SHAIKH Taha's family consists of eight people who are living in a small village near Beit Laham, West Bank. His children were studying in the village school, but the father was not able to meet the basic living necessities of his family. His business was in providing maintenance work for washing machines and refrigerators which brought him around US $ 250 per month. This was far less than what his basic monthly family needs- US $ 550. His ability to earn more income was hampered by the lack of equipment, tools and spare parts in his shop. The only way out for Shaikh Taha was to switch his job to carpentry. But, he hoped to secure US $ 13,000 to open a carpentry shop and buy the necessary tools and equipment.

Through the Microfinance program of the Al-Aqsa Fund, Shaikh Taha was able to fulfill his hope. He was able to secure a loan of US $ 5000, and to arrange for monthly repayment of the remaining US $ 8000 from the proceeds to be generated from the carpentry shop. The new line of business has succeeded to increase the monthly income of Shaikh Taha to US $ 1000. This has enabled him to send two of his children to university, and his shop provided two young men from the village a part time employment opportunity.