

## **Ruwomed: empowering women from Palestine and Lebanon with visits to Andalusian cooperatives**

**LOCATION:** Montejaque (Málaga)

**DURATION:** 1'40"

**SUMMARY:** Ruwomed is the name of a European project that is developed by the Assembly of Cooperation for Peace that pursues the empowerment of women in rural areas of Palestine and Lebanon. Within the program, these women have traveled to Spain to get to know cooperative initiatives similar to theirs.

### **VTR:**

The employment rate of women in rural areas of Lebanon and Palestine is less than 25%. Women from these territories have traveled to Spain to get to know similar initiatives to the ones they want to begin. The program Ruwomed has brought them to this cooperative in Malaga.

**Kirsten Sutherland**  
**Assembly of Cooperation for**  
**Peace**

*"Promoting the socioeconomic empowerment of female workers in Lebanon and Palestine."*

The current conflicts in these territories are a problem that adds to patriarchal societies and the great distances between rural areas and markets.

**Ramiro Gómez**  
**Asamblea de Cooperación**  
**por la Paz**

*"Their participation in the labor market. And that's one of the main barriers, that the market is closed to women."*

These women have also joined cooperatives and work in the field, manufacturing products to sell in the markets and contribute to the family income.

**Nawal Kahlil**  
**Ruwomed program**

*"That woman had to leave to help, to have some sort of income to help her family survive. 90% of our women are farmers, they till the land."*

**Oumaya Raydan-Kadi**  
**Ruwomed program**

*"We had many problems, because we live in very small towns and were not accustomed to rural women going out into the street to work, but we have motivated to move forward to help our families."*

**Inés Gómez**  
**Al-Jaque cooperative**

*"The same desire to work, and they are focused on cooperativism, that is what we have to encourage."*

What surprised them most is how this rural cooperative in Málaga manufactures and exports to countries like Japan and the Netherlands. Another objective of the program is to encourage cooperation between Mediterranean countries.

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