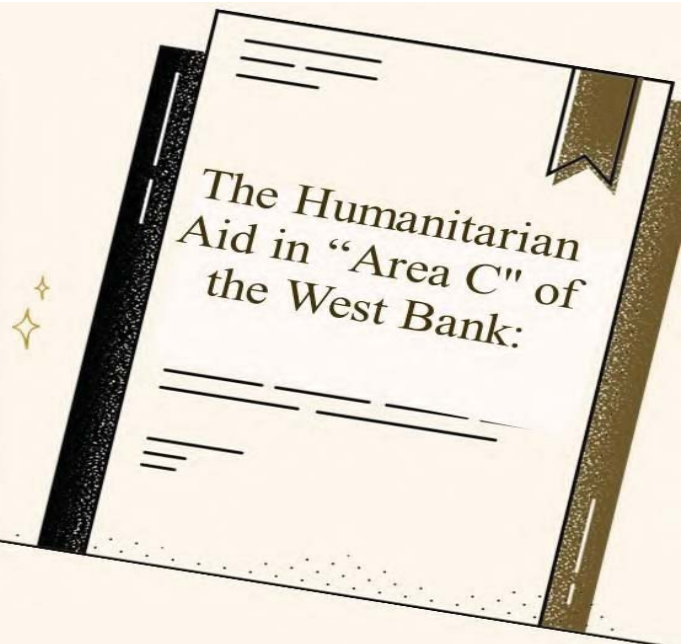
- 01** Run, in partnership with many organizations, an international advocacy campaign to pressure Israel to reconsider its decision.
- 02** A communication and discussion campaign with many donors, including government donors, to continue funding and supporting UAWC and the rest of the organizations.
- 03** UAWC's submitted an appeal to the Israeli court against the decision, and we are now in the process of filing a lawsuit.
- 04** Registering a new organization to work temporarily as an alternative to the union in implementing projects and directly supporting farmers.

What is required from the international community?



- 01** Quick and clear action to protect human rights defenders and workers in these organizations from the threat of Israeli targeting.
- 02** A clear and strong declaration of rejection to the Israeli decisions due to the lack of evidence /proofs to confirm their allegations.
- 03** Maintaining funding for the designated organizations and not allowing their work to be undermined.
- 04** Holding Israel accountable for its crimes against, its occupation and killing of thousands of Palestinians.

The Israeli occupation almost completely prevents the Palestinians from accessing their natural resources in “Area C”, which according to the World Bank and many other studies, would add about \$4 billion to the Palestinian national income



HRP FUNDING BY YEAR



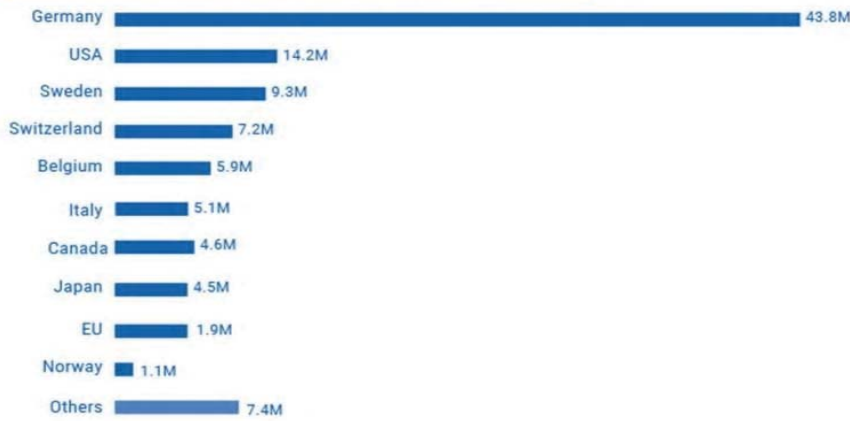
Ref. HRP

HRP FUNDING BY CLUSTER | 16 MAY 2022



Ref. HRP

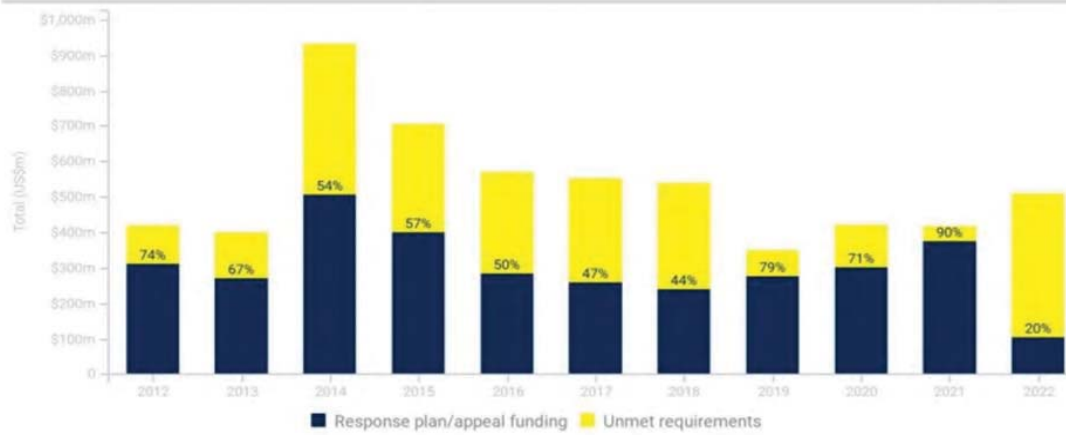
HRP FUNDING BY DONOR | 16 MAY 2022



Ref. HRP

Trends in response plan/appeal requirements

16-May-2022



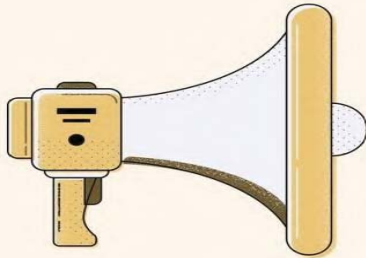
Ref. HRP

Recommendations

Resume funding quickly to prevent further deterioration of the Palestinian humanitarian situation

Rejection of the Israeli designation decision and any targeting of Palestinian civil society organizations

Increasing pressure on European governments to prevent Israel from continuing its aggression against Palestinian human rights defenders



Conclusion

The prosecution of Palestinian civil society organizations and Palestinian human rights defenders is a clear political issue that aims to undermine their work and their ability to expose the occupation.

THANK YOU!

For inquiries and partnerships, reach us at:

+(972)599234662

info@uawc-pal.org

WWW.UAWC-PAL.ORG