

## Improving the living conditions of Arabsalim farmers highly affected by cluster bombs

Arabsalim region is renowned for the quality of Mulokhia it produces; residents from the South and from Beirut historically visit the village on purpose to specifically purchase this Mulokhia. However, farmers used to have problems in finding spacious areas necessary for drying Mulokhia and were obliged to use their agricultural fields for this purpose. Moreover, the process of drying Mulokhia leaves on the floor used to congregate dust, thus affecting the quality and hygienic conditions of the final produce.



Therefore the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), funded by the Japanese government, assisted the inhabitants of Arabsalim who are highly affected by mines and cluster bombs by providing 40 Mulokhia dryers (2m<sup>2</sup> each) to its agricultural cooperative.

The implementation of the project improved the quality of the production, and the living conditions of 40 farmers who can easily have access to these dryers thank to their ease of move among beneficiaries. The equipment reduced the drying areas usually used for this purpose and increased the hygienic level of the Mulokhia production. Mrs. Fatimah Hassan Nazr from Arabsalim, testified that the equipment simplified the Mulokhia production process, *“we are producing better quality and quantity of Mulokhia with fewer efforts and time, our production increased by 40% and people are more confident in our produces which is consequently raising the demand for our Mulokhia”*. Mrs. Fatima is grateful for such assistance that *“is encouraging farmers by improving their income and livelihood”*.

