

Global Call to Action: COP29 Spotlight on Climate Resilient Humanitarian Solutions for Gaza

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and Damour for Community Development, together with Palestinian and international partners presents Jumpstarting Hope in Gaza — a coalition to answer the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

The Jumpstarting Hope in Gaza (JHG) initiative stands as a response to the pressing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, led by Damour for Community Development (DCD) and the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES) – alongside other partners. Presented at COP29, this project calls for global support to build sustainable, off-grid infrastructure for Gaza's displaced populations. The initiative highlights DCD's essential contributions and deep-rooted community presence, which drive the project's success and local impact.

Through The Jumpstarting Hope in Gaza initiative, the coalition aims to establish secure, self-sustaining shelters for 20,000 people across Gaza. These shelters integrate advanced off-grid WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and energy solutions, ensuring long-term sustainability and independence for displaced communities. Our groundwork allows these shelters to be rapidly deployed, easily replicated, and scaled to meet widespread needs.

Current milestones:

- **Four pilot shelters in Al-Mawasi Hamad and Dir Albalah**, provide refuge and essential services to over 5,000 people.
- Essential resources, including food supplies, Non-Food Items (NFIs), and shelter equipment, **have been delivered, meeting immediate needs and creating a stable foundation** for the affected communities.
- **Desalination systems are being deployed to ensure reliable access to clean water**, along with **solar power** for sustainable energy, **off-grid wastewater treatment**, and **biodigesters** to convert waste into energy.

*'We call upon organizations, nations, and individuals to join us. Arava Institute and Damour for Community Development are fundraising actively to expand our reach and impact, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations in Gaza receive the essential aid they need,' says **Dr. David Lehrer, Director of the Center for Applied Environmental Diplomacy at AIES.***

*"We are deeply committed to transforming the humanitarian landscape in Gaza through sustainable solutions that bring both immediate relief and long-term resilience," says **Ashraf Al Ajrami, Founder and Director of Damour for Community Development (DCD).** "Through Jumpstarting Hope in Gaza, we lead a coalition dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable populations, and we urge international partners, organizations, and individuals to join us in expanding these vital efforts to ensure every displaced family finds security and dignity."*

*'COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan provides us with a global stage to amplify the message that Israelis and Palestinians are working together along with international partners, united in our commitment to launch secure humanitarian and sustainable solutions for displaced people in Gaza,' adds **Dr. Tareq Abu Hamed, Executive Director of AIES.***

Organizations that already joined the Initiative are the following:

1. Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (Israel), a leading environmental studies, diplomacy and research institute in the Middle East.
2. Damour for Community Development (Palestine), a registered non-profit company based in Palestine since 2010, with offices in the West Bank, Gaza, and Egypt.
3. Multifaith Alliance (USA), the largest interfaith response to the Syrian crisis with more than 100 faith-based and secular partners.
4. SmartAID (Australia), a non-religious, non-political, non-governmental international humanitarian aid organization fighting global poverty and economic inequality.
5. Duke University (USA), a private research university in Durham, North Carolina.
6. Gigawatt Impact (The Netherlands), a non-profit strategy to scale renewable energy in Least Developed Countries and vulnerable rural communities across the world.
7. EcoOcean (Israel), a non-profit Israeli organization working to empower people to care for their marine and coastal environment.
8. Engineers Without Borders USA (USA), a nonprofit humanitarian organization established to support community-driven development programs worldwide.
9. Rozana Health Diplomacy (Australia), an international organization promoting access to quality healthcare through joint initiatives between communities in conflict.
10. Laguna Innovation (Israel), a plug-and-play, off-grid wastewater treatment system that recovers high quality water for reuse in irrigation and for other non-consumptive uses.
11. HomeBiogas (Israel), a biogas digester that treats organic waste locally and sustainably
12. The SunBox Company (USA), a manufacturer of light therapy boxes.
13. Watergen (Israel), the pioneering company that has become the global leader in the atmospheric drinking water devices (AWG) market.

We invite COP29 participants to join Jumpstarting Hope in Gaza (JHG) as we work together to replicate off-grid infrastructure that can support displaced populations worldwide. Our collective efforts aim to address the needs of those affected by conflicts, natural disasters, and other situations where communities face large-scale displacement and loss of homes.

About the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES) and Damour for Community Development (DCD)

For over 27 years, the **Arava Institute** strives to advance cross-border environmental cooperation in the face of political conflict by educating future Palestinian, Israeli, Jordanian and other regional leaders to address climate resiliency in the Middle East region with on-the-ground projects, cutting-edge research, applied environmental diplomacy, and a university-accredited academic program.

Founded in 2010, **Damour for Community Development** (DCD) supports Palestinian communities, particularly in Gaza, through initiatives addressing humanitarian needs and fostering long-term resilience. DCD partners with local and international organizations to deliver sustainable solutions and vital infrastructure. As a key member of the Jumpstarting Hope in Gaza initiative, DCD leads projects focused on water, sanitation, and renewable energy.



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