

Milan Pact Awards 2025		JERICOH					
Country	Palestine						
Population	37,859						
Title of practice	AKLI BALADI+ (Eat Local)						
Subtitle	Local Food Policies for Italian and Palestinian Cities						
Photos/videos	Please check the link to the Sharepoint folder provided. If you need access, please contact the MUFPP Secretariat.						
MUFPP Recommended Action	4. Develop or revise urban food policies and plans and ensure allocation of appropriate resources within city administration regarding food-related policies and programmes; review, harmonize and strengthen municipal regulations; build up strategic capacities for a more sustainable, healthy and equitable food system balancing urban and rural interests. – GOVERNANCE						
Starting year	2025	Ending year (if any)				already submitted in the past	
Actors and stakeholders' involvement	Municipal departments	Other public institutions	NGOs CSOs	Research centres	Private sectors	International organizations	Other
	11	3	4	3	1	1	
Budget	The total budget for the practice is € 1,752,971.16, primarily funded by a grant from AICS (93.69%) and a contribution from the Proponent/Entity (6.31%). Additionally, the Municipality of Jericho will contribute with its staff, with approximately 3 employees in charge.						
Brief description	The Municipality of Jericho is integral to the “AKLI BALADI” project, aiming to develop inclusive, sustainable, and resilient urban food policies across Palestinian cities. The broader context for this initiative is the pressing need to enhance local food systems and improve food security in the region. Many Palestinian cities face challenges in establishing robust local food policies and strengthening their agri-food sectors. “AKLI BALADI” seeks to address these systemic needs by fostering stronger rural-urban linkages, enhancing food governance at the municipal level, and providing crucial education and training, empowering communities through food. Jericho's participation is key to realizing these overarching project goals within its specific territory. Within this framework, Jericho focuses on enhancing its agri-food sector, particularly the date production supply chain. The project aims to improve governance, traceability, and foster international collaboration for dates. Key activities include implementing new protocols and pioneering blockchain tracking for dates to boost cooperative efficiency and product transparency. Jericho is also actively supported in its bid to become a UNESCO “Creative City of Gastronomy,” with dedicated assistance from the City of Bergamo. This initiative is crucial for promoting Jericho's unique local food system and elevating its global profile. Jericho's municipality is vital in project governance, via the “Jericho Committee” with partners.						

Innovation	The “AKLI BALADI” project introduces highly innovative approaches and solutions to food system issues. Its core aim is to contribute to the development of inclusive, sustainable, and resilient urban food policies in Jericho. A key innovation in Jericho lies in strengthening its date supply chain. Building upon previous efforts, the project implements advanced protocols and, critically, initiates blockchain tracking procedures for dates. This involves applying QR codes to packaging to significantly enhance product traceability, improve governance, and foster international collaboration for this key Jericho product. This technological leap directly improves management and operational efficiency for date cooperatives, strengthening local skills and technical support. A particularly groundbreaking initiative for Jericho is the support provided for its application to become a UNESCO “Creative City of Gastronomy”. This aims to leverage food culture as a means of enhancing Jericho's international profile and recognition, representing an innovative strategy for urban development through gastronomy. The project provides assistance in preparing the necessary dossiers for such prestigious international awards. The project also fosters innovation in food governance within Jericho. It aims to strengthen the policymaking capacities of Jericho's territorial authorities and their multi-actor networks in the food sector, in synergy with Italian counterparts.
Impact	The project targets significant, quantifiable impacts on Jericho's food system. Economically, its € 60,000 total budget directly supports the date supply chain within the Jericho part. A key economic target is to track 500 kg of dates via blockchain with QR codes by 2027, boosting market readiness, producer value, and fostering international trade. This enhances cooperative efficiency and contributes to economic equity, supporting sustainable and socially just economic growth through bottom-up, community-based development for marginalized producers and creators. Socially, strengthening date cooperatives, with protocol applied in 2 cooperatives, directly benefits local producers, promoting inclusion and improving livelihoods. Jericho will also contribute its unique gastronomy and agricultural expertise, using food as a medium to preserve and share cultural identities and culinary techniques (SDG 11, 15). Environmentally, blockchain traceability fosters transparency, encouraging more sustainable date production practices, and promoting zero-waste practices, contributing to responsible consumption. A significant long-term impact is the targeted submission of Jericho's UNESCO “Creative City of Gastronomy” application dossier by 2025, elevating its global profile and promoting local food culture for sustainable urban development. This fosters new synergies between gastronomy, traditional crafts, and technology to enhance knowledge and global partnerships (SDG 4, 5, 16, 17).
Inclusion	The AKLI BALADI project embraces a holistic approach to food policy inclusion within Jericho's food system, considering multiple dimensions. It involves a broad range of actors, fostering multi-level governance and territorial inclusion. At the local level, the Municipality of Jericho actively collaborates with date cooperatives and local producers, ensuring bottom-up, community-based development. This directly promotes the participation and showcases the cultural identity of marginalized producers and creators, contributing to socially just economic growth (SDG 8, 9, 10, 12). The project's structure involves a wide array of stakeholders, including Palestinian local authorities (APLA), Italian municipalities (e.g., City of Turin, Municipality of Bergamo), NGOs like Arab Centre for Agricultural Development (ACAD) and Slow Food Italy, and research institutions such as Bethlehem University and Italian universities. This diverse partnership ensures a comprehensive approach spanning public, private, and civil society sectors, fostering strong synergies and knowledge exchange. The initiative promotes territorial inclusion by focusing on the entire Jericho Governorate. This collaboration fosters sustainable urban food policies, with Jericho's project-supported UNESCO Creative Cities Network engagement exemplifying a holistic approach, integrating gastronomy, crafts, technology, and global partnerships (SDG 4, 5, 16, 17) to enhance food system resilience and inclusivity.