



Western Sahara Support Group

GROWING HOPE

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

Newsletter no: 4 February 2024

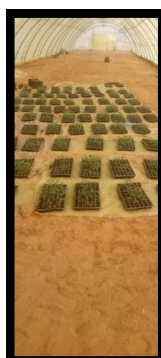


Preparing the soil in the polytunnel

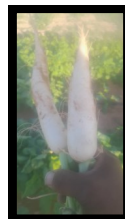
Developments on the vegetable project in Laayoune camp this year

Throughout September to November 2023, the team on the ground were busy preparing the soil, working in compostable material, planting seeds, tidying the land and preparing for another year growing healthy vegetables that make a real difference to the daily quality of life of people living in the camps. The team completed a big project to build a 10m x 10m x10m reservoir to store water, both to take pressure off the well that refills itself from the aquifer, but also to have a system that improves the capacity to irrigate the crops, as well as lower the salt content in the water that used to block up the irrigation pipes. Already by December and January the team were able to harvest crops. The increased effectiveness of the irrigation system has also freed up more time to remove weeds from the planted area.

Getting the new seedlings ready



'Stirring' the soil



Food to pick already!



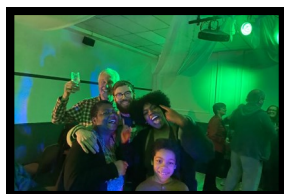
Small section of the large outdoor growing space

Fundraisers 2024

New Years Eve

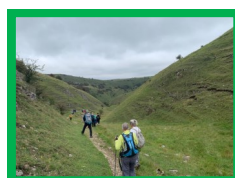
New Year at the Klondyke.

We raised £580. Big thank you to all who came and especially to the team behind the scenes that made it all happen!



The Big Ramble 4

Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th September 2024



Full details and how to book at growhopesahrawi.org.uk/the-big-ramble-4

In collaboration with **Olive Branch Arts**, a weekend of activities and events at Levenshulme Old Library, Manchester.

- ◆ **Friday 19th July - Exhibition of Photographs** from the Western Saharan refugee camps (on display for 3 days). Testimony from Sahrawi refugees from the Occupied Territories. Question and Answer session
- ◆ **Saturday 20th July - Film Night**
Pirates of the Desert (short film). Followed by a film/documentary, outlining the political, economic and geographical situation in the Western Sahara and Occupied territories. Question and Answer session.

Tickets and further details will be available a little nearer the time on our website and social media platforms.

