

Infrastructure Development



Infrastructure development in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is facing multi-dimensional obstacles and several challenges, due to the Israeli occupation, which affects the planning and implementation of basic and public services. Challenges in Gaza are of a different context though. The Israeli authorities control the access of basic construction materials (cement, sand, aggregate, steel) to Gaza, where a lengthy access coordination mechanism is followed to provide adequate flow of these materials to planned approved activities. UNDP has an independent mechanism for the coordination of materials into Gaza through its access coordination unit.

In the Infrastructure sector, UNDP aims at consolidating past and ongoing interventions in five key sectors (energy, transportation, housing, education and health), and expand these to address the growing challenges for the Palestinian population in accessing these rights and basic services.

UNDP's current infrastructure portfolio in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza is approximately USD 240 million worth of projects in social, public and economic infrastructure as well as early recovery and reconstruction. Projects focus on supporting the resilience of Palestinian marginalized communities especially in Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

Infrastructure activities in East Jerusalem focus on house rehabilitation, safeguarding cultural infrastructure, enhancing social delivery (education and health), provision of pilot renewable energy activities, supporting housing sector, improving economic facilities and revitalization of commercial centres.

In Area C, UNDP is implementing several interventions aiming at increasing spatial growth, enhancing public and social delivery through the provision of basic services and unleashing economic potentials by establishing Public Private Partnership models for managing and operating historical sites. UNDP and through its strategic partnership with the Palestinian government, was able to bring further focus and financing to activities in Area C and East Jerusalem through its CRDP (Community Resilience and Development Programme) and FAIR (Facilitating Access to Infrastructure Resilience) programmes.

In the West Bank areas A and B, other key activities are under implementation such as support to the judicial system through the construction of a court complex in Hebron, the development of an agro-industrial park in Jericho fostering economic delivery, in addition to other initiatives for enhancing public and social services and supporting the state-building process.

In the Gaza Strip, early recovery activities due to 2014 summer hostilities are currently the main projects under implementation, such as cash assistance schemes for internally displaced people whose houses were either totally or severely damaged, the rehabilitation of partially damaged houses, rehabilitation of water facilities in Beit Hanoun, as well as reconstruction and renovation of educational facilities that incurred damages during the last hostilities.

On the other hand, UNDP continues the implementation of other developmental activities such as the construction of the Khan Younis wastewater treatment plant, completing the reconstruction of housing condominium in

Beit Lahia and Rafah, and the renovation of maternal health facilities in Gaza and Khan Younis.

Future interventions will focus on

1. **Enhancing energy security and access;** promoting energy diversification and improving energy efficiency through the use of alternative sources of solar energy like PV cells.
2. **Enhancing safer transport and efficient mobility of people and goods** through the construction and rehabilitation of urban, rural, road networks and border crossings.
3. **Increasing access to adequate, affordable/social and sustainable housing sector** by supporting new housing initiatives and house rehabilitation interventions. Actively supporting early recovery and reconstruction plans for the housing sector in Gaza and provision of sustainable and innovative schemes to increase access to social, affordable and eco-sustainable housing and provide rehabilitation interventions for dilapidated homes to improve living conditions of the most vulnerable.
4. **Improving quality and affordable access to comprehensive primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services:** construction of hospitals, clinics for the most vulnerable groups, as well as the provision of adequate support services.
5. **Reinforcing the education system:** provision of new schools, including early childhood education facilities, and cater for access to children with special needs as part of national efforts for enhancing quality education.
6. **Revitalizing, rehabilitating, reconstructing of archaeological and cultural sites** and unleashing their economic potential.
7. **Continued provision of equitable access to public and economic facilities, and business opportunities:** industrial parks, private public partnerships, local economic development, etc.
8. **Increasing access to secure and safe water supply and sanitation:** provision of water supply and distribution networks, water and wastewater collection, disposal and effluent recycling systems.

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