

Agriculture & Water Security



GRF

Report 2023-24

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Executive Summary

With the acceleration of climate change, conflict and environmental degradation, the world is overseeing a shift that makes agricultural livelihoods and water security a key area of concern.

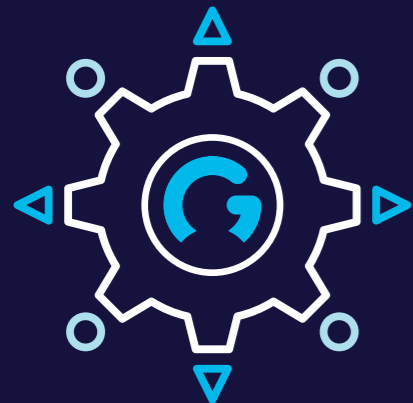
The impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are often disproportionately absorbed by vulnerable socio-economic communities such as farmers, women and children.

Consequently, with millions of people in the Global South relying on agricultural livelihoods, many do not have the equipment they need to make a sufficient living. In particular, access to clean water is vital to underpin resilient livelihoods as well as basic survival in the midst of natural disasters or conflict.

GRF works in 25 countries primarily focusing on delivering humanitarian aid to those impacted by natural disasters and conflict. We have responded to several crises over the past year including the Gaza War, Sudan Conflict, and emerging humanitarian disasters in countries such as Lebanon, Mali, Chad and Bangladesh, amongst others.

Whilst we centre our efforts on delivering humanitarian aid in hard to reach areas, we also focus on sustainable development, particularly as we recognise the importance of addressing root causes of multidimensional poverty. A large range of our development projects have thus focused on farmer empowerment and providing sustainable water access to remote and vulnerable communities.

Map of Operations



Agricultural Development

With Agricultural livelihoods making up **2.6 billion peoples income** and subsistence across the world, the need to protect the agriculture sector is significant. Smallholder farmers are believed to **produce around 70% of the world's food**, despite this, there are several concerns around the support provided to smallholder farmers that assist them in **sustaining their livelihoods**.

This crucial concern has been the trigger for **GRF's expansion into agricultural development projects**.

We have conducted projects including **tree plantations** and **greenhouse constructions for vulnerable populations**. At GRF, we adopt a participatory approach where the **beneficiary is the decision-maker**, in this regard our project development is derived from the most pressing needs in the community we are intervening in. This makes our project approach **tailored to measuring impact in cross sectoral areas such as food security and disposable income**.

In **2023-2024** alone, some of our agricultural projects included:

The Vegetable Greenhouse Project

GRF constructed **2 greenhouses in Palestine**. The greenhouses offer an alternate effective method of **producing high quality produce in surplus**. This project intended to assist farmers in mass-producing better quality vegetables to sell in market-places.

The Olive Tree Plantation Project

GRF oversaw the sourcing, planting and tending to **335 olive trees in Palestine**, supporting smallholder farmers with **equipment and seeds** and enabling them access to **local markets to sell olive oil for increased profits**.



Water Security

Access to water is a basic human necessity, in times of crisis however, access to clean and safe water becomes a challenge. Beyond this, water security is a vital precondition to securing agricultural livelihoods. Natural disasters and conflicts can result in the loss of key infrastructure and production, rehabilitation and improving the resilience capacity of communities most affected by this dynamic is paramount. As such, the need for interventions specifically aiming to improve water security in some of the most drought and conflict prone areas is a key aim of GRF.

Reflecting this commitment, in 2023-24 alone, GRF has implemented several projects aiming to address water access and security in high-risk areas. Some of these projects include:

Construction of water wells across Mali, Afghanistan, Niger, Chad, Yemen, Palestine and Bangladesh resulting in daily water access for 3,800 people.

We have ensured that all water wells constructed are solar-powered and are constructed in communities that would otherwise have to travel long distances to obtain water, a job that disproportionately impacts girls and women.

Construction of 5 desalination units in Palestine

GRF's desalination units ensure a steady, reliable source of clean water in areas grappling with drought and desertification such as Palestine.

Construction of a Tubewell for Agriculture in Pakistan

Demonstrating GRF's commitment to the construction and maintenance of irrigation systems, we implemented a project that oversaw the construction of a tube well in the Interior Sindh region of Pakistan.





Future Strategy

As we look toward the future, GRF is keen on continuing its emphasis on agricultural development and water security. In particular, we are currently in collaboration with several of our local teams on the expansion of GRF's projects in these areas.

We are aiming to launch our **'Kitchen Gardening'** project which will allow women to grow staple vegetables with the resources they have at home, as well as training to grow these vegetables. Not only will this project produce food for the family's consumption, but the surplus can be sold within the community for income generation.

Highlighting the need for income generation, we are also expanding our project that will **distribute seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and silo bags** to produce and preserve cultivated produce.

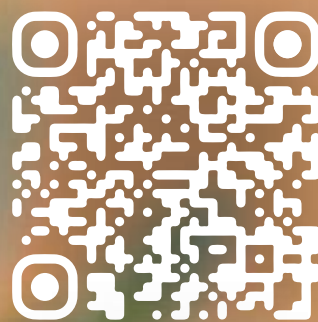
Finally, building upon our water security projects, we are enhancing our projects that will develop **irrigation systems** in communities that are most vulnerable to drought and desertification.

With the debilitating impacts of conflicts and natural disasters on local communities still requiring urgent action, GRF is committed to working with relevant stakeholders to ensure that mitigation and resilience strategies are in place to combat the shocks of such events.





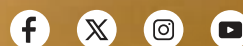
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