

## Governance and Social Development



UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) has played a significant role in supporting governance since its inception in the occupied Palestinian territory from 1978. UNDP's support in the governance sector is aligned to Palestinian national priorities and focuses on the rule of law and access to justice, national unity and social cohesion, local governance, and public administration reform to build strong and accountable institutions. The programme is also focusing on inclusion and participation as pre-requisite for a strong social contract between the State and citizens.

**Strengthening the Rule of Law:** UNDP's Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programmes is considered the largest in the oPt. The first phase supported the establishment of a functioning Ministry of Justice, following relocation from Gaza 2007 and the establishment of legal aid clinics that provided mediation services to 4000 people, and legal representation to over 900 people, to name a few. The new 30.6 million Programme (2014 – 2017) is implemented jointly with UN Women in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and is funded by a 'consortium' of donors including SIDA, NRO, DFID, EU and UNDP. It aims at strengthening the capacities of, and public confidence in, rule of

law institutions and improving access to justice, security and protection services, especially women and girls.

**National Unity and Social Cohesion:** The programme aims at strengthening national unity in the Palestinian society through supporting a consolidated public administration and enhanced social cohesion. With a total budget of USD 1.6 million, the programme is implemented over a two-year period (2015-2016) in partnership with different partners, including the Ministry of Local Government, local authorities, General Personnel Council, Prime Minister's Office, public institutions, NGOs, etc. The reunification and strengthening of Palestinian institutions in Gaza is also considered critical for managing effectively recovery efforts. In addition, the programme aims to support civil society initiatives promoting national reconciliation and enhancing social cohesion and inclusive participation.

**Local Governance:** UNDP has provided support to local governance in the previous years in partnership with the Ministry of local governance MoLG. It conducted in 2015 a capacity assessment of the local governance units so to identify existing gaps and develop a new programme so to address them in coordination and complementarity with the existing mechanisms. UNDP is preparing a two-year capacity development strategy as a first phase of a long-term programme to support the local governance sector in Gaza and the East Jerusalem belt communities, including a policy support component to the MoLG.

**Public Administration Reform:** This component includes supporting the civil service integration process and capacity building activities with the General Personnel Council and other line ministries, including through South-South cooperation, and strengthening the

interaction between public administration and citizens through participatory and accountable institutions.

**National Spatial Planning:** UNDP is supporting the National Spatial Planning Unit since 2012 through different interventions, including the drafting of the legal framework for national spatial planning, contributing to a national spatial plan for 2025 and vision for the State of Palestine for 2050 and a planning charrette for the Gaza Strip.

**Support to the role of Civil Society and Youth in Public oversight:** This project has contributed to improving local service delivery and strengthened civic engagement and youth participation in four pilot municipalities. This included the implementation of concrete changes identified during the youth oversight process and the election of youth local councils to improve interaction between citizens and municipalities.

**Support to initiatives for local development (KFW Programme):** The programme, which started in 2002, aims at supporting the resilience of Palestinian communities through social development initiatives. It is funded by the Government of Germany, through its development bank (KFW) for the amount of Euro 91.9 million and implemented in partnership with local authorities, NGOs, Refugee Camp Committees, and public institutions. Approximately 693 projects (514 in West Bank and 179 in Gaza) have been implemented since the inception of the programme, creating over one million short-term workdays and hundreds of permanent jobs.

Other initiatives and cross cutting issues related to the governance portfolio include elections and parliamentary support, women empowerment, youth and sports, and culture.

For more information, visit: [www.ps.undp.org](http://www.ps.undp.org)  
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