



The Palestinian National Authority

# The National Strategy to Achieve the MDGs by 2015



June 2012





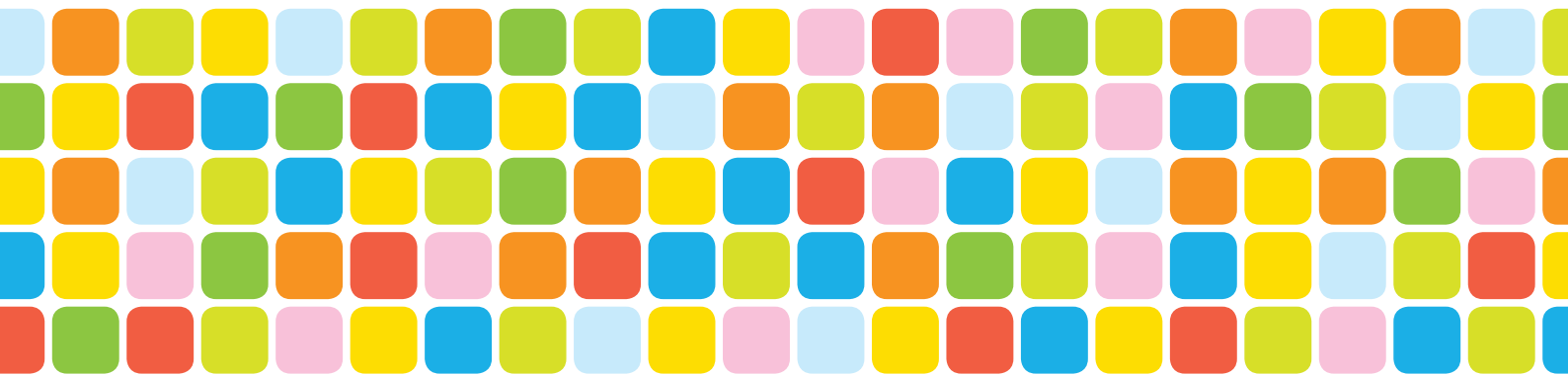
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## FOREWORD

The National Strategy for the Millennium Development Goals reaffirms the Palestinian commitment towards the Millennium Declaration and the mobilization of resources in order to achieve the Goals by the year 2015.

The Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development has been leading and coordinating the efforts of different partners in order to monitor the progress of achieving the MDG goals. Three reports were issued, the most recent was the Millennium Development Goals report - 2010 that was submitted to the United Nations ten-year MDGs review meeting. The Report outlined that despite, the fact that Palestine still under occupation, that limits access to the country resources, and despite that Gaza is still under a prolonged blockade, the Palestinian National Authority was able to attain remarkable progress towards certain MDG goals. The fact remain that full attainment under occupation is still elusive.

The ten-year review indicated that the national ownership of the MDGs and their integration within national development plans and programmes form an important condition in progressing towards the achievement of these goals. Thus, the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development launched a national consultative process with various stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society, private sector and UN agencies, which resulted in the formation of specialized committees in order to identify priorities, policies and interventions for the next three years.

There is no doubt that this strategy is a result of national efforts involving representatives from various sectors and stakeholders. The strategy also forms a national framework to coordinate the efforts of the various partners to achieve the MDGs, and will be an important reference for the development of sector strategies and the National Development Plan for 2014-2016.

We take this opportunity to thank the different partners for their efforts and commitment during the development of the strategy.

We also extend our appreciation to our partner, the United Nations Development Programme/ Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People for their financial and technical support that had a significant impact on the development of the strategy. We also thank our national expert, Mr. Yasser Shalabi, for his efforts in the development of the strategy.

Mohammad Abu Ramadan  
Minister of State for Planning Affairs



## INTRODUCTION

This national strategy aims to achieve the MDGs by 2015 as part of the national planning process. It aims to define integrated options, policies and interventions linked to those defined in the national policy agenda. In this sense, it is complementary to the national plan and sectoral strategies, but focuses on areas linked directly to the MDGs and defines the policies and interventions needed to achieve them. This strategy constitutes a means by which to focus efforts on the achievement of these specific goals through coordinated work. It will also be one of the review inputs planned for sectoral strategies and for the general national plan for 2014-2016.

The goals behind this strategy can be summarised as follows:

To localise the MDGs through a nationally amended formula in line with national priorities agreed among stakeholders working in development in Palestine. This will be essential in order to place them in the hands of government officials, including the goals and the rationale behind them and the relevant indicators;

To define clear targets to be achieved by 2015 and the potential to achieve them, while taking into consideration the unique conditions in Palestine;

To define a set of policies and interventions that assist in the achievement of each MDG in line with the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies;

To set up a general framework to monitor and evaluate this strategy.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has expressed its full commitment to working towards achieving the MDGs and has embarked on formulating special national reports to monitor progress in that direction. The national policy agenda referred to in the Reform and Development Plan 2008-2010 established national priorities related to the building of government institutions in Palestine in preparation for independence and statehood, liberation from the protracted occupation and the creation of an environment conducive to development. The program of the thirteenth Palestinian government, 'Ending the Occupation and Establishing the State' as declared in August 2009, set the vision of the Palestinian state as a fact and reality. It defined the strategies that each government institution was required to implement in order to establish state institutions within two years. The priorities of each institution are closely linked to the achievement of development in general, including the fulfilment of the MDGs.



The Palestinian government then issued the National Development Plan 2011-2013. This was based on 23 sectoral strategies prepared by national teams representing all partners: government, civil society and the private sector. The policies and options defined in the national plan and sectoral strategies form a general framework that outlines the means to utilise national efforts and resources in order to implement high priority policies that serve the developmental process in Palestine, including the MDGs.

The PNA has adopted a constructive approach based on building the institutions necessary for an independent Palestine. The end of the occupation is fundamental to the realisation of any sustainable development process on the ground, in addition to substantial efforts by the PNA to implement its developmental agenda in partnership with civil society, the private sector and international partners. However, the capacity to implement this agenda has been limited due to the restrictions and obstacles imposed by the Israeli occupation, including the building of Israeli settlements on West Bank land, the construction of the annexation wall, the ongoing siege of the Gaza Strip, which remains separated from the West Bank, and the isolation of Jerusalem from its Palestinian surroundings. Israel, through its occupation, also continues to control Palestinian natural resources (land and water), while the presence of military checkpoints in the West Bank, along with the above-mentioned factors, impede any real progress in the area of development. In fact, the system of the Israeli occupation damages whatever has already been achieved on the ground. The occupation forces have destroyed projects and infrastructure financed by Palestinian capital or by international donor partners and have also demolished many buildings and houses, especially in East Jerusalem and in regions classified as Area C.

Progress is apparent in regions under Palestinian control where work can proceed with little hindrance. In contrast, however, are those areas still under full Israeli control where Israeli impediments and measures obstruct Palestinians from implementing projects and limit the possibilities for further development. Thus, the process of creating appropriate conditions necessary for greater progress towards comprehensive development, including the accomplishment of the MDGs, remains an extremely difficult task unless the occupation comes to an end and a Palestinian sovereign state is established.

In recent years, the government has made important achievements in all major sectors. With regard to governance, the government has reinforced security and safety in Palestinian society and ensured the building of institutions with mechanisms to monitor performance. The government has also become more transparent and accountable to the public through the publication of data and information, including statements of budgets and spending. The justice sector has also achieved notable progress in its work as the courts have become more effective.





In the social sector, the government has continued to make improvements in education, health and social protection, with particular focus on groups such as women, youth and children. Substantial progress has been achieved in terms of educational infrastructure and teacher training in order to improve the quality of education. Important achievements are also apparent in the health sector and many health centres and complexes have been built and developed. Notable achievements have been made in the fight against communicable diseases, especially in the provision of vaccines for all children in Palestine, and major improvements have been introduced in the field of mental health. The government has made substantial progress in the provision of social protection to all regions and social sectors. A greater number of families receive assistance from cash transfer and food programs and violence against women has been tackled, including the availability of safe houses.

In regard to the economy, the government has established trade agreements with many countries. In addition, it has succeeded in establishing a legal environment that enables private sector growth and the development of its capacity to assume its natural role in leading economic growth. The government has also developed public infrastructure with projects to develop the water and wastewater sector, energy projects and road construction.

Nonetheless, all these achievements remain vulnerable to Israeli policies that limit the implementation of projects in Area C, in East Jerusalem and in the besieged Gaza Strip. More substantial progress would have been possible in all areas if the PNA had full control over the land and the available natural resources. Israeli control over Palestinian land and its resources has limited the capacity of the PNA to advance further on the path towards building an independent Palestinian state and towards the aspired development of Palestine that could benefit all regions and social groups.



## METHODOLOGY

The process of preparing this strategy was based on the principle of partnership. The Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development coordinated its efforts with the relevant government institutions, civil society organisations, representatives from the private sector and international partners, especially the UN. A total of 243 individuals representing 55 institutions from across the West Bank and Gaza Strip participated in meetings and consultations to formulate this strategy. Work on the strategy was divided into two phases: the first phase focused on efforts to localise the MDGs, i.e. to adapt them to meet the conditions and reality in Palestine, while the second phase focused on the drafting of the strategy.

The Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development coordinated efforts to formulate the National Report for the MDGs in 2010, in partnership with all stakeholders. That report was then submitted to the UN General Assembly meeting held in New York in September 2010 in order to review the MDGs. Based on the recommendations made in that meeting, the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development took the decision to launch a national process of localising these MDGs and adapting them to meet the conditions and reality in Palestine, despite the existence of national strategies. The aim is to focus on setting up detailed policies and interventions necessary to achieve the goals, derived to a certain extent from the general policies presented in the national plans and sectoral strategies. The conclusions and recommendations of the UN General Assembly Meeting on the Review of the MDGs in New York emphasised the national ownership of the MDGs as vital to guarantee national commitment to securing these goals in line with the unique conditions existing in each country. Since there are considerable differences among nations, the MDGs must be treated not as a rigid framework, but with the flexibility to implement the goals from the perspective of each country.

This strategy has been formulated via a broad consultation process. The process was initiated in a national workshop in July 2011 with the participation of all stakeholders. The workshop aimed to produce a national version of the MDGs in Palestine and to define the policies and interventions needed to achieve the goals by 2015, in line with the national policy agenda ratified in national plans and sectoral strategies.

The workshop was followed by a series of meetings of working groups, each specialised in one of the MDGs. These groups discussed the outcomes of the workshop and elaborated specific goals from a national perspective including a series of policies and interventions to be implemented by 2015.

Later, the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development led a broader consultation process in partnership with the relevant ministries. (One of the groups covered the three goals relating to health since these are interrelated). The workshops included representatives from all partners in the development process in Palestine i.e. government institutions, civil society,



the private sector and UN organisations. During the workshops the results of the first national workshop and the outcomes of the working groups that followed were reviewed in order to secure the broadest participation in the process of localising the MDGs and examining the policies and interventions required. This process ensured the commitment and effective participation of all parties to the goals.

Following the workshops held in the West Bank, two meetings were held in the Gaza Strip with NGOs working in the fields targeted by the MDGs. Participants discussed the outcomes reached in the West Bank workshops and presented proposals to amend or add policies or interventions to achieve the MDGs. In general, the aim of the entire consultation process was to ensure an integrated national strategy capable of achieving the MDGs by 2015, along with priorities linked to those defined in the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and relevant sectoral strategies, in partnership with all stakeholders.



## REQUIREMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE MDGS IN PALESTINE

The achievement of the MDGs in Palestine demands the presence of certain conditions, the most significant of which is the end of the Israeli occupation. The occupation is the major impediment to the realisation of these goals and to comprehensive development that can benefit all sectors of society. Furthermore, it is necessary to encourage progress in building Palestinian government institutions and partnerships and coordination between developmental stakeholders in Palestine. The international community must also fulfil its responsibilities and roles at political and developmental levels.

### **Liberation and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state**

The national policy agenda included in the National Development Plan 2011-2013 made independence and the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian soil a top national priority. It is a national goal that reflects the basic right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the foundation for comprehensive and genuine development that will enable Palestinians to live freely and with dignity. The vision of the National Development Plan in terms of achieving national projects lies in the fact that independence, sovereignty and open borders constitute the basic pillars to secure sustainable intervention and initiatives for social and economic development in Palestine.

The decades-long Israeli occupation has deprived the Palestinian people of their right to freedom and has imposed many obstacles and restrictions that have impeded their progress and well-being. The policies and interventions set up by the PNA and Palestinian governments have been consistently aimed at development, but the sustainability of such achievements is dependent on the measures imposed by the Israeli occupation. Palestinians have been prevented from building vital developmental projects and infrastructure in regions classified as Area C in the West Bank, which is under full Israeli control. The continuous siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, plus the building and expansion of settlements and the annexation wall in the West Bank, have prevented the full execution of plans in Palestine, or even the sustainability of what has already been accomplished.

In its most recent report submitted to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee on Palestine, the World Bank affirmed that, at a time when the Palestinian economy continues to grow, indicators point to the lack of sustainability of such growth. In fact, growth actually slowed in the West Bank in 2011 compared with 2010. The World Bank explained that this is principally due to Israeli restrictions imposed on the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that prevent the free flow and movement of people and goods, in addition to a reduction in external support.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. Stagnation or Revival? Palestinian Economic Prospects. Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. March 21, 2012.



Israeli measures contravene international law and the recommendations of the UN Secretary General, put forth in a report on the tenth anniversary review of the MDGs. The report stressed that interventions should be drafted into national development strategies that define the measures required to guarantee long-term sustainability, as Palestine did in its developmental plans. The report also emphasised that a conducive environment is crucial to progress towards the achievement of goals, as is the process of hastening work towards these goals. The extent of the impact of Israeli oppressive measures is apparent in the inability of Palestinian efforts to reach their ultimate aims. Thus, we affirm that the establishment of a conducive environment will propel the achievement of the MDGs and comprehensive development, and will guarantee Palestinian people the right to freedom, dignity and self-determination. This cannot be achieved unless the occupation ends and the Palestinian people establish their sovereign independent state.

The MDGs Report 2010 reached the conclusion that,

National support to achieve the MDGs by 2015 is still strong and the progress that has been made since the establishment of the PNA in 1994 can continue. However, nothing less than an end to the occupation and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state can create the conditions necessary to enable greater progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.<sup>2</sup>

The report summarised existing prospects and trends and concluded that some of the goals were unlikely to be achieved under occupation. The MDGs deemed to be unachievable were: the first goal of eradicating poverty, the fourth goal of reducing infant mortality rates, the seventh goal of environmental sustainability, and the eighth goal on the establishment of global partnerships in trade relations and exchange.

## Strengthening institution building and developing governance

Comprehensive development in Palestine and the achievement of the MDGs require the building and strengthening of governance institutions. This was one of the priorities stated in the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and Palestinians have made notable progress in this area. Palestinian government institutions have reached a level of performance that meets many international standards, despite being under occupation, an assessment based on the evidence of independent international development and financial institutions. Palestine remains committed to building on what has already been achieved and to further developing the work of its institutions. Similar to international state institutions, Palestinian government bodies must engage in a process of ongoing and sustainable development that ensures the protection of the public and develops the standard and quality of public services offered while consolidating and expanding good governance and the rule of the law.

2 The PNA, Planning and Administrative Development Ministry, August 2012. The MDGs Report. Ramallah - Palestine.



The national policy agenda focused on empowering Palestinian governance institutions, enhancing their capacity to provide public services in all national regions and ensuring the establishment of a society where freedom and justice prevail. Institutions must be capable of meeting public needs and enforcing the accountability of those in charge. This can create an environment that ensures equality in the treatment of all citizens and investors before the law and provides them with the opportunity to play an effective role in developing the future Palestinian state.

The approaches defined by the national policy agenda in relation to the building of institutions and reinforcing good governance are in line with the report of the UN Secretary General on the tenth anniversary review of the MDGs. The report affirmed that the ability to expedite work to achieve the goals depends on the presence of institutional capacity to offer good quality national services, in a fair manner, with adequate facilities, efficient employees, appropriate supplies and equipment and effective monitoring and evaluation.

The national policy agenda focused on the existing legislative and legal framework in Palestine and the need to conduct a comprehensive review of all regulations and laws and to develop them to serve the developmental process in all sectors. This approach is in line with the report of the UN Secretary General on the tenth anniversary review of the MDGs, which stressed the need for an appropriate legal environment of regulating laws, rules, administrative measures and guiding principles, whether general or related to the MDGs. This strategy will address the legal interventions required in the following chapter, which deals with the eight goals.

The national policy agenda focused on ensuring justice and equal opportunity for all Palestinians and the realisation of their rights. One of the guiding principles defined social justice and equality for citizens as the two pillars to establish a stable society and a strong economy. They affirmed that the general policies in Palestine aim to benefit all Palestinians in the field of governance, the public services offered and in economic growth.

The National Development Plan 2011-2013 stressed the need to reduce social and economic disparities between regions and social sectors, stating that concrete progress in this area is linked to translating the two-state solution into reality. Ensuring the freedom of Palestinian public institutions, the private sector and investment projects to implement their work across the entire Palestinian territory as one geographical unit within the borders of 4 June 1967, including East Jerusalem, will create the conditions necessary to achieve fair social and economic development for all Palestinian regions and social sectors. Freedom of movement of people and goods with the outside world is essential to bring about development for the benefit of all citizens. This can be achieved through the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian state.



## The responsibility of the international community

The responsibility of the international community in enabling Palestine to achieve the MDGs and comprehensive development lies in providing political support to establish and recognise an independent Palestinian state and exert pressure on Israel to end its occupation and remove the obstacles imposed on Palestinian society and economy. The international community also needs to offer technical and financial support to Palestinians.

We as Palestinians call on the international community to implement international law, including the terms ratified by the UN General Assembly following the report of the UN Secretary General on the tenth anniversary review of the MDGs, comprising the following:

We are determined to take more effective measures in accordance with international law to remove obstacles and restrictions and reinforce the support offered to regions and countries that struggle to achieve economic and social development and meet their special needs, including the less-developed countries, the non-coastal developing countries, small island developing countries, middle-income countries and Africa, and people who live in regions affected by “complicated humanitarian emergency conditions, and in regions affected by terrorism”, **and we also recognize the need to take collective measures in accordance with international law to remove the obstacles that prevent the full realization of the rights of peoples under foreign occupation in order to achieve the MDGs.**

We recognize the presence of certain developmental challenges in relation to peace building and early recovery in countries affected by conflicts and the impact of these challenges on their efforts to achieve the MDGs. We ask donor countries to provide adequate and predictable developmental assistance to be disbursed at the appropriate time in order to support those efforts and to be adapted to meet the special needs and conditions in each country based on the request of the beneficiary country. We are determined to reinforce global partnerships to meet those needs and to achieve progress and allow the opportunity to provide better international support.<sup>3</sup>

The Israeli occupation has lasted for a long period of time and has harmed Palestinians by depriving them of the freedom, justice and equality enjoyed by other peoples of the world. Palestinians have worked hard to create the necessary conditions to establish an independent Palestinian state with full sovereignty on its land within the borders of June 4, 1967. With the endorsement of many countries and international organisations, Palestine submitted an application for full UN membership in September 2011, after proving its readiness to become a state. It is high time that the international community assumes its role in enforcing the rights of Palestine in accordance with international legitimacy and UN resolutions and recognises the independent Palestinian state. This entails the exertion of pressure by the international community on Israel to end its occupation of Palestine and to remove the obstacles imposed on

3 UN General Assembly, 65<sup>th</sup> Session, October, 2010, Living up to the Promise: United to achieve the MDGs. New York.



Palestinian society and economy. Israeli restrictions constitute the basic obstacle that prevents Palestinians from enjoying their freedom and from achieving the development needed for a decent quality of life. These restrictions also prevent Palestine from laying the foundations of peace and achieving prosperity on a regional and international level.

The international community also has a role to provide technical and financial support for developmental work in order to achieve the MDGs and build the foundations for comprehensive development. These steps are essential to counter the long-term negative impact caused by the Israeli occupation and its policies against Palestinian society, its natural resources and economy and the services offered to Palestinian citizens. Assistance needs to be directed according to the national priorities defined in national plans and sectoral strategies. The international community should press Israel to pay compensation for the losses and damage it has inflicted on Palestinian society throughout the protracted occupation, including damage to infrastructure, agricultural land and the environment, as well as allocations and insurance payments for Palestinian workers in the Israeli labour market.

## **Improving coordination and local partnership**

This section deals with partnership in its local dimension as a prerequisite to progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. Partnership in its international dimension is covered in the special section related to the eighth goal of the MDGs: Establishing global partnerships for development.

This strategy has been prepared in partnership with government institutions, representatives from civil society and the private sector, and representatives from international organisations, particularly the UN. In this, it is no different from the approach adopted in the National Development Plan 2011-2013, which was based on the broadest possible consultation process on public policies in Palestine.

The Palestinian government has adopted the principle of participation and consultation and has assumed responsibility for enhancing and expanding its scope of work in the coming years. The government believes that improved partnerships with local communities are another important element in the efforts to enhance transparency and accountability in the eyes of the public and upgrade performance to meet public needs.

Civil society has played a vital role in Palestine. It has encouraged Palestinians to stay on their land and has provided health and education services. Furthermore, it has supported small projects, agricultural schemes and other projects in operation prior to the establishment of the PNA in 1994. These organisations still play a vital role in the developmental process in Palestine.

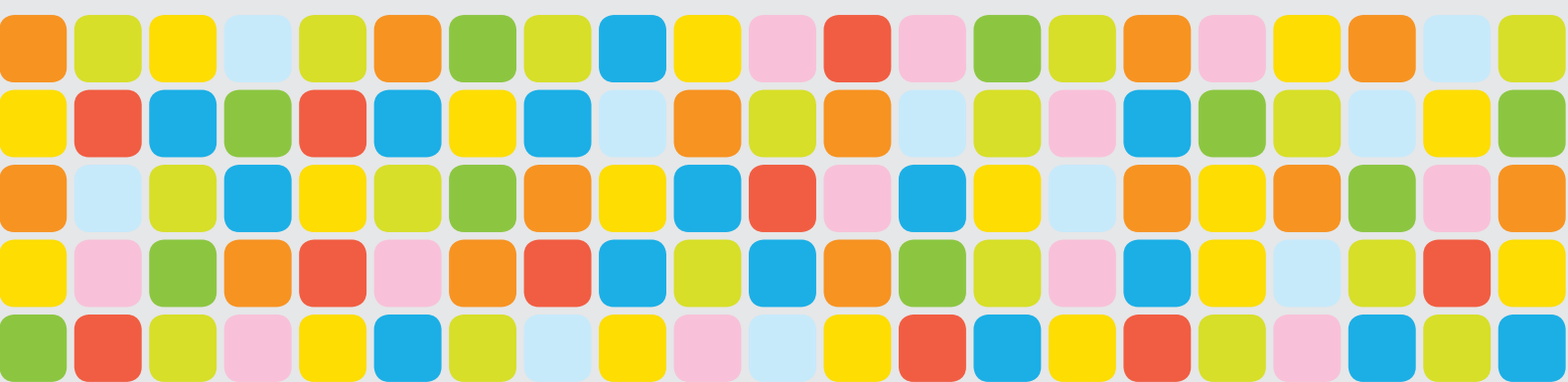




The Palestinian private sector also has a vital role in development. The Palestinian government has worked to make the investment climate more attractive to guarantee the contribution of the private sector in leading economic growth and development.

The achievement of the MDGs, especially in the case of Palestine, requires a collective effort from all those involved in development in order to plan, implement, assess, monitor and hold parties accountable. Palestine has achieved significant progress in this field but still seeks to make further progress towards full partnership that will enable an improved level of performance and provide equal opportunities and public services to all citizens. The major challenges that face Palestine, including poverty and unemployment, cannot be overcome without this partnership. The private sector has the greatest potential to absorb workers in light of the saturated public sector. Moreover, civil society is capable of reaching social sectors living in remote and deprived areas more quickly and efficiently. Thus, the coordination of efforts and the integration of work among stakeholders is our sole means to attain equal opportunities and services for all citizens. This will be the path towards comprehensive development, including the accomplishment of the MDGs.







**First Goal:**

## **ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND ALLEVIATE POVERTY**

Poverty, unemployment and food security are considered three of the major challenges faced in Palestine. The policies and interventions in the context of fighting poverty, reducing unemployment and improving food security constitute the main pillars of national and sectoral strategies and are areas where all partners in the development process exert tremendous efforts. Very often, these actions encounter challenges that are exacerbated by the Israeli occupation and its systemic measures which impede the process of building an independent Palestinian state.



Shareef Sarhan – UNDP/PAPP image bank

## Status of poverty in Palestine

Despite programs implemented in the fight against poverty, whether developmental programs or cash assistance and transfer programs, poverty rates in Palestine remain high and have not achieved any notable improvement since 1996, the first year in which data on poverty in Palestine was assessed. In 1996, the poverty rate was 23.6% across Palestine, based on monthly consumption patterns. In subsequent years, poverty rates fluctuated according to the extent of restrictions and limitations imposed by the Israeli occupation on Palestinian society, such as the siege, closures, checkpoints, land confiscation and limitations on trade with the outside world.

The most recent report on poverty in Palestine has shown that the poverty rate in 2010, based on monthly consumption patterns, was 25.7%, with significant disparity between the West Bank and Gaza Strip (18.3% and 38% respectively). Of this percentage, 14.1% suffered from extreme poverty (8.8% in the West Bank and 23% in the Gaza Strip).<sup>4</sup>

Cash and food assistance have had an impact on reducing poverty rates. These programs are

<sup>4</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, (2011). Poverty in the Palestinian Territory: Report of the Main Results 2009-2010. Ramallah – Palestine.



generally funded by international donors and have led to a reduction in the poverty rate by 17% and the extreme poverty rate by 27%. The impact of this assistance is shown in terms of the rise of poverty in relation to income. The percentage of individuals whose income is below the national poverty line in the Palestinian Territory increased to 48.6% (36.2% in the West Bank and 69.3% in the Gaza Strip), including 37.6% whose income is below the extreme poverty line (24.6% in the West Bank and 59.2% in the Gaza Strip).<sup>5</sup>

The disparities between the West Bank and Gaza Strip are primarily due to the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, which prevents the entry of the basic raw materials needed to be economically active /implement projects. The Gaza Strip is isolated from the West Bank. Agricultural products are banned from export abroad and fishermen are banned from fishing. The market in the Gaza Strip is small, but the siege has had a major impact on poverty rates and led to a leap in poverty to the unprecedented level of 55.7% in 2007 compared with 23.6% in the West Bank.

There are also disparities in poverty rates by residential location; the poverty rate was highest in refugee camps at 32.4% based on monthly consumption patterns, followed by urban communities at 25.8%, while the lowest rates were 21.9% in rural communities.<sup>6</sup>

Poverty rates were also higher in households headed by women (constituting 9.3% of Palestinian households in the West Bank and Gaza Strip) compared with households headed by men. Poverty rates in female-headed households stand at 29.8% compared to 25.5% in households headed by a male, based on monthly consumption patterns.<sup>7</sup>

Poverty rates in households whose head did not participate in the labour force totalled 32%, but fell to 24.6% in households headed by a participant in the labour force. The poverty rate was 50.4% among the unemployed and 22% among employed individuals.<sup>8</sup> These figures demonstrate that interventions must focus on unemployment in order to fight poverty. However, the figures also show that not all workers rise above the poverty line and this highlights the need to protect workers, along with ensuring the provision of adequate employment opportunities.

The available data reveal a large gap in consumption between the rich and the poor. The poorest 10% of the population account for 4.5% of total monthly consumption by Palestinian families compared to 22.5% by the richest 10% of the population. This gap points to the need for policies linked to improving social cohesion and the redistribution of wealth through social security programs, the provision of decent jobs, fair tax policies and other measures. The impact of cash and food assistance programs on reducing poverty gaps and severity has been proven. The poverty gap before receiving assistance totalled 10.6%, but fell to 6.4% after assistance. The extreme poverty rate fell from 15.6% before receiving assistance to 2.4% after assistance.

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5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.



## Status of food security

Food security in Palestine is linked to a large extent to poverty. The available data show that the percentage of households nationally lacking food security was 27% in 2011 (44% in the Gaza Strip and 17% in the West Bank).<sup>9</sup> There has been a considerable improvement in food security compared with 2009 and 2010: the percentage of households without food security totalled 33% nationally in 2010 (52% in the Gaza Strip and 22% in the West Bank), while in 2009, the percentage nationally was 36% (60% in the Gaza Strip and 22% in the West Bank).

The gap in food security rates between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank is linked to the same factors that produce the gap in poverty rates. Improvements in food security levels between 2009 and 2011 were due to the cash and in-kind assistance offered by PNA programs where the number of beneficiaries has increased at a steady pace, in addition to the assistance programs implemented by international organisations, especially in the Gaza Strip.<sup>10</sup>

## Status of the labour market and unemployment

Labour force participation rates remain low in Palestine and this has a direct impact on the rates of poverty and food security among the population. This is due to Palestine being under occupation and subject to Israeli policies of siege, closure, control over resources and other restrictions. The labour force participation rate among individuals aged 15 years and older reached around 41% nationally (67% for males and 15% for females). In the West Bank, participation rates were around 44% (70% for males and 17% for females), while the rate in the Gaza Strip was around 36% (62% for males and 10% for females).<sup>11</sup>

Unemployment stood at 24% nationally in 2010 (23% for males and 27% for females). In the West Bank, the unemployment rate was 17% (17% for males and 20% for females) compared to 38% in the Gaza Strip (36% for males and 48% for females).<sup>12</sup>

## Special features of the Palestinian situation and priorities to combat poverty

Based on an analysis of poverty, food security, the labour force and unemployment in Palestine, the Palestinian version of the first goal of the MDGs focuses on eradicating extreme poverty and alleviating poverty since these factors impact the possibility of achieving development.

9 Statistics on food security for 2011 were taken from a presentation made by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with FAO, WFP and UNRWA on the results of the socio-economic conditions and food security survey of 2011 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

10 World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2010. Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SEF-Sec) – West Bank and Gaza Strip.

11 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Labor Force Survey in the Palestinian Territory, 2010. Ramallah – Palestine.

12 Ibid.



Unemployment is identified as another challenge. The Palestinian version of the goal excludes famine since it is not relevant to the Palestinian context, but it includes food security in its comprehensive sense of the ability to obtain and have access to food. In general, the major challenges faced in Palestine are linked to poverty of both degrees (extreme poverty and poverty), food security, labour force participation and unemployment. These are challenges imposed on Palestine as a country under occupation and the goal has therefore been adapted to ensure that it reflects this special feature and is linked to the task of confronting the occupation and the struggle for independence.

Policies and interventions relating to this goal take account of these challenges, including relief and developmental dimensions. Relief is linked to efforts aimed at tackling extreme poverty in households without the resources that would enable them to independently develop their capacities. This also applies to efforts aimed at enhancing food security in such households since food security is closely linked to poverty. Policies include a developmental dimension aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and enabling the poor to become self-dependent.

In addition, policies and interventions related to this goal focus on increasing labour market participation and reducing unemployment, especially among women and youth. This serves the general goal of fighting poverty, while the focus on specific populations such as women and youth adheres to the approaches defined in the national policy agenda of building equality among all regions and social sectors, including gender equality. Within the same context, policies have focused on labour protection but not only on a quantitative increase in labour market participation. Policies also aim to ensure a just distribution of resources and services between regions and social sectors, plus the provision of decent housing. The inclusion of all regions challenges inequality in primary services and assists the fight against poverty, including the setting up of a tariff system in line with poverty classifications.

## **Goals, policies and interventions to combat poverty in Palestine linked to the MDGs**

The following table summarises the Objectives, policies and interventions needed to combat poverty in Palestine. These are all linked to the content of the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies, especially the national strategy on social protection. Additional details on poverty, food security and unemployment in the context of Palestinian efforts to combat poverty in order to achieve the MDGs and enhance development are also included. The policies and interventions incorporated in national plans and strategies are more comprehensive than those referred to in this strategy.





First Goal: Eradicate extreme poverty and alleviate poverty			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Policies	Interventions	
To alleviate extreme poverty and poverty and increase food security among the population	To develop the effectiveness of social security networks and increase their focus on households in extreme poverty and deprived sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To complete the reform of the social assistance system</li> <li>To continue to offer cash and in-kind assistance to households living below the extreme poverty line</li> <li>To provide social allocations to deprived sectors</li> <li>To cover the fees of basic education for children from poor households</li> <li>To provide poor households with medical insurance cover</li> <li>To establish a social responsibility fund</li> </ul>	
	To enable the poor and deprived to become self-dependent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To offer grants and loans to poor households and the deprived to establish income generating projects</li> <li>To promote vocational training programs and retraining to members of poor and deprived households</li> <li>To organise exhibitions of products from small producers</li> </ul>	
	To ensure food security for households in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide food assistance</li> <li>To implement awareness campaigns on healthy diets</li> <li>To provide subsidised meals to pupils</li> <li>To support small farmers</li> <li>To support domestic production and gardens</li> </ul>	
To provide full and productive labour and decent jobs to everyone, including women and youth	To create job opportunities and increase labour force participation rates for women and people with special needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop small loans programs</li> <li>To develop and launch a national employment fund</li> <li>To develop and put in place vocational training and rehabilitation programs</li> <li>To apply the Labour Law provisions of earmarking at least five percent of labour for people with special needs</li> <li>To encourage and develop the work of cooperatives</li> </ul>	
	To strengthen the social security framework and protection for labourers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To unify retirement schemes in PNA institutions</li> <li>To develop a retirement scheme for the private sector</li> <li>To develop a retirement scheme (non-participatory retirement) for special social sectors</li> </ul>	
	To develop and encourage a local environment that cares for poor and deprived citizens and households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strengthen partnership between all service providers</li> <li>To adapt homes, facilities and public institutions to meet the requirements of people with special needs</li> <li>Awareness and counselling campaigns to encourage the integration of people with special needs into the community and households</li> </ul>	



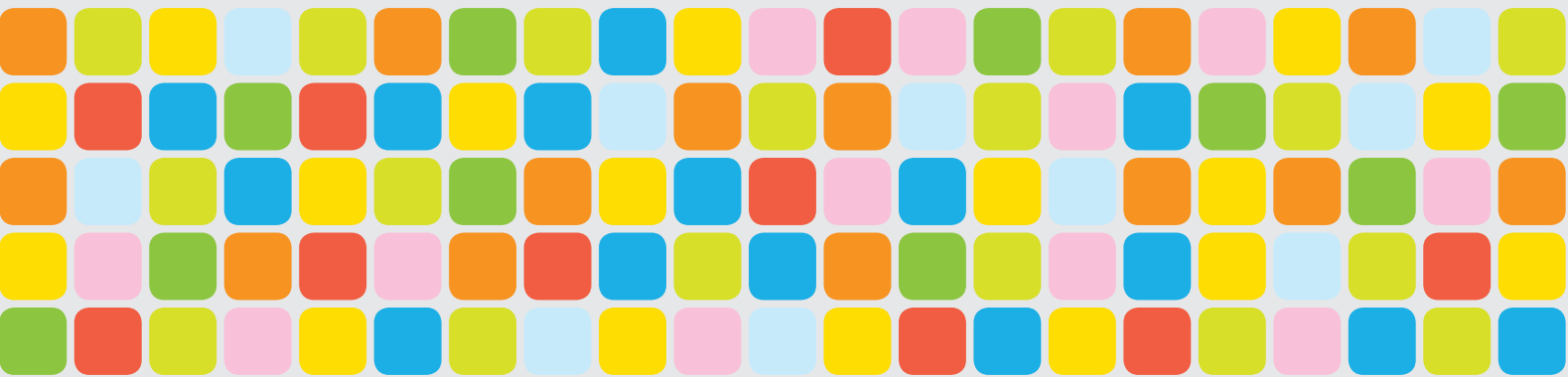


## Poverty-fighting targets linked to MDGs

A set of targets to fight poverty has been defined and the aim is to achieve these targets by 2015. General indicators related to these targets appear in the table below. These indicators show national percentages and targets. In order to monitor the implementation of this strategy, it may be necessary to analyse them according to socio-economic classifications and make calculations, where necessary, according to gender, age group and labour force status, in addition to regional classifications, such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the type of residential community (urban, rural, refugee).

First Goal: Eradicate extreme poverty and alleviate poverty			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
Alleviate extreme poverty and poverty and improve food security among the population	Percentage of individuals under extreme poverty line	14.1%	12.0%
	Percentage of individuals under national poverty line	25.7%	19.0%
	Share of the poorest five percent of population in national consumption	10.6%	13%
	Percentage of households that lack food security	33%	20%
	Percentage of households that have a healthy diet	72%	85%
Achieve full and productive labour and decent jobs for all, including women and youth	Percentage of unemployment	23.7%	18%
	Percentage of those who work and whose income is below the national poverty line	22%	15%
	Rate of economic dependence	8%	6.5%
	Rate of daily wage for women compared with men	81.6%	90%
To provide safe and appropriate housing for the poor and deprived	Percentage of households that live in crowded housing where three or more individuals share the same bedroom	9.5%	8.5%







**Second Goal:**

## **ACHIEVE QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS WITHIN THE 4-15 AGE GROUP**

Education is a sector of special significance in the Palestinian case. Education is the basis for building human capital, which is of extreme importance since Palestine is a small country with few resources. The national policy agenda focused on the need to allocate substantial investment to education at various levels since improvements in human capital will lead the development process and build the economy in an independent Palestinian state.



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## Status of education in Palestine

Palestine has made notable progress in educational quantitative indicators and is ahead of many countries in the region and internationally. This progress is apparent in gender equality in terms of student enrolment rates in basic and university education. In fact, female enrolment rates are higher than those of males at some stages.

Palestine endorses basic education as a compulsory stage which continues up to tenth grade. Data show that net enrolment in basic education was 94.4% in the 6-15 age group and 88.5% thereafter.<sup>13</sup> These are high ratios, but further effort will be made to raise the ratio until all male and female students are enrolled at this stage through a series of appropriate policies and interventions.

One sector that requires focus and attention to raise enrolment rates at the basic education stage is among students with special needs. Currently only 45% of children with special needs in the 6-15 age group are enrolled.<sup>14</sup> Specific policies and interventions are crucial to ensure their participation in education.

<sup>13</sup> Database of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

<sup>14</sup> Database of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.



Despite the progress achieved in quantitative educational indicators, two areas require special attention: preschool education and the quality of education in general. Data from the Ministry of Education show that only 33.8% of children attend pre-school education due to a number of factors. These factors include poverty and low living standards, a shortage of kindergartens in some residential areas or the distance from homes, especially if there is no available transportation for the children, and fear of Israeli army measures on roads and checkpoints in all regions. The low rate of enrolment must be addressed in specific policies that will enable all children (males and females) to attend kindergarten. This stage of education lays the cornerstones for education and learning and contributes towards ensuring education for all.

Despite the efforts exerted to date, the major challenge is to improve the overall quality of education. Progress towards an improved quality of education has not matched that of quantitative education targets and policies must be implemented to improve the quality. As an indicator of quality, the results of Palestinian students in international tests (TIMSS) showed levels that do not reflect national aspirations. The average score of eighth grade students in the mathematics exam was 367 out of 500 points (equivalent to 73.4%) and in the science exam, the score was 404 out of 500 points (equivalent to 80.8%). Data on the achievements of Palestinian students in TIMSS mark a regression in the ranking of Palestine from third place out of thirteen Arab countries that participated in these tests in 2003 to a rank of tenth in 2007. Data from the Ministry of Education showed that ordinary life skills measured in fourth, eighth and tenth grades scored around 70%, a percentage that reflects scope for improvement.

## **Special features of Palestine and priorities of school and preschool education**

Based on an analysis of the status of school and preschool education in Palestine, the Palestinian version of the second goal of the MDGs focuses on the need to maintain high enrolment rates in basic rather than elementary education and to increase enrolment among special sectors. Furthermore, preschool education has been added as a focus due to its importance in Palestine and the weak enrolment rates at this stage. The goal also focuses on the quality of education as a major challenge that faces the educational sector in Palestine. Educational quality needs to be improved in order to prepare future generations to cope with the needs of modern times, lead the development process and assume a positive role in the building of an independent Palestinian state.

The policies and interventions relating to this goal tackle the basic challenges that face the educational sector and reflect the permanent need to develop both infrastructure and educational staff to guarantee the enrolment of male and female students in all regions in school and preschool education. The policies and interventions also reflect the crucial challenge of improving the quality of education.



## Goals, policies and interventions needed to develop education in Palestine linked with the MDGs

The following table summarises the Objectives, policies and interventions needed to develop the educational sector in Palestine. These are all linked to the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies, in particular the national strategy for education and higher education. Included are additional details on issues linked to the enrolment of all students in education without discrimination as well as the quality of education. This is part of Palestine's efforts to develop its human capital on the path to achieving the MDGs and enhancing development in general. The policies and interventions in national plans and strategies are more comprehensive than those referred to in this strategy.

Second Goal: Achieve quality primary education for all students in the 4-15 age group		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To ensure the enrolment and continuous attendance of all children (males and females) in preschool and basic education by 2015	To work on developing the infrastructure of public education and preschool education institutions, especially in East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and regions classified as Area C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To build and rent classrooms to absorb the increase in students and reduce crowded classrooms and evening openings, especially in remote and deprived regions;</li> <li>to perform maintenance on existing school buildings and adapt school buildings to meet the requirements of students with special needs</li> <li>To provide school textbooks and educational aids to schools and kindergartens</li> <li>To build and renovate kindergartens to meet the needs of remote and deprived communities and regions</li> <li>To gradually open kindergarten classes in schools, especially in remote and poor regions</li> <li>To develop a special database for kindergartens in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and ensure it is regularly updated</li> <li>To conduct a survey of kindergartens and develop a database on them</li> <li>To implement community awareness programs on the importance of enrolment in kindergartens</li> </ul>
To improve the quality of education and learning	To improve and develop school curricula based on a participatory approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review and amend curricula taking into consideration gender equality</li> <li>To develop a general framework for kindergarten curricula</li> </ul>



Second Goal: Achieve quality primary education for all students in the 4-15 age group		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
	To improve the school educational environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement educational counselling programs</li> <li>To introduce health programs in schools</li> <li>To introduce healthy diet programs in schools</li> <li>To establish parent-teacher councils</li> <li>To support the implementation of educational and extracurricular activities</li> <li>To implement remedial programs for students with low scholastic achievement</li> </ul>
	To improve and develop the efficiency of teaching staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement training and pre-service and in-service programs for teaching staff</li> <li>To implement training programs on the use of technology and modern educational teaching devices</li> <li>To prepare special retraining programs for kindergarten teachers and administrative staff in schools</li> <li>To develop a system of incentives for teaching staff</li> <li>To improve the process of supervision and guidance, especially in schools in the Gaza Strip</li> </ul>

## Targets pertaining to the development of the educational sector linked to the MDGs

A set of targets to develop the educational sector in relation to the MDGs has been defined. General indicators related to these targets appear in the table below with the specific targets to be achieved by 2015. These indicators show national percentages and targets. In order to monitor the implementation of this strategy, it may be necessary to analyse them according to socio-economic classifications. Indicators will be calculated, where necessary, according to gender, age group and labour force status, in addition to regional classifications, such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the type of residential community (urban, rural, refugee).



Second Goal: Achieve quality primary education for all students in the 4-15 age group			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To ensure the enrolment and continuous attendance of all children (males and females) in basic and preschool education by 2015	Percentage of students remaining in basic education	88.50%	94%
	Percentage of net enrolment in basic education	93.44%	99%
	Percentage of net enrolment in kindergartens	33.8%	43.8%
To improve the quality of education and learning	Average score of students in international tests (TIMSS) Math – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Science – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	367 404	400 450
	Average score of students in uniform national tests Math – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade Arabic – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade Math – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Science – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	41 53 29 35	73 65.7 61 61.7
	Percentage in possession of ordinary life skills 4 <sup>th</sup> grade 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 10 <sup>th</sup> grade	71.67% 69.72% 73.21%	82% 80% 80%





Third goal:

## **EMPOWER THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN AND PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

The participation of women in social, economic and political life is a basic factor in the developmental process of any society. Significant progress has been achieved in female participation in public life in Palestine, but expanding this participation is highly desired. The National Development Plan 2011-2013 affirmed that there remains much to be achieved before it can be claimed that this is a society where women enjoy equal rights with men, especially since the aspiration is to establish an independent Palestinian state where all Palestinians enjoy freedom, justice and equal opportunities.

Policies and interventions pertaining to the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality are not only included in this section; the sections that cover the remaining MDGs focus on women's issues on a cross-sectoral basis. This section focuses on issues pertaining to women in particular.



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## Status of women in Palestine

Palestinian women have high enrolment rates at all levels of education, actually exceeding male enrolment rates in some stages. The ratio of females to males in basic education is 98 females for every 100 males; in secondary education the ratio is 118 females for every 100 males and in university education the ratio is 128 females for every 100 males.<sup>15</sup> There is greater disparity in female and male enrolment rates in scientific specialisations in universities and in vocational and technical education in the secondary phase, where there are only 56 females for every 100 males.<sup>16</sup> This gap is due to the traditional view of the role of women and their chosen field of work. Policies are required to bridge this gap in the foreseeable future and gradually eradicate this discrepancy in enrolment numbers.

In the labour market, there is still a wide gap between females and males. The female participation rate (15 years or older) in the labour force was 15% in 2010 compared to 67% among males in the same age group. Female unemployment stands at 27% compared to 23% for males.<sup>17</sup> These figures point to the presence of a large gap between males and females in relation to the labour market and the need for policies and interventions to encourage female participation and protect their rights.

15 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Millennium Development Indicators in Palestine 1994-2010. Ramallah – Palestine.

16 Database of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

17 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Labor Force Survey in the Palestinian Territory 2010. Ramallah – Palestine.



Despite some progress, female participation in political life remains low. Only 12.9% of members in the Palestinian Legislative Council and 18% of local council representatives are women. The share of women in senior posts in the public sector (director level C and above) is 19.7%.

Women in Palestine are subjected to various kinds of domestic violence. Thirty-seven percent have suffered from some form of violence from their spouse, while 30% of single women (age group 18-64) have been subjected to physical violence by a family member. In addition, 26% of single women have experienced psychological abuse from a family member and around 2% of women have complained of violence from the Israeli forces and settlers <sup>18</sup>

## **Special features of Palestine and priorities of empowering women and gender equality**

Based on analysis of the status of women in Palestine, the Palestinian version of the third goal of the MDGs focuses on empowering Palestinian women by providing education, developing capacities and their inclusion in decision making and in economic activities. The goal also focuses on liberating women both socially and from the occupation since there is a strong link between the two. The goal in its Palestinian version focuses on promoting gender equality in opportunities and rights, whether in social, economic or political sectors. The Palestinian version of the third goal of the MDGs complies with the special features of Palestine and is in line with efforts to create an environment conducive to effective female participation in the developmental process in Palestine and the building of a future independent Palestinian state.

The policies and interventions in the goal pertaining to women tackle the main challenges that face Palestinian women i.e. the need for women's liberation, enhanced female participation in public life in the various representative bodies, combating violence against women and the protection of women's rights through a comprehensive review of all effective legislation in Palestine.

## **Goals, policies and interventions needed to ensure Palestinian women's rights in relation to the MDGs**

The following table summarises the Objectives, policies and interventions needed to ensure women's rights. These are linked to the content of the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies, with details on matters linked to the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality in rights, duties and opportunities. These form part of the efforts to enhance the role of women and secure their effective participation in development and the building of a future Palestinian state. The policies and interventions in national plans and strategies are more comprehensive than those referred to in this strategy.

<sup>18</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Press Conference on the Main Results of the Survey on Violence in Palestinian Society, 2011. Ramallah – Palestine.



### Third Goal: Empower the liberation of women and promote gender equality and social justice

#### Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions

Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To ensure access to education and maintain gender equality at all stages of education	<p>To expand the policy of compulsory education up to secondary level</p> <p>To take measures to integrate gender issues in the school curriculum and higher education</p> <p>To take measures to facilitate the access of students and teachers to their schools, especially those who experience restrictions and delays</p>	<p>To amend and ratify the basic education project to include compulsory education up to the end of 12<sup>th</sup> grade</p> <p>To provide school counselling for girls and raise their awareness and that of their families about the disadvantages of early marriage</p> <p>To amend two text books for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades from a gender perspective</p> <p>To review and amend the elementary curriculum in order to change stereotypical images of women and men</p> <p>To introduce a compulsory gender course in all universities and community colleges</p> <p>To establish a system to document Israeli violations that prevent students and teachers from reaching their schools and prepare regular reports of such incidents to bring to the attention of the public</p> <p>To provide transportation to students in communities where students cannot reach their schools</p>
To reduce the gap between the two genders in technical and vocational specialisations	To take steps to encourage girls to join vocational and agricultural education at secondary level and to enrol in science and engineering specialisations in higher education	<p>To open specialisations for girls in vocational schools that meet the requirements of the labour market</p> <p>To provide scholarships for girls who join science and engineering specialisations and technical education</p> <p>To promote awareness campaigns for girls and the community on the importance of enrolling in vocational and agricultural education</p>
To increase and diversify female participation in the labour market and protect women's rights	To take legislative and executive measures to protect working women	<p>To amend relevant laws and endorse proposed amendments on the labour law and its executive regulations from a gender perspective</p> <p>To review and develop economic policies from a gender perspective</p> <p>To expand and encourage the role of labour inspectors from the Ministry of Labour</p> <p>To establish courts to deal with labour issues</p>
	To take measures to provide job opportunities for women	<p>To provide support services for working women (day care centres)</p> <p>To provide soft loans and facilitations to enable women to start their own income-generating projects</p> <p>To provide tax facilitations for exporting institutions and firms that promote women's rural products</p> <p>To implement training programs to provide women with a chance to acquire skills that would be useful in entering the labour market</p> <p>To promote awareness campaigns on the rights and duties of working women</p>



Third Goal: Empower the liberation of women and promote gender equality and social justice		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To promote female participation in political and public life	To take legal and administrative measures (quotas) to increase female participation in political life	To amend and develop the elections law and the professional and trade unions law from a gender perspective To adopt an electoral system that supports female candidates to reach positions of leadership To implement educational programs for political parties and set up bylaws that ensure the participation of women in decision making To lobby political parties to change their bylaws to ensure women reach positions of leadership
	To take appropriate measures to influence cultural and social attitudes towards the role of women in society	To promote media campaigns on the political rights of women and the importance of their participation To implement awareness and education workshops, in particular for men, on women's political rights
	To undertake measures to develop the capacities and skills of women	To implement training programs for women
To protect women from all forms of violence	To take legal and legislative measures to protect women from all forms of violence	To ratify the law protecting the family from violence and put it into practice To amend the Personal Statute Law in a manner that guarantees women's rights To ratify the draft penal code to prevent any gender-based discrimination To amend and ratify criminal procedures related to the penal code to protect women's rights
	To provide an appropriate environment to protect and assist women who are victims of violence	To develop safe homes (including infrastructure, staff and services offered) To ratify a national referral system that defines and organises work among institutions that offer protection to women who are victims of violence and to put it into practice To build the capacities of the various services that work with women who are subjected to violence (police, public prosecutors, judges) To complete the establishment of family protection units in police directorates To provide psychological counselling for female victims of violence To provide psychological counselling for men who act violently against women
	To upgrade community awareness of issues relating to violence against women	To undertake media campaigns on the dangers of violence against women and its impact on society and the family To implement training programs for media personnel on issues of violence against women To document and expose violations and cases of violence against women carried out by the Israeli forces and settlers



## Targets pertaining to Palestinian women's rights linked to the MDGs

A set of targets in relation to women and the MDGs has been defined. General indicators related to these targets appear in the table below with the specific targets to be achieved by 2015. These indicators show national percentages and targets. In order to monitor the implementation of this strategy, it may be necessary to analyse them according to socio-economic classifications and they will be calculated, where necessary, according to gender, age group and labour force status, in addition to regional classifications, such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or type of residential community (urban, rural, refugee).

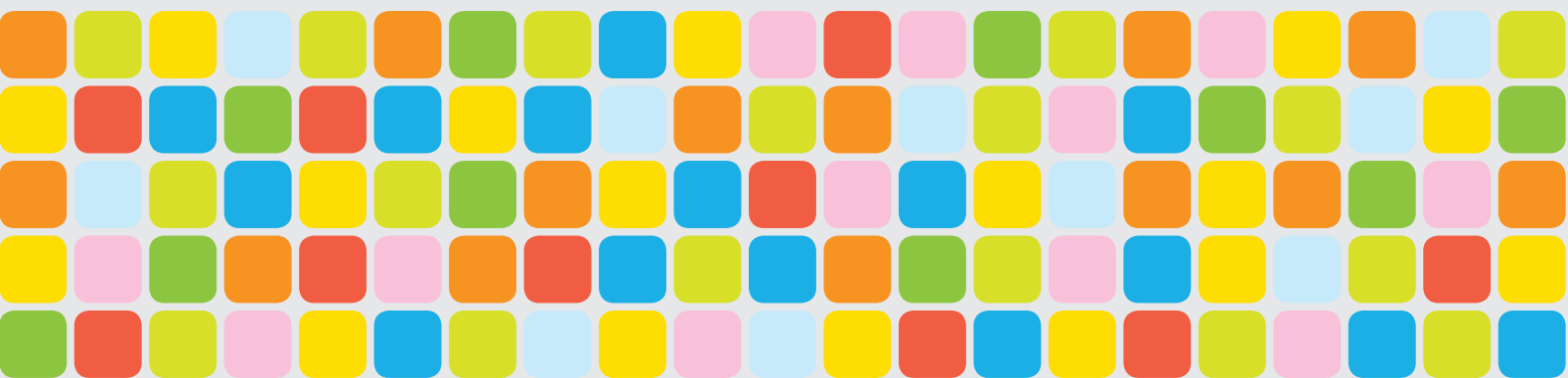
Third Goal: Empower the liberation of women and promote gender equality and social justice			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To ensure access to education and maintain gender equality	Percentage of females to males in secondary education	1.18	1.18
	Percentage of females to males in higher education	1.28	1.28
To reduce the gap between males and females in technical and vocational specialisations	Percentage of females to males in vocational and technical education at secondary level	56%	65%
To increase and diversify female participation in the labour market and protect women's rights	Percentage of female participation in the labour force	14.7%	16%
	Average daily wage of women compared with men	81.6%	90%
	Percentage of unemployed women who have attained at least 13 years of education	36.3%	25%
	Percentage of women who work without a wage	19.5%	16%



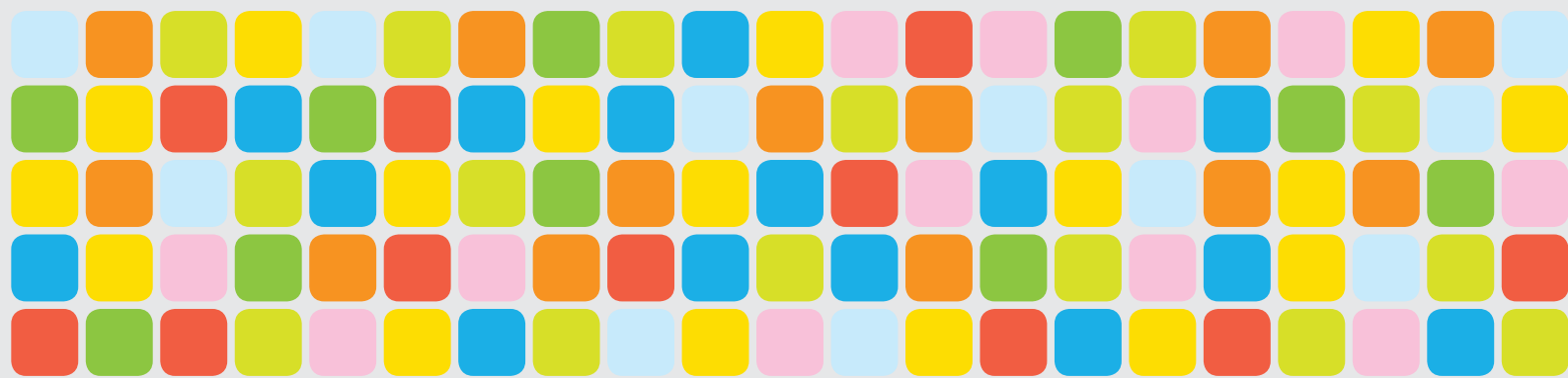


Third Goal: Empower the liberation of women and promote gender equality and social justice			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
To promote female participation in political and public life	Percentage of women in the Palestinian Legislative Council	12.7%	20%
	Percentage of women in municipal and local councils	18%	25%
	Percentage of senior posts occupied by women in the public sector (director level C and above)	19.7%	25%
To protect women from all forms of violence	Percentage of married women who have been subjected to any form of violence by their spouses	37%	20%
	Percentage of single women (18-64) who have been subjected to any form of violence by a family member	Psychological 25.7% Physical 30.2% Sexual 0.8% Economic 7.6%	Psychological 15% Physical 15% Sexual 0% Economic 2%
	Number of women killed annually on the grounds of honour	7	0









## Health Goals



**FOURTH GOAL: REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY**



**FIFTH GOAL: IMPROVE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND MOTHERS**



**SIXTH GOAL: COMBAT HIV INFECTIONS (AIDS) AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.**

The national policy agenda focused on the importance of improving community health on a sustained basis. This was the focus despite the great challenges faced by the Palestinian health sector from restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation that prevent all citizens from equal access to health care services. Nevertheless, Palestine has been able to achieve significant progress in primary health care services, including providing vaccines to all children, building and developing primary health care centres and improving secondary and tertiary health care services. Palestine looks forward to further progress in this field, especially in geographical areas most affected by the Israeli occupation, in regard to women and children, and in combating some communicable diseases.



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## Status of health in Palestine

Available data show a steady decrease in infant mortality rates in Palestine. The infant mortality rate in the interval 1990-1994, which is the period prior to the establishment of the PNA, was 33.2 deaths for every 1000 live births. This ratio decreased annually to reach 24 deaths for every 1000 live births in 2010. The same trend applies to newborn mortality where the rate decreased from 27.3 deaths per 1000 live births during 1990-1994 to 20 deaths in 2010.<sup>19</sup> Despite these improvements, infant and newborn mortality rates remain high and efforts need to be exerted to further reduce them.

There is a gap in infant and newborn mortality rates between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The infant mortality rate in the West Bank was 21.2 for every 1000 live births in 2010 while in the Gaza Strip the mortality rate was 27.7 deaths. The newborn mortality rate was 18.2 deaths for every 1000 live births in 2010 in the West Bank and 22.4 deaths in the Gaza Strip.<sup>20</sup> This gap demonstrates that increased investment needs to be allocated to the health sector in the Gaza Strip to eradicate the factors behind the existing mortality rates of infants and newborns.

<sup>19</sup> Data for the period 1990-1994 were taken from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Millennium Development Indicators in Palestine, 1994-2010. Ramallah – Palestine. Data for 2010 were taken from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. Palestinian Survey on Family Health 2010. Ramallah – Palestine.

<sup>20</sup> Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Palestinian Survey on Family Health 2010. Ramallah – Palestine.



Data from the Palestinian Ministry of Health in 2010 show that the main causes of infant deaths in the West Bank were prenatal diseases (38.0%: 34.6% for males and 42.3% for females), congenital malformations (18.0%) and blood poisoning (11.1%). The main causes of newborn deaths in the West Bank were respiratory diseases (37.6%: 37.5% for males and 37.7% for females), congenital malformations (19.0%: 18.7% for males and 19.3% for females), communicable diseases (12.2%: 12.7% for males and 11.5% for females), and premature birth and low birth weight (11.3%: 11.6 for males and 10.9% for females).

Ministry of Health data show that the maternal death rate was 38 cases per 100,000 live births in 2006, with this rate falling to 32 deaths in 2011. The ratio of pregnant women who received prenatal health care (at least four visits) was 95.4% in 2010. Deliveries under the supervision of qualified health teams in the same year reached 98.4%. Data show that only 38.4% of women received postnatal services and this may be a factor behind maternal deaths and infant mortality and requires improved provision of postnatal services to women.

In 2010, 41% of deliveries were to women under 18 years of age. Modern family planning methods were used by 41.3% of women nationally (44.1% in the West Bank and 36.6% in the Gaza Strip). Those with unmet family planning needs totalled 20% nationally (19.4% in the West Bank and 20.9% in the Gaza Strip).<sup>21</sup>

With regard to communicable diseases in Palestine, data from the Ministry of Health show that there were 66 cases of HIV disease (AIDS) in 2010, rising to 72 cases in 2011. Although the number is low compared with rates in other countries, the fight against this disease remains a priority due to population movements in Palestine and the presence of workers employed in the Israeli labour market. The Palestinian priority is to prevent the spread of this disease due to its dire effects on the health of individuals and on society in general. Limited public awareness of prevention methods highlights the need for caution. Data have shown that only 58.8% of young men (aged 15-29) and 35.4% of women in the same age group are aware of at least three methods of preventing the spread of HIV<sup>22</sup>

The national priorities also include efforts to combat the spread of tuberculosis. Although this disease is not widespread and affects 0.40 cases for every 100,000 citizens,<sup>23</sup> the risks associated with this disease require the provision of measures to prevent its spread and public awareness of preventative methods.

Hepatitis is also present in Palestine and affected 25 of every 100,000 individuals in 2010: 27.8 in the West Bank and 20.8 in the Gaza Strip.<sup>24</sup> Action is required to combat this disease and prevent its spread.

21 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Palestinian Survey on Family Health 2010. Ramallah – Palestine.

22 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011. Palestinian Survey on Family Health 2010. Ramallah – Palestine. (Unpublished data).

23 Palestinian Health Ministry, Palestinian Health Information Center. Annual Health Report – Palestine 2010.

24 Ibid.



## Special features of Palestine and health priorities

Based on an analysis of children's health, especially conditions related to infant and newborn deaths, the Palestinian version of the fourth goal remains focused on the original text of the MDGs. Palestinian priorities include the goal of ending infant mortality, a significant challenge. The sole change in the Palestinian version of this goal lies in the indicators: the indicator concerning vaccination against measles was replaced by all vaccines included in the national vaccine program. Palestine has achieved one hundred percent cover in vaccination against measles.

Based on analysis of the health of women in Palestine, the Palestinian version of the fifth goal matches the approach of the MDGs: ending maternal deaths, developing prenatal and postnatal health care services for women and ensuring all women have access to these services. These are priorities in Palestine.

Based on analysis of communicable diseases in Palestine, and in the absence of malaria, the sixth goal of the MDGs was reformulated in its Palestinian version to cover the fight against other communicable diseases, especially tuberculosis and hepatitis, and monitoring the presence of HIV.

In general, the policies and interventions pertaining to the goal of health address the main challenges that face Palestine in reducing infant and newborn mortality, improving the health of women including maternal health, and combating communicable diseases.

## Goals, policies and interventions relating to challenges in the health sector vis-à-vis the MDGs

The following table summarises the Objectives, policies and interventions needed in the Palestinian health sector. These are linked to the content of the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies, especially the national strategy, to develop the health sector, with additional details on issues related to infant health, maternal health and the health of women in general, and combating communicable diseases. This is in line with Palestine's efforts to improve the general health of the population by focusing on the most deprived sectors, especially children and women. The policies and interventions in national plans and strategies are more comprehensive than those referred to in this strategy.



Fifth Goal: Improve the health of women and mothers		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To reduce maternal mortality rates by three quarters in the period 1990 to 2015	To provide quality health care services for pregnant women, especially for high-risk pregnancies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reach remote areas and areas affected by the Wall</li> <li>To improve health care programs during pregnancy</li> <li>To improve the skills of staff in health clinics for the purpose of early diagnosis of high-risk pregnancies</li> <li>To increase community awareness of the stages of pregnancy, including signs of high-risk pregnancy</li> <li>To provide safe abortion services and raise awareness of these services</li> </ul>
	To improve the quality of delivery services in hospitals and maternity wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To promote the monitoring role of the Ministry of Health in offering delivery services</li> <li>To build the skills of health staff involved in deliveries and to apply the safe delivery protocol</li> <li>To encourage integrated care services between hospitals and primary and secondary health care centres</li> <li>To develop a system to gather information on delivery cases and services</li> </ul>
	To improve the quality of postnatal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the skills of health staff in postnatal services</li> <li>To introduce home visits</li> <li>To raise the awareness of families of the importance of receiving postnatal health services at health centres</li> </ul>
To achieve accessible maternal health services for all by 2015	To provide services offered to adolescents and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise the awareness of the community of the dangers of early marriage</li> <li>To improve sexual education among adolescents</li> </ul>
	To provide prenatal health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a special program of prenatal care services</li> <li>To train staff to offer prenatal care services</li> <li>To raise community awareness about the benefits of prenatal care services</li> </ul>
	To improve family planning services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To continue to provide various types of family planning devices</li> <li>To develop a counselling program on family planning</li> <li>To raise the awareness of the community of family planning methods, including among men</li> </ul>
	To provide free services to detect breast cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise the awareness of the community of the importance of mammography tests</li> <li>To expand the capacity of health centres to provide services, including the provision of equipment and apparatuses</li> <li>To provide trained staff</li> </ul>
	To provide health care services at menopause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be familiar with the nature of services offered at menopause</li> <li>To raise the awareness of the community about menopause</li> <li>To provide services to test for osteoporosis</li> </ul>



Sixth Goal: Combat HIV (AIDS) and communicable diseases		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To stop the spread of HIV (AIDS), tuberculosis and hepatitis	To provide detection services and prevention services for HIV (AIDS), tuberculosis and hepatitis	To raise the awareness of the community of the spread of these diseases and methods of prevention and the importance of conducting the necessary diagnostic tests
	To provide treatment to patients who suffer from HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis	To provide necessary treatment to patients who suffer from HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis To offer psychological support to patients and their families To improve the skills of health staff who deal with these diseases

## Targets relating to health challenges in relation to the MDGs

A set of targets has been defined in the field of infant mortality, improving women's health and fighting communicable diseases. General indicators related to these targets appear in the table below with regard to the health issues included in the MDGs and the specific targets to be achieved by 2015. These indicators show national percentages and targets. In order to monitor the implementation of this strategy, it may be necessary to analyse them according to socio-economic classifications and they will be calculated, where necessary, according to gender, age group and labour force status, and by regional classifications, such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the type of residential community (urban, rural, refugee).

Fourth Goal: Reduce infant mortality			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To reduce the infant (under age 5) mortality rate by two thirds in the period 1990 to 2015	Rate of infant (under age 5) mortality	24	18
	Rate of newborn mortality (under one year)	20	14
	Percentage of children who reached two years of age and who received all vaccinations included in the national vaccines program	98% (2011)	100%



### Fifth Goal: Improve the health of women and mothers

#### Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions

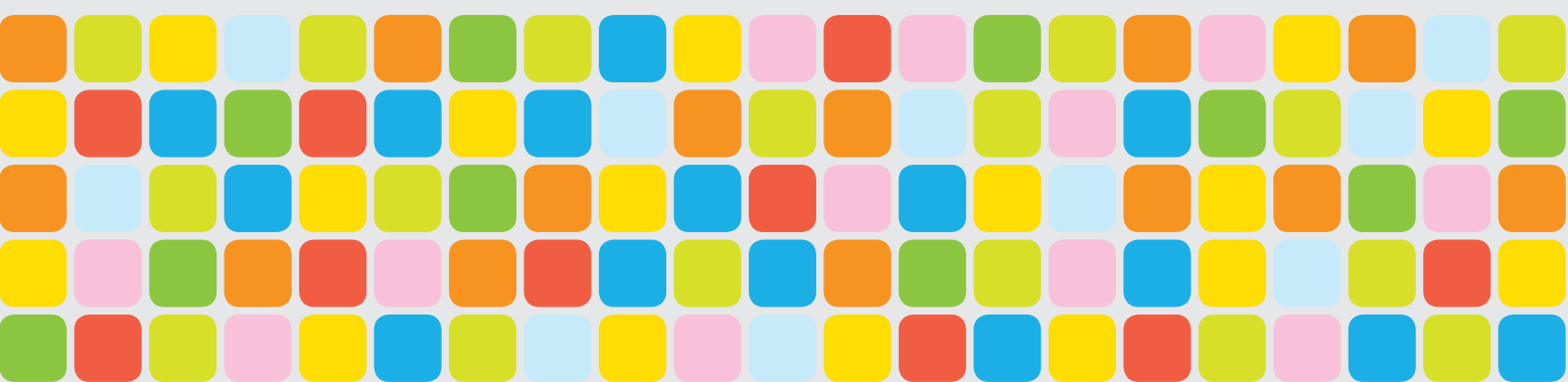
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To reduce maternal mortality rate by three-quarters in the period 1990 to 2015	Rate of maternal mortality	32 per 100,000	16
	Percentage of pregnant women who received prenatal health care (at least four visits)	95.4%	97.5%
	Percentage of women who received postnatal health care services	38.4%	80%
	Percentage of deliveries under the supervision of qualified health teams	98.4%	100%
To offer accessible maternal health services to all by 2015	Percentage of deliveries among women under 18	41%	30%
	Percentage of deliveries among women over 35	12.6 (2011)	10%
	Percentage using modern family planning methods	41.3%	56%
	Percentage of unmet needs for family planning methods	20% (2011)	16%
	Percentage of women aged 40 who undergo a mammography	24.5%	50%

### Sixth Goal: Combat HIV (AIDS) and other communicable diseases

#### Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions

Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To halt the spread of HIV (AIDS), tuberculosis and hepatitis	Number of HIV cases	72	72
	Percentage of young people (15-29) aware of at least three methods of the prevention of AIDS	58.8%	75%
	Rate of tuberculosis cases	0.50 per 100,000 (2011)	0.50 per 100,000
	Rate of hepatitis cases	25 cases out of 100,000	20 cases of 100,000









## Seventh Goal:

# ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The protection and sustainability of the environment constitute one of the major elements of development. The protection of the environment in Palestine occupies an important place in the national policy agenda, which focused on the need to work to protect the environment and ensure its sustainability for future generations. The agenda in this area focused on halting water and soil pollution, economising the use of water by reusing or recycling it, the treatment of sewage as well as the regeneration of nature reserves, coastlines and other areas. However, Palestinian capacity to protect and sustain the environment remains limited due to Israeli control over the majority of Palestinian land, including nature reserves, forests and agricultural land as well as Palestinian water resources. Since Palestinians do not control these resources, it is a significant challenge to enforce measures to protect the environment.



Tanya Habjouqa – UNDP/PAPP image bank

## **Status of the environment in Palestine**

Palestine has achieved substantial progress on the legal front pertaining to the protection of the environment. Policies for environmental protection have been prepared in cooperation and coordination with all ministries. Several sub-strategies have also been drawn up, such as the solid waste strategy and the comprehensive plan on dangerous waste, an emergency plan to protect nature, and the national strategy to fight desertification and adapt to climate change.

The degree to which these Palestinian strategies can be implemented remains dependent on Israeli policies. The percentage of land under Palestinian control is limited to 22% while Israel controls the remainder, in particular the areas classified as Area C that make up approximately 60% of the West Bank. This has a direct impact on Palestinian control of other resources. Palestine controls just 21% of its water resources and this hampers efforts to implement the measures required to protect the environment. Around 13% of wastewater is treated and only 30% of solid waste is dumped in landfill sites in a sanitary manner. Vital projects pertaining to wastewater treatment or the establishment of landfill sites are obstructed by Israel, especially where projects might be established in Area C.



Available data show that 55% of drinking water can be extracted from accessible resources. The Gaza Strip lacks an adequate supply of drinking water. Some reports have pointed out that about 90% of the water used in the Gaza Strip is unfit for human consumption because of high rates of pollution from the leakage of wastewater or sea water into the water basin. The per capita share of water is 70 litres per day in the West Bank and Gaza Strip according to estimates of the Palestinian Water Authority, a rate far below the standard recommended by the World Health Organization. This is the result of Israeli control over Palestinian water resources and Israeli policy banning Palestinians from digging new wells to meet demand.

Around 55% of homes are linked to a sewage network while the remaining households dispose of wastewater in septic holes. This has a major impact in terms of polluting aquifers. Moreover, settlements erected by the Israelis in the West Bank do not have sewage networks and dump their wastewater in Palestinian valleys and land. This is a significant cause of environmental pollution, affecting both water resources and agricultural land owned by Palestinians.

In general, the most important challenge in relation to the environment remains the PNA capacity to control its natural resources, especially land and water, in order to implement plans and strategies for environmental protection and sustainability for future generations.

## **Special features of Palestine and priorities in protecting and sustaining the environment**

Based on analysis of the environment and PNA capacity to control its own natural resources, the Palestinian version of the seventh goal of the MDGs focuses on aspects of particular importance to Palestinians. The goal focuses on control over resources as a crucial factor that limits attempts to protect the environment. The goal also addresses the availability of water and sewage services for citizens since there is serious shortage of clean water and wastewater treatment facilities.

The policies and interventions in the goal relating to environmental protection and sustainability address the major challenges that face the PNA in this area. The policies and interventions focus on: detecting various sources of environmental pollution, amending behaviour related to the preservation of the environment and raising public awareness in this area, improving the management of wastewater and solid waste, regenerating nature reserves and preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing measures to adapt to climate change and fight desertification.



## Goals, policies and interventions for environmental protection in Palestine in relation to the MDGs

The following table summarises the Objectives, policies and interventions needed to protect and sustain the environment in Palestine. These are linked to the content of the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies, especially the national strategy to protect the environment, with additional details on issues related to the protection of the environment as a basic factor in development and securing the rights of future generations. The policies and interventions in national plans and strategies are more comprehensive than those referred to in this strategy.

Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental protection and sustainability		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To control environmental and natural resources and manage them in a sustainable and integrated manner	First: To control the various sources of pollution to the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To treat sites of serious pollution</li> <li>To monitor the quality of air, water and soil</li> <li>To monitor the quantity and quality of fertilizers and pesticides used</li> <li>To set up a system to encourage the use of clean and alternative energy and implement pilot projects</li> <li>To control sources of water pollution and regenerate the coastal basin in the Gaza Strip</li> <li>To improve management of sand quarries in the Gaza Strip to limit their negative impact on water and the environment</li> <li>To control the sources of sea water pollution in the Gaza Strip</li> </ul>
	Second: To improve behaviour pertaining to the preservation of the environment and increase public awareness about environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish environmental clubs</li> <li>To include environmental education in the curriculum at various educational stages</li> <li>To promote tools of environmental media</li> <li>To organise environmental awareness campaigns for various sectors in society</li> <li>To establish a national centre for environmental training and education</li> <li>To set up a plan to encourage environmentally friendly initiatives</li> </ul>
	Third: To improve systems of wastewater management, solid waste and dangerous waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To expand the scope of sanitary septic system services for solid waste to include all residential areas</li> <li>To close and/or treat random landfill sites</li> <li>To establish a system of management of dangerous waste</li> <li>To expand the scope of services treating wastewater and existing treatment stations</li> <li>To set up a plan to establish small and domestic treatment plants</li> <li>To set up a national plan for the use of treated water in irrigation</li> </ul>



Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental protection and sustainability		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To halt the loss of biological diversity and protect natural heritage	First: to regenerate and manage nature reserves and the coastline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct a field survey to assess the status of biological diversity</li> <li>To set up a plan to protect biological diversity and preserve species threatened with extinction</li> <li>To draft a plan to organise and manage nature reserves, national parks and the coastline</li> <li>To implement a project to protect and develop wetlands</li> <li>To establish a system of biological safeguards</li> </ul>
	Second: to preserve natural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and regenerate sites of natural and cultural heritage</li> <li>To set up a plan to develop and encourage eco-tourism</li> </ul>
To reduce the percentage of individuals without access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation	To increase the volume of available water and its efficient use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To treat and develop existing water resources</li> <li>To develop new water resources</li> <li>To improve water collection and the desalinisation of water</li> <li>To dig new water wells</li> </ul>
	To improve the infrastructure of the water sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To renew networks</li> <li>To distribute water in a fair manner</li> <li>To economise the use of water (awareness)</li> </ul>
To limit the impact of climate change and natural disasters	To promote measures to adjust to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To use methods of agriculture capable of coping with the impact of climate change</li> <li>To implement programs to develop water collection systems</li> <li>To implement programs to raise awareness on adjusting to climate change</li> <li>To expand the scope of use of alternative and non-traditional water resources</li> </ul>
	To fight desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To implement outputs of a strategy to fight desertification</li> <li>To set up a plan to manage and reclaim pastures</li> <li>To plant additional areas of land in order to increase the area of green land</li> <li>To reclaim land threatened with erosion</li> </ul>



## Targets pertaining to environmental protection and sustainability in relation to the MDGs

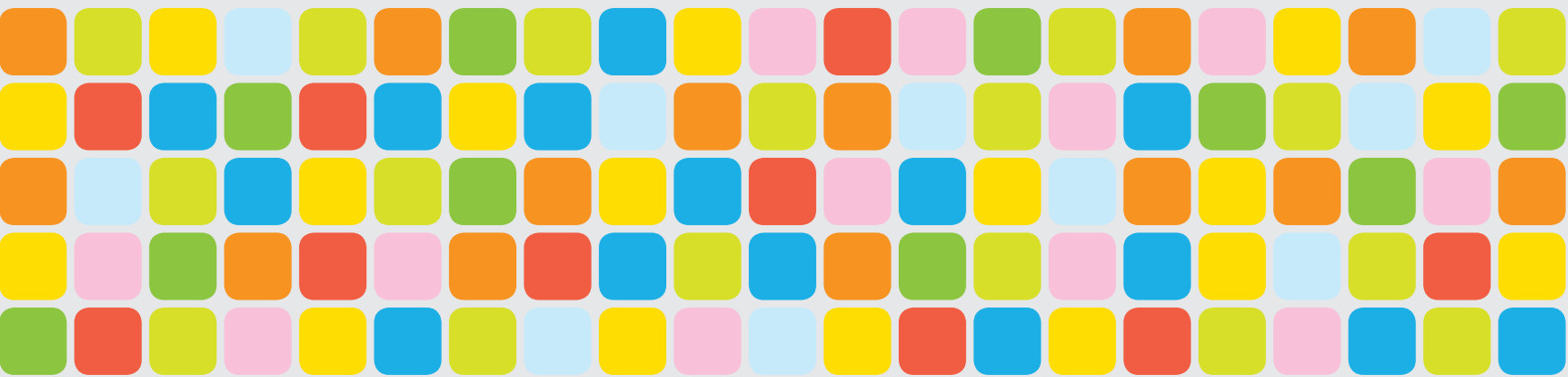
A set of targets has been defined regarding environmental protection. General indicators linked to these targets appear in the table below with the specific targets to be achieved by 2015. These indicators reflect national percentages and targets. In order to monitor the implementation of this strategy, it may be necessary to analyse them according to socio-economic classifications and they will be calculated, where necessary, according to regional classifications, such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or the type of residential community (urban, rural, refugee).

Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental protection and sustainability			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To control environmental and natural resources and their management in a sustainable and integrated manner	Percentage of land under Palestinian control	22%	Depends on political progress
	Percentage of treated wastewater	13%	25%
	Percentage of solid waste dumped in landfills in a sanitary manner	30%	70%
	Percentage of water resources under Palestinian control	21%	Depends on political progress
	Percentage of drinkable water out of available resources	55.3%	60%
	Percentage of alternative energy use	19%	25%
	Percentage of area of forest land	1.63%	2%
To limit the loss of biological diversity and protect natural heritage	Percentage of nature reserves (land and sea)	8.55%	10%
	Number of archaeological and natural sites under renovation	110	160
	Number of species threatened with extinction	636 plants and 22 animals	550 plants and 18 animals



Seventh Goal: Ensure environmental protection and sustainability			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
To reduce the percentage of individuals without access to drinkable water and proper sanitation	Rate of water per capita (litre/ per person/per day)	70 litres per person per day	80 litres per person per day
	Percentage of population whose homes are linked to sewage networks	46% Palestinian Territory: 35% West Bank 65% Gaza strip	55% Palestinian Territory: 40% West Bank 80% Gaza Strip
	Percentage of people who have solid waste collection service	92%	95%
To limit impact of climate change and disasters	Quantity of water provided through non-traditional means	4.5 million cubic meters	5 million cubic meters









## **Eighth Goal:**

# **DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT**

The eighth MDG pertains to the building of a global partnership for development. This goal deals in particular with the responsibilities of donors and global economic and financial decision makers towards the various countries in the world, especially developing countries, in order to achieve development and the MDGs. Thus, this goal occupies a special and pivotal place in the global discourse on the formulation of the MDGs. While the first seven goals pertain to the responsibilities and commitments of national parties, especially governments, the eighth goal addresses the responsibilities of the international community and the provision of the minimum conditions within the global environment to achieve the MDGs, which would otherwise be impossible to achieve.

The eighth goal can be viewed from two perspectives: first, it deals with the need to build an environment that can assist development and the achievement of the MDGs i.e. a type of holistic framework to achieve the goals globally. Second, the goal deals with the financing of development since it is a practical translation of global partnership and the commitment of the international community to achieve the MDGs within the defined quantitative and temporal frameworks. A national environment that assists in the achievement of the MDGs is essential, as discussed in the section on the requirements for the achievement of these goals in Palestine. This section will focus on global partnership, including the regional context.

In general, the building of a global partnership for development constitutes one of the most influential factors in the capacity of a country to achieve the MDGs. Global partnership includes several components related to fair trade, reducing the debt of developing countries and international assistance from developed countries to developing countries. In the case of Palestine, and due in large part to the fact Palestine is still under occupation, international assistance constitutes the most important component to finance development and achieve progress in relation to the MDGs.

The national policy agenda defined two major factors that can contribute to the realisation of economic independence for Palestine in the context of integration between economic independence and political autonomy. The first factor can be summarised in the need for the Palestinian government to manage financial resources efficiently to reduce dependence on external assistance until reaching a stage of self-dependence. The second factor deals with the need to strengthen institutional building to encourage private sector investment that will ensure growth and expansion. Palestine has achieved notable progress at these two levels. However, if conditions remain unchanged in the foreseeable future the financing of development projects in Palestine by the international community will need to continue in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution adopted following the Review Summit in New York. This is particularly essential in light of the continuation of the occupation and its ramifications, including the economic crisis facing the PNA, high rates of unemployment and poverty, a weak economy and Israeli restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of individuals, goods and external trade. The resolution identified meeting the needs of countries that face difficult conditions as a priority, with specific mention of countries and peoples under occupation, as in the case of Palestine. Such countries need to be given priority in the global development agenda.



## Status of global assistance to Palestine

Palestine depends substantially on international assistance, which constituted around 31% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2010. Data from the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development show that the amount of assistance increased steadily between 2000 and 2009, but then started to decline. This decline is expected to continue in the coming years and demands that efforts be made to enhance international assistance management and ensure that assistance is linked to national priorities defined in the national plans and policies agenda and sectoral strategies.

The amount of assistance offered to Palestine in 2010 totalled around \$2,500 million, including around \$1,150 million allocated to support the current budget, and around \$590 million allocated for humanitarian needs and assistance. The amount allocated to investment in development was limited to around 750 million US dollars. These figures demonstrate that Palestine depends significantly on external assistance but this does not mean that the assistance is allocated for development. The budget and humanitarian needs receive the bulk of this assistance, as would be anticipated in light of the occupation and increasing humanitarian needs due to high rates of poverty and unemployment.



The project database at the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development, financed by donor countries, shows that more than half of the sums allocated to investment in development in 2011 were allocated to two sub-sectors in the governance sector: security and justice. Thus, the governance sector benefitted from external funding far in excess of what was allocated in the national priorities, as shown in the table below, causing a large shortfall in the share received by other major sectors.

National sector	2011	2012	2013
Governance sector	28%	24%	19%
Social development sector	28%	32%	35%
Economic development sector	15%	15%	18%
Public infrastructure sector	28%	28%	28%
Total	100%	100%	100%

The distribution of international assistance in a manner that does not match national priorities must be addressed by improving internal Palestinian coordination and by better consultation with donor countries to provide more assistance to development.

## Special features of Palestine and priorities of developing a global partnership for development

Based on analysis of international assistance to Palestine, the Palestinian version of the eighth goal of the MDGs focuses on aspects of particular relevance to the Palestinian case. The goal focuses in particular on the aspect of international assistance as an important part of the GDP. In light of the continuing Israeli occupation, Palestine cannot achieve its vision of self-dependence and the reduction of international assistance in the foreseeable future. Thus, a set of policies and interventions has been defined in order to encourage global partnership to assist development in Palestine. This involves focusing on the link between the provision of adequate assistance to development and the distribution of assistance in accordance with national priorities. In addition, internal coordination and coordination between donors themselves and between Palestine and donor countries must be improved.



## Goals, policies and interventions needed to develop global partnership in the case of Palestine in relation to the MDGs

The following table summarises the Objectives, policies and interventions needed to develop Palestine's global partnership. These are linked to the content of the National Development Plan 2011-2013 and the relevant sectoral strategies, with additional details on issues related to measures to ensure the provision of international assistance to Palestine in terms of quantity and quality and in a timely fashion.

Eighth Goal: Developing a global partnership for development		
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions		
Objectives	Policies	Interventions
To ensure the supply of sufficient quality assistance with appropriate timing for investment in development in Palestine	To ensure links between external finance and national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To develop an information system pertaining to financing (DARP)</li><li>To disseminate and publish the national priorities</li><li>To enhance consultation between the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development and the Ministry of Finance and also with other government institutions and civil society organisations to ensure funding matches national priorities</li><li>To enhance consultation between PNA institutions and the major donor countries</li><li>To urge the major donors to draw up their plans for Palestine in line with the national priorities</li><li>To urge donor countries to improve the level of coordination between them</li><li>To have the Palestinian government ratify a document for a unified gateway for external assistance</li></ul>
	To provide sufficient funding to finance development in Palestine with appropriate timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To increase agreements signed between the PNA and donor countries</li><li>To conduct a campaign to urge donor countries to abide by their financial commitments towards Palestine and increase support to the Palestinian people</li><li>To increase and disseminate joint sectoral funding mechanisms</li></ul>



## Targets to establish a global partnership for development

A set of targets has been defined in relation to global partnership. General indicators related to these targets appear in the table below with specific targets to be achieved by 2015.

Eighth Goal: Establish a global partnership for development			
Matrix of Objectives, policies and interventions			
Objectives	Indicators of progress achieved		
	Indicator	Base	Target
		2010	2015
To ensure the supply of quality assistance with appropriate timing to Palestine for investment in development	Percentage of external assistance from GDP	31%	18.3%
	Percentage of total external assistance allocated for investment in development	30%	66%
	Share of external assistance allocated to the governance sector	57%	19%
	Share of external assistance allocated to the social sector	22%	35%
	Share of external assistance allocated to the economic sector	11%	18%
	Share of external assistance allocated to public infrastructure	10%	28%



## FOLLOW UP AND ASSESSMENT

This strategy has outlined specific and measurable targets for each of the eight goals of the MDGs. These targets should be achieved by 2015 and have been set in order to ensure that the anticipated results are met and also to monitor and assess the implementation of this strategy.

The implementation of this strategy requires the presence of a specific system and procedures to monitor progress. Thus, we propose the establishment of a coordinating body (Coordinating Committee to Monitor Progress in Achieving the MDGs) that will include in its membership the main government institutions that relate directly to the MDGs. This committee may decide to coordinate with other parties working in the sector, whether government institutions, civil society, private sector or international organisations. The committee will include representatives from civil society and the private sector. It is proposed that this committee comprise the following institutions as members:

1. Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development, which will be responsible for coordinating the work of the committee and monitoring progress towards targets relating to the eighth goal of developing a global partnership for development. The Ministry will collect data from all sources and parties represented in the committee and prepare regular progress reports on the achievement of the MDGs in Palestine.
2. Ministry of Social Affairs, which will be responsible for monitoring progress related to the specific targets of the first goal of fighting poverty in coordination with the relevant stakeholders.
3. Ministry of Education and Higher Education, which will be responsible for monitoring progress related to the specific targets of the second goal to ensure the full enrolment of children (4-15 years old) in quality education in coordination with the relevant stakeholders.
4. Ministry of Women's Affairs, which will be responsible for monitoring progress related to the specific targets of the third goal of empowering and liberating women in coordination with the relevant stakeholders.
5. Ministry of Health, which will be responsible for monitoring progress related to the specific targets of the fourth, fifth and sixth goals on health in coordination with the relevant stakeholders.
6. Environment Quality Authority, which will be responsible for monitoring progress related to the specific targets of the seventh goal on environmental protection and sustainability in coordination with the relevant stakeholders.



7. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, which will be responsible for providing data on the specific indicators related to the targets in the eighth goal and will update regular reports on data related to the indicators of the MDGs in their international context to conduct comparisons with other countries.
8. Representatives from civil society organisations who will coordinate between these organisations.
9. Representatives from the Palestinian private sector who will coordinate between private sector bodies.

It is also proposed that the member institutions in the coordinating committee prepare semi-annual progress reports on targets, each in its own field, for discussion in semi-annual committee meetings. The Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development should prepare a semi-annual national report on the progress achieved and submit it to the Council of Ministers.