



France committed, alongside Palestine, to supporting the water sector by signing financing agreements for a total amount of 20.5 Million Euros by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Shukri Bishara, the Consul General of France and the Director of AFD, on Wednesday, the 08<sup>th</sup> of May 2019.



- 13M € will be for a project of Water and Food Security in Gaza near NGEST (Water Banking and Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change in Northern Gaza). This project combines two pillars aiming (i) increase the efficiency of the use of water resources in the context of increased scarcity (construction of a network of connected wells and a collective irrigation network); (ii) maximizing solar energy production, allowing both a deduction in the cost of the use of irrigation water and an increase in the operational empowerment in relation to the (unstable) electricity grid and generators.

4,200 people will benefit directly from this project (farmers, permanent and seasonal workers) and 23,500 people will benefit indirectly by improving their access to quality irrigation water at a perimeter of 1,500 inhabitants. The annual injection of an additional 13 million cubic meters of water by infiltration into the aquifer (at the exit of NGEST) and their allocation of covering the needs of agriculture, will make it possible to release the equivalent of this volume of water for other uses (especially domestic): representing 10% of the use of the population in Gaza, equivalent to the needs of 200,000 inhabitants.

This project could benefit from additional funding of 24 Million € delegated by the Green Climate Fund and 8 Million € delegated by the Irish Aid.

- 7.5M € will be additional funds for the project of the Wastewater treatment in Hebron implemented since 2018. This project improves the living conditions (health) of the population of Hebron (estimated at 225,000 inhabitants in 2027) and villages located along Wadi Al-Samen (estimated at 180,000 inhabitants in 2027). In the context of a particularly sensitive water environment, this project is a transition adjustment to climate change, as well as it allows the deposit effluent in the natural environment, meeting quality standards compatible of water reuse for agriculture purposes.

The French contribution for this project is equal to 17.5 M €, out of a total amount of 40.5M € co-financed by the European Union (14 M €) and the World Bank (10 M \$).