



\* The colored countries constitute all the locations of environmental projects in our mapping, with the higher intensity of the color indicating the bigger number of projects.

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# MAPPING ABRAHAMIC FAITH-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST-NORTH AFRICA REGION



FAITH FOR EARTH



# Background



## ❖ Faith for Earth Initiative

The mission of the Faith for Earth Initiative, launched by **UNEP** in 2017, is to strategically engage and partner with faith-based organizations to collectively achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) and fulfill the objectives of the 2030 Agenda](#). Faith for Earth has **three main goals**: to inspire and empower faith organizations and their leaders to advocate for protecting the environment, to green faith-based organizations' investments and assets to support the implementation of SDGs, and to provide access to knowledge and networks to enable faith leaders to effectively communicate with decision-makers and the public on environmental issues.

## ❖ The UConn Abrahamic Programs

This initiative developed by **University of Connecticut Global Affairs** aims at promoting academic collaboration within **Abrahamic community in the Middle East/North Africa region**. The three Abrahamic traditions (**Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**) include nearly half of the world's population. Knowing that they all emerged in the Middle East, believe in one same God, descend from the same prophet, Abraham, and emphasize the value of knowledge and reason, the initiative seeks to build on this common heritage. Additionally, its acknowledgment that the three monotheistic faiths strongly drive cultural traditions, individual values and social behaviors lead it to hope that intellectual cross-border relationships could contribute to peacebuilding in that conflictual region.



# Background



## ❖ The *Abrahamic Traditions and Environmental Change* workshop

Coordinated by **UConn Abrahamic programs**, the workshop, that was attended by the **Faith for Earth Director**, was co-sponsored by **Al Alkawayn University, Morocco**, and the **Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University**, on June 23-26, 2019. One of the main tasks of this workshop was to explore how the Abrahamic traditions impact the ways in which humans perceive and interact with nature and the potential to translate those perceptions and interactions into positive social and ecological actions. The participants assumed that common ethical and moral values instilled by the Abrahamic faiths can help moving societies towards sustainability while contributing to peace building through multicultural dialogue and common commitment. The workshop resulted in a long-term consortium project, willing to offer network and resources to the members who wish to collaborate on the issue of Abrahamic faiths and environment. Among the workshop proceedings, participants agreed to deliver a **mapping of environmental change mitigation in MENA region**. Faith for Earth, as a member of this consortium, offered to initiate the mapping project. The collected information is intended to feed **an interactive map** (developed by Rowan University) while connecting with and mobilizing faith-based organizations.

# Selection Criteria Faith-Based Organizations

- “*Legally registered international faith-based development and humanitarian NGOs, Religious leaders, religious institutions such as Mosques, Churches and their affiliated NGOs; and independent local community entities inspired by faith principles.*” (UN Task Force on Religion and Development definition)
- 3 Abrahamic traditions: Judaic, Islamic, Christian - and their religious branches.
- Organizations funding and/or implementing projects in the MENA region = local/grassroot and worldwide organizations
- **Cluster 1:** non-governmental organizations that explicitly address environmental issues through the lens of religion, find inspiration for environmental action in the reflection on sacred texts, and use their religion for community outreach.
- **Cluster 2:** non-governmental humanitarian or development organizations that explicitly mention religious values, regardless of the extent to which the faith of these values orientates/underlies the target communities or means of actions.
- **Cluster 3:** non-faith-based organizations that engage with faith-based organizations or communities in the implementation or funding of their work.

**W. Suhs Cleveland, W. Bielefeld, “Defining Faith-Based Organizations and Understanding Them Through Research”, *Non-profit and voluntary sector quarterly*, vol. 42 issue: 3, page(s): 442-467 (2013)**

What is a “Faith-Based” Organization? Typologies of FBOs:

“The various typologies depend mainly on three major assessment categories: organizational control, expression of religion, and program implementation.

- 1) Organizational control is examined through funding resources, power exercised within the organization, and decision-making processes.
- 2) Expression of religion is examined through the self-identity of the organization, religiosity of participants, and definition of outcome measures.
- 3) Program implementation is examined through the selection of services provided, the integration of religious elements in service delivery, and the voluntary or mandatory participation in specific religious activities.”

# Selection Criteria Projects

- **Geographical range:** Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen.
  - **Temporal range:** projects active in 2019
- 
- **Cluster 1:** initiatives whose main explicit objective is to combat environmental change (water scarcity, biological diversity loss, ecosystem degradation, human-induced climate change).
  - **Cluster 2:** initiatives that explicitly strive to promote resilient livelihoods in the face of climate/environmental change effects (mitigation or adaptation).
  - **Cluster 3:** development projects that explicitly entail efforts to ensure their environmental sustainability/viability in the long term

# Results

- Total number of projects considered: 68 projects

Islam	Christianity	Judaism	Interfaith
28	23	10	7

- Communications with 56 of them
- 15 projects (out of 68) sum up to nearly 52 million USD
- 13 countries
- 123 funding/implementing organizations
- Including 47 FBOs and 2 interfaith organizations

Water scarcity	Sustainable agriculture	Environmental awareness	Renewable energy	Climate change	Biodiversity conservation	Carbon emissions	
32	20	20	9	8	7	7	
Land restoration	Pollution	Waste management	Women empowerment	Natural resources management	Peace building	Disaster Risk Reduction	Ecotourism
6	6	5	3	2	2	1	1

## Lutheran World Federation

**Project:** WASH in Iraq

**Country:** Iraq

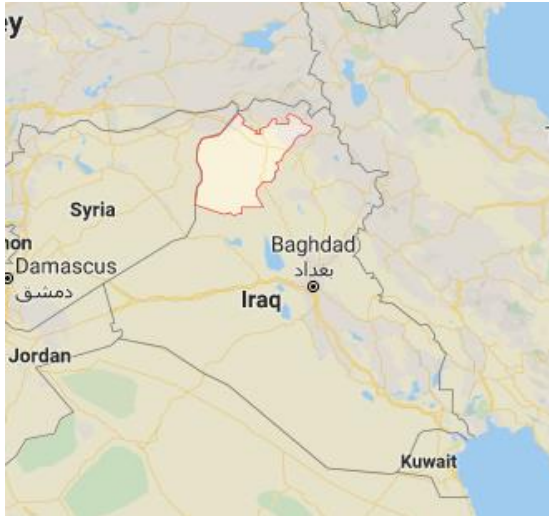
**Duration:** 2019-2020 (1 year)

**Budget:** 250.000 USD

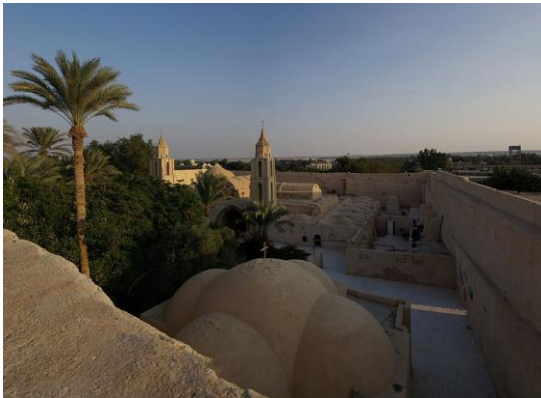
**Objective:** Populations targeted include community members who remained and survived the ISIS occupation, IDPs who fled but are now returning to their homes and recently displaced IDPs from Mosul. In line with the LWF World Service overall strategy 2018 – 2022, LWF Iraq's programming is focused on building resilience of IDPs, host communities and returnees. Right now we are indeed implementing a project in an area where availability of water is limited, reason why inhabitants of the area need to travel to other places in order to work, since they cannot work on agriculture due to water scarcity.

### **Activities:**

- Conduct assessments together with the Directorate of Underground Water for example, to choose best locations to increase the water availability for agricultural and drinking purposes.
- For the future stages, consider how to make these intervention more sustainable, for example with the creation of water committees, who receive capacity to repair possible damages, but also to include green energy mechanisms, such as solar panels to run the pumps, instead of using the generators based on fossil fuels.
- Water conservation and hygiene promotion campaigns, evaluated by KAP surveys at the beginning and end of the intervention
- Garbage collection and cleaning campaigns to ensure that water sources are not contaminated and also including messages regarding usage of plastic and basic recycling notions.



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Copy right: The Coptic Orthodox Church Centre UK



## The Coptic Orthodox Church

**Project:** [The Ancient Monastery of Saint Pishoy – Green Pilgrim Site](#)

**Country:** Egypt

**Duration:** ongoing

### **Objective:**

The monastery is a model and a beacon through its programme of self-sufficiency and environmental sustainability, a living and working example for similar desert communities all over the world to follow. It is one of the principal monasteries of Wadi-El-Natroun and has five Churches within its' boundaries.

The monastery has a full working programme of sustainability, both in its' way of life and its' practices, including:

### **Activities:**

- Solar energy produced through the use of solar panels
- Reclamation of hundreds of acres of desert wilderness over the years for planting trees that act as wind breakers and stop soil erosion.
- Self sufficiency in water requirements using both salt-water irrigation wells and sweet-water drinking wells.
- Organic farming of reclaimed lands, leading to a high level of self sufficiency for feeding the monks and labourers, and the monastery's many thousands of visitors.
- Organic fish farming.
- A continuous process of refuse sorting and recycling.



## Catholic Relief Services (consortium lead)

**Project:** [Taadoud II: Transition to Development](#)

**Country:** Sudan

**Duration:** 2017-2022

**Budget:** 31 million USD

**Sponsor:** UK Department for International Development (DFID)

**Implementing Partners:** Catholic Organization for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Oxfam America, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), World Vision International

**Operational Research Partner:** Tufts University's Feinstein International Center

**Objective:** Taadoud II targets 177,583 conflict-affected households in all five states of Sudan's Darfur region. Continuing the successful implementation of Taadoud I (2014 - 2017), the project aims to build the resilience of returnee and vulnerable communities through equitable governance and sustainable access to natural resources, strengthened household livelihoods and improved household nutritional status.

### Activities:

- Integrated natural resource management (NRM) is at the core of Taadoud II. Together with Taadoud II national NGO partners and local line ministries, community action groups (CAGs) at the community level and catchment committees (comprised of several communities sharing the same resources) groups undertake consultative and participatory assessments of their shared natural resources to identify their priorities and concerns.
- After these collaborations, participants receive capacity building training to create plans to implement and manage interventions that improve the productivity of key natural resources, such as water, forests, soil, and pastureland.
- Hydrogeological studies conducted by Acacia Water consultancy group in several areas provide technical guidance on what activities are most feasible and appropriate for the different locations – contributing to our overall Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach.
- In our second year of implementation, many of the CAGs and catchment committees are now implementing their plans: constructing sand dams, weirs, sub-surface dams, and check dams; rehabilitating or building community tree nurseries and contributing to reforestation efforts; rehabilitating pastureland and demarcating animal migration routes; etc.
- These 'hard' activities are complemented by initiatives aimed to build the capacity of the CAGs, catchment committees, and NRM steering committees at the locality and state levels to improve governance of natural resources to ensure equitable and sustainable access for *all* users.
- Groups also receive training in community-based early warning systems to bridge links with government structures that minimize risk of natural and man-made hazards.
- The participative approach creates linkages among users as well as with government line ministries, and ensures that all users have ownership of the design and the implementation of the intervention.



Copy right: Catholic Relief Services



## **Norwegian Church Aid** **(implementing partner with 4 other NGOs)**

**Project:** Climate Smart Economic Empowerment Programme

**Country:** Sudan

**Duration:** 2020-2024

**Budget:** 1.3 million USD/year

**Donors:** DFID, Food for Peace, NORAD, Church of Sweden, SHF

**Objective:** NCA work in Darfur, especially in agriculture and to an extent in WASH, is affected by rain variability: NCA therefore, supports communities to engage in climate smart farming as well as other climate adaptive measures. Under the Natural Resources Management Component of its work, NCA supports communities towards sustainable use of natural resources.

### **Activities:**

- bring communities with shared natural resources together under community catchment area groups to undertake joint assessments of their shared resources as well as vulnerability assessments.
- training and support for the communities to develop community action plans to minimise man-made and natural hazards.
- Establishment of early warning systems



Copyright: NCA



Photo from: <https://www.danchurchaid.org/where-we-work/Palestine>, DCA Palestine

## Danish Church Aid

(implementing partner with NCA and a local NGO- EJ-YMCA)

**Project:** Resilient communities - economic empowerment

**Country:** Palestine

**Duration:** 2017-ongoing

**Budget:** 70,000 to 75,000 annually

**Objective:** introducing alternative agricultural practices that are eco-friendly, using Permaculture principles, to respond to environmental risks of conventional agriculture (air and water pollution, human health, soil depletion) while meeting the rising market demand in Palestine, for fresh products that are free from chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Create income generating opportunities, preserve resources, promote food security, improve self-sufficiency at household level, and create socially and environmentally responsible communities.

### **Activities:**

- Apply the value chain approach at the Vocational Training Center
- Sustainable agriculture course
- University outreach course
- School outreach course
- Innovation training, innovation competition for best vocational business ideas
- Capacity building in the field



## **Danish Church Aid** **(implementing partner with MA'AN Development Center)**

**Project:** Urban Gardening project

**Country:** Palestine

**Duration:** 2017-ongoing

**Budget:** 100,000 annually

**Objective:** The urban gardening intervention supports vulnerable poor families who are unable to meet their needs of healthy food, to access diverse dietary needs by promoting the urban gardening approaches and building the capacity of the food insecure families to apply low cost urban gardening models.

### **Activities:**

- Establish 8 demonstration sites for urban gardening, designed by agronomists before implementation with the best utilization of available spaces by adopting innovative designs of the unit components
- Conduct awareness and sensitizations sessions on urban gardening
- Establish urban gardening committees (for demonstration sites inside schools/family centers) for the overall management of the demonstration units including the sustainable management of water for UG use.



Photo from: <https://www.danchurchaid.org/where-we-work/palestine/promotion-of-urban-gardening-in-gaza>, DCA Palestine

## EpiscoCare

**Project:** Environment Programme

**Country:** Egypt

**Partners:** Egyptian private companies, international organizations

**Objective:** Episcopcare Environment programme addresses some of the environmental challenges of the poor and marginalized in the target communities. The limited resources is a challenge in a rapidly increasing population. Due to the poverty, people are living in slum areas lacking clean water and sewage disposal systems. Census data from the Ministry of Housing estimates that 40-70% of residents of Greater Cairo live in densely populated, unplanned neighborhoods without basic infrastructure or services.

### **Activities:**

- programming that seeks to promote public health as well as stewardship of vital natural resources
- Improving the internal environment of homes and communities through the renovation of houses, roofs, bathrooms and floors as well as street cleaning and planting campaigns
- Offering seminars on how to preserve the environment and take care of communal areas
- Organizing street cleaning and tree-planting campaigns in cooperation with local governmental and non-governmental organizations



Copyright: EpiscoCare



Photo from : <https://en.heks.ch/project-explorer/iraq-emergency-aid>, HEKS/EPER

## HEKS/EPER

**Project:** Iraq, Emergency Aid

**Country:** Iraq

**Objective:** support displaced people and local Kurdish smallholder families in sustainably improving their food security. In developing sustainable agricultural undertakings, the farming expertise of the migrants and the resources of the local people can be combined to great advantage. The project targets 450 local Kurdish smallholder families (2,700 people) in 15 village communities, as well as displaced persons from Central and Southern Iraq living in project villages and able to support themselves by utilizing their agricultural expertise.

### **Activities:**

- irrigation projects: people are building new water reservoirs, repairing existing irrigation canals
- product diversification: people are receiving seeds and seedlings and are creating communal gardens for the growing of seedlings
- practice-oriented knowledge transfer: people are acquiring knowledge about new agricultural production methods
- Vegetable cultivation is being stepped up using the most natural possible methods and marketing is being optimized, people are also engaging in livestock rearing to produce meat and milk products



Secours  
Catholique  
Caritas France

### Caritas Jerusalem ; Caritas International Belgium

**Project:** Sustainable agricultural economy in Palestine

**Country:** Palestine

**Duration:** 2018-2020 (3 years)

**Sponsor:** Secours Catholique-Caritas France

**Objective:** This project aims to develop agro-ecology and agro-tourism in three municipalities in the northern West Bank, by adopting an integrated approach. The sustainable model promotes diversified agricultural strategies, enhances and preserves natural resources, local identities, traditions and legacies.

#### **Activities:**

- direct support to promoters of agricultural and agro-tourism projects through subsidies and training and support for tourism policy in these municipalities, through the exchange of experiences
- support for cultural events
- financing of development projects for the benefit of the local population and visitors



Copyright: Caritas Jerusalem



### ADEL

**Project:** [Creation of a fair trade and agro-ecological products store in Ramallah](#)

**Country:** Palestine

**Duration:** 2019-2020 (1 year)

**Sponsor:** Secours Catholique-Caritas France

**Objective:** This project aims to support the opening of an agro-ecological store in Ramallah that can provide a sustainable outlet for small farmers in the West Bank and women's organic food cooperatives. ADEL is the only Palestinian association to market agro-ecological products for a local market.

- Supporting the development of agro-ecology and strengthening food security, solidarity economy and sustainable development in Palestine
- Contribute to the preservation of Palestine's natural ecosystem

#### **Activities:**

- training new producers to agro-ecology
- campaigns for a solidarity economy, where consumers and producers are directly linked.

**Project:** [ADEL association](#)

**Country:** Palestine

**Duration:** 2013-ongoing

**Sponsor:** CCFDT – Terre Solidaire



**Objective:** The main objective of ADEL is to support producers and farmers in Palestine.

It is based on the principles of fair trade and agro-ecology (reduction of water use, no fertilizers or pesticides) in order to promote the construction of respectful relations between consumers and producers. The association's objective is:

- to develop a Palestinian national market for farmers' productions and cooperatives, based on fair trade and the principles of a fair price for producers and consumers;
- to improve the economic situation of Palestinian producer families by creating employment opportunities and promoting local and non-conservative products.



Photo from: <https://ccfd-terresolidaire.org/nos-publications/fdm/2017/299-juin/en-cisjordanie-l-5848>,  
CCFD-TERRE Solidaire



## CCFD-Terre Solidaire (sponsor)

**Project:** [Save the Tigris and Iraqi Marshes Campaign](#)

**Country:** Iraq

**Duration:** 2012-ongoing

**Budget:** ?

**Implementing organization :** Humat Dijla

**Objective:** A civil society advocacy campaign that was started in March 2012 by a coalition of Iraqi and international non-governmental organizations to save the World Heritage on the Tigris River from the impacts of dams and other destructive megaprojects. The campaign believes a paradigm shift is necessary: instead of being a source of rivalry, water should be force for peace and cooperation between all the countries and peoples of the Tigris-Euphrates basin.

### **Activities:**

- Advocacy for safe access to water for all the people of Iraq, and policies that secure the sustainable and equitable use of water for all those who live in the Mesopotamian region and for the coming generations. Humat Dijla advocacy and awareness activities involve all relevant actors: local communities, civil society organizations, media, authorities, academics, research centres and others.
- Provide a network where civil society organizations from Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria and international civil society organizations can mobilize together, express their solidarity and exchange knowledge and experiences to work on our objectives together.



Photo from: <https://ccfd-teresolidaire.org/nos-publications/fdm/2019/309-juin-2019/irak-les-jeunes-se-6426>, by Roberta Valario / CCFD-TERRE Solidaire

## CCFD-Terre Solidaire (sponsor)

**Project:** TAPSA Programme (Transition towards a small-farming agroecology at the service of food sovereignty)

**Country:** Egypt, Lebanon

**Duration:** 2018-2022 (4 years)

**Budget:** 12 million € (whole programme: 16 countries)

**Sponsors:** French Development Agency, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Manos Unidas

**Implementing partner:** ADIM (Minia Association of Integrated Development), MADA

**Objective:** to strengthen civil society actors involved in peasant agro-ecology, in 16 countries.

### Activities:

- Support agro-ecological initiatives and experiments concerning:
  - the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products
  - the concerted management of territories and their resources
  - the design and defence of appropriate regulations and public policies. This is the specificity of peasant agro-ecology supported by the TAPSA programme, which also aims to make farmers capable of making their demands and influencing public policies.
- Strengthen relations between the actors of peasant agro-ecology on the 5 continents. The objective is for them to know each other, learn from each other and coordinate by feeding each other their experiences. The organizations involved in the TAPSA programme face similar problems and have a lot to contribute.
- Evaluate the results and effects of ecological transition from a lifelong learning perspective. This is a guarantee of long-term effectiveness and a moral requirement both for CCFD-Terre Solidaire donors and for the partner organizations of the programme.



Photo from: <https://ccfd-terresolidaire.org/projets/projets-transnationaux/un-programme-mondial-de>, CCFD-TERRE Solidaire

## CCFD-Terre Solidaire (sponsor)

**Partner:** [MADA Association](#)

**Country:** Lebanon

**Mission:** To develop sustainable links between local communities and their natural environment in meeting their daily needs. To this end, the approach of this intermediary organization based in Beirut is to stimulate the organization of a network of associations and cooperatives in its main intervention region, North Lebanon. One of the objectives of MADA is rural development integrated with the protection of the environment and natural resources (water, vegetation, natural soil fertility, etc.).

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**Partner:** [Buzuruna Juzuruna Association](#)

**Country:** Lebanon

**Mission:** To “promote sustainable agriculture in Lebanon through the transmission of knowledge and means of production.” Since 2015, the Buzuruna Juzuruna network has been developing various agricultural projects aimed at "promoting sustainable agricultural techniques and know-how in Lebanon, through short or long training courses on the farm-school, awareness sessions, exchange of practices, etc."

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**Partner:** [Terre et Humanisme Maroc](#)

**Country:** Morocco

**Mission:** Our mission is to transmit agroecology to Morocco, as a natural agricultural practice and as a global ethic, for an ecologically sustainable, socially responsible and economically viable future.

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**Partner:** [Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux](#)

**Country:** Tunisia

**Mission:** The FTDES works on the following themes: labor law, women's rights, environmental rights and migrants' rights. It seeks to influence public debate on the question of the desired development model for Tunisia. Thanks to its Tunisian Social Observatory and its local sections throughout the country (including 2 listening and orientation centers for women in Kairouan and Monastir), it promotes new initiatives and alternatives.

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**Partner:** [OSAE - Food sovereignty and environment observatory](#)

**Country:** Tunisia

**Mission:** Research, Information, Awareness-raising, advocacy and training on the various issues related to OSAE's fields of activity (Food Sovereignty, Agricultural and Food Policies, Food, Malnutrition and Undernutrition, Environment, Rurality, Biodiversity, Environmental and Social Justice, Sustainable development...) to citizens, civil society, youth, students, researchers and decision-makers.

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**Partner:** [Nomad08](#)

**Country:** Tunisia

**Mission:** defend and promote economic, social, cultural and environmental rights through the formulation of alternative and free technological solutions. Contribute to bring the issue of water into the public debate in Tunisia and build a warning system when a water-related outage or incident is underway.



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Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

## Morocco's Ministry of Habous and Islamic Affairs and Moroccan mosques (national partner)

**Project:** Creating jobs by improving energy efficiency (EE) and using renewable energies (RE) in mosque

**Country:** Morocco

**Duration:** 2015 to 2021

**Budget:** 8.5 million €

**Implementing organization:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**Objective:** the Moroccan Government is seeking to encourage wider use of energy-efficient technologies.

### **Activities:**

- Cutting the energy consumption of mosques and other buildings. To achieve this, building managers are receiving support in introducing energy management systems and using them efficiently.
- Raising awareness among the Moroccan population by training multipliers, such as imams and mouchidat (female clerics), and through media campaigns demonstrating the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy to the population
- Advising companies on improving their competitiveness and tapping into new market segments. New jobs are created especially in the following work areas: in energy auditing of buildings, in installing new solar plants, and in the marketing of energy services.



Copyright: Islamic Relief Worldwide



**Islamic Relief**  
Worldwide

## Islamic Relief

**Project:** Supporting the vulnerable IDPs community with required Wash services.

**Country:** Syria

**Duration:** 2019

**Budget:** 460,900 USD

**Donor:** UNOCHA

**Objective:** IR Syria aims at targeting three camps in Azaz District in Aleppo Governorate. 41672 people will benefit from improved access to water and sanitation facilities including water trucking, water testing and chlorination, latrines rehabilitation, solid waste management.

### **Activities:**

- All the solid waste collected daily from the camps is properly disposed off (buried) in nonresidential areas.
- Water trucking is conducted through the contractors but IR ensure that the contractors are using existing water wells and other sources, without unnecessarily digging new wells that can lead to disturbance of water table.

## Islamic Relief



Islamic Relief  
Worldwide

**Project:** Agriculture based livelihood support for vulnerable families

**Country:** Syria

**Duration:** 2019-2020 (1 year)

**Budget:** 352,814 USD

**Donor:** UNOCHA

**Objective:** The project seeks to improve the livelihood situation of 980 households (4,838 individuals) through livestock and agricultural support in Jebel Saman and Idleb Districts of Aleppo and Idleb Governorates. The project considers the environmental protection and contamination control, and the mitigation of environmental risks.

### **Activities:**

- Use minimum chemical treatments for the crop and accurate application of fertilizers
- Use appropriate planning and preventive techniques to ensure there is less reliance on the chemical treatment: careful site selection to avoid potential or previous problems thereby enhancing crop health and cleanliness, promoting crop health by ensuring effective nutrient availability through soil analysis and utilizing available irrigation to promote healthy growth.

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**Project:** Provision of critical support to health care system.

**Country:** Syria

**Duration:** 2019-2020 (1 year)

**Budget:** 1,565,217\$

**Donor:** SIDA

**Objective:** The project aims to contribute in reduction in morbidity and mortality among the conflict affected IDPs and host communities in the targeted areas of Idleb, Aleppo, Hama and Latakia in North-western Syria. A total of 346,873 Individuals (men, women, boys and girls) will receive health care through 46 facilities.

### **Activities:**

- Support the targeted facilities in following guidelines to reduce waste such as the use of reusable items and medical gowns
- Ensure that the waste of each center is processed at safe dumps without toxic substances and in line with the relevant health directorate guidelines
- The toxic waste at each targeted health facility is processed separately from the ordinary waste. For the procurement of medicines and disposables, highly toxic material that can affect the environment negatively is not selected. The selected supplier will have ISO certification which will ensure that the disposables purchased are made of easily dissolved material.



Copyright: Muslim Hands

## Muslim Hands

**Project:** Providing Photovoltaic Solar System for Al Kawther Water well

**Country:** Palestine

**Duration:** 2018-2019 (6 months)

**Budget:** 48,706 \$

**Objective:** To participate in keeping the water well operational enough hours to supply the water for the people, saving the cost of the power consumption and protect the environment. Gaza is one of the most densely populated places in the world, with almost 2 million people living in a confined area of around 365 square metres. The high population density, widespread poverty and frequent electrical shortages have put huge pressure on natural resources such as water, disrupting all aspects of daily life. Therefore, the MH proposed a project of Providing Photovoltaic Solar System for Al kawther Water. The system does not rely on finite resources eg fuel, it promotes the green practices and saves the environment from pollution and deterioration.

### **Activities:**

- Preparing the tender documents, launching the tender, evaluation and awarding
- Signing the contract and handing over the site.
- Mobilization.
- Shop drawings for all works and a complete photovoltaic solar system works.
- Removing the pump and deliver it to CMWU
- Supplying and installing 126 high quality PV modules with total arrays capacity to achieve 50 KWp
- Supply and install a new pump to fit with the solar energy system with pumping rate reaches 840 m<sup>3</sup>/day
- PV mounting steel structure to hold the PV panels and all complementary parts of the system

Om Habibeh Foundation (Aga Khan Development Network affiliate)

**Project:** Rural Development Agriculture Program (permanent), under which fall punctual projects: Aswan Youth Project, Kitchen and Rooftop gardens (for women), Environmental Agriculture (for farmers)

**Country:** Egypt

**Duration:** 2010-ongoing

**Budget:** unknown

**Donors:** UNDP, Australian Embassy, GEF, DRUSSUS

**Objective:** to improve the productivity, market access and agricultural practical knowledge and technical capacities of smallholder farmers in Aswan. The programme also promotes environmentally sound agricultural practices and supports the creation of an enabling environment for agricultural economic activities within the local villages where it operates. In this manner, the project aims to generate additional income for farming communities while improving the nutritional intake of families.

**Activities:**

- Reduce the amount of water consumption, set up irrigation systems
- Minimize the use of pesticides, promote biological control
- Avoid chemicals use inside the household
- Train on environmental sound practices and solar energy



Copyright: AKDN





## The Msheireb Mosque (awarded partner)

**Project:** Qatar Green Building Council Green Key Programme - sub-category for religious buildings

**Country:** Qatar

**Duration:** 2017-ongoing

**Implementing organization:** Qatar Green Building Council

**Objective:** Starting from 2017, Qatar Green Building Council became the National Operator for Green Key in Qatar. Qatar Green Building Council works to maintain the high environmental standards expected of the applicant and Green Key awarded establishments through documentation and frequent audits. Green Key is an international eco-label for tourism facilities. This prestigious eco-label represents a commitment by businesses that their tourism establishments adhere to the criteria as stipulated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). Green Key provides a well-proven framework for an establishment to work with its environmental management on sustainability issues, including awareness raising. In 2016, Msheireb Mosque won the award.

### **Activities:**

- The newly-built structures have achieved maximum energy efficiency in construction and design, which restrict reliance on air-conditioning units via environmentally-friendly applications.
- Their energy recovery air systems allow the precooling and regulation of indoor temperatures and their superior district cooling systems deliver chilled water through low energy consumption.
- Further energy mitigation features include solar panning that generates high levels of usable electricity in both buildings throughout the entire year.



Photo from: <https://mosqpedia.org/en/mosque/234>



## Hamad Bin Khalifa University - College of Islamic Studies

(host-organizer)

**Project:** Maker-Majlis

**Country:** Qatar

**Duration:** 2019-ongoing (annual basis)

**Budget:** USD 120,000

**Main sponsor:** Qatar National Research Fund

**Objective:** Maker-Majlis is an innovative space where the focus is a fusion of:

Global Goals (UN Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs)

Qatar National Vision 2030

Islam and Faith

The event is about localizing the Global Goals and making them relevant to the Muslim world in general and Qatar in particular. Connecting the youth in Qatar to these Global Goals makes them relevant to their lives, aspirations, and way of being.

### Activities:

- interactive activities, workshops, and discussions: QGBC gave a workshop on how to transform university campuses into an eco-campus
- high-level panel discussions, talks, and SDG awards with leading figures, activists, and organizations
- Exhibitions: Qatar Red Crescent showcased 0 waste refugee tents (recycled materials, power generation)

**Perspectives:** Maker Majlis recently won a 5-year research grant from QNRF on SDG education and global citizenship in Qatar, to integrate SDGs education at all academic levels in Qatar





حديقة القرآن النباتية  
QUR'ANIC BOTANIC GARDEN  
عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation

## The Qur'anic Botanic Garden

**Project:** The Qur'anic Botanic Garden

**Country:** Qatar

**Duration:** 2008-ongoing

**Sponsor:** Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community development

**Objective:** “A garden that will be a worldwide center of excellence for knowledge, education and research, and bridge cultures in inspiring appreciation of nature and fostering responsibility for our environment”. The mission of the Qur'anic Garden is to promote a complete understanding of the plants, botanic terms and conservation principles mentioned in the Holy Qur'an & Sunnah by applying scientific innovations, building appreciation of cultural traditions and by creating a garden that will provide unique opportunities for learning.”

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden refers to a garden that exhibits all the plants mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, the Hadith of the Prophet (PBUH) and Sunnah with designs reflecting Islamic architecture, but it is mainly occupied with the plants of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith. The Qur'anic Botanic Garden is concerned with the botanical terms and their meanings to help explain the Qur'anic verses and the Hadith.

### **Activities:**

- Ex situ conservation (protecting and rehabilitate plants outside their habitats) for certain species that mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and Hadith.
- A library, a herbarium, research facilities and greenhouses
- recreational and educational activities
- increasing focus on raising awareness of conservation issues highlighted in Islam integrated with modern science.



Photo from: <https://archpaper.com/2015/02/west-8-unveils-botanic-garden-in-doha-qatar-inspired-by-plants-from-the-quran/>, *The Architect's Newspaper*

## Islamic Help

**Project:** Trees for Change

**Country:** Jordan

**Duration:** 2009-2019

**Budget:** £15,600

**Objective:** this projects aims to promote natural conservation by providing habitat for animals and reducing their degradation; absorb CO2 and other potentially harmful gases; release oxygen; conserve water, preserve soil and support wildlife; sustain life and create a natural balance. These objectives are pursued by planting trees. Indeed, the presence of trees positively impacts the process of transpiration, thus resulting in much needed rain in the region for drinking and harvesting purposes. Trees can help prevent flooding and curb soil erosion. Most importantly, trees provide an ecosystem in which wildlife can survive and prosper naturally.

### **Activity:**

- Plantation of olive trees by volunteers



Copyright: Islamic Help

**Project:** Solar Panels and Water Plants for Hospitals/ Schools

**Country:** Jordan

**Duration:** 2016-2019

**Budget:** £45,000

**Objective:** tackle the problem of loss of electricity in Al Shifa Hospital (Gaza) and provide people with the opportunity to continue learning and practice medicine comfortably. Ensure that people have access to clean water. Environmental aspects of the project: promotes clean and affordable energy; sustainable and clean water.

### **Activities:**

- Raise money for and provide solar panels
- Implement water plants and rainwater harvesting systems



Copyright: Islamic Help

## Islamic Help

**Project:** Volunteering Projects – Mission Possible

**Country:** Jordan

**Duration:** 2009-2019

**Budget:** £325,000

**Objective:** to provide volunteers with the opportunity to get involved in charity work, on a much larger scale, where relief aid is greatly needed. They distribute aid door to door and provide assistance, including with the environmentally related projects of Islamic Help.

### **Activities:**

- Giving out solar panels to promote clean and affordable energy and teaching the locals how to maintain them to provide them with the ability to keep the projects running once Islamic Help has left
- Planting trees to produce oxygen; create habitat for animals; absorb harmful gases; promote natural conservation; conserve water; preserve soil; provide resources such as paper; provide shade for people and animals
- Bee-keeping: locals are taught how to run their own bee keeping farms and given the resources to do so. The activity promotes pollination of food, safeguards biodiversity and maintains the ecosystem while also helping to conserve natural resources
- Awareness projects to teach locals how to be more environmentally sustainable and look after the community they live in
- Working on rubbish/landfill sites in Jordan, to make the land more environmentally friendly and sanitary for the people who live there



Copyright: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Adela Suliman

## Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

**Project:** Green Mosques in Amman

**Country:** Jordan

**Duration:** 2016-ongoing

**Budget:** JD4 million = USD 5.6 million

**Partners:** Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund (implementing partner), Jordan Green Building Council (technical partner)

**Objective:** increase funding to mosques to use renewable energy installations to generate power. Around 2,000 mosques in Jordan (out of 6,300) are expected to be fully running on renewable energy by 2018, reducing their energy consumption by a minimum of 90 per cent. The project is part of Amman's goal of becoming a carbon neutral city by 2050.

### **Activities:**

- Introduce the use of solar energy, and power-saving LED lightbulbs, in mosques
- Install solar panels with total generating capacity of 4 megawatts



Copyright: Teva Ivri

## Teva Ivri Organization

**Project:** Lectures, Study Groups and Workshops – Shabbat Noah

**Country:** Israel

**Duration:** 2019-ongoing

**Objective:** Teva Ivri offers a variety of programs and study groups for lay leaders, rabbis, and community members on topics such as “Judaism, Ethics, and Food”, “Judaism and environment”, “Greening Synagogues” etc. The introduction of Shabbat Noah as a day of sustainability in synagogues aims at turning synagogues green through an annual initiative, by appealing directly to rabbis and congregations.

### **Activities:**

- Lectures and study sessions for the religious public in Jerusalem, offering practical tools, idea kits, ongoing consultations
- study groups for community activists
- meetings for students
- Endorsement and help to promote the Rabbinic letter, signed by 200 rabbis, calling for a reduction in the use of disposable plastic utensils during the high holidays, in the media
- sending announcements to congregations and rabbis, urging them to engage in environmental discourse or learning on Shabbat Noah in their respective synagogues
- offering assistance with content and finding suitable speakers
- In 2020, engaging in an annual initiative in Herzliya as part of the City without Trash program targeting the modern-Orthodox community in the city

**Other projects:** Jerusalem Volunteers for the Environment, online content development, Ecological & spiritual hikes, Shmitah Project



**Kibbutz Lotan**  
Where spirit and earth meet



## Kibbutz Lotan

**Project:** The Center for Creative Ecology

**Country:** Israel

**Duration:** 1997-ongoing

**Budget:**

**Objective:** With the initial desire to reduce environmental impacts and to embrace a more sustainable way of life, the CfCE has become a world class training, research and demonstration center for capacity building in sustainability. The Center aims to inspire, motivate and empower people to build sustainable community and to take creative action for positive change towards social and environmental justice.

### **Activities:**

- Quality, experiential and practical education in local organic food production (in extreme desert conditions)
- Ecological building methods - energy efficient construction using natural materials
- Appropriate technologies
- Permaculture design
- Community resilience (eg “Building Jewish Sustainable Communities” Workshop)
- Waste-management



Photo from: <http://kibbutzlotan.com/cfce/about-us/?lang=en>, CfCE





Neot Kedumim Park  
Nature • Bible • Culture



## Neot Kedumim

**Project:** Neot Kedumim Park

**Country:** Israel

**Objective:** Neot Kedumim is the Biblical Landscape Reserve in Israel. This unique recreation of the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail allows visitors to see life as it was lived by our ancestors 3,000 years ago. On 625 acres of hills and valleys, between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, lies a world apart. It is a unique endeavor to re-create the physical setting of the Bible in all its depth and detail. It embodies the panorama and power of the landscapes that both helped shape the values of the Bible and provided a rich vocabulary for expressing them on a variety of disciplines – such as Bible scholarship, botany, zoology, geography, history, and archaeology – to bring the Bible and its commentaries to life. Every visitor has a unique experience of understanding the Bible (including The New Testament), by touching, tasting and experiencing with all our senses the landscape, plants and ancient installations, while connecting them with words and verses from the Bible.

### **Activities:**

- A botanical garden where both ancient plants and modern plants grow, with an emphasis on endangered plants in the land of Israel
- An ecological program for groups that compares ancient life with modern life. Based on ancient scripts, the groups try to gain a deeper understanding of how people organized their daily lives with their surrounding environment being the main influential factor.



Photo from: <https://www.neot-kedumim.org.il/gallery/>,  
Gallery of Neot Kedumim Park



Copyright: Hazon

## Hazon

**Project:** [The Israel Ride](#)

**Country:** Israel

**Duration:** 2003-ongoing

**Objective:** The Israel Ride is a fundraising event benefiting two innovative organizations – The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and Hazon. It was founded to provide new avenues for supporting their critical environmental programs. Connecting people to Israel’s land and culture, fostering long lasting friendships, and advocating for a sustainable, secure, and peaceful Middle East.

### **Activities:**

- Mobilize over 1,800 alumni riders and on diverse itineraries that traverse the Negev Desert and surrounding areas, to raise funds

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**Project:** [Hazon Sustainable Israel Tour](#)

**Country:** Israel

**Objectives:** to focus on several of the most compelling areas of innovation and investment, including climate change, water, and food security. Explore new vehicles for addressing those challenges, including start-ups, social ventures, non-profits – and the fascinating overlaps between all three. Along the way, we hope to learn more about key challenges facing Israel and the world – and inspiring solutions to those challenges.

### **Activities:**

- Visits, meetings, networking and learning sessions about environmental challenges and the start-ups addressing them



Copyright: the High Atlas Foundation

## High Atlas Foundation

**Project:** Pluralistic Moroccan Human and Agricultural Development -  
“The House of Life”

**Country:** Morocco

**Duration:** 2019-2022

**Budget:** \$660,000

**Objective:** House of Life facilitates the free loan of land adjoining Jewish burial sites, in order to establish organic tree and medicinal nurseries for the benefit of neighboring Muslim farming communities, while promoting interfaith social solidarity.

### **Activities:**

- Plant two million organic fruit seeds in 2019-2022 in four nurseries, benefiting approximately 20 thousand farming families.
- Transplant and distribute the mature plants to farming families for their own orchards; and to schools, associations and cooperatives
- Monitor and sell the carbon offsets, generating further income for cooperatives and families
- Assist in the organic certification, fair trade certification and processing of fruit and wild medicinal plant product for creating an added-value to the environmentally and socially responsible product
- Reach national scale and expand nurseries to new regions, with additional community partners, organic agricultural product, and new inter-cultural initiatives that promote sustainable development
- Apply participatory methods to advance community initiatives



## The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development (ICSD)

**Project:** Interfaith Ecology Conferences - Interfaith Ecology Conferences - Seminary Faith and Ecology Project

**Country:** Israel

**Duration:** 2011-ongoing

**Objective:** The ICSD, in collaboration with multiple partners, has co-organized ten interfaith environmental conferences. The events provided an opportunity for religious leaders and scientists to address issues of environmental sustainability, and created a forum for clergy, seminary deans, faculty, and students, politicians, and faith members to participate in a wide array of interactive sessions on faith and ecology. Over 500 people participated in the Jerusalem Conferences.

### **Activities:**

- Feature seminary deans and faculty speaking about successes and challenges in regards to integrating religion and ecology into their current course offerings
- Further empower seminary faculty and staff to teach on faith and ecology
- Publicize faith and ecology syllabi and reading lists to seminary deans, students, and teachers, by utilizing the extensive ICSD online syllabus collection
- Included plenary, panel discussion and breakout sessions on the emerging field of faith-based environmental education in seminaries and theological schools
- Included networking and discussions on topics such as how seminaries can encourage faculty to include issues of ecology and creation-care in new and existing courses on Bible, theology, homiletics and liturgy, ethics, and more



Copyright: © ICSD by Debbi Cooper Photography



## [The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development \(ICSD\)](#)

**Project:** [Women's Interfaith Ecology Project](#)

**Country:** Israel

**Duration:** 2013-ongoing

**Objective:** The Women Faith and Ecology Project in Jerusalem continues to engage Christian, Muslim, and Jewish women in the Jerusalem area for inspiring seminars on faith and ecology. Originally launched in 2013, the project continued with five meetings in 2014, two seminars in 2015, and four gatherings in early 2016. The participants continue to work together toward the common cause of sustainability, leading by example in peaceful cooperation towards sustainable lifestyles.

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**Project:** [Faith and Science Earth Alliance](#)

**Country:** Israel

**Duration:** 2014-ongoing

**Objective:** The Faith and Science Earth Alliance unites prominent religious figures and leading scientists to speak out together and mobilize action for ecological sustainability. The FSEA is a project that holds low-impact, web-based meetings of eminent scientists and faith leaders from across the globe. These meetings are edited into short, powerful videos and disseminated through social media and news outlets to promote public awareness, political will, policy, and action. The FSEA also holds public events featuring presentations by these leaders.



## EcoPeace Middle East

### EcoPeace Middle-East

**Project:** Faith based advocacy program

**Countries:** Jordan, Palestine and Israel

**Objective:** EcoPeace Middle East is undertaking this campaign with the aim of bringing the reality of the Jordan River to the forefront of community discussion and encourage action-based community responses on this issue.

By engaging Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities in Jordan, Palestine and Israel as well as internationally, we aim to advance the creation of larger stakeholder circles supporting the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River.

#### **Activities:**

- Partner with individuals and communities to champion the cause of the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River through tours and events in the region and in the international community
- Develop materials to help faith based communities advance understanding, awareness and action surrounding the Lower Jordan River's rehabilitation
- Ask faith based leadership, national leaders and members of the public to endorse the vision documents as an expression of their support for the rehabilitation of the Lower Jordan River



Copyright: EcoPeace Middle East



## EcoPeace Middle East, Unity Earth, United Religions Initiative

**Project:** Holy Land Living Water – 1-7 February 2020

**Countries:** Jordan, Palestine and Israel

**Duration:** 2018-ongoing (part of UNITY EARTH's Road to 2020 - annual basis, in different locations)

**Objective:** raise awareness about the groundbreaking efforts of regional NGO EcoPeace Middle East in facilitating collaboration and regeneration throughout the Jordan River Valley and beyond. The event will also celebrate UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, an annual celebration in the 1st week of February. The event aims to amplify the impact of interfaith voices nationally and regionally, in order to uphold a common conviction held by the monotheist Abrahamic faiths: a binding obligation on all to practice responsible stewardship, in reverence for our common home.

### Activities:

- A 7 day adventure of spirit and ecology
- Bring 75 international delegates including religious, indigenous & spiritual leaders, ecological advocates, diplomats, artists, social entrepreneurs, leading academics and media ) in a global event series. Approximately 25 Palestinian, 25 Jordanian and 25 Israeli delegates will also join the series of events from Feb 1-7 2020.
- Visit of sacred sites in the Holy Land from Amman to Haifa, participation to private and public ceremonies, interfaith gatherings, music
- Ecological tours along the Jordan River



Photo from: <https://uday2020.com/>, Holy Land