

# Beit Skaria

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# About Beit Skaria

## Location

Beit Skaria village lies nine kilometers south-west of Bethlehem. The village is completely encircled by the Gush Etzion settlement block. The nearest Palestinian villages to Beit Skaria are Nahaleen to the north, Al Jab'a and Sureef to the west, Beit Ummar to the south and Im Salmounah to the east. It lies on an altitude of about 950 meters above sea level and is well known for its fertile land, famous grapes, and almond production. The total land area of Beit Skaria is 9,000 dunums, 7,000 of which are still used by the families while the remaining 2,000 dunums have been confiscated by Israel and declared a closed military area.

## Population

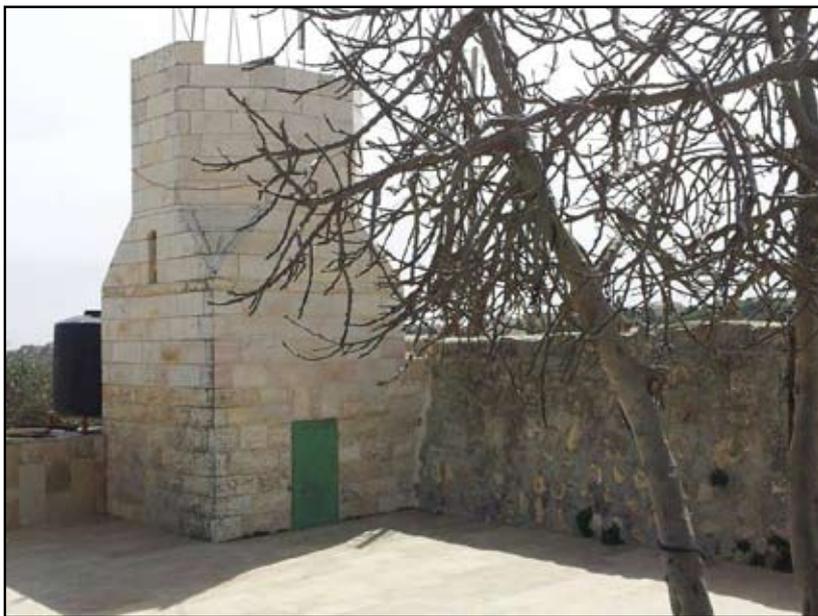
The total population of Beit Skaria was 1,000 in 1967. During the Six Day War of 1967, the majority of Beit Skaria families were forced out of their homes, with only around 400 managing to remain or return to their land. Instead of an

increase in population, the figure diminished and reached 650 in 2007. This is mainly due to Israel's systematic policies that aim at driving Beit Skaria families out of their homes in order to fully confiscate and annex the remaining land to expand the adjacent Jewish settlement. Several of Beit Skaria's residents have moved to live in the surrounding villages due to lack of basic services, Israel's severe restrictions on rehabilitation and building (including to homes, animal shelters, food processing plants, water wells, cisterns, etc), as well as imposed limitations and dangers faced when working the land.

## Historical background and timeline

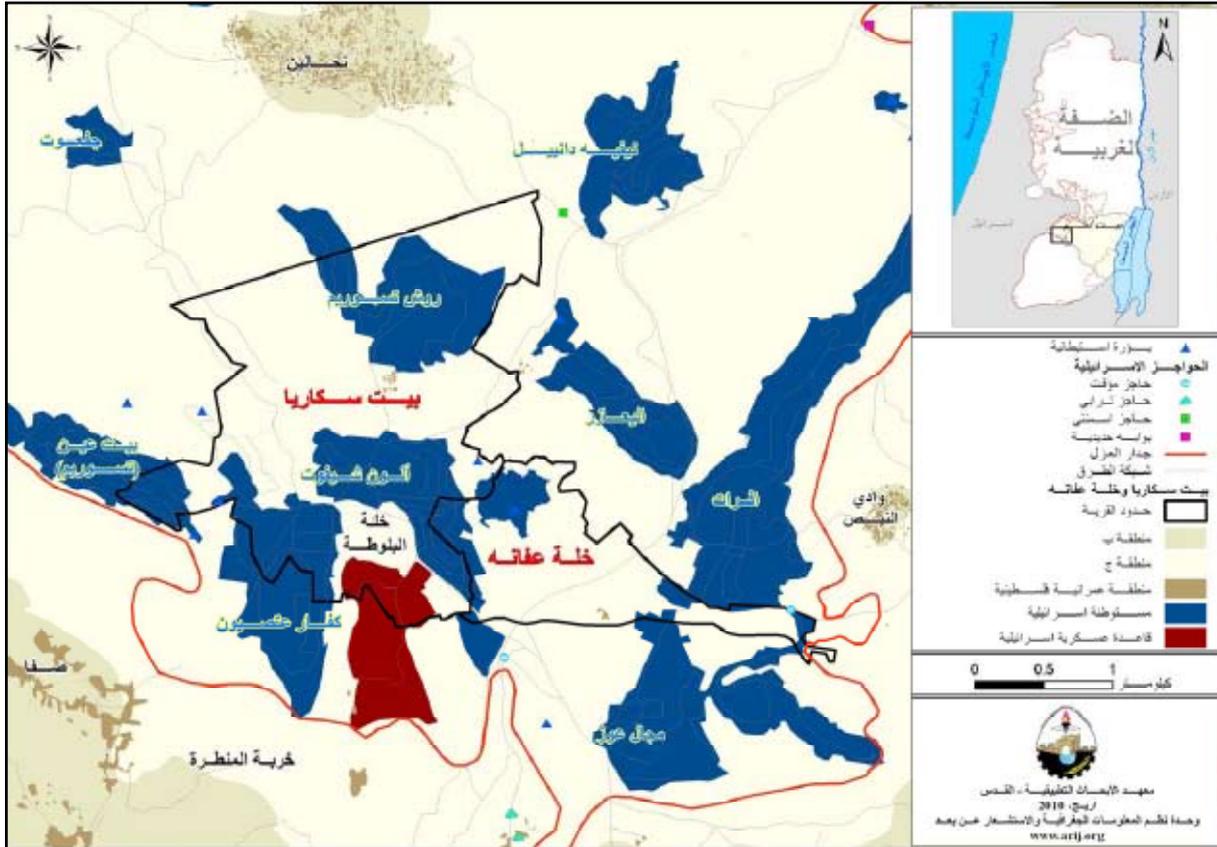
Early settlements in Beit Skaria date back to the Canaanite period from 2000 – 1200 B.C. The oldest document found about Beit Skaria goes back to the Ottoman period some four hundred years ago. The religious shrine of Nabi Zakkaria (prophet Zacharias) was likewise built a few hundred years ago.

In 1943, under the British Mandate of Palestine, Zionist Jewish gangs built a Jewish colony on the high lands of Beit Skaria, mainly to gain a strategic position over the main Jerusalem – Hebron road. In 1948, the Jewish gangs occupied the village and forced the people out. They also took control of the Jerusalem – Hebron road, disconnecting access between the two cities. This prompted the Jordanian/ Arab army to respond and successfully drive the Zionist



*Shrine of Nabi Zakkaria (prophet Zacharias)*

# Beit Skaria



Map of Beit Skaria

gangs of the area. The main road was reopened and the people of Beit Skaria returned to their homes. The Jordanian army remained in the area until the 1967 war.

In 1967, Israel forcefully occupied Beit Skaria and soon after reconstructed the Etzion Colony. The Israelis then declared the area as a closed military zone and systematically began the process of forcibly displacing the Beit Skaria population. In spite of the austere measure, a few of the families opted to remain in their homes, facing daily harassment and violence from the Israeli army and Jewish settlers.

In 1995, the Oslo Accords were signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel. Under the Oslo agreement, the territory occupied by Israel in the 1967 war was divided

into three areas: A, B and C. Area A includes the main Palestinian cities in the West Bank and Gaza, where the Palestinian Authority (PA) has full civil and security control. Area B includes some 440 Palestinian villages and the lands surrounding them (excluding Jewish settlements), where the Palestinian Authority maintains civil control and security is controlled jointly by Israel and the PA. Area C is essentially all Palestinian territory that does not fall into areas A or B and is fully controlled by Israel. Beit Skaria was classified as Area C, and this paved the way for Israel to further restrict any kind of growth or development in the village and officially confiscated the two thousand dunums. Israel additionally demolished 8 homes and issued demolition orders for twenty eight homes between 2007–2010.

# Development plan for Beit Skaria

## NGO Development Center (NDC) Multi Sectoral Cooperation

The NDC successfully completed the pilot project in the village of Beit Skaria. This innovative model partners stakeholders from the public sector, international community, and Palestinian NGO sector to utilize diverse expertise, experience, and resources in support of a particularly vulnerable community. In Beit Skaria, the NDC united the PA Ministry for Public Works, the French Development Agency (AFD), RIWAQ, the YMCA, ACAD, and the PCC. This model has seen remarkable success through targeting a variety of development sectors, including: home rehabilitation, women’s empowerment, agricultural land rehabilitation, economic and social support, as well as psycho-social support.

### Housing Sector (Riwaq)

#### Needs assessment

Riwaq was asked to conduct an assessment of the Beit Skaria housing needs in 2011. Riwaq visited the five scattered communities of Beit Skaria that happen to be entirely encircled by the Jewish settlement of Gush Etzion. A questionnaire was designed with the full participation of the village council to select the houses that are in most need of rehabilitation. Four main criteria were identified to help in the selection process: the financial situation of the family, the physical condition of the house, the health conditions of the family – whether there are family members with special needs – and the family’s main place of residence. In February, 2012, 47 houses of out a total of 84

were surveyed over a period of three consecutive days. The data collected was then analyzed and the priorities identified.

#### Implementation of the work within a challenging political context

The Israeli occupation authorities impose severe restrictions on the rehabilitation of existing houses in Beit Skaria. Any new construction in the village, regardless of the dire need of residents to build or expand homes, is faced with immediate demolitions. In light of this, suppliers of the building materials were contracted from outside the village. Coordination between the village council and the suppliers had to be done prior to



*Before*



*After*

# Beit Skaria

each delivery to minimize the risk of confiscation of the material or equipment by the Israeli authorities.

To avoid attracting too much attention, Riwaq, with the help of the village council, contracted the construction workers from Beit Skaria. The workers managed to complete the work during the first implementation phase, with exception to the traditional plastering. A skilled plastering worker was contracted to complete the plastering of the old houses in Beit Skaria, in addition to training a number of the Beit Skaria laborers who successfully carried out this effort in the second phase of the project. Between April, 2012, and August, 2013, 35 skilled workers were employed and completed 600 working days.

## **Main achievements**

As a result of this project, the Beit Skaria elementary school was insulated and eighteen houses were rehabilitated to improve the living conditions of eighteen families. The rehabilitation work included the addition of some rooms underneath the old

ceilings that previously existed. Some houses were redesigned to maximize on the use of internal open spaces. Toilet facilities and kitchens were moved from outside to inside the houses. Roofs were insulated and floors were tiled. The work conducted was done with full participation from the owners, who actively took part in both the planning and the implementation stages of the work.

## **Remaining needs**

Families in Beit Skaria still lack large residential areas and many of the young couples opt to leave the village and live in neighboring villages where they can find appropriate housing. There remains 66 homes that need rehabilitation in Beit Skaria. Improving the living conditions inside these houses will ultimately encourage the families to return to their homes and, for those who haven't left, to focus more on tending to their lands and crops. All of this will help the people to remain in their village and protect their lands and homes from confiscation attempts by the Israeli occupation authorities.

## **Agricultural Sector (ACAD, ADEL and PARC)**

Through a needs assessment that was conducted by ACAD, it was found that the agricultural sector is the most important income-generating sector for the families of Beit Skaria. The main agricultural products include grapes, apricots, almonds and peaches. The farmers do not own any green houses, as the Israeli authorities prohibit their installation in the village. Most of the families own sheep herds that are raised for their milk to make dairy products. Veterinary services are provided mostly by PARC and, in emergency cases, from a private veterinarian from Bethlehem.

There is a need for the families to increase their income by identifying and establishing

agriculturally-related projects, such as food processing and packaging, the growing of high-yielding agricultural products, etc.



### **Main achievements**

In the period of three years the following was achieved in Beit Skaria:

1. The rehabilitation of 85 dunums of agricultural lands.
2. Distribution of seedlings to twenty five families.
3. Rehabilitation of old wells belonging to 13 families.
4. Installation of grey water treatment plants to 9 families.
5. Establishment of home gardens for 18 families.
6. Distributing and planting of seedlings to 11 farmers.
7. The construction of 3,575 m<sup>2</sup> stone walls.



*Beit Skaria grapes*



*Farmer picking Cauliflower*

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*Bukjet Beit Skaria – Beit Skaria sack (grape molasses, honey, almonds, dried herbs, dried goat yogurt)*



*Beit Skaria Food Basket*

8. The installation of 2,250 ML of metal fence to protect the agricultural lands.
  9. The installation of 2,690 metal shades to be used to support the vive seedlings.
  10. The planting of 2,700 vine and almond seedlings.
  11. Training in the management of community organizations to 25 youth.
  12. Training in credit and savings.
  13. Workshops on the establishment of a village cooperative.
  14. Training in food processing.
  15. Four feasibility studies were conducted on the four priority needs for establishing new businesses. The four trainings were on establishment of a super market, repair and maintenance of cellular phones, sewing and design, hair styling.
5. Food processing equipment and machinery, such as a dryer, grape juice machine, cookers, sugar content testing machine, salt content testing machine, etc.
  6. Establishment of a food processing plant.
  7. Preparation of a plan to market the Bet Skaria production.
  8. Production of organic products.
  9. Training in quality control.
  10. Soil recycling.
  11. A car to transport and sell/market the products.
  12. Training on conducting marketing campaigns.

## **The remaining needs:**

1. Land reclamation 80 dunums
2. Land rehabilitation 200 dunums
3. Support to sheep herders through the distribution of fodder, water and improved breeds.
4. Specialized training to farmers on the safe use of pesticides, animal nutrition and diseases.



*Famous Beit Skaria raisins*

## Mental Health Sector (PCC)

Following a comprehensive and participatory psycho-social needs assessment, conducted by the PCC in Beit Skaria, the main findings were identified as follows:

### On the level of children

- Children experience high levels of fear and anxiety.
- Children are subject to direct violence by the settlers and soldiers who are surrounding their village from every side.
- There are no open playgrounds for the children.

### On the level of adults

- A large percentage of adults suffer from high blood pressure, and rheumatic inflammations. High blood pressure, for example, could result from psychological problems.
- The patients suffer from shortages in their medicines, such as medications to combat high blood pressure and rheumatic inflammations.
- Prolonged periods of stress and anxiety may lead to behavior that verges on the compulsive, disrupting daily routines. They can also contribute to difficulty with relaxation and concentration abilities, as well as exacerbate tempers. If left untreated for a prolonged period, stress and anxiety can lead to pessimistic outlooks towards life and constant fears of expecting the worst.
- Women stay mostly at home because there are very few services that cater to their needs and development.
- Most women marry at an early age due primarily to social norms and the unavailability of higher education opportunities for girls in the village.
- On the level of children and adults



*Adult groups*

# Beit Skaria

- Fear and anxiety are the most prevalent symptoms among both adults and children. Adults explicitly expressed their constant feeling of worry and fear about their existence and future in Beit Skaria. Children manifest fear and anxiety through hyper-activity and lack of concentration.
- The vast majority of the sample interviewed expressed that their feeling of insecurity is the most dominant among emotional symptoms.
- They feel incapable of controlling their lives and what goes on around them. This feeling worsens anxiety levels, especially with regard to losing their lands.
- Stress and anxiety could negatively impact the body's immunity system and thus lead to the development of many diseases.
- Illiteracy among the adult population is high and there is a need to provide education for adults.



*The children's playground under construction*



*Open fun day for children*

Based on the main findings the following interventions were designed and implemented over the past twelve months:

Program	Activity	Implemented	Results accomplished
Establishment of a voluntary team	Build the capacity of the team.	Train 7 volunteers on communications with the children and on conducting open days for children.	The team is capable in organizing and conducting fun days for children.
Women's empowerment program	Three psycho-social support groups of women.  Individual psychological consultations for women	Three groups of women were formed and three counselors worked with them over the period of three months.  74 individual consultations with women were conducted.	The women acquired the skills and knowledge necessary to improve their self awareness and esteem, to better manage with stress and express their feelings. The women's acknowledgement of each other improved as well as their communication skills.
Safe play area for children	Set up of a playground for children	The playground was established	The playground still needs the children's play structures.
Recreational program	Open days for children (an average of one open day per month)  Trips for the community	Five open days were organized for the children that included theatre plays, musical bands, animators. The open days had directed messages to children around protection from violence and harm.  A trip to Jericho was organized for the families. A total of fifty people attended the trip.	The children through the open days had fun and enjoyed the activities. Additionally with time the children became much more disciplined and organized. They also took part in the organization of the open days and helped pre and post preparations.
Ramadan activities for the community	An iftar and a Ramadan evening (umsiyyeh Ramadanieh)	A Ramadan iftar and evening were organized and were attended by the village council, the Beit Skaria Women's Association and the community.	The people of Beit Skaria felt acknowledged and important as this was the first time an event with this magnitude took place in their village.
Supervision for the school counselor	September – December	The school counselor was not present during the course of the project. Instead the supervision was provided to the school principal who had to deal with several difficult cases among her students.	More pressure should be exerted on the Ministry of Education to provide a school counselor to respond to the need of the students who are living under constant stress.
Advocacy campaigns targeting the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Affairs.	Publications, tours for media, political representatives, the donor community.	Meetings, letters etc. were addressed to the Ministry of Education to provide a counselor for the Beit Skaria school.  Several visits to Beit Skaria were organized including one which included the PCC's partners, friends and media.  Participation in the promotional campaign of Beit Skaria and its products.	Beit Skaria is on top of the Ministry of Education's counselors priorities list. Once additional funds are approved the MOE promised to supply Beit Skaria with a school counselor.

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Reduce the stress levels and increase self confidence and esteem among women through sports activities	A group of women participated in sports and play activities on the school premises. The activities positively impacted the psychosocial situation of the women.	14 women between the ages of 20 – 58 took part in the various sports activities organized by the Right to Play.	
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## Suggested long term psycho-social sector plan for Beit Skaria

General goals	Specific goals	Activities
<p>Help the adult population, both male and female, aged 19 years and above to reduce the symptoms of anxiety and tension they manifest</p>  <p><i>A show for children</i></p>	Enhance the psycho-social coping mechanisms among adults in Beit Skaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring a psychologist to work with adults in the village</li> <li>• Weekly individual counseling sessions</li> <li>• Monthly awareness raising meetings for mothers on topics of child development and dealing with behavioral problems of children and coping mechanisms to relieve stress</li> <li>• Monthly support group meetings to improve the relationship between parents and children</li> <li>• Case referral for those that require psychiatric help to CMHC Bethlehem</li> <li>• Individual psycho-social consultations, as needed</li> </ul>
Help children aged 5-18 years in dealing with emotional and behavioral symptoms, such as anxiety, fear, hyperactivity and concentration difficulties	Enhance the coping mechanisms among the children of Beit Skaria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activate the role of school counselor to conduct weekly individual counseling sessions</li> <li>• Hire a psychologist to work with the children in the village</li> <li>• Conduct group psychotherapy for children suffering from hyperactivity and concentration difficulties</li> </ul>

Enhance the skills of children to protect themselves from all forms of violence and abuse.	<p>Providing programs that help children to protect themselves from attacks or violence</p> <p>Provide programs for the development of life skills to children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising meetings for groups of children.</li> <li>• After school activities – club</li> <li>• Remedial education</li> </ul>
Promote healthy psycho-social development of children through the enjoyment of their right to leisure and play	<p>Provide safe play areas for children</p> <p>Provide parks and tracks for hiking and trekking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with the concerned authorities and organizations</li> </ul>
Support positive mental health of women by enabling them psychologically, socially and economically	<p>Provide psycho-social support programs for women</p> <p>Empower women and equip them with skills to defend their rights</p> <p>Provide vocational training programs for women in the region, such as sewing, embroidery, food processing, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination with institutions providing services, like UN- Women</li> <li>• Host lectures</li> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Groups</li> <li>• Vocational training</li> <li>• Weekly sports activities</li> <li>• Training on the use of play and sports with children to improve their school performance</li> </ul>
Advocacy campaign targeting the Ministry of Youth and Sports	<p>Provide youth club</p> <p>Involve youth in the national teams (football, basketball, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth activities / Summer Youth clubs</li> </ul>
Advocacy campaign targeting the Ministry of Youth and Sports	<p>Provide youth club</p> <p>Involve youth in the national teams (football, basketball, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth activities / Summer Youth clubs</li> </ul>
Advocacy campaign targeting the Ministry of Education	<p>The application of the right of the people of the area to access education, school counseling</p> <p>Provide literacy programs for adults who cannot read and write.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letters to Ministries</li> <li>• A media strategy to focus on Beit Skaria</li> <li>• Meetings with officials</li> </ul>
Advocacy campaign targeting the Ministry of Health and the Union of Health Work Committees.	<p>Provide quality health services</p> <p>Provide medical staff for more than one day a week</p> <p>Ensure the supply of the necessary medicines at all times</p> <p>Providing comprehensive health services, health awareness</p> <p>Health services for the elderly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings</li> <li>• Letters to the Minister</li> <li>• Meetings with the Union of Health Work Committees</li> </ul>
Advocacy campaign targeting the Ministry of Labor	<p>Employ graduate students from the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings</li> <li>• Highlight on this problem through the media</li> </ul>

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## Social Sector (YMCA and Right to Play)

### Needs Assessment

A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted by the YMCA to identify the general needs of the village, including social needs. Among the most important needs identified were the activation and mobilization of the local community. Apart from the village council, there were no other forms of community organization or representation. It was therefore felt that mobilization on the level of women and youth was of paramount importance. Representation and mobilization of all sectors of the Beit Skaria community were keys to the success of the development process in Beit Skaria.

### Main achievements

- The Beit Skaria protection and crisis intervention team: A number of volunteers were trained by the YMCA on the documentation and publication of Israeli violation that are committed against the Beit Skaria community. As a result, a Face book page was created where the news of Beit Skaria is publicized on a daily basis. The page is widely used by all media channels as well as the general public.
- The emergency response team: A group of youth from the village was trained to respond to emergency situations. An emergency operation room in the village was also set up with equipment necessary to respond to emergency situations and maintain communications with



*ADEL, ACAD, YMCA, PCC, the Village Council and Beit Skaria Women Association*



*The emergency team*

- national emergency response bodies.
- The Beit Skaria Women's Association: Through the training provided to women by the YMCA, the idea of the association was developed. The YMCA helped the women to start the association, and in the process of officially registering the association. Furthermore, and as part of the needs identified by the women and community, the YMCA helped establish:
  - a. A food production plant to produce grape molasses, raisins, fruit snacks, dried vegetables, etc.
  - b. A village supermarket
  - c. A marketing network between the farmers and marketing companies
- Through community mobilization and organization, the village was successful in securing transportation for the children to reach their schools in neighboring villages. A school bus was supplied to Beit Skaria to transport the children on a daily basis.



*NDC, PCC and the village council*



*RIWAQ, PCC and the Village Council*



*The Beit Skaria Women's Association*

### **Right to Play**

Under the same sector the Right to Play intervened in Beit Skaria and offered programs to Reduce the stress levels and increase self confidence and esteem among women through sports activities. 14 women between the ages of 20 – 58 took part in the various sports activities organized by the Right to Play on the school premises. The activities positively impacted the psychosocial situation of the women and reduced their stress levels.

### **Implementation recommendations per service provider**

#### **NDC, the PA and the donor community**

- In order to support the people and help them remain in their village and keep their homes and lands, a comprehensive participatory development plan for the village should be produced. The implementation of the plan should then be coordinated by a lead agency and the implementation process should be coordinated and synchronized.
- The plan should target improved services to the community of Beit Skaria namely in health, mental health, education, infrastructure, rehabilitation of homes and buildings, agriculture, job creation and income generation, political and community representation and participation.

#### **Implementing agencies (Line ministries and NGOs)**

- Provide long term programs to develop the agricultural sector, food production, small and medium sized income generating projects and sales and marketing.
- Provide long term programs that aim to reduce

the levels of stress and anxiety among the Beit Skaria community.

- Provide psychological therapy for adults and children to minimize the implications of long periods of stress, anxiety and traumatic incidents.
- Provide parents with knowledge and information on good parenting practices.
- Provide children with protection tools and mechanisms that help protect themselves from violence and equip them with life skills.
- Ensure the provision of school counseling for the village school.
- Provide women with knowledge, skills and support to empower them on psycho-social and economic levels.
- Provide literacy and adult education programs in the village.
- Provide recreational activities and places for children and adults.
- Improve the quality of school education in the village school and ensure the sustainability of the school bus that transports the children to neighboring schools. This will have a direct impact on the girls' education and will reduce early marriage among girls.
- Encourage the media to cover life in Beit Skaria in order to shed more light on the sufferings of its people and improve services.
- Advocate with the Ministries to improve the services that are being delivered to Beit Skaria - mainly health, education and social services.

### **Organizations in Beit Skaria**

- The Beit Skaria Village Council.
- The Beit Skaria Women's Association.
- The Beit Skaria Cooperative.

# List of implementing agencies

## The NGO Development Center – NDC

The NGO Development Center (NDC) is the largest Palestinian organization of its kind working hand-in-hand with Palestinian NGOs, local cooperatives, and community development organizations to improve the delivery of services to the disaffected and build a more capable, responsive Palestinian civil society.

### Contact details:

Head Office (Jerusalem)  
Mujahid construction, Ramallah, Jerusalem Rd,  
Al-Ram.  
PO Box address: 2173, Ramallah, Palestine.  
Tele: +970 2 234 7771-5 ext 101-117  
Fax: +970 2 234 7776  
Email: info@ndc.ps  
Website: <http://ndc.ps/contact-us#sthash.njaAwmB4.dpuf>

## RIWAQ

Riwaq is a Palestinian NGO that works of the conservation of Palestinian architectural heritage. Riwaq took on the imposing work of the National Register of Historic Buildings: a 13-year project (1994-2007) resulting in the publication of 3 impressive volumes that include detailed information, maps and photos of some 420 villages in 16 districts of the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

### Contact details:

Address: Palestine - Al Sharafeh - Al Bireh  
P.O. box 212 - Ramallah  
Tel: +972 2 2406887, +972 2 2406925, +972 2 2406926  
Fax: +972 2 2406986  
Email: info@riwaq.org

## The Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees – PARC

The Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC) is a leading Palestinian non-profit, non-governmental organization involved in rural development and women's empowerment. PARC provides advice, awareness support, services, and special consultancies for individuals, groups, and institutions involved in similar domains.

### Contact details:

Address: P.O Box : 25128 - Shu'fat - Jerusalem  
Head Office :  
Tel : +970 2 2963840  
Fax : +970 2 2963850  
Email: info@parc.ps  
Website: [www.parc.ps](http://www.parc.ps)

## The Arab Centre for Agricultural Development – ACAD

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.

### Contact details:

Headquarter  
Address: Al Bireh- Saber Taweel Bld.  
P.O Box: 3816 Al Bireh  
Tel: 972 2 2409651/60  
Fax: 972 2 2409652  
E-mail: info@acad.ps.  
Website: [www.acad.ps](http://www.acad.ps).

## **ADEL**

ADEL aims to be the pioneer national marketing program of the marginalized families products and cooperatives in terms of fair trade and fair price principles for both producers and consumers.

### **Contact details**

Alquds / Before Qalandia Road Blocks  
Telfax : +970 2 2351936  
Mobile : +970 599271419  
Email : info@adelft.com

## **The Palestinian Counseling Centre – PCC**

The PCC is a mental health nongovernmental organization that provides comprehensive mental health services in Palestine. The PCC was established in 1983 by a group of psychologists to enhance the mental well being of the Palestinian people suffering under the Israeli occupation. The PCC since then remains to provide vital mental health services to the Palestinian individual and community while continuing to advocate for an end to the Israeli occupation being the major impediment to mental well being.

### **Contact details:**

P.O.Box: 17402 – Jerusalem  
Telephone: 02-6562272.  
Fax.: 02-6562271.  
Email: pcc@palnet.com  
Website: www.pcc-jer.org.

## **The Beit Skaria Women's Association**

Telephone: 0597461471

## **Right to Play**

The UN recognizes play as the right of every child. Play is NOT a luxury; it is a tool for education and health. It can bring entire communities together and inspire every individual. A game of football can teach children about tolerance and peace, and a game of tag can teach about malaria. Play helps teach important life lessons and develop skills like cooperation, leadership and teamwork.

### **Contact details**

Bethlehem University Street, Hanna Mora Bdg.  
Bethlehem, Palestine  
P + 970 (2) 2746850 • M + 970 597888957  
F + 970 2746850  
www.righttoplay.com.

## **The Young Men's Christian Association – YMCA**

The East Jerusalem YMCA was established in 1949 in a tent in Aqabat Jaber Refugee Camp near Jericho . The EJ-YMCA works with all sectors of Palestinian society without discrimination. Today, the East Jerusalem YMCA operates a variety of diversified programs and activities that are consistent with its vision of Holistic Youth Development and related directly to the needs of Palestinian society.

### **Contact details:**

East Jerusalem (central office)  
Address: PO Box 19023  
29 Nablus Road - East Jerusalem  
Tel: +972-2-628-6888  
Fax: +972-2-627-6301  
Email: abatarseh@ej-ymca.org.  
Website: http://www.ej-ymca.org.