



Programme of Assistance  
to the Palestinian People

# Poverty Reduction



Democratic Governance  
HIV and AIDS

Poverty Reduction  
Energy and Environment

Crisis Prevention and Recovery  
Gender and Women Empowerment

# Poverty Reduction

Since their adoption by all UN Member States in 2000, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals have become known worldwide for one of their most ambitious objectives: to reduce by one-half the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger around the world. And indeed, much progress has been made toward that goal. However, as the world crosses the half-way point to the target year of 2015, it is clear that more efforts are needed. If indeed it is positive that the proportion of people living in extreme poverty fell from nearly a third to less than one fifth between 1990 and 2004, it remains a call to alarm that around 1.2 billion people still live on less than a dollar a day, and nearly 850 million people go hungry every night.

The poverty experienced by these men, women and children is about much more than a lack of income. Poverty is a series of interconnected deprivations, including poor health, sub-standard education, meager access to basic social services, and obstacles to participation in the processes that affect people's lives. In this way, while economic growth is essential to human progress, it is not sufficient for reducing poverty levels.

In the occupied Palestinian territory, poverty is severely impacted by the continuously deteriorating political and economic situation since the second Intifada in 2000, which led to sharp drops in per capita income that continued its downward trend until present time; as a result, poverty in the oPt deepened. Over the past ten years, the territory faced several Israeli invasions and destruction of property and infrastructure, in addition to the restrictions placed on the movement of people and goods internally and across borders, which hit the Palestinian people hard, and dramatically impacted their productive capacity in the private sector and agricultural.

To reduce poverty in the oPt, UNDP/PAPP supports several initiatives in the field of economic development and poverty reduction. Inline with the MDGs, UNDP/PAPP prioritizes support to the most vulnerable communities and families through sustainable economic empowerment approaches which help the people enhance their self reliance and become gradually less reliant on aid.

Ultimately, UNDP/PAPP's poverty reduction strategy promotes sustainable livelihoods, economic recovery, and self-reliance. Consequently, our efforts mainly serve the following four areas: i) promotion of private sector productivity, employment schemes, and micro-entrepreneurship, ii) social safety nets for the most vulnerable families, iii) integrated agricultural management, and iv) basic infrastructure for improved service delivery. We are also contributing to poverty monitoring and collection of basic data through poverty scorecards. In doing so, UNDP works concretely with both communities and other non-State Actors such as the private sector and NGOs as well as different key line-Ministries.

Furthermore, UNDP's work on the strategies and policies for poverty reduction is anchored in three basic principles – the multidimensionality of poverty, the centrality of gender equality and the critical importance of an integrated approach. Poor people should not only benefit equitably from economic growth, they should have the opportunity to actively contribute to its generation.