

## **Darwin Biodiversity Educational Awareness Workshops Report**

**Workshop Title:** Biodiversity of Al Makhroul Valley.

**Presenters:** Elias Handal and Reena Saeed.

**School areas:** Hussan, Batter, Beit Jalla, Al Wallaja.

### **Summary**

A total of 5 workshops done in the villages that surrounding Al Makhroul valley (Beit Jalla, Hussan, Batter, and Al Wallaja), it aims to increase the environmental educational awareness of the students in school to publish it between locals. More than 100 students between males and females from local schools where participate, each workshop took around 2 hours.

### **Introduction**

The Biodiversity Conservation and Community Development in Al-Makhroul Valley is a conservation and sustainable development project, and a collaboration between Palestine and the United Kingdom. Led by the Palestine Institute of Biodiversity and Sustainability, the project aims to conserve at-risk biodiversity while benefiting local communities in the area. By valuing and utilizing ecosystem services, the project aims to promote sustainable agriculture and ecotourism while reducing human impact through environmental awareness and education programs. By the end of the project, we anticipate the area will have revived traditional farming, enhanced ecotourism opportunities, and enhanced economic resiliency. This project is funded by Darwin Initiative – UK.

Environmental education awareness done is part of conservation plan that this projects support to increase the knowledge between locals and specially our children to reach a point of understanding concepts like (environment, ecosystem, conservation, biodiversity, and recycle upcycle.).

### **Objectives:**

- 1.Environmental awareness.
- 2.Increase knowledge about Al Makhroul biodiversity for locals.
- 3.Conservation of Al Makhroul environment and protect it.

### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Schools:**

As a part of Darwin project several activities need to be done in the section of biodiversity that lead to educational awareness and increase the local's knowledge in materials related to biodiversity. 5 school were picked after our meeting (Elias and Renna) with the Ministry of Education at Bethlehem.

We took schools according to it relation with Al Makhroul Valley and surrounding it, and taking in our consideration to be 50\50 males and females.

#### **Materials Used in Education:**

All data we collected throughout our work at Al Makhroul area, we gather it and put it in one PowerPoint that could help students to understand the following:

- 1-Principles of Biodiversity
- 2-Climate Change

- 3-Environmental Conservation
- 4-Rescycle and Upcycle
- 5-Green Environmental School club
- 6- Biodiversity of Al Makhrou
- 7-Darwin Projects and why we are working on it
- 8-The important of nature and biodiversity
- 9-Threats could affect our environment
- 10- Important of ecotourism

A set of brochures were given to students include 7 different items including (Climate Change, Biodiversity, Agriculture, Power and energy, Chemical Waste, Geography of Palestine, and Cultural Heritage).

#### **Students:**

A total of 133 students were participate at the workshop that reach 5 different schools, 64 females: 69 males.

Schools were chosen for the workshops and number of students participate are found in table 1.

**Table 1. Schools and students attends the workshops**

#	School Name	Date	Students #
1	Hussan High School for Boys	16.10.2019	34
2	Batter High School for Boys	22.10.2019	22
3	Batter High School for Girls	23.10.2019	26
4	Al Walaja School	28.10.2019	29
5	Beit Jalla Girls School	29.10.2019	22
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>133</b>

#### **Result and Discussion**

A total of 133 students (64 Females: 69 males) from five schools were took a workshop around the biodiversity and environment of Palestine and focusing on Al Makhrou valley. Educated about the important of environment and biodiversity for human and how this could help us in the field of agriculture and our daily life.

Human effects on nature and threats that could affect our environment and biodiversity have been given to the students in interactive way shows the most challenging threats and how it could affect us as human beings.

PowerPoint presentation with really pictures from the area used to let students understand the major point of our educational accepts. Let students participate by first understanding the major concepts and try to analysis information to conclude an action point that they can start doing it as students for their schools and on society.















