

Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Best Practices
On sustainable Rural Livelihoods in the ESCWA Region
Beirut, 24-25 November 2010

**WEST BANK MICROFINANCE PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN
FINANCIAL CAPACITIES OF AGRICULTURAL AND WOMEN
COOPERATIVES FOR AN EFFICIENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND TO EXPAND THE MICROFINANCE PROGRAM TO NEW
COOPERATIVES**

by

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W e s t B a n k M i c r o f i n a n c e p r o g r a m

Name of the project

To strengthen financial capacities of agricultural and women cooperatives
for an efficient rural development
and to expand the microfinance program to new cooperatives

General goal

To enable cooperatives to provide loans and saving facilities to their members in order to sustain generating income activities and support job creation.

Specific goals

- To assure a long term financial source for cooperatives in order that they finance local development projects and reach financial self-sufficiency
- To reduce rural population poverty in a sustainable way thanks to:
 - the economic dimension of a microfinance program : to help micro entrepreneurs and existing activities
 - and its social dimension : to support start-up business and improve economic situation of low-income farmers and women

Project term

1 st phase:	November 2006 to August 2008	
	PFU technical assistance funded by the French Consulate of Jerusalem	♦ 103,000 €
	Credit fund allocated to cooperatives provided by ACAD	♦ 100,000 €
2 nd phase:	September 2008 to September 2011	
	funded by the French Development Agency	♦ 129,256 €
	Credit fund allocated to cooperatives provided by ACAD (8 years agreement)	♦ 523,000 €

Summary of the project

The wholesale lending department team provides its technical assistance to cooperatives:

- to support and monitor the **effective implementation of microfinance procedures**,
- to implement the **microfinance program within new cooperatives**,
- to **disburse credit fund** to cooperatives **each 6 months** after checking that the previous disbursed amount(s) has been well used and the activity progress is positive (especially the increase of savings collected which is the way to achieve sustainability for the cooperative),
- to create the first **Palestinian Association of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (PASCCO)** in order to increase their autonomous and perpetuate the program.
- to go on implementing the **Management Information System** to provide a suitable financial reporting (already installed in 14 cooperatives),

NB: We have to highlight the daily work of ACAD's team related to spreading the idea that 'money has a cost'. This country is inundated with donations but now, the cooperatives contact us in order to be involved in this program and to comply with its requirements: to pay back the disbursed amount with an extra amount which is the interest. This is new in Palestine...

Moreover, it means that the cooperatives can get external funds by themselves rather than waiting for occasional and hypothetical projects carried out by donors.

APPLICANT

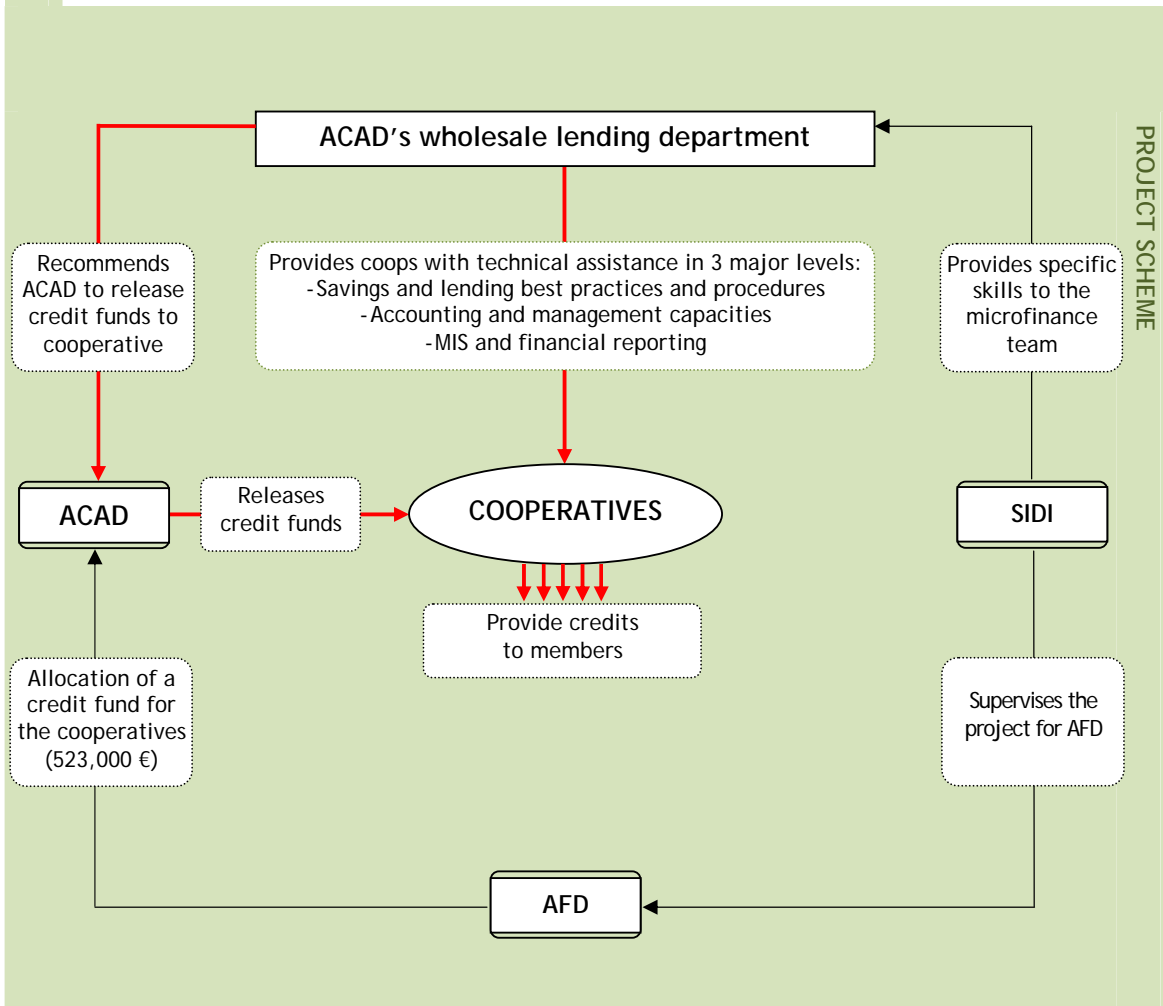
- Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD)
The Arab Center for Agricultural Development is a Palestinian non-profit non-governmental organization that has been officially registered in Jerusalem since 1993, and also registered by Palestinian National Authority since 2001 according to Palestinian Law.
ACAD is specialized in Micro- Credit and offers Business Support Services to the poor and low-income Palestinian producers

PARTNERS

- International Solidarity for Development and Investment (SIDI)
SIDI is a French company specialised in the financial and technical support of microfinance institutions. It promotes viable economic activities and fosters the establishment of a social and economic environment capable of promoting sustainable development.

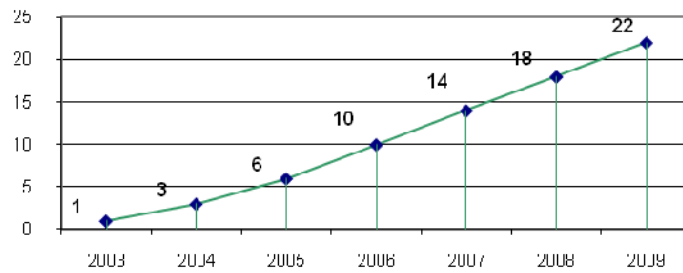
DONOR

- French Development Agency (AFD)
AFD is the Groupe Agence Française de Développement, a bi-lateral development finance institution established in 1941 that works on behalf of the French government. Its mission is to finance development.

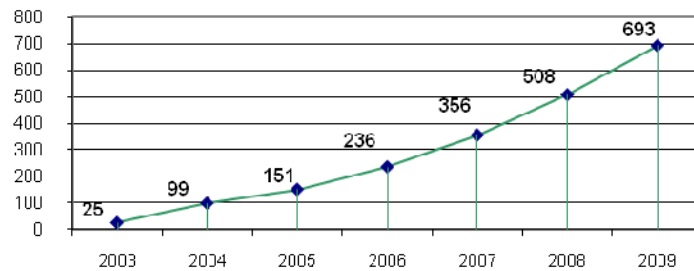


RESULTS

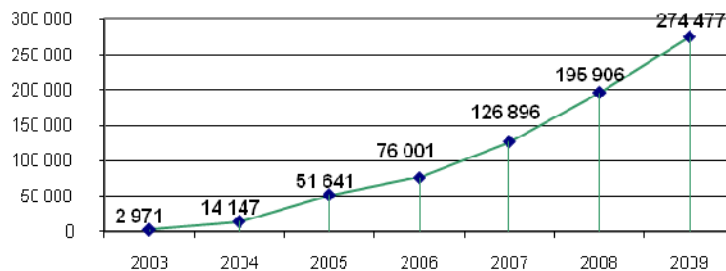
Number of cooperatives involved in the project



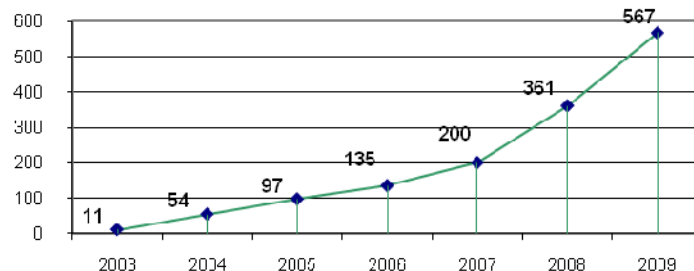
Number of savers



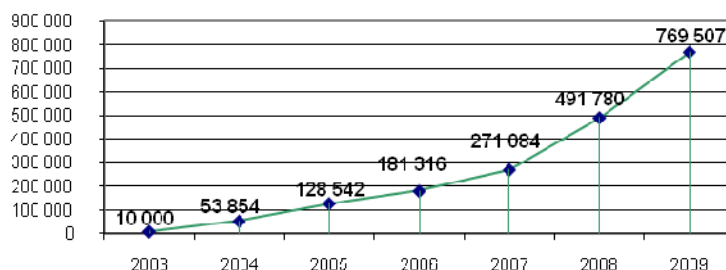
Accumulated amount of savings (\$)

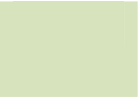


Accumulated number of loans provided



Accumulated amount of loans provided (\$)





LOCATION

