



Project Fact Sheet

Palestinian Human Development Report

“Towards a Social Contract for a Palestinian State, from Fragmentation to Cohesion”

THEMATIC AREA

Human Development Report

SECTOR / SUB SECTOR

PROJECT AIM (OVERALL OBJECTIVE)

The Production of the 5th Palestinian Human Development Report

BACKGROUND

In societies where the minimal conditions of human security for individuals and communities are not met, achieving sustainable human development outcomes are significantly hampered.

The situation is acutely difficult in the oPt and the factors undermining the advance of human security and human development require further investigation. The current system has created a variety of administrative and physical barriers to movement. This bears the question as to what extent these barriers contributed to fragmentation and insecurity.

It is perceived that these partitions have placed restrictions on the prospects for social, cultural, and economic exchange between Palestinians and contributed to a diverse set of constituencies with different service delivery and development needs. The PHDR will gauge to what extent do they hinder political coherence required to strengthen and, in some cases, build institutions necessary to establish and maintain a viable future state.

The prolonged conflict and occupation, coupled with movement and access restrictions, have produced a situation of compromised human security. A direct result of this deteriorating security situation has led to, among others, increased political and social fragmentation.

The physical separation of the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the remainder of the West Bank, reinforced by different legal, administrative, and basic governance systems, has led to widening socio-economic disparities between regions and citizens. This current status has strained the traditional “social contract”. In a fully functioning society, the social contract represents an agreement between individuals, communities, and public institutions, based on moral and/or political obligations.

In some cases, increased polarization in the Palestinian society and the creation of multiple constituencies with different development needs and political identities, has led to diverging views regarding the tenants of good governance.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Number	PAL 10 - 52919
Duration	18 months
Donor	UNDP/PAPP TRAC
Partner	Various

BUDGET

Total Budget	US\$ 700,000
Disbursement up to date	US\$

Geographic Location

West Bank and Gaza

OUTPUTS

- Palestinian Human Development Report
- Human Development Research Network

CONSTRAINTS (if any)

- N/A

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

Project Fact Sheet

The PA is challenged to meet different demands from a variety of constituents. These competing demands, and the way in which these are met, may have an impact on the prospects of sustainable development and the growth of a consensus-based governance system.

Responding to the accelerating deterioration in human security since the outbreak of the second intifada, a variety of informal actors have surfaced to address the most pressing economic and social needs of Palestinians in the oPt. Some of these organizations have made a significant contribution to reducing internal conflict, instability, and poverty. Others, however, are more focused on occupying power vacuums to pursue their own political objectives. In between these two responses, personal relationships and community solidarity, in spite of increased polarization, have played a significant role in coping mechanisms to alleviate the impact of conflict and occupation on the fundamental components of human security.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The PHDR will reflect on the significance of an effective and democratic social contract. It will question the extent to which achieving human security leads to connecting individuals and institutions to develop, learn, work, relate, and participate in the running of the societal affairs as fully functioning citizens.

The Report will assess the level of reliance on informal support mechanisms, as coping mechanisms, often found in fragile states and societies. In such contexts, engagement and inclusion of informal actors and social units in governance and institution building can have significant benefits. Supporting and broadening "ownership" of the already-existing efforts to build viable, legitimate institutions can make a positive contribution to performance if such ownership is properly structured and there are mechanisms to balance the competing interests of different groups. In response to this situation, the PHDR will examine existing structures, both formal and less formal, and propose new ownership creating mechanisms designed to assure legitimacy, sustainability, and social cohesion.

The PHDR can serve as a forum for discussion on a new social contract for the oPt, a contract that will regulate and strengthen relations between and among different levels of society, whether public, private or civil, and help them more coherently define the process of state and nation building. It will do so by examining human security as a means to achieve human development.

In short, through this theme, the PHDR will identify and examine the existing opportunities and constraints in the Palestinian society. The PHDR will review aspects that can affect the potential of a new social contract between the government and its constituents.

It will also aim to contribute with recommendations that will help construct and strengthen building blocks towards a future state.

PROGRESS UP TO DATE

- Employment of PHDR Project Manager
- Formulation of the team working on the project
- Identification of lead writers and background writers

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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