

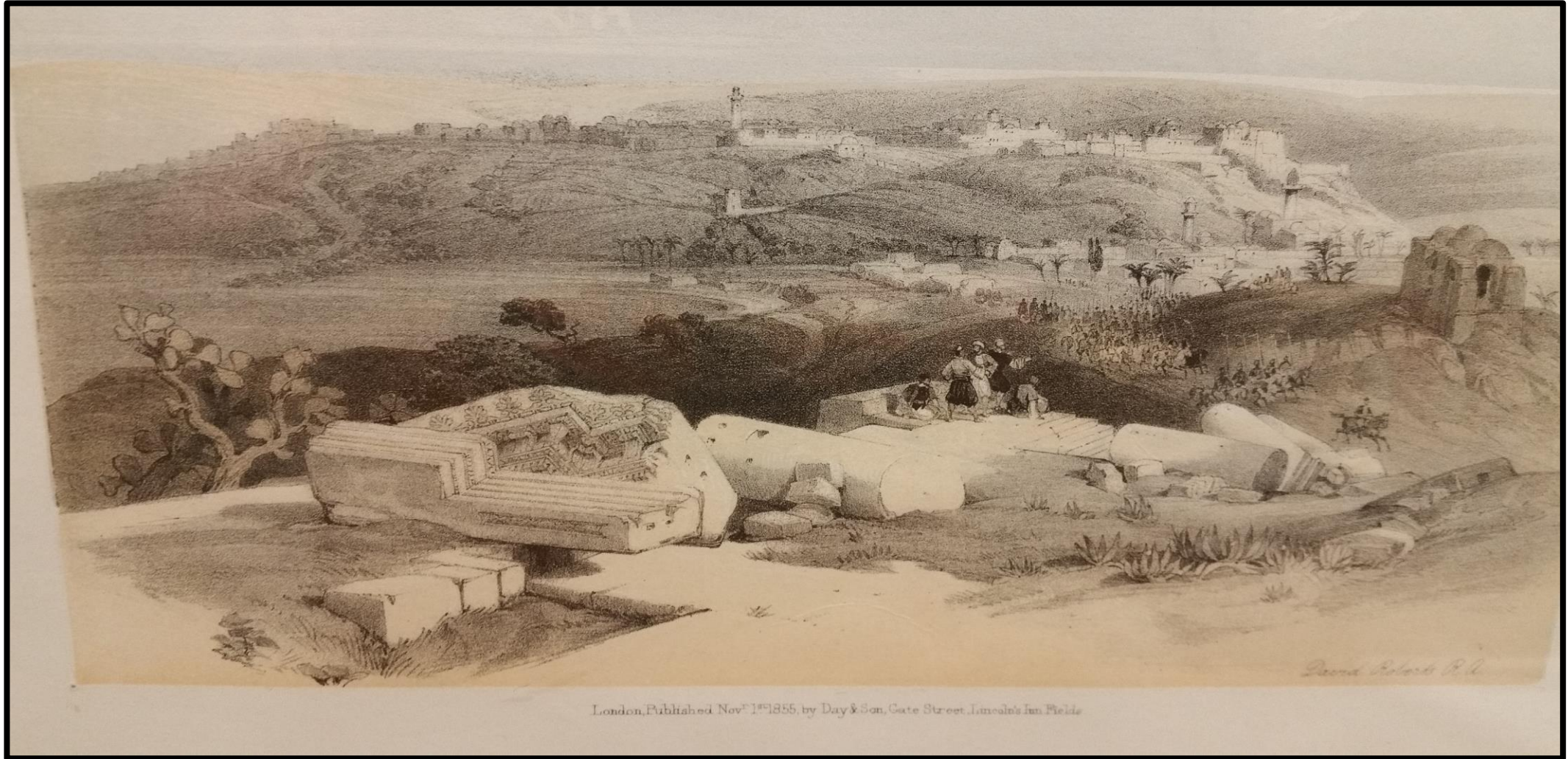
# Gaza

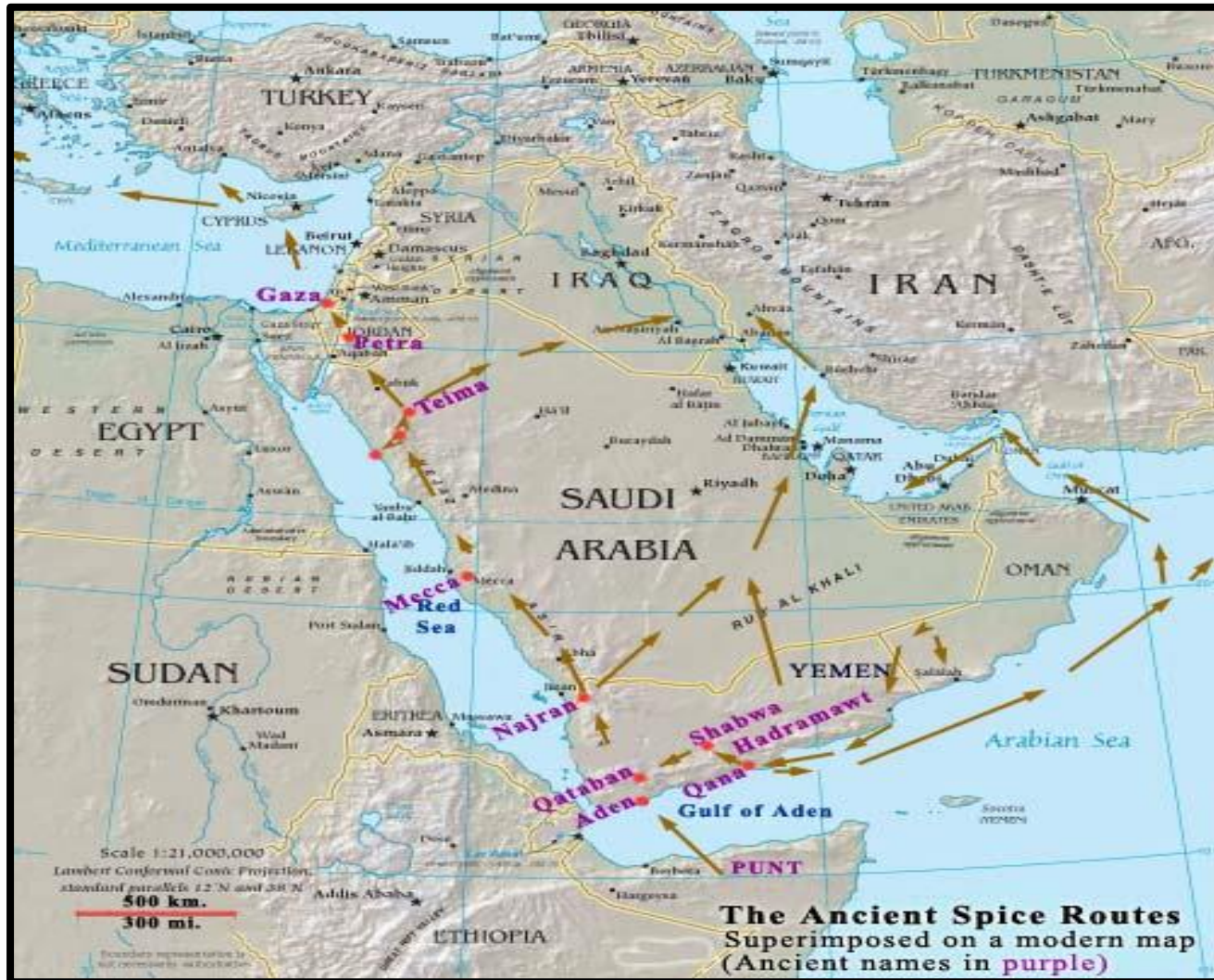
## One of the oldest towns in the world

Note: The photos in this presentation were taken 1948 – 50 in Gaza, Palestine by Betsy Colson and her volunteer colleagues, and used with permission. Betsy was a nurse during that time, working with the Quaker/American Friends Service Committee volunteer teams in Gaza.

# Gaza 1855

## Lithograph, David Roberts





Gaza –

Important port  
at the end of the  
Incense Road.

Last stop on the  
way to Egypt.

Under Ottoman rule, Palestinian territory was organized into three states, Jerusalem, Gaza and Nablus, all linked to the Damascus Province.... Ottoman rule in Palestine - 401 years.

Gaza 1947

Gaza 1950



# Gaza - before the 1948 war and refugee's arrival:

- Some 80,000 population
- Port city
- Agriculture
- Markets
- Fishing
- Transport systems

# Gaza Town – 1949/50

Gaza Municipal Park



# Gaza

Well established by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C.

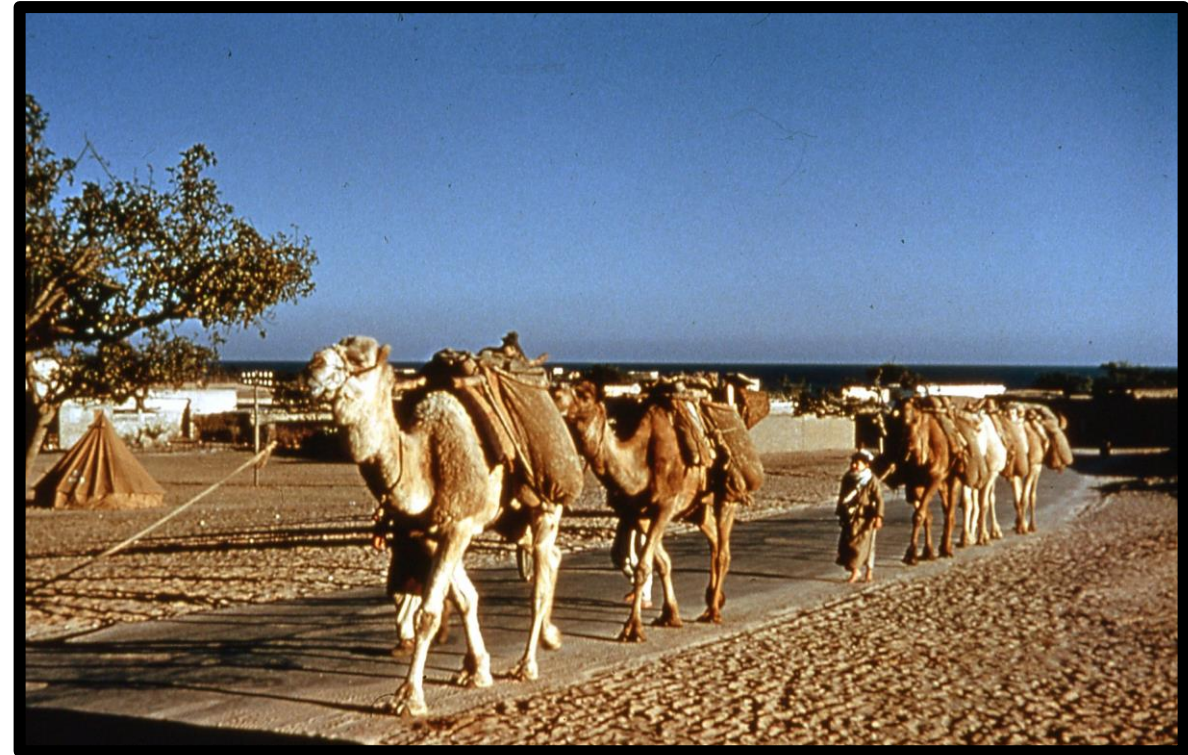




# Mud villages ----- modern housing



# Camel caravans



# Agriculture

Plowing near Beit Hanoun



Harvesting



# Markets



Packing fruit and  
vegetables in front of  
Gaza Hotel



Meat market

Three generations



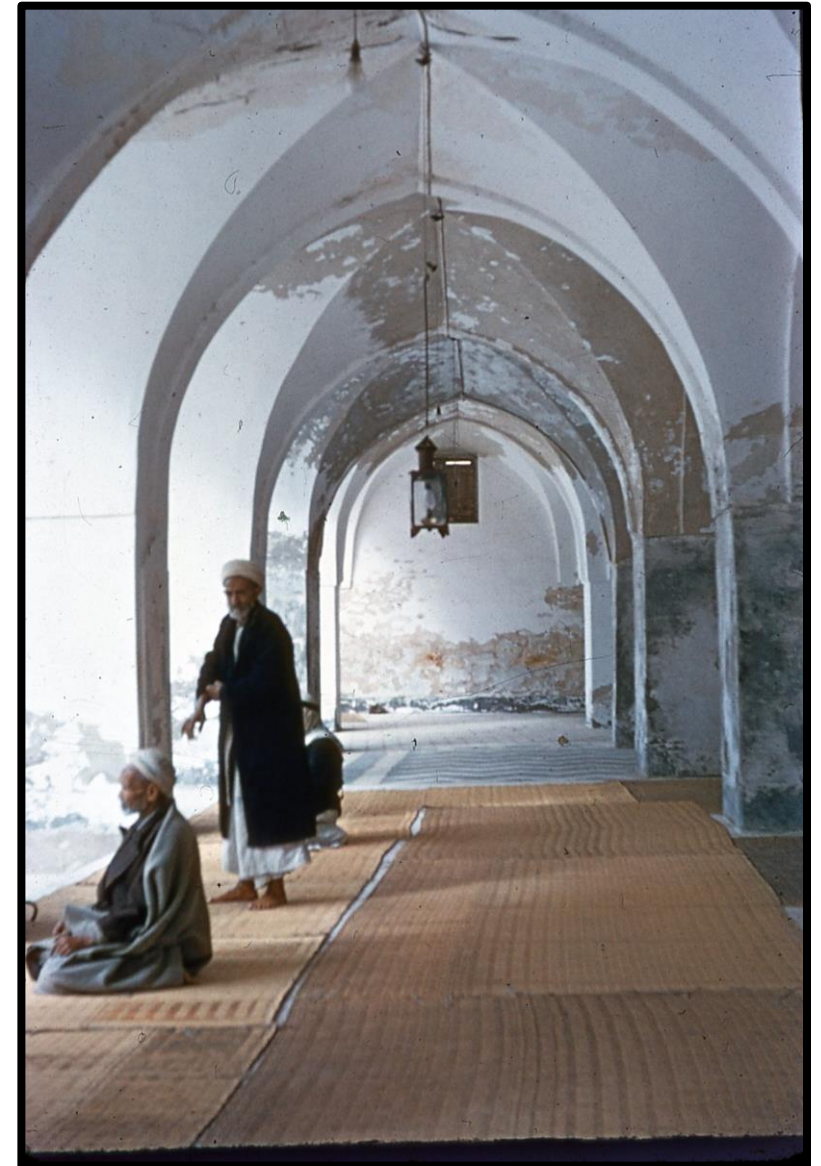
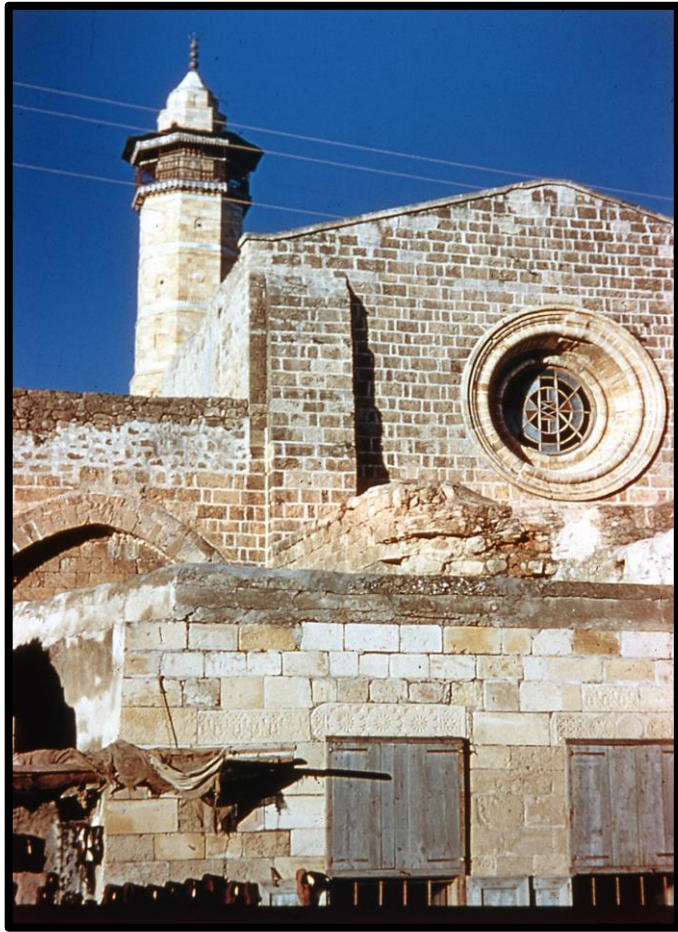
Girl with father



# Fishing



The Great Mosque -  
built by Queen Helena as a church





# Samson's tomb



Things changed in Gaza with the arrival of over 200,000 refugees from some 144 cities, towns, villages.

- Egyptian administered
- Influx of refugees resulted in about 1,800 people per square mile.
- Adequate housing hard to find.
- Water became scarce.
- Very few repatriated.
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) asked to provide humanitarian relief.
- Assumption: the situation is temporary.

Egyptian policeman



# Finding shelter -

Demolished houses



Destroyed villages



# Shelter – Tent program



Rimal Camp



Many kinds of shelters



Tents were often a problem –

- “An old man and his equally old wife were assigned a ‘parachute’ (tent). When he saw his tent, which he had hoped would provide himself and his wife with a decent home, he crumbled down on his haunches and holding his head, chin in hands, with his wrinkle-hidden, tear-filled eyes turned to heaven, and said: ‘It is the will of God. I have to watch it. I have to take care of it, but I can't live in it.’”



# Refugee family



# Bedouin tents



# Water became scarce

A social occasion



Waiting at the faucet

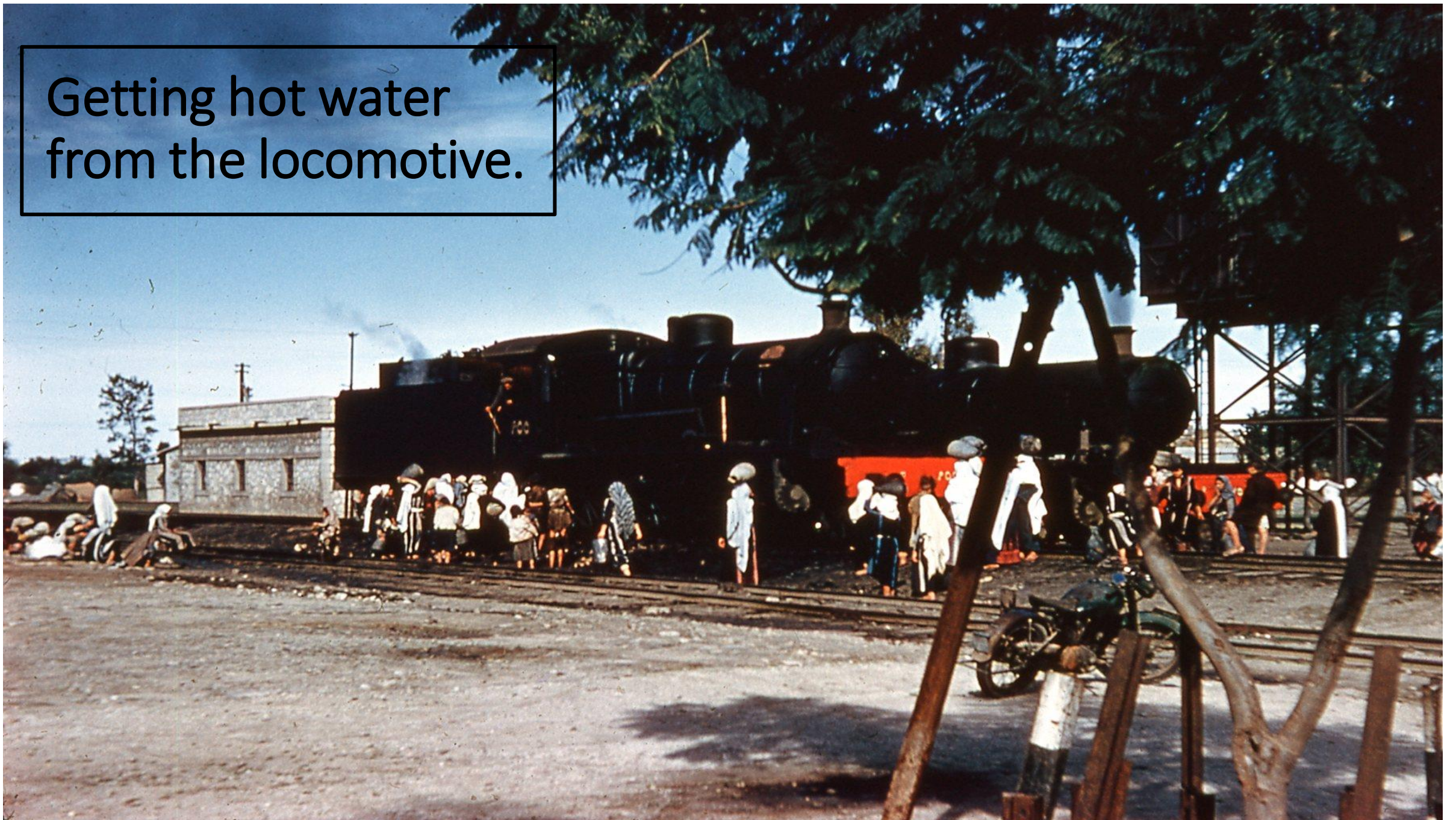


Keeping clean was  
very difficult

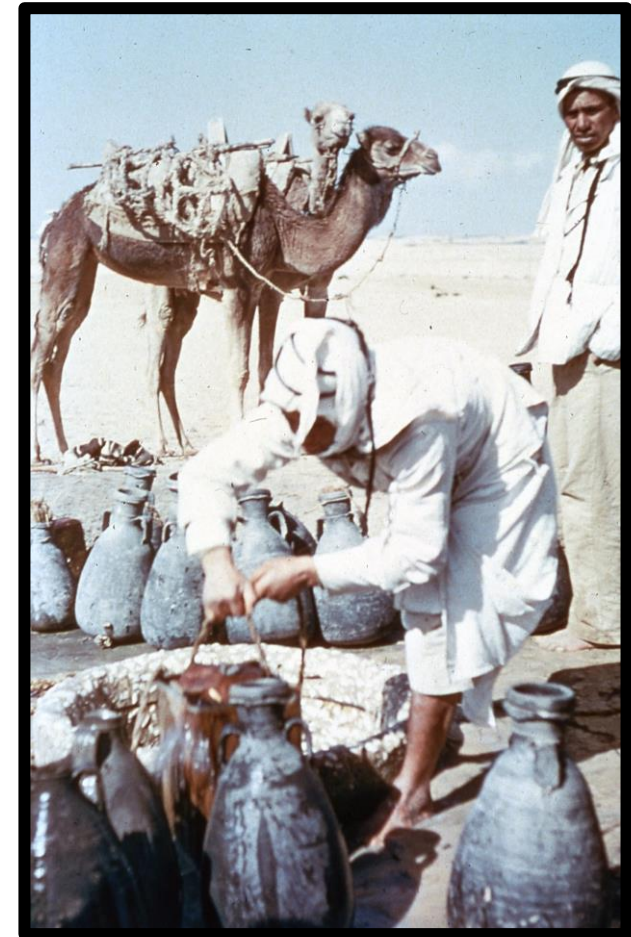


Laundry room

Getting hot water  
from the locomotive.



# Bedouin drawing water from wells



Food was in short supply -

Off loading supplies



# Distribution

Rice

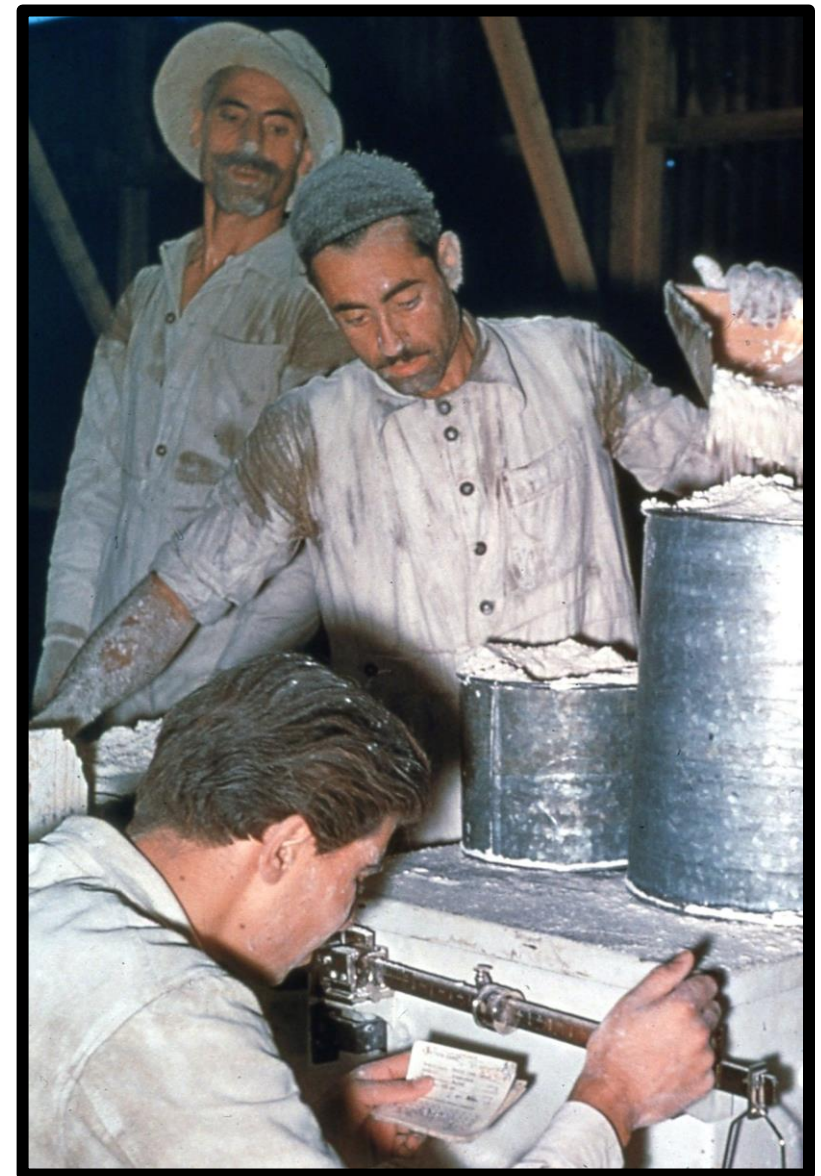


Kerosene





Flour – a staple in  
Palestinian diet





That's your  
share



That's  
all  
for  
now

Waiting, waiting, waiting -

Always waiting -



“.....each of us must come to care about everyone else’s children.” - Lilian Katz in *Developing People*



• Agriculture

• Brick making

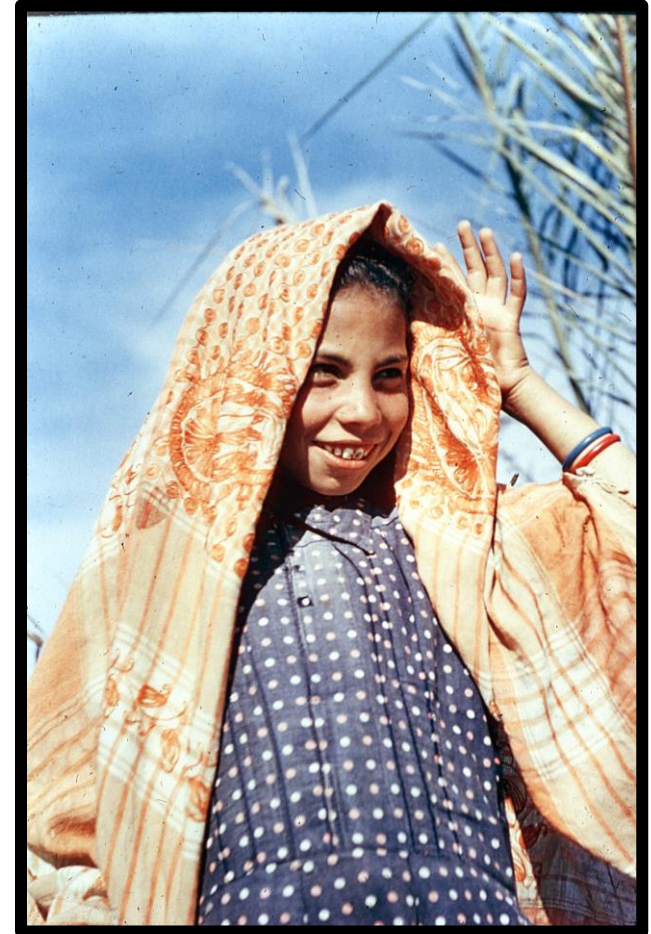
• Carpentry

• Education

• Health

• Sewing/weaving

Projects were instituted to provide needed services and jobs.



# Agriculture

Farming with new tools

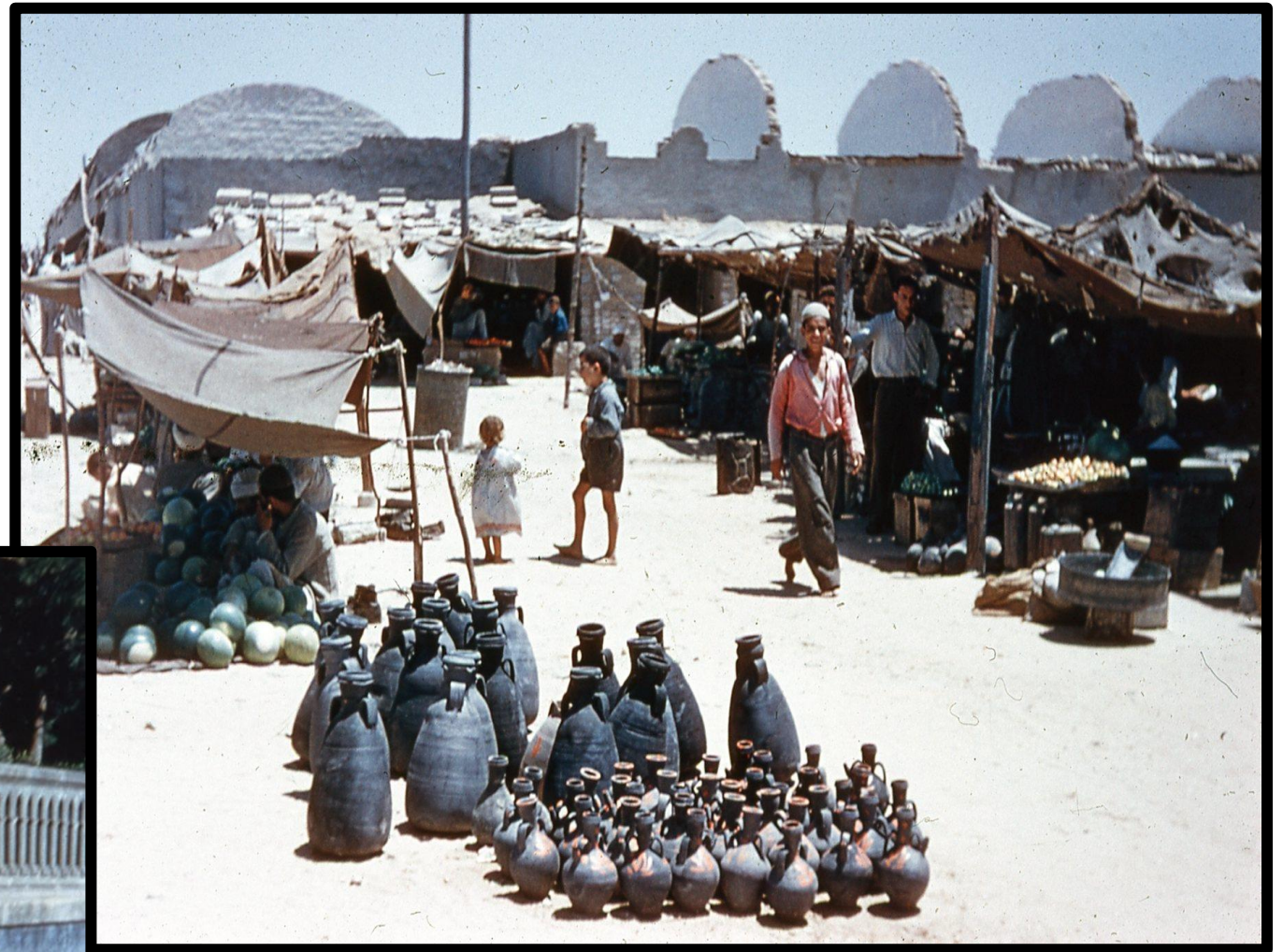


Fellah



# Nusierat Market

Social system - harvest



# Brick making

Developing the skills of making mud bricks.

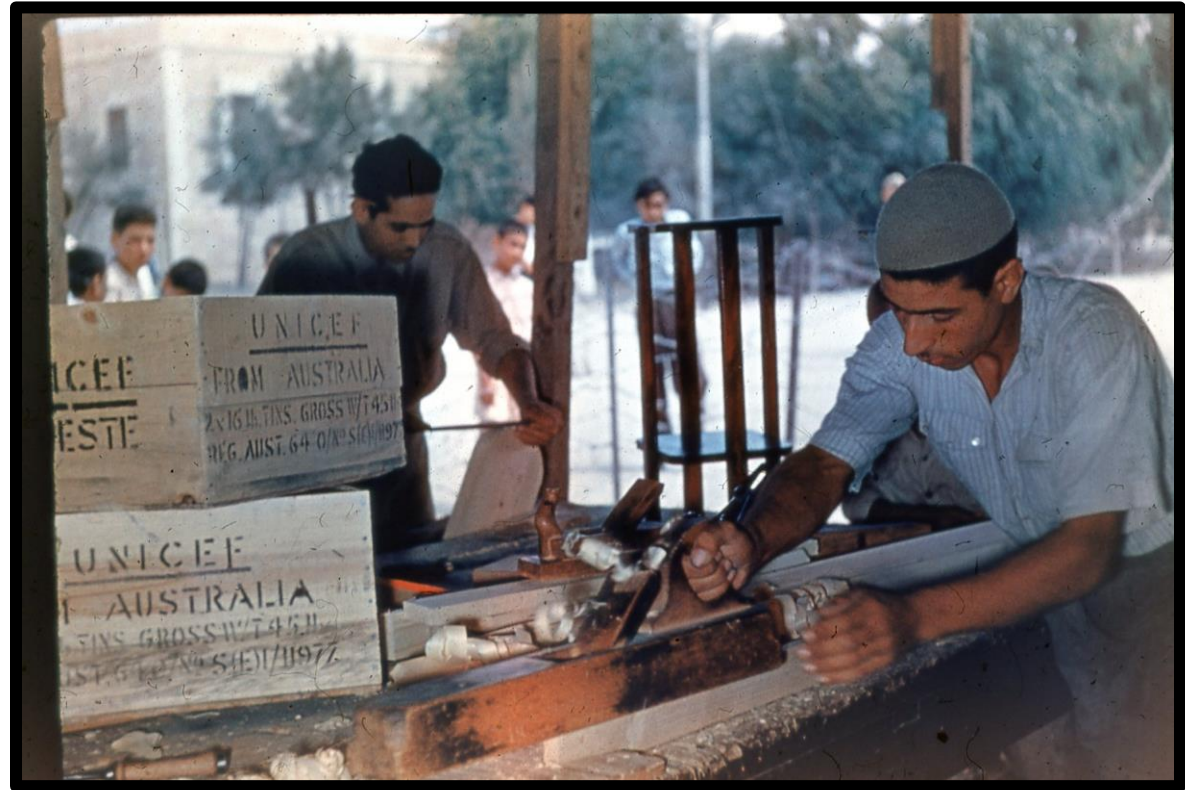




# Carpentry

## Carpentry Project

Mustafa – Abu Mudein



# Auction of containers

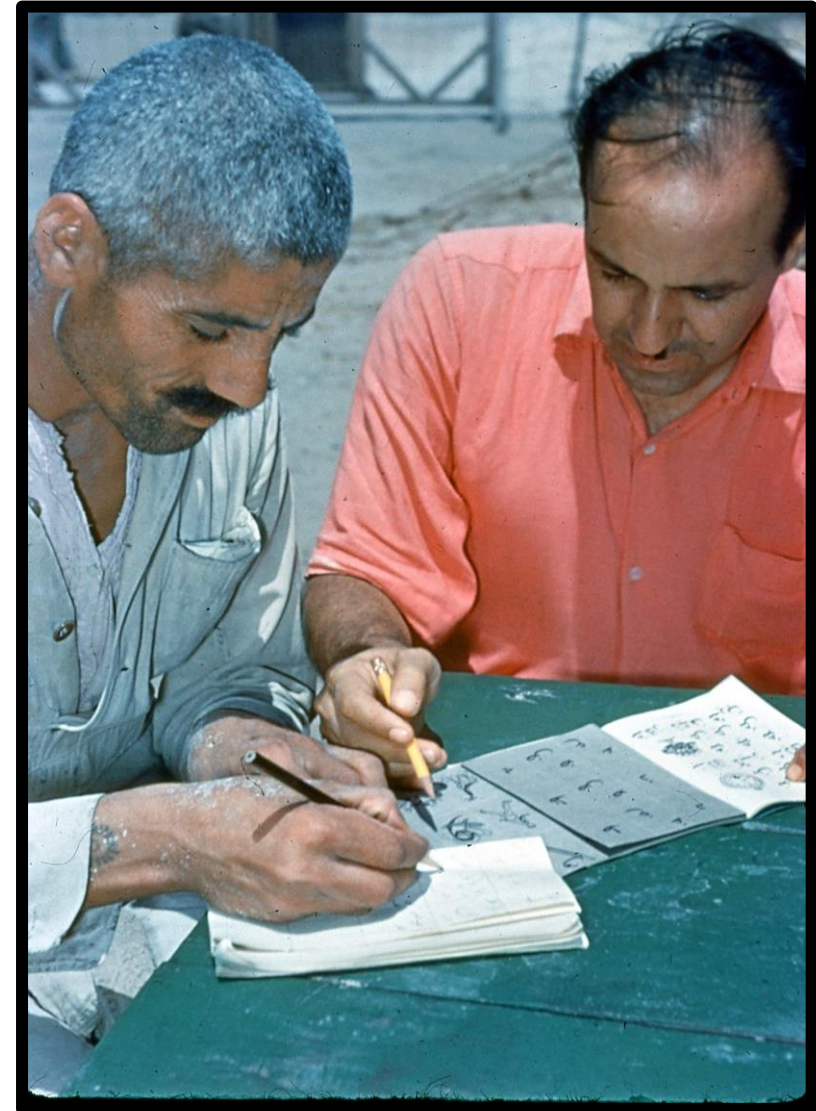


# Education

## School



## Laubach Campaign



# Health

## Bedouin women



Carefully, carefully -

# Red Crescent Hospital



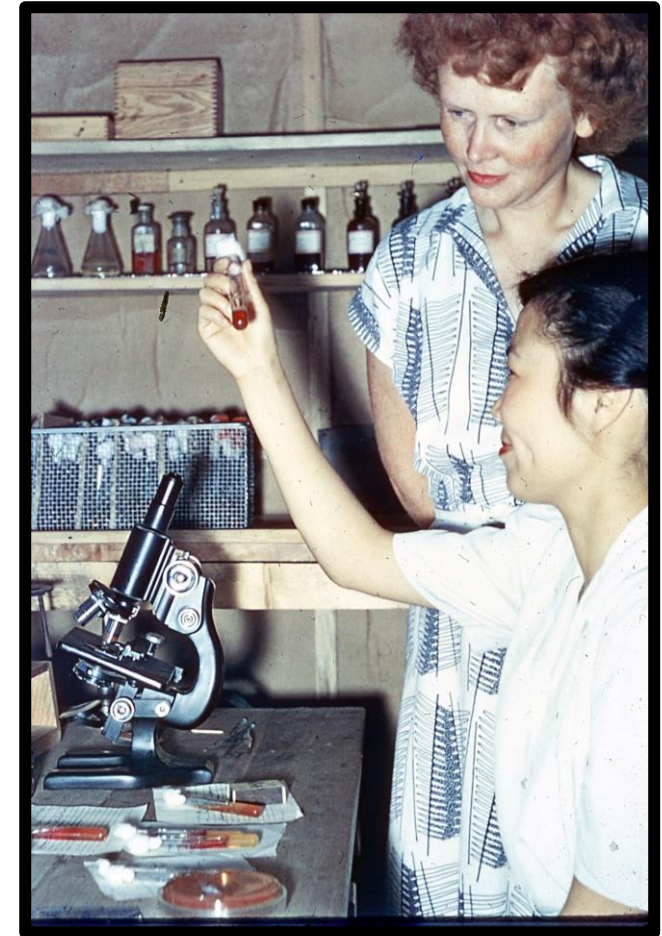
TB Camp



# Dental health



# Laboratory



# Supplemental food program



# Milk program





# Mixing DDT

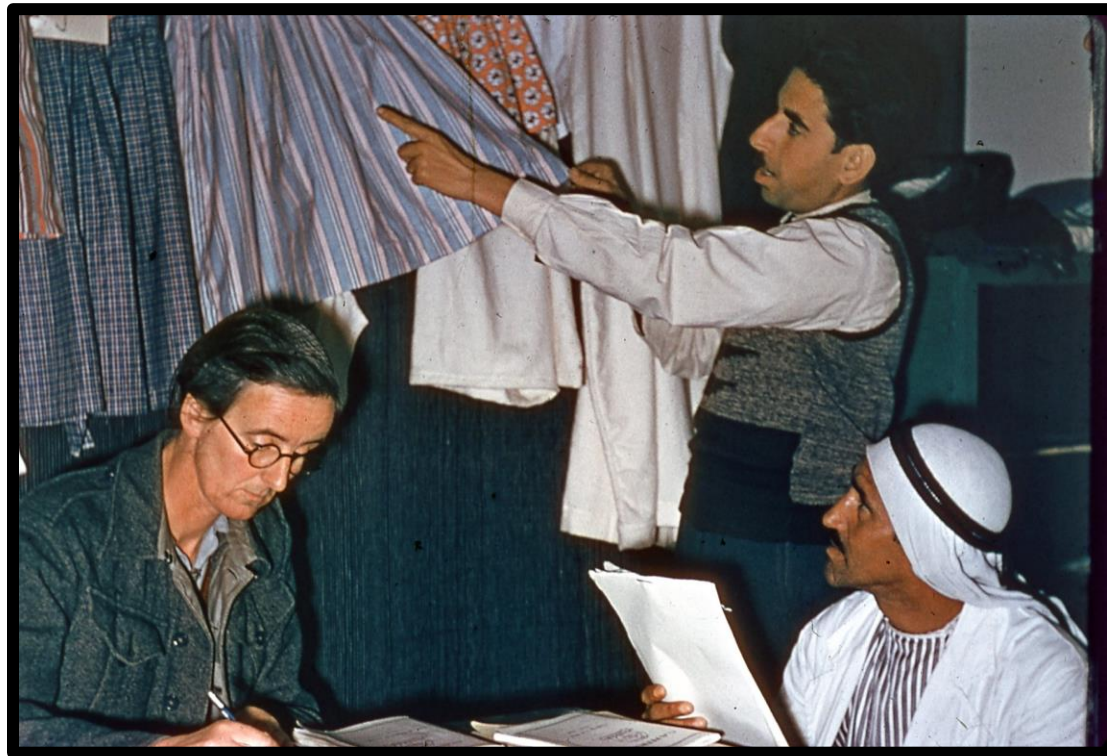




Spraying

# Sewing/weaving

## Selecting fabrics



## Distributing cut cloth to tailors



Inspecting finished cloth

Ironing finished products



# Paying the tailors



# Preparing yarn for weaving

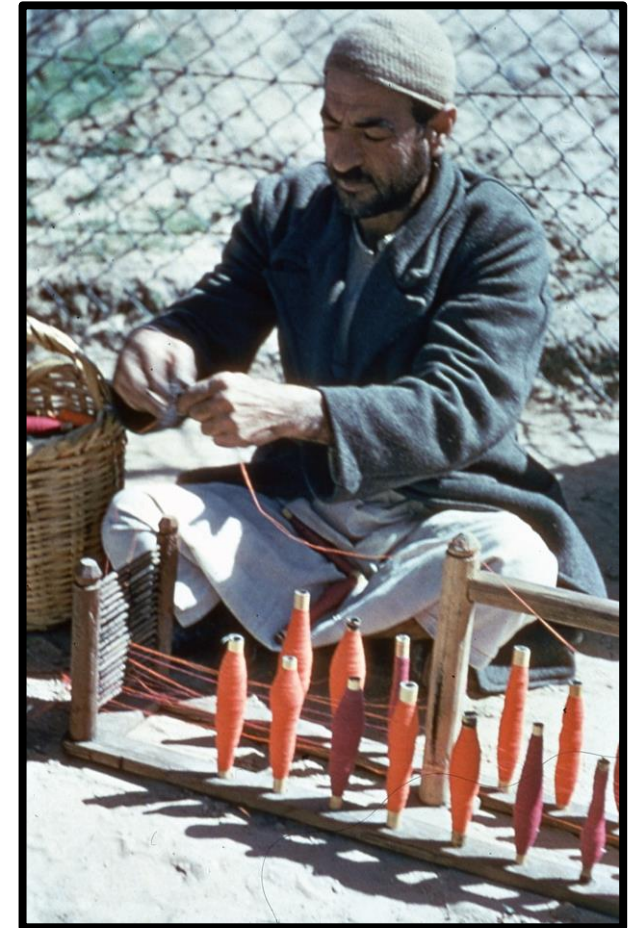
## Spinning



## Drying dyed yarns



# Preparing the warp



# Repatriation – a few women and children





# UNRWA projects - Pipe laying

## Agriculture



## Village improvements

# Russian Employment Program



# Art show – Bedouin art



# Cold weather – snow in Gaza



# Sunday night dinner for the volunteers



## Volunteer housing



And so -----

- By the time the United Nations took over the operations in 1950, more than 100 men and women had worked in Gaza under the AFSC program, most in their twenties or early thirties, many of them with little or no experience in relief work. But as boggling as the task appeared, the AFSC work embraced nearly every aspect of refugee life including the disbursement of food, blankets, tents, the creation of schools, maternity centers, metal shops, and recreation clubs.

The volunteers came for short periods  
– 3 months or so.....

- Later as Russ Rosene (AFSC volunteer in Gaza) applied for a relief position in another organization, his interviewer asked, “.....you were in the Gaza Strip in 1949 and '50. Tell me just what kind of magic went on?”
- Al Holtz (another AFSC volunteer in Gaza) explained: "A funny thing ..... is we did so much, and we did it so well because we were so naive. We did things we couldn't do, but we didn't know we couldn't do them."

Pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.  
Hope for the future.....

