

Moving Stories

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territory

The 9,000 residents of Abu Rashwan area of Gaza feel safer and are better connected as a result of the support of our partner, CFTA.

Abu Rashwan is an agricultural community where many families live hand to mouth – unemployment is high, and people often struggle with food insecurity.

There are no properly functioning sewage or water services, and electricity shortages prevail.



With support from CFTA to identify and advocate for their needs, the community resilience enhancement committee (CREC) in Abu Rashwan neighbourhood mobilised and coordinated private sector, municipal and local volunteers to purchase and install solar panel streetlights. These changes came as a result of the local Community Resilience Enhancement Committee's improved confidence and trust in their own abilities.

The area falls between two governorates and so local authority jurisdiction has largely been absent – this has now been improved with greater engagement from Khan Younis authority. Alongside these benefits, the committee is now employing dispute resolution methods. For example, some residents were reticent to giving up land to the new road and this was resolved with dialogue.

One of the members of the community, *Mr. Wael Al Laham, commented,*

" I am living in Abu Rashwan area since 25 year., This the first time, I saw the road clearly while I'm returning to home at night."

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