



Western Sahara
Support Group

GROWING HOPE

A sustainable vegetable project to help the Western Saharan refugees to support themselves.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU, ALL OUR SUPPORTERS !

The great strength within this project, is that sense of global solidarity and support for people who through no fault of their own find themselves living their lives in extremely harsh conditions, largely ignored by the worlds' governments and media. This project has very much been developed and supported by the dedication and commitment of local Manchester people. The seed might have been planted in M19 but soon spread to include supporters up and down the country and overseas as well. Every single last penny raised has been sent directly to the people in the camps. This is a project to help people lead a slightly more dignified life rooted in our collective compassion for those in need of a helping hand.



PHASE ONE: We are really excited to be able to share the following information and latest news on the project to grow vegetables for people living in the Western Saharan refugee camps located in the Sahara desert. These achievements which have overcome some incredibly difficult obstacles would not have been possible without the dedication and determination of the people living in the camps who have made the seemingly impossible happen. In what has been described as the most inhospitable place on earth there is now a 100 meter long polytunnel which has produced and distributed tomatoes, peppers, kale, cucumbers, aubergines and fresh greens to people whose daily diet was previously devoid of fresh produce with instances of anaemia and vitamin deficiency part of the norm for many. This would not have been possible without your generous and fantastic support over the last 3 years in making donations, fundraising and attending fundraising events. That support has resulted in over £27,000 being raised and every single penny being sent to the camps.



PHASE TWO: One of the major obstacles for the project has been the need to buy water on a weekly basis and transport it in large tanker lorries (it is currently located in Smara camp). This has been at a considerable financial cost but also meant that the project in its first season could only operate at less than half capacity and only produce one lot of crops as opposed to the intended two. Our really exciting news is that for the second phase we are moving the project to nearby Layoun camp and have located 2 existing deep wells and an area of sheltered land that we can site our project on. We have negotiated with the Polisario (the Western Saharan administration authority) to buy the wells at a cost of £13000 and they will use that money to drill for water in other areas within the refugee camps. The Polisario have also agreed to buy our produce and then distribute it as part of their food programme to the people who really need it. In a nutshell the vegetable project which you have supported will be officially incorporated as part of the food production and distribution systems in the camps. This is an amazing achievement.



NEXT STEPS:

- We have nearly £4000 in reserve. We need to raise approximately a further £10,000 to make PHASE TWO become a reality. We can pay for the wells in 3 instalments. If you have any great ideas, know of any sources or trust funds we can approach or simply want to make a donation then please get in touch.
- Sign up for a small monthly standing order. If lots give a little it soon adds up. Information can be found in the donate section of the website.
- Sign up for THE BIG RAMBLE TWO. Following on from last years successful 16 mile romp in the countryside and by popular demand we are planning an event in autumn 2022. Details to follow shortly.

Western Sahara Support Group
www.growhopesahrawi.org.uk

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