

# Foster Palestinian Social Economy in the Seam Zone

Al-Jiftlik Women Cooperative Enterprise



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Presented by: Akram Altaher  
The Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine  
(ESDC)



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Aljiftlik Women Cooperative Enterprise

Contents:-

- 1- Al-Jiftlik area background.
- 2- Al-Jiftlik Cooperative.
- 3- ESDC Involvement: Cooperative Development.
- 4- Enterprise Development & Economic Impact.
- 5- Enterprise Development & Social Impact.
- 6- Gender
- 7- Challenges

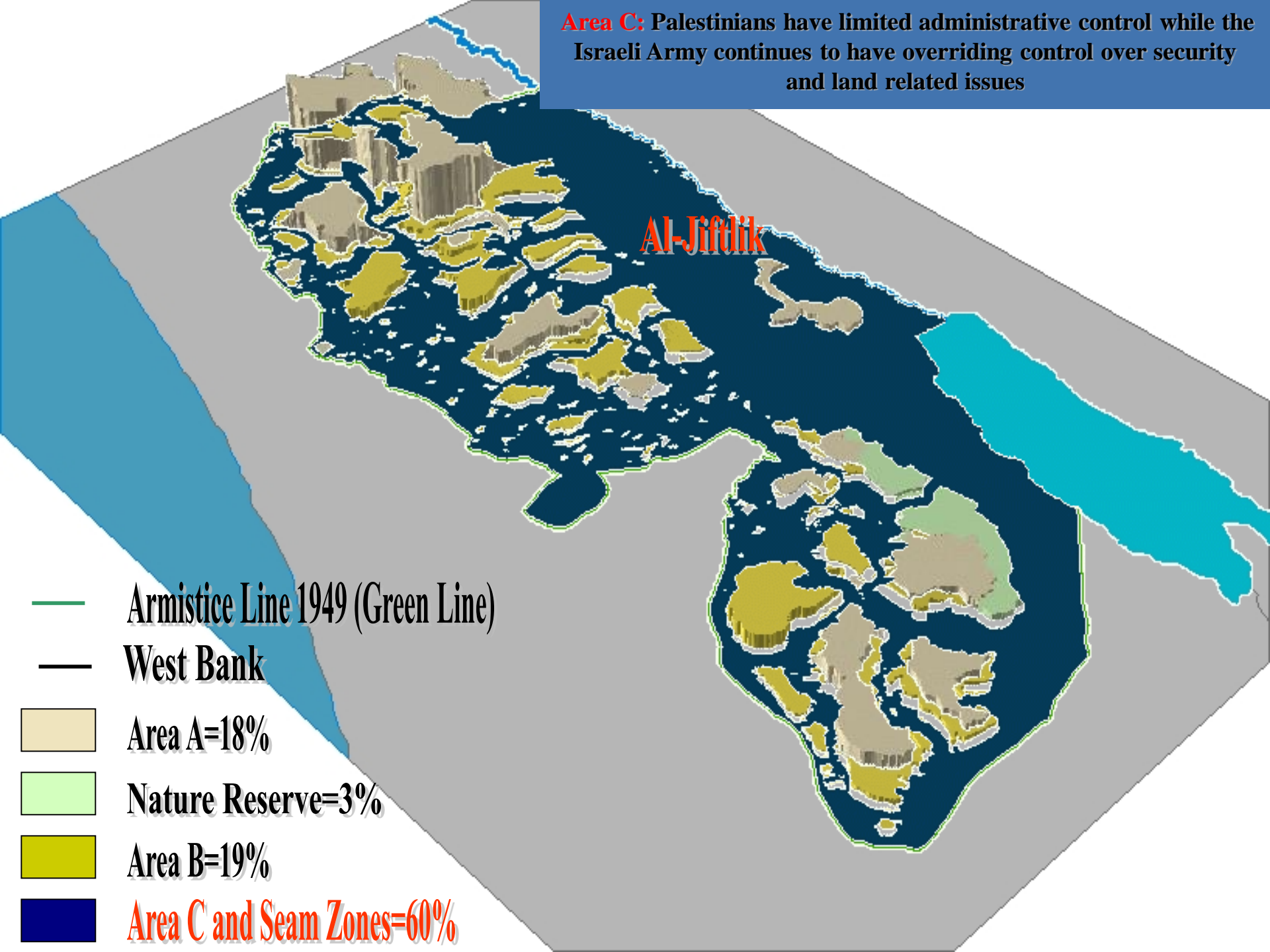


## Al-Jiftlik area background

- Al-Jiftlik is located in the central Jordan Valley, 34 km from Jericho. It is located 250 meters below sea level.
- The area is 81,283 dunums and 17,000 dunums are irrigated.
- Most of the population was forced to leave and to be forcibly displaced after the Israeli occupation in 1967, when most of its houses (800 houses) were demolished and 6,000 residents were forced to emigrate. Half of them returned back as refugees.



**Area C:** Palestinians have limited administrative control while the Israeli Army continues to have overriding control over security and land related issues



## Al-Jiftlik Cooperative

In 2005 the Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC) began work with a group of women from Al-Jiftlik on cooperative Concept and cooperative principles.

The women decided to begin a women's working group and ESDC provided capacity training for the women.

In 2006, the women's working group requested that ESDC assist them in registering their group as a cooperative, which ESDC successfully did.

Al-Jiftlik Cooperative for Food Processing was established in 2006 and currently has 16 women and 4 men members with a share of (US \$12,000).

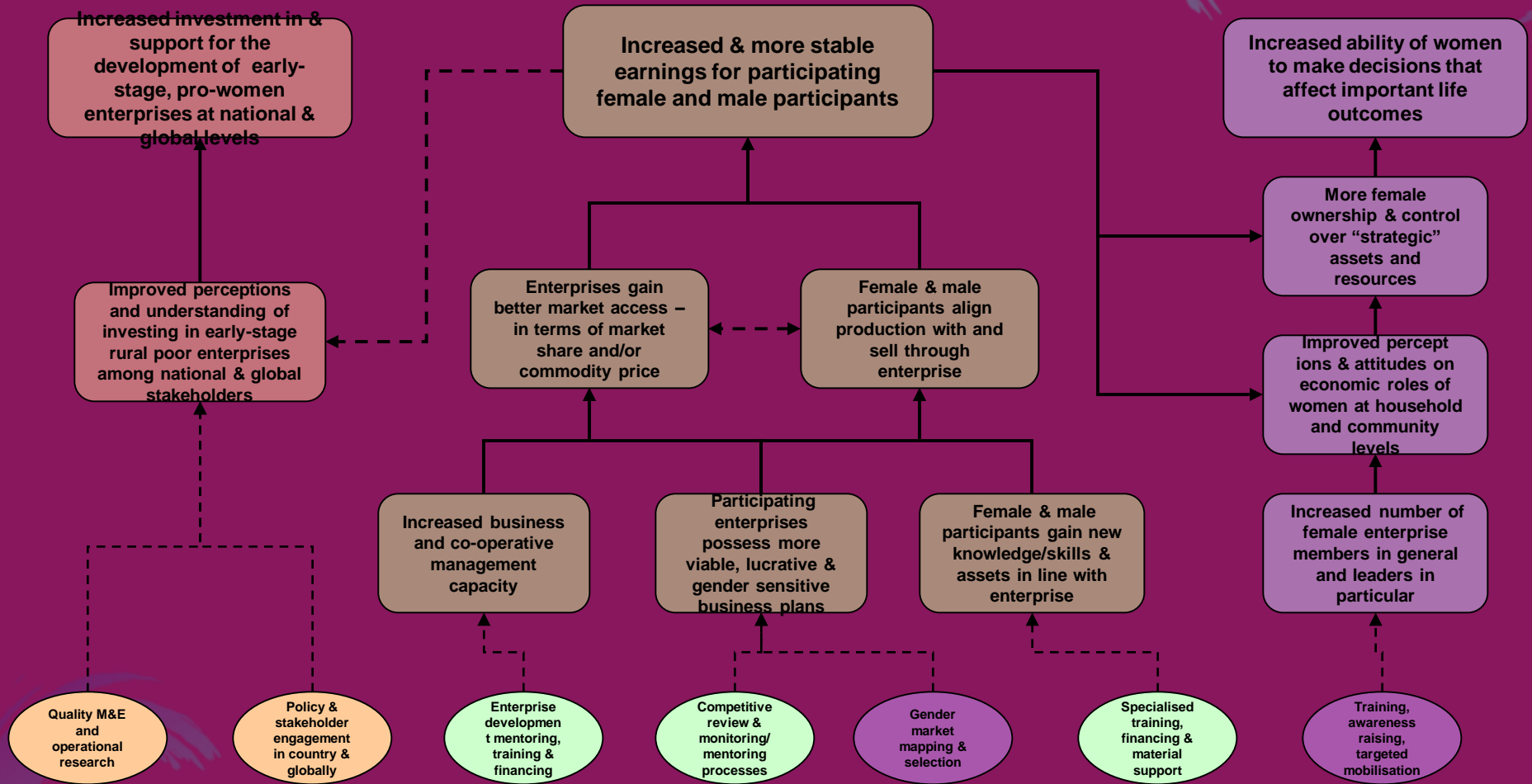
**The cooperative was established to provide work opportunities for women in the village who are otherwise employed and exploited in nearby Israeli settlements.**



## **ESDC Involvement: Al-Jiftlik Cooperative Development**

- Institutionalizing.
- Systematizing.
- Strategic and business planning.
- Financial and administration system.
- Production manuals.
- Production inputs.
- Production practices.
- Standardizing their two main products.

# ESDC Model – Cooperative Enterprise Development Programme



## **Enterprise Development**

### **Development of Chili and Makdous Processing Unit in Aljeftlik Cooperative**

- The cooperative products are Makdous (pickled eggplant) and Shatta (Hot sauce) supply to NFC.
- The cooperative access to new local and external market.
- The yearly sales of Makdous and Shatta products are 13 tons where 60% is sold to NFC and 40% for other markets.





## Economic Impact

Al-Jiftlik cooperative purchasing the raw materials (eggplants, peppers) from their member farmers.

Created work opportunity for 50% female members

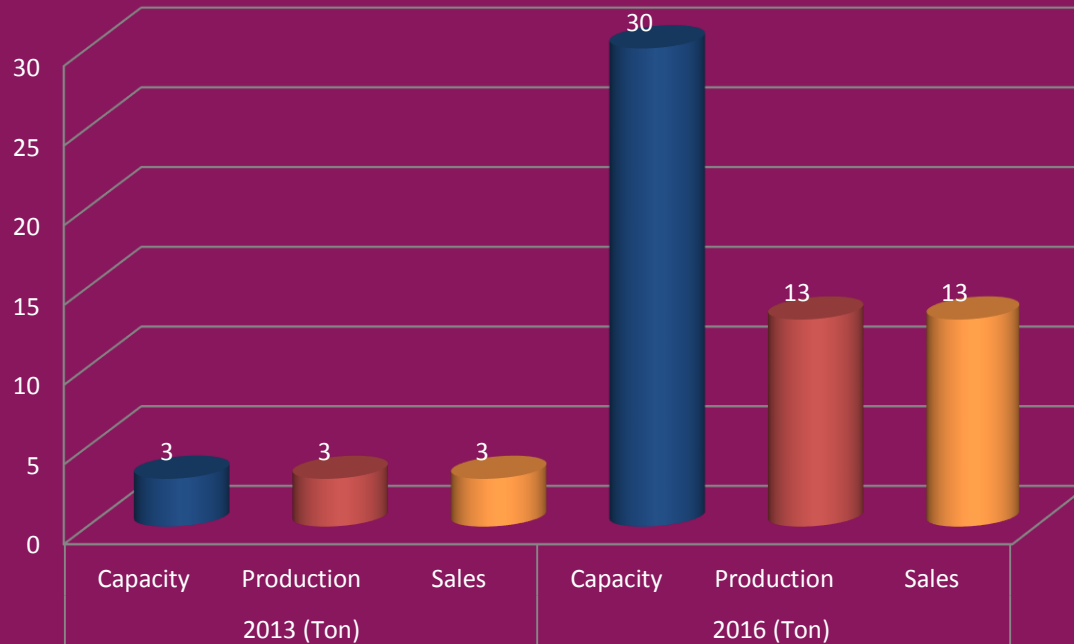
**ESDC linked the cooperative with other cooperatives and also with NFC.**

Men members also benefit by transporting the goods to the cooperative and to the market.



## Economic Impact

### Makdous and Shatta Enterprise Development



The growing success of the cooperative is evident with the distribution of dividends for the first time since its establishment in 2013, where each member received (US \$100)

## Social Impact

- The cooperative also serve the community through a successful advocacy campaign for electricity and a health clinic for the village.
- The cooperative has become a reference point for local and international organizations that work and give to the community, including the donation of a computer center for the youth in the community at the cooperative.
- The cooperative also advocates for the rights of the village and highlights the settler attacks that they face.
- Al-Jiftlik Cooperative Makdius and Shatta Food Processing has become a model certified product

**The Chairwoman of the cooperative, Um Ahmed said, “We are doing great. But still, we have a lot to accomplish. We must continue to build the work opportunities for the women, until no one single women has to work in the settlements. Then, we will work to provide work opportunities for the men in the village. Then I will be satisfied.”**



## Gender

- Women gain experience and skills in management, solving problems, and cooperative relationships.”
- The members of the cooperative established a kindergarten at their premises to serve their members and the local community This has allowed women to have free time to work, and create three job opportunities for the cooperative members as kindergarten employees.

## Challenges

Al-Jiftlik Cooperative is not only challenged by access to market, but experience additional main pressure from the ongoing Israeli-military occupation.



# Thank You