

ITALY



For the past 20 years, Italy has carried out strong actions in favour of Palestinian women's social, cultural, and economic empowerment.

The most important program of the Italian Development Cooperation is the "Women's Empowerment and Local Development", whose results include the creation and widening of 11 women's-empowerment centres (called TAWASOL) and the implementation of an institution building action in favour of the Ministry of Women Affairs to ensure gender mainstreaming in all sectors of the society.

The TAWASOL centres have created an inclusive governance structure based on a network of more than 250 women leaders of civil society and institutions. The network has been instrumental to discuss issues related to the development and the empowerment of women, to propose practices, to negotiate solutions, to inform policies, and for training and awareness-raising campaigns for women's rights.

Furthermore, TAWASOL centres have been very useful in addressing several issues connected to women's access to land and agricultural resources, as well as addressing problems that limit the participation of Palestinian women in the agricultural economy, relegating them to traditional roles of labourers, instead of being at the heart of the production chain.



Palestine, 2015 – TAWASOL – training at the Women Empowerment Centres.
Credit: Italian Development Cooperation – AICS