

Third Arab Land Conference  
Troisième Conférence Arabe sur le Foncier  
المؤتمر العربي الثالث للأراضي  
18-20 FEBRUARY 2025 • RABAT, MOROCCO



# Exploring Women-Led Agribusinesses As Resilience and Recovery Pillars in Gaza

[Presentation: Women and land]

*Ahmed Sourani, Co-Founder & General Coordinator, Gaza Urban & Peri-Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP)*

المملكة المغربية  
ROYAUME DU MAROC



وزارة إعداد التراب الوطني والتعمير  
والإسكان وسياسة المدينة

MINISTÈRE DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE NATIONAL  
DE L'URBANISME, DE L'HABITAT ET DE LA POLITIQUE DE LA VILLE



UN-HABITAT

الاراضي العربية ادارة  
Arab Land Initiative

منتدى غزة للزراعة  
الحضرية وشبه الحضرية  
GUPAP  
Gaza Urban & Peri-urban Agriculture Platform

# Gaza's Crisis Context and Challenges

## Understanding the Landscape

### Prolonged Blockade

17+ years of restricted movement, impacting food systems and resources.

### Food Insecurity

Affecting 1.84 million people; 90% of households face challenges accessing food due to the continuous war.

### Gender Barriers

Systemic exclusion of women from policies and decision-making processes.



# Women Agripreneurs: Contributions and Impact

## Driving Resilience in Gaza

### Primary Breadwinners

75% of Agricultural activities depend on women's participation, where number of women's agribusinesses (SMEs) reached 3000.

### Innovative Solutions

Adopting agroecological practices like rooftop farming, home gardening, utmost use of local resources and local seed preservation.

### Community Leadership

Community-led solidarity marketing in crisis, including food distribution, community-led kitchen and urban family farming advisory services.



# Agroecology Practices: A Path to Resilience

## Innovative Solutions in Agriculture

### Baladi Seeds

Locally adapted, require minimal inputs, and support biodiversity.

### Water-Saving Techniques

Greywater recycling, rainfed farming combat scarcity and rainfall water harvesting.

### Rooftop and Urban Farming

Optimizing limited spaces for sustainable, accessible and safe food production.



# Inspiring Women-Led Initiatives

## Driving Change Through Community Responses in crisis

### Solidarity Marketing

Distributed 35+ tons of food to vulnerable families/IDPs in crisis.

### Seed Preservation

Recovering and multiplying Baladi seeds to enhance food sovereignty.

### Community Kitchens

Providing meals and support for Internally Displaced People.



# Policy Gaps Analysis

## Addressing Barriers to Progress

### Gender-Responsive Policies

Limited frameworks addressing women's needs and capacities in agriculture.

### Urban Agroecology

Insufficient integration into national agricultural strategies.

### Financial and Technical Support

Inadequate funding and capacity-building initiatives/spaces and resources enhancement .



# Comprehensive Policy Recommendations

## Empowering Women Agripreneurs

### Secure Land Tenure

Formalize women's rights to land ownership and farming resources.

### Financial Incentives

Provide microcredit, subsidies, and tailored financial mechanisms.

### Capacity Building

Offer participatory basic and specialized capacity building opportunities in urban family farming, agroecology and agribusiness management.



# Role of GUPAP and UWAF

## Fostering Resilience and Inclusion

### Advocacy and Policy Influence

Promoting urban agroecology and inclusive frameworks.

### Empowerment Initiatives

Capacitating women agripreneurs and fostering collaboration, networking and women-led power spaces.

### Solidarity Networks

Building community support

Systems and spaces to enhance resilience.





# Success Stories

## Impact of Women-Led Initiatives

### Food Distribution

Solidarity initiatives provided essential food aid during crises.

### Seed Sovereignty

Preserving Baladi seeds to secure biodiversity and resilience.

### Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Creating family farming advisory services to empower women agripreneurs in crisis to fill existing gap in crisis.



# Regional Applications

## Scalable & Learningful Solutions from Gaza's Model

### Lessons for the Arab Region

Adopt women-led agroecology for crisis resilience.

### Policy Integration

Encourage gender-responsive agricultural frameworks.

### Community Collaboration

Foster solidarity and participatory capacity sharing networks/spaces to build regional resilience.



# Key Takeaways

## Lessons from Gaza's Agribusinesses

### Women Drive Resilience

Agriprenuers are pillars of resilience and recovery in protracted crisis and humanitarian catastrophes contexts.

### Urban Agroecology as a Solution

Sustainable practices and utmost use of local resources “though limited” foster food security and diversity.

### Policy is Critical

Gender-responsive frameworks are key to long-term impact.



# Call to Action

## Empowering Women and Driving positive Change

### Integrate Women in Policies

Promote realistic gender-responsive frameworks in agriculture.

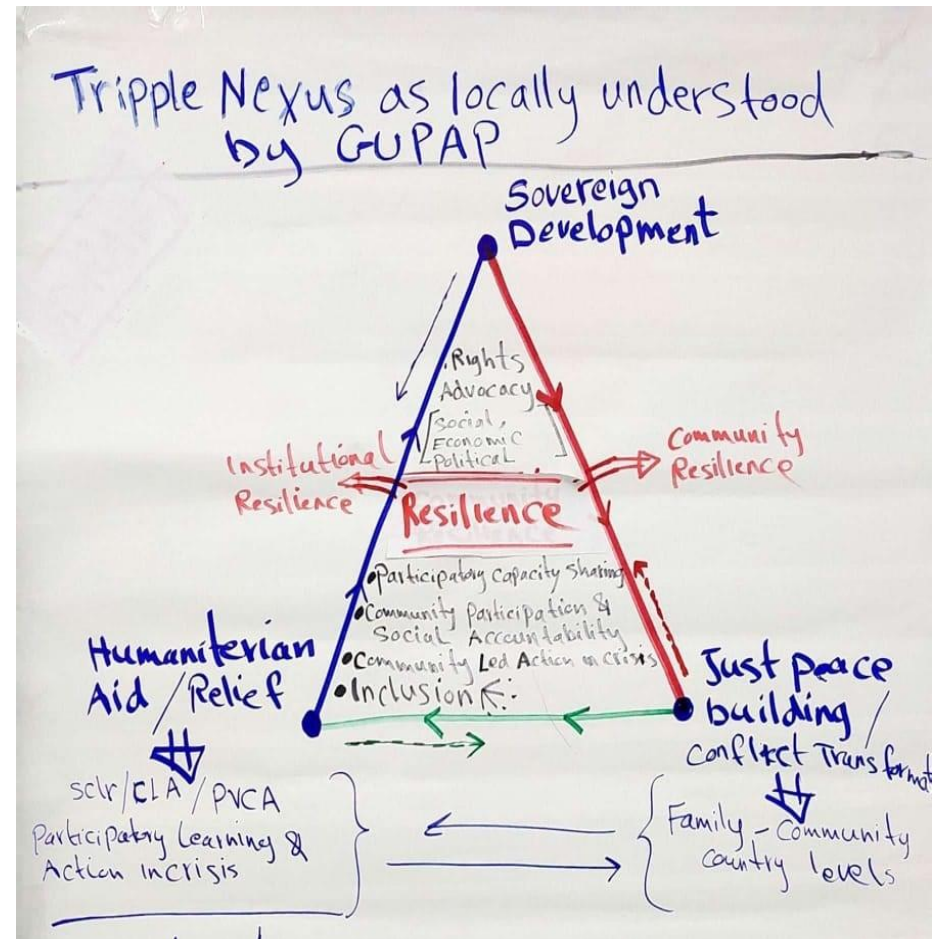
### Adopt Urban Agroecology

Champion sustainable practices for more resilient food security in crisis.

### Collaborate Globally

Scale space of participatory learning and Action from/to Palestine to inspire hope, just peace and resilience in our region and Worldwide; where development,

emergency/relief and just peace building are well integrated in a coherent approach towards recovery and reconstruction.



# THANK YOU!

For more information visit:

<https://gupap.org/>

<https://agroecology.world/gaza-foodways/our-work-so-far/>

or contact:

**Ahmed Sourani:**

[ahmed.sourani@gupap.org](mailto:ahmed.sourani@gupap.org)