



Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

Project Fact Sheet



Participatory Rural Development and Planning Project (PRDPP)

PROJECT AIM (OVERALL OBJECTIVE)

The anticipated overall objective of the PRDPP is to institute participatory local democratic governance at the regional level through strengthening the planning capacity for authorities and organizations at national, regional and local levels in undertaking participatory strategic development planning.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The widespread unemployment and poverty in the Palestinian Territories increases the demands upon local governments for infrastructure and services. Improving the situation requires enhancing the responsiveness of public administration through decentralization of power and responsibilities. In this context, it is critical to improve sustainable development planning capacity at the local level (district and village levels) to alleviate poverty; and to enable citizens to participate in decision-making, strengthening accountability and transparency, making local leaders more directly accountable to communities they serve. This project tackles these issues, by building the capacity of a wider range of Palestinian institutions, including local government units (LGUs), Joint Councils (JCs), the Ministry of Planning (MOP), local communities and civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private and academic sectors to engage in participatory district planning processes.

OBJECTIVES

- Prepare and pilot a participatory District Strategic Development Planning Methodology.
- Develop and enable a legal and regulatory environment that supports institutionalization, implementation and replication of the participatory District Strategic Development Planning Methodology.
- Enhance the capacity of local civil society organizations (CSOs), citizens and local authorities to participate effectively in the local planning processes.
- Implement selected visible quick impact community development projects.

IMPACT STATEMENT

The expected impact is improved democratic participatory planning processes and effective participation of Palestinian communities in district rural-urban development and planning. It is also anticipated that the project will contribute towards the alleviation of poverty in poor rural areas, through the implementation of high priority small-scale community initiatives and through enabling LGUs to more effectively address social and economic development issues.

THEMATIC AREA

Democratic Governance

SECTOR / SUB SECTOR

Local Government Sector

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Number	00048456
Award Number	00042278
Duration	Jan 06 – Dec 08
Donor	Irish Aid
Partner	Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Local Government

BUDGET

Total Budget	US\$1,864,222
Disbursement up to date	US\$573,596

Geographic Location

Jenin District in the north of the West Bank, covering 87 localities.

OUTPUTS

- A draft participatory district strategic development planning manual.
- A technical coordination committee (TCC) with representatives from the ministries of planning and ministry of local government.
- A district planning unit (DPU) at the Jenin district office of MOLG.
- An Area Development Committee (ADC) with 33 representatives from local NGOs and LGUs/JCs in Jenin.
- Eighty seven village profiles were prepared (in Arabic)
- Trained teams.



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PROGRESS UP TO DATE

- A methodology matrix on "Participatory District Strategic Development Planning" was prepared.
- Selected and trained a group of 26 local development professionals who would act as potential local pool of experts in strategic development planning.
- Reviewed and updated the planning methodology matrix and other development planning documents.
- Delivered an updated draft participatory district strategic development-planning manual. This manual should serve as the guiding document for all stakeholders regarding the district strategic development planning process.
- A technical coordination committee (TCC) with representatives from the ministries of planning and ministry of local government has been established.
- A memorandum of understanding on the role and relevant functions related to district development planning has been signed between the Ministry of Local Government (MOLG) and the Ministry of Planning (MOP). This MOU comes after years of internal dispute and dialogue on this subject between both ministries.
- A bidding process has been launched by the UNDP/PRDPP to hire an institution or (multidisciplinary group of experts) to develop a District Strategic Development Plan in Jenin district.
- A four-day training workshop (1 to 3 July 2007) was conducted for the eleven sector groups established under the Project. Seventy-three participants representing 59 LGUs and local CSOs attended this workshop. Topics covered strategic development planning concepts; Methods of data collection and analysis; and Methods of public participation; and Gender awareness.
- Two training workshops on Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) techniques, followed by on-ground PRA fieldwork/exercises for all localities in the District (87 localities) has been conducted over the period April-June 2007. Eighty-seven village/town profiles were prepared (in Arabic) and a report on "Development Needs and Priorities in Jenin District" was delivered. Eighty six persons participated in these workshops and exercises
- Conducted a qualitative diagnostic study in Jenin using participatory techniques to explore the issue of gender in the planning process. Further, it developed a strategy for promoting the engagement of civil society (men and women) from a gender perspective and highlight areas where gendered approaches/activities can be incorporated into the proposed planning methodology.
- Conducted training to familiarize the participants with the importance of gender mainstreaming in the planning
- On 6 June 2007, an educational workshop was conducted in Jenin municipality for representatives from local government units, local community based organizations, the Area Development Committee. One hundred and seventeen individuals participated in the workshop.
- Developed criteria for the selection of the community small-scale projects.

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Evaluation Report

CONSTRAINTS (if any)

- The start-up of the project was delayed until May 2006 due to implications of the elections of the legislative Council in January 2006 and the consequent long strike of PA ministries and institutions, which lasted from September 1st, 2006 – January 2007.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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