
Final Report

"Embracing Our Roots: Revitalizing Ninewa's Heritage and Land"

By Rezan Organization for Development

Project code: DIOC001

Feb 2025



Grant Recipient:	Rezan Organization for Development, Erbil, Iraq
Project Title:	Embracing Our Roots: Revitalizing the Lands of Ninewa
Project Code:	DI0C001
Grant Period:	12 months
Total Funding:	200,000 Euros
Reporting Period:	Mar/2024-Feb/2025
Date of Report:	28- Feb-2025

1. Summary of Key Achievements

This project aimed to support 35 families (approximately 175 individuals) in Karamles and Tilkaif, Ninewa Plains, to rebuild their livelihoods through sustainable agricultural practices, smart farming techniques, and targeted vocational support. By addressing the critical needs of conflict- and drought-affected farmers, the project strengthened food security and enhanced economic resilience, additionally, The solar panel which is installed in the land of the church will be available for anyone from Karalmes who wants to work in agriculture.

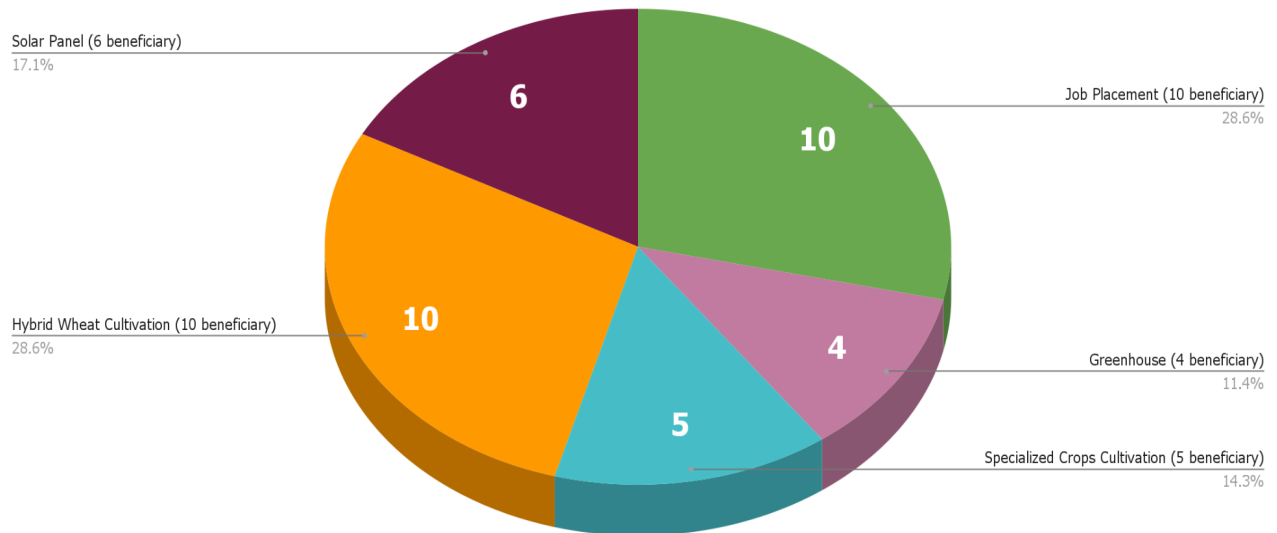
Key Outcomes:

- **Training Provided:** 35 farmers participated in two-month training sessions focusing on climate-smart agricultural practices, such as drought-resistant crop cultivation, crop diversification, post-harvest management, and integrated pest management.
- **Job placement :** 10 farmers participated in a job placement scheme focused on grapefruit cultivation on church-owned land. This six-month program provided stable incomes and practical experience in climate-smart agriculture.
- **Equipment and Input Distribution:** Distributed grants of €1,000 to 25 farmers, along with seeds, pesticides, and farming equipment to enhance agricultural productivity and reduce dependency on external inputs.
- **Greenhouse Installation:** Installed 4 greenhouses for 4 farmers, enabling them to cultivate high-value crops such as cucumber, strawberry, pumpkin, green beans, and cabbage, extending the growing season and ensuring consistent income.
- **Specialized Crop Cultivation:** Supported 5 farmers with seeds and grants to plant niche crops, including black carrot, American lettuce, broccoli, and garlic, which have high market demand and nutritional value.
- **Installation of Solar panel:** Supported 10 farmers working collectively on shared land. Their grants were pooled to purchase a solar panel for sustainable irrigation, and they collectively planted staple crops such as onion, pepper, beans, and lentils, which are culturally significant in Karamles.
- **Hybrid Wheat Cultivation:** Facilitated the planting of hybrid wheat by 6 farmers on church-owned land, leveraging high-yield varieties to boost food security and generate community income.

Beyond agricultural productivity, this project has empowered the **Christian community in Karamles** by ensuring economic independence, securing **sustainable income sources**, and

restoring **stability** in the wake of post-conflict challenges. The **integration of solar power** has provided **consistent electricity and water access**, revolutionizing local farming operations.

Total Beneficiaries: 35



2. Achievements Against Objectives

Objective: Enhance resilience among conflict- and drought-affected farmers through improved livelihoods and food security.

Indicators Achieved:

1. **Increased Access to Food and Income:** Post-intervention surveys indicate that 80% of participating households reported improved food access and income levels.
2. **Training of Farmers:** Successfully trained 35 individuals in climate-smart agriculture, equipping them with both theoretical and practical knowledge tailored to their specific needs.
3. **Equipment Distribution:** Provided necessary equipment and inputs to 25 farmers, including seeds, pesticides, irrigation tools, and sustainable farming equipment, enabling them to adopt advanced agricultural techniques.

4. **Specialized Initiatives:** installed greenhouses, collective farming projects, and niche crop cultivation initiatives to diversify agricultural outputs and income sources.
5. **Improved Market Access:** Established a marketplace for the farmers to enable them to market their local agricultural products, connecting them to local markets to enhance profitability.



3. Implementation of Activities

Activity 1.1.1: Conduct a Needs Assessment and Select Beneficiaries

The project began with a comprehensive needs assessment conducted in collaboration with the Agricultural Department in Hamdaniya and Mosul, St. Adday Parish, and Bishop Najeeb and other local stakeholders. Vulnerability criteria included household income, access to land, family size, and disability status. The assessment ensured the selection of the most vulnerable yet capable farmers for participation in the program.

Activity 1.1.2: Provide Training in Climate-Smart Agriculture

Training sessions, held twice a week over two months, covered:

- Climate-resilient crop cultivation techniques, emphasizing drought-resistant varieties.
- Crop rotation and diversification strategies to maintain soil health and reduce pest risks.
- Post-harvest management practices, including storage and value addition to minimize food loss.
- Integrated pest management using organic and eco-friendly methods to reduce chemical dependency.

These sessions combined classroom instruction with field demonstrations, ensuring participants could apply learned techniques effectively.



Activity 1.2.1: Distribute Equipment and Inputs

Grants of €1,000 were provided to 25 farmers, enabling them to purchase critical agricultural inputs:

- **Seeds:** High-yield and drought-resistant varieties for sustainable cultivation.
- **Pesticides:** Eco-friendly options to manage pests without environmental harm.
- **Equipment:** Irrigation tools and sustainable farming technologies to optimize water usage and reduce labor.

Activity 1.2.2: Install Greenhouses and Support Specialized Farming

- Installed 4 greenhouses, benefiting 4 families by enabling year-round cultivation of high-value crops (cucumber, strawberry, pumpkin, green beans, cabbage).
- Supported 5 farmers with seeds and training for planting high-demand niche crops (black carrot, American lettuce, broccoli, garlic).
- Facilitated a collective farming initiative for 10 farmers to work together on shared land, using their pooled resources to install a solar-powered irrigation system and cultivate culturally significant crops (onion, pepper, beans, lentils).
- Assisted 6 farmers in cultivating hybrid wheat on church-managed land, contributing to local food security and providing a sustainable income source.



Activity 1.3.1: Implement Temporary Job Placement

Ten farmers participated in a job placement scheme focused on grapefruit cultivation on church-owned land. This six-month program provided stable incomes and practical experience in climate-smart agriculture.

Activity 1.4.1: Conduct Monitoring and Provide Expert Guidance

Regular bi-monthly monitoring visits were conducted to:

- Evaluate the application of training techniques.
- Address specific challenges faced by farmers.
- Provide expert guidance on improving productivity and market engagement.

Farmers also had access to on-demand support through a dedicated communication line with agricultural experts.

Activity 1.5.1: Establish Marketplaces

To enhance market access, farmers were provided with tents and tools to set up roadside stands. This initiative connected them to consumers in Karamles, boosting sales and visibility. Additionally, farmers were trained in marketing strategies to maximize their reach and profitability.

4. Challenges Encountered

1. **Water Scarcity:** Insufficient rain and water resources delayed irrigation projects and constrained productivity. The installation of solar-powered systems significantly helped the beneficiaries mitigate this issue.
 2. **Market Volatility:** Fluctuations in input costs, driven by political instability, impacted financial planning for both farmers and the project.
-

5. Transformative Impact on the local Community in Karamles

This project has empowered the Christian farming community in Karamles by providing stable income sources, enhanced agricultural productivity, and energy independence.

Solar-Powered Transformation

- The introduction of solar energy has revolutionized local farming, ensuring reliable electricity and water access for irrigation.
- This innovation has directly addressed the chronic water scarcity issues, ensuring continuous crop production and sustainable livelihoods.
- Farmers no longer rely on expensive fuel-based generators, reducing costs and increasing profitability.

Strengthening Economic Independence

- The project restored local farmlands and revived ancestral agricultural traditions.
- By leveraging church-owned land, the initiative ensured long-term sustainability and social cohesion.
- Farmers have expanded their operations, creating a ripple effect on local economic growth.

6. Lessons Learned

1. **Tailored Mentoring:** One-on-one coaching sessions were instrumental in addressing individual farmer challenges and improving outcomes.
2. **Grant Optimization:** Higher grant amounts could further enhance startup success amidst inflation and rising costs.
3. **Extended Training Periods:** Longer training durations would allow beneficiaries to master advanced techniques and enhance long-term resilience.

7. Sustainability and Impact

Sustainability Measures:

- Collaboration with local authorities and the church ensures ongoing support for climate-smart practices and land access.
- Adoption of high-yield seeds and solar-powered irrigation systems reduces dependency on external aid.
- Integration into local markets ensures continuous income generation for participating farmers.

Impact: The project's holistic approach has fostered economic self-reliance, improved agricultural productivity, and strengthened community resilience against climate and conflict challenges. By empowering farmers with sustainable practices and market access, the project has laid a foundation for long-term stability and growth in the Ninewa Plains.

8. Conclusion & Future Vision

The "Embracing Our Roots" project has **set a new benchmark** for **post-conflict agricultural revival**, demonstrating that **innovation, community resilience, and strategic investment** can **restore hope and prosperity** to vulnerable populations.

Moving forward, **scaling this initiative** to include **more Christian farming communities** will be instrumental in securing the **economic future of Ninewa Plains**. Further **investment in solar energy, modern farming techniques, and market integration** will ensure **long-term prosperity** for generations to come.
