

# FAST FACTS

United Nations  
Development Programme



## Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

In December 1978, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 33/147, which called on UNDP to provide assistance to the Palestinian people. By this date, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had endured over 10 years of occupation, which had led to increased levels of poverty and unemployment. Hundreds of thousands were living in refugee camps in difficult conditions without the most basic amenities. Despite the steady population growth, infrastructure had been allowed to deteriorate, including schools, health facilities, housing, roads, and water and sanitation systems.



*Empowerment of women in remote communities in Gaza through small grants programme: UNDP/PAPP photo archive*

UNDP/PAPP has tailored its strategic framework in alignment with the evolving and complex demands facing the oPt. State-building and the repositioning of marginalized groups are at the centre of the development challenge. In this context, UNDP/PAPP's main goal is to **work with the Palestinian people to fulfil their vision of a peaceful, sustainable and equitable society**, with a focus on two major thematic areas: poverty reduction and democratic governance.

**Democratic Governance** to develop institutions and processes that are not only reflective of the will of the people, but are also more responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens, particularly the poor. UNDP/PAPP is working towards building and strengthening technical, project management and administrative capacities within counterpart private and public sector Palestinian institutions and non-governmental organizations.

### MATTERS OF FACT

- Established in 1978 by UN General Assembly Resolution 33/147.
- Headquartered in Jerusalem, with major offices in Gaza and Ramallah.
- Mobilized over US \$830 million and currently has US\$80 million in ongoing projects
- One of the largest and most successful UNDP offices with over 300 primarily Palestinian staff members
- Practice areas: democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environment, poverty reduction, gender and HIV/AIDS.
- Major donors: Palestinian Authority, Islamic Development Bank, UNDP, Japan, Germany, UAE, Italy and Canada.
- Emergency assistance programmes have generated over 50,000 jobs for Palestinian workers

**Poverty Reduction** through innovative solutions to ensure that the poor participate in the process, in addition to expanding access to productive assets, economic opportunities, and mainstreaming poverty related issues.

**Employment Generation** to help deal with the chronically high unemployment rates and the declining real incomes. Most of UNDP/PAPP programmes are labor-intensive. UNDP/PAPP relies on the expertise of private sector Palestinian firms rather than seeking foreign consultants in order to further strengthen the Palestinian economy.

**Crisis Prevention and Recovery** to assist the people in recouping losses incurred in times of crisis and conflict and to strengthen and implement policies and programmes that incorporate conflict prevention and peace-building perspectives.

**Energy and Environmental Policies** are critical for sustainable development. UNDP/PAPP is implementing projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the areas of water, environment and social and municipal infrastructure. These projects are aimed at supporting the Palestinian people's efforts in the rehabilitation,

upgrading and development of basic infrastructure and in the preservation of natural resources, while in the process, generating much-needed short and long-term employment.

Under-pinning these areas is the need for universal access to education, health care and gender equality so that the talents and perspectives of women may be utilized as full and equal participants in the society.

## UNDP/PAPP's Approach

UNDP/PAPP's work is firmly rooted in the official Palestinian Authority (PA) Reform and Development Plan. This ensures that UNDP/PAPP projects and programmes respond directly to the development priorities identified by ministries, as well as civil society institutions. In all these activities, UNDP/PAPP has been invited by its Palestinian counterpart institutions to share its capacity and experience as partners in implementation.

UNDP/PAPP's work aims to build technical capacities as well as strengthen project management and administrative capacities within counterpart Palestinian institutions. These include the private and public sectors, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations.

## Focus on people's needs

UNDP/PAPP's efforts focus on the areas vital to the Palestinian well-being and social and economic development, such as water, health and education facilities, social services, infrastructure and road building and rehabilitation, agriculture and rural development. Many of these activities are developed from a participatory community-based prioritization of local needs approach.

## Grants for capital and technical assistance

As a grant-based capital and technical assistance institution, UNDP's work on behalf of the Palestinian people is not conditional, nor do funds contributed through UNDP/PAPP towards development need to be repaid by the Palestinian Authority (PA).

## Transparency and accountability

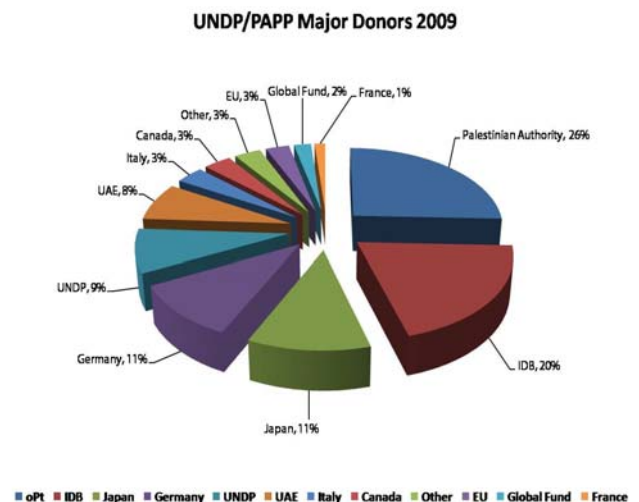
UNDP/PAPP operates under international rules of financial management, control and auditing. As an international public institution, its operations are fully transparent. UNDP/PAPP offers technical and managerial expertise, and cost effective implementation to those institutions which aim to develop the infrastructure, institutional capacity, economy and social sector of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

## Sources of Funding

Since 1994, the donor community has chosen UNDP/PAPP as one of its most reliable implementation partners for development activities throughout the West Bank & Gaza Strip.

UNDP/PAPP often complements the financial resources of bilateral and other donors with its own resources to ensure quality and efficiency of delivery.

## Major Donors



For more information, visit: <http://www.undp.ps>

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