



Update November 2016

Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory

New hope for Esmat

Two years after war devastated large parts of the Gaza Strip, claiming more than 1,500 civilian lives, many farmers, herders and fishermen are still struggling to recover from the damage to their land and livelihoods. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, some 19,000 households dependent on farming, fishing or herding needed help right after the conflict to restore their means of earning a living.

Israel's illegal blockade also continues to stifle recovery for 1.8 million Palestinians in the region. Due to restrictions on the movement of people and goods into Gaza, including essential items such as fuel and building materials, only 10% of homes destroyed in the conflict have been rebuilt and more than 80% of the population still depend heavily on aid.

Esmat Abu Quader's farmland was badly damaged during the last offensive, and the irrigation network to his fields and protective fence bordering his lands were both destroyed. This damage prevented Esmat from working, and so he struggled to provide for his family, including a disabled relative.

Christian Aid partner PARC has helped Esmat to restore his farm and resume farming by installing a new fence and irrigation network. The rehabilitated farm has provided a livelihood for Esmat and a brighter future for his family.



Esmat tends to his crops, which are thriving thanks to new irrigation networks.

PARC is continuing to help farmers like Esmat and their families to repair damaged lands and livelihoods. In addition, it's also helping to rehabilitate the farming sector by supporting people displaced by conflict to find short-term agricultural work, such as restoring

fences, agricultural perimeters and irrigation channels.

Thank you so much for your support of partners like PARC through Commitment for Life, which gives families like Esmat's a chance to recover and rebuild their lives.

Help us #changethestory

The stories we hear and retell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda. So when refugees are portrayed negatively in the media, their dignity is challenged.

Today, more than 65 million people have been forced from their homes by violence, fear or desperation – each is deserving of safety, freedom and hope.

In times of political uncertainty at home, telling our message of shared humanity is more important than ever.

Join us in changing the story about refugees: write to your newspaper and tell them that refugees deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

To help us change the story, go to: caid.org.uk/changethestory

cforl.org.uk

facebook.com/comm4life

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