

1for3 News

* Water * Health * Education *

* الماء * الصحة * التعليم *

September 2020



PLANTING PALESTINIAN GARDEN MAGIC

All of our projects at 1for3 are planned in coordination with members of communities with which we work. When Environment Unit director Shatha AlAzzeh held conversations with rooftop gardeners and other women in Aida, they honed in on concerns around food security. Community health workers identified the lack of affordable produce as a barrier to patients' management of their health. Shatha became interested in the concept of food sovereignty (see our March 2020 newsletter). How can Palestinians take back control over their food supply, even in a refugee camp where there is limited access to land and water? Building on these concerns, 1for3 began to do research on hydroponics as a way to complement existing rooftop gardens and provide healthy food from within Aida, especially for the patients in the Health for Palestine program. New Hampshire-based 1for3 supporter Yusuf Abudi contributed his expertise in hydroponics. As he said, "Aida is an urban concrete jungle with no agricultural land to speak of." Hydroponics, he explained, require less space than standard agriculture and can inspire the future: People in Aida "can record and document their experience from inception and use it as a model for other camps within in the West Bank, Gaza and camps outside of Palestine."



Samira Abu Srour
Resident of Aida camp
Urban gardener
Mother of seven



Samira is one of the leaders of the urban gardeners in Aida camp. She grows a range of fruits and vegetables to support her family. Samira makes the distinction in her food production between food security (having enough food of any type) and food sovereignty, which includes having the ability to produce your own food from your own land. Palestine does not have food sovereignty.

Our hydroponic system, to be located on the rooftop of Lajee, will constitute a community resource by and for Palestinian refugees. Hydroponic gardens can grow year-round and produce crops at faster rates than conventional ones, all while using 70%-90% less water. Our system will serve 118 families comprising over 800 people with fresh food. We are currently in the midst of a 3-week campaign to support this project! We hope you will consider a donation, small or large, via our [Palestine Garden Magic](#) campaign so that we can meet communities at the Water-Food-Health-Education nexus.

IN MEMORIAM: SHAIKH HASSAN 'ELIYAAN

All of Aida Refugee Camp is mourning the loss of Shaikh Hassan 'Eliyaan, who died at age 62 of Covid-19 in September. His family came from the Jerusalem area village of Beit l'taab, but he was born in Nahaleen, a village near Hebron. He was an important figure in Aida Camp, always available for a good chat about a variety of topics related to his community and the camp, and always eager to volunteer for a variety of initiatives for the benefit of all.

He worked for many years as the Arabic and religion teacher at the Al-A'iliya School for the blind and other special needs students. This was an important vocation for him especially because he was himself blind. Two years ago, the school closed, and he lost his job. Being away from his work was very hard on him. He soon had a heart attack. He became a patient in the Health for Palestine (H4P) Community Health Program. After his participation with the H4P summer camp in 2020, he joined the planning committee for the program to help organize activities for other patients.

As Ashgan Jum'a, a Community Health Worker who knew him well, said, "He was active, well spoken, socially engaged, and very responsible. He never missed an activity or a workshop and was always contributing good ideas." Because of the Covid-19 crisis, his funeral was small and sad. Only 10 people were allowed to attend. As Ashgan remembers, "He used to love the home visits from us and from the

doctors. He would keep talking to encourage us to stay as long as we could. He loved the 2020 H4P summer camp and he planned to help us organize it next time." The Community Health Workers will miss their close work with this kind and principled man.

He is survived by his wife Fatima, who has a small store in her house from which she sells simple groceries.

Commented Nidal Al-Azraq, executive director of 1for3, "I have known Shaikh Hassan all my life. It has been an honor to serve him and people like him. No one will take the place of Shaikh Hassan—one of the spirits of the camp who gave us our sense of community."

تعزية ومواساة



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ «كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ وَإِنَّمَا تُوَفَّوْنَ أُجُورَكُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ» صدق الله العظيم

مجلس الإدارة وطاقم الموظفين واعطاء الهيئة العامة وملتطوعين مركز لاجئ
يشاطرون عائلة عليان مصابهم بوفاة طيب الذكر المرحوم

الشيخ حسن عليان

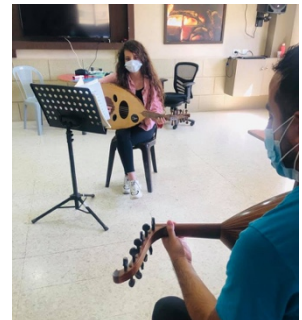
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يسكنه فسيح جنانه وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون

OTHER UPDATES FROM AIDA REFUGEE CAMP

It has been an unusually difficult time in Aida Refugee Camp. A large number of Aida residents have fallen ill with Covid-19, resulting in several hospitalizations and two deaths over the summer. Families have adjusted to quarantines and to not greeting patriarchs and matriarchs with traditional kisses. People fear that the “Nakba Generation” who experienced the events of 1948 is at great risk this year. Weddings and engagements have been suspended or turned into much smaller gatherings. For the Community Health Workers of H4P, managing the long haul of this crisis has meant new trainings on how to resume home visits with full protection gear.



Meanwhile, the Israeli army has continued to invade the camp, arresting youth and adults at night. They have also been establishing “flying checkpoints” during the day to check the identity cards of those passing through the camp, an unusual step for this location. Through it all, Lajee remains a respite from violence and a space for creativity.



READ MORE!

1for3 has always had a strong commitment to research and advocacy, alongside its on the ground work. Environment Director Shatha AlAzzeh has published two articles in recent months. Her article in Arabic entitled “[Greening Rooftops of the Refugee Camps: Economic Resistance and Longing for the Roots](#)” addresses how food sovereignty projects can help communities address the effects of the “Ongoing Nakba,” or Israel’s continued infringement on Palestinians’ lives and collective health. Her article “[We Still Dream of the Valley Flowing with Water](#)” addresses the long history of colonial usurpation of water, dating back to the founding of today’s Israeli water company Mekorot in 1937. She describes the current water crisis resulting from political agreements and its effect on Palestinian communities. Amahl Bishara, Shatha AlAzzeh, Nidal Al-Azraq, and John Durant published together the research article “[The Multifaceted Outcomes of Community-Engaged Water Quality Management in a Palestinian Refugee Camp](#),” which chronicles much of 1for3’s work related to water. Our research team saw how interdisciplinary collaboration and a network of activists in the West Bank and the USA can lead to multifaceted outcomes, even though military occupation presents stubborn barriers to major change. Finally, Amahl Bishara conducted an [interview](#) with Nidal Al-Azza, a founder of Lajee Center and the director of the Badil Center that advocates for refugee rights, about the Covid crisis. Left without adequate support from the Palestinian Authority, communities have looked inward during the Covid crisis. Commented Al-Azza, “What has saved people has been the spirit of cooperation, that we are in solidarity with each other. Each person has the ability to give something to their relatives, their friends, their neighbors.”