

Title	<b>Strengthening the involvement of the local society in environmental and agriculture activities in Jalboun surface catchment</b>
<b>About Project</b>	<p>The idea of the project comes from the need for House of Water and Environment (HWE) to strengthen the scientific and professional cooperation with the Palestinian Government to open the door for more opportunities to develop a project that helps establish a vision and a plan for promising outputs in the fields of environment, agriculture and economy in one of the most important surface catchments in Palestine which is the Jalboun Catchment. Through this project, HWE is hoping to achieve the following with regards to Jalboun Catchment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the natural greenery coverage and prevent the deterioration of the agricultural lands from drifting and desertification.</li> <li>2. Develop a plan for agricultural and environmental improvements in Jalboun Catchment through using rainwater harvesting methods.</li> <li>3. Encourage traditional low cost of rainwater harvesting methods such as ponds and earth dams.</li> <li>4. Encourage in-between agriculture by using medical plants to increase the income of the local families.</li> </ol> <p>Working on projects like this will improve the environment and agricultural sustainability and the biodiversity activities so that the prevention of the deterioration of the agricultural lands from drifting and desertification will be enhanced. In addition to that, the proposed activities of the project will increase the capabilities of the local society to provide more work opportunities especially for women to fight poverty since women will be given the chance to participate in the decision-making process and thus support efficient and good governance in the Palestinian society when transparency is employed in all governmental bodies.</p> <p>Jalboun surface catchment is considered one of the most important catchments in Palestine with a surface area of 160 km<sup>2</sup>. The catchment extends from Jalboun area in Jenin to the Jordan River.</p> <p>The Jalboun catchment suffers from water scarcity because the documents of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) illustrate that each citizen in the catchment uses almost half of the water quantity determined by the international standards of the World Health Organization. The MoA estimates that the water needs of the population of Jalboun Catchment is about 10 Mcm/yr and about 100,000 donum are suitable for agriculture. These agricultural lands need 80 Mcm/yr for irrigation. This means that the catchment needs 90 Mcm/yr for its population and agricultural lands. While groundwater wells in the catchment can provide only 4 Mcm/yr which means that 86 Mcm/yr is the water shortage in the catchment which is too much of shortage.</p> <p>Records show that wadi runoffs in the catchment may be approximated at 14 MCM/yr. This amount of water is not utilized. MoA records say that 4 Mcm/yr can be utilized by several methods of rainwater harvesting. The harvested rainwater can be used to irrigate local crops and for greenery purposes.</p> <p>This project will illustrate that rainwater harvesting is useful and strategic for the Jalboun catchment.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage farmers to implement low-cost water harvesting in suitable agricultural land.</li> <li>2. Sustain and increase agricultural productivity by increasing green areas, increasing soil fertility, conserving plant biodiversity and preventing desertification.</li> <li>3. Raising the awareness of the local community, especially the farmers, about the importance of water harvesting and the techniques used.</li> </ol>