

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

Project Fact Sheet



UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme in the occupied Palestinian territory

THEMATIC AREA

Democratic Governance

SECTOR / SUB SECTOR

Rule of Law/Access to Justice

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Number 00070906, 75076, 75362, 75363, 75364

Award Number: 57409

Duration: 3 years

Donors: CIDA, SIDA, NRO, BCPR

Partners: Ministry of Justice, High Judicial Council, other judicial institutions and relevant Ministries, civil society including universities etc.

BUDGET

Total Budget US\$ 19 million

Disbursement up to date US\$ 1.2 million

Geographic Location

West Bank and Gaza

OUTPUTS

- Capacity of rule of law institutions strengthened
- Access to justice at local and grassroots level enhanced
- Gender and juvenile justice improved

PROJECT AIM (OVERALL OBJECTIVE)

In line with the Palestinian National Justice Sector Strategies 2008-2010 and 2011-2013 and Programme of the Thirteenth Government, UNDP's Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme aims at the gradual development of justice mechanisms as the Palestinians prepare for statehood.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

UNDP extends support for institutional capacity development to the Ministry of Justice and develop a comprehensive access to justice strategy engaging actors at all levels, including the Palestinian Bar Association, civil society organizations and other grassroots initiatives. Efforts are directed towards extending the reach out of free legal aid services and legal awareness raising programmes throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, setting up the foundation for work with civil society in the Gaza Strip, improving gender and juvenile justice conditions and exploring modalities for engagement with the informal justice systems and its linkages with the formal justice system. Assistance is also provided to enhance confidence amongst legal professionals and rebuild public trust in the Palestinian justice sector. By doing so, the programme further intends to support networks of legal professionals and provide models for harmonization of the various existing legal systems in the oPt.

OBJECTIVES

The rule of law depends on a 'demand-supply' equation, the UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme in the oPt is taking action at multiple levels. While supporting the Palestinian National Authority to develop efficient and accountable institutions, the programme aims to raise human rights awareness and improve access to justice for vulnerable groups. The three-year programme is underpinned by development principles such as empowerment, participation and inclusion. Ensuring national ownership at every step is crucial, particularly as a means of achieving sustainability.

IMPACT STATEMENT

The UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme has a duty to complement ongoing efforts and avoid duplication and overlap; thereby maximising the cumulative impact of development aid to the oPt. The programme's approach of addressing immediate needs and, at the same time, laying the foundation for sustainable capacity development is crucial in this regard. While enabling UNDP to achieve results in the short- to medium term, the continuous and in-depth consultations guarantee full complementarity of the programme's long-term strategies.



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PROGRESS UP TO DATE

On the supply side of the rule of law equation, UNDP is working very closely with the Ministry of Justice, High Judicial Council and the Attorney General's Office to strengthen their institutional capacity and, ultimately, facilitate the improved delivery of justice for the Palestinian people. During the first phase of the programme, UNDP aims to address immediate needs and, at the same time, lay the foundation for sustainable capacity development.

- Rule of law in Gaza Strip initiated as part of early recovery and reconstruction plan
- Confidence building among stakeholders within and dependent on the justice system promoted

The UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme in the oPt is mainly aimed at strengthening core functions, including legislative drafting, administration of justice, public information and legal aid, but also project management, (financial) planning and coordination. This entails supporting the knowledge base and technical and operational capacities of rule of law institutions and legal professionals to administer justice in an impartial, fair and transparent manner.

CONSTRAINTS (if any)

The UNDP Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme in the oPt is based on a multi-tier approach, whereby capacity development at the level of the Palestinian National Authority is coupled with interventions at the community level.

On the demand side of the rule of law equation, the programme seeks to encourage local civil society organisations to actively contribute to the peace-building and democratisation process. By forging partnerships with a wide array of actors and by actively assisting community leaders, human rights activists and legal aid lawyers to organise themselves, UNDP aims to contribute to the strengthening of Palestinian civil society and to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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