

**United Nations Development Programme
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People**

**"Periodic Maintenance of Governmental Schools in the Gaza Strip"
Ref: UNDP/ PAL10-00096413**

Annual Progress Report 2016



Opening Ceremony of Asaad Saftawi Primary School in Gaza

Donor: Bank of Palestine

Country: State of Palestine – Gaza Strip

Date of Submission: 12 January, 2017

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I. Project Summary

Reporting Period	March 2016 – December 2016
Donor	Bank of Palestine
Country	Occupied Palestinian territory
Project Title	Periodic Maintenance of Governmental Schools in the Gaza Strip Project
Project ID (Atlas Award ID) Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description)	PAL10-00096413
Implementing Partner(s)	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
Project Start Date	1 April 2015
Project End Date	31 December 2017
[2016] Annual Work Plan Budget	USD 50,000.00
Total resources required	150,000.00
Revenue received	Donor: USD 100,000.00
Unfunded budget	USD 0
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II. Executive summary

The public schools in Gaza have experienced difficult conditions, especially the scale of destruction and devastation resulted from the last Israeli war on Gaza in July-August 2014 which has affected the fragile conditions of the education sector. Also, the ongoing siege has prevented the urgently needed reconstruction of damaged schools and the construction of new ones. Many governmental schools were used as shelters during the last war to accommodate internally displaced people who lost their homes, which has led to further deterioration of the schools' facilities.

With generous fund from Bank of Palestine (BoP), the "Periodic Maintenance of Governmental Schools in the Gaza Strip" Project aims to ensure periodic maintenance and rehabilitation of governmental schools in the Gaza Strip. In the second phase of the Project, UNDP in close cooperation with MoEHE has selected additional three schools¹ in various locations in the Gaza strip. These schools are: Shuhada Al-Zaitoon Secondary Boys School, Al Saftawi Primary Boys School and Salah El Deen Primary Boys School. Selection of schools was made based on MoEHE request to undertake urgent rehabilitation of three most needy schools rather than six schools.

The Project undertakes the essential maintenance needed to keep the learning environment healthy and safe to ensure adequate educational environment for the students and school children. The maintenance of these schools provided better learning environment for 3052 students (all boys) as well as 120 teachers. Maintenance of these schools helped children at these schools to forget the physical scenes and damages resulted from the last hostilities against Gaza. The report shows achievements done during this phase of the project.

III. Background

The education sector in Gaza has sustained excessive damages in the infrastructure and assets during the war on Gaza in July-August 2014. Such damages have affected access of Palestinian children to adequate learning facilities, which has potentially long-term impact on the quality of teaching and learning. During the Israeli hostilities on the Gaza Strip, five schools were completely damaged and 167 governmental schools were partially damaged, affecting 131,448 students.

Gaza schools are overcrowded as 82% of government schools operate on a double shift system to accommodate the high number of students. On average, there are 37.1 pupils per classroom, a number which is considered high compared to international standards, averaging 25 pupils per class. In addition, primary and preparatory classes are slightly less crowded than secondary (36.6% and 37.5%, respectively). However, 79% of elementary and preparatory schools in the Gaza Strip are operated on a double-shift basis. These

¹ In phase I, the project targeted other three schools: Al-Huda Secondary Girls School, Hassan Al-Nakhil Primary Boys School and Al-Abass Bin Abed Al-Motaleb School.

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schools are considered crucial in placing pupils on track with the educational objectives in the Palestinian Territories.

The current prevailing financial conditions has limited the ability of the MoEHE to perform the required annual maintenance to the schools' buildings. Repair of broken glass, damaged windows, painting, WASH facilities, writing boards, chairs, tables and internal plastering are essential needs to improve the learning environment for the school children. Blockade restrictions have made it difficult to invest in building new schools or classrooms in existing schools. Therefore, schools always require ongoing maintenance after the completion of each school year.

Acting on the three - year annual work plan for 2015-2017, in the current situation and within the land limitations in the Gaza Strip, is expected to be quite a challenge. Thus, the Project is focusing on improving the current learning environment and providing school students with healthy and safe utilities that encourage children to learn better and prevent school dropouts.

IV. Achievements Review:

Indicated output	Activities	Schedule Status				Activities status	Achievements
		2016					
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Output Rehabilitation of Governmental Schools in the Gaza Strip	Rehabilitation of Shuhada Al-Zaitoon Secondary School		X	X	X	Completed	The rehabilitation works of Shuhada Al-Zaitoon School included rehabilitation and maintenance works for 25 classrooms and administrative facilities including principal, counsellor and teachers' rooms, libraries, laboratories, stairs and corridors. Works included maintenance and painting of these facilities.
	Maintenance of Al Saftawi Primary Boys School		X	X	X	Completed	The rehabilitation works of Al Saftawi Primary School included rehabilitation and maintenance works for 12 classrooms and administrative facilities including principal, counsellor and teachers'

							rooms, libraries, laboratories, stairs and corridors. Works included maintenance and painting of these facilities.
	Maintenance of Salah El Deen Primary Boys School		X	X	X	Completed	The rehabilitation works of Salah El Deen Primary School included rehabilitation and maintenance works for 13 classrooms and administrative facilities including principal, counsellor and teachers' rooms, libraries, laboratories, stairs and corridors. Works included maintenance and painting of these facilities.

V. Hand-Over Ceremony of the Rehabilitation Works

Upon the completion of phase II, an opening ceremony was organized at Asad Al Siftawi School in cooperation with Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Bank of Palestine to celebrate the opening of the three governmental schools targeted in the second phase. In his remarks, Mr. Alaa Al Radwan, Deputy General Director of Bank of Palestine said that he was proud of the achievements made in rehabilitating the three schools. "Our contribution to the Renovation of Governmental Schools project in the Gaza Strip comes as part of the social responsibility the Bank is committed to. Annually, the Bank of Palestine allocates 6% of its profit to be provided to support many sectors in Gaza and education is part of it."



VI. Project in Media:

- [UNDP: With Support from the Bank of Palestine Opening Ceremony for Three Renovated Governmental Schools in Gaza](#)
- [Reportage by Watania Media Agency: بنك فلسطين يمول أعمال صيانة لثلاث مدارس حكومية بغزة بتنفيذ من بنك فلسطين يمول أعمال صيانة لثلاث مدارس حكومية بغزة &](#)

VII. Financial Status

Budget Main Items (According to Proposal)	A. Original budget According to PD US A	B. Disbursement US	C. Balance (A-B) US	D. Rate of Disbursement (%) (B/A*100)
Periodic Maintenance of School	127,299.00	84,327.00	42,972.00	66%
Miscellaneous	11,601.00	4,923.49	6,677.51	42%
GMS (8%)	11,100.00	7,400.00	3,700.00	67%
Grand Total	150,000.00	96,650.49	53,349.51	64%

Note: It is important to highlight that the financial figures in this report are temporary figures, and may be corrected at a later stage due to exchange rate fluctuations, realized gain/loss or any other possible corrections. UNDP/PAPP's financial system operates in such a manner that the financial system closes , final expenditure reports reflecting the disbursements and GMS of the previous months are only published in 20 next month of the following year.

VIII. Lessons Learned

- 1) The rehabilitation of the three schools has resulted in instrumental impact on the schools and created better learning environment for the children. This is a result of the mutual decision of the Bank of Palestine and UNDP to reduce the number of targeted schools to three.
- 2) The implementation of rehabilitation activities is preferred to take place during summer vacation, however if it is extended to academic semester, the necessary security measures should be taken to ensure safety of school children.

IX. Conclusions and Way Forward

Having finalised the second phase of the Project where maintenance works of additional three schools (total is six schools) were done adequately, UNDP is looking forward to completing the Project and target more schools in the third phases of the Project. The Project remains highly relevant and needed under the current conditions of the Gaza Strip.

Annexes:

A. Description of progress in the targeted schools:

First: Al-Zaitoon School

The school facilities were deteriorated due to lack of regular maintenance. With BoP support, UNDP intervention included maintenance and rehabilitation of external façade, painting of classrooms and maintenance of boards, maintenance of protection wood in all classes, maintenance of aluminum windows, maintenance of wooden and metal doors, repair of protection windows, supplying and installing electrical lights and switches. The maintenance was instrumental to ensure adequate learning environment at the targeted school.



Al-Zaitoon School – Before Rehabilitation



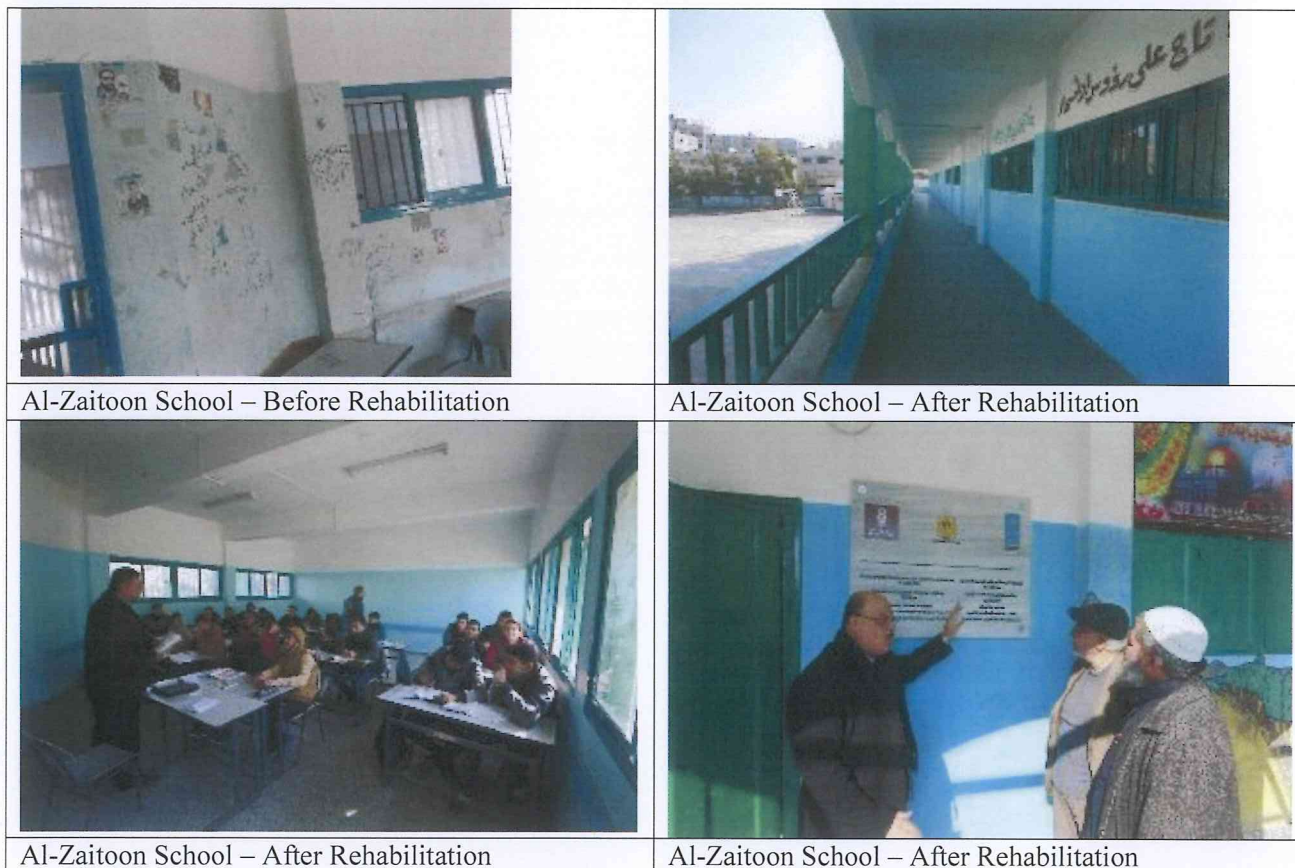
Al-Zaitoon School – After Rehabilitation



Al-Zaitoon School – During Rehabilitation



Al-Zaitoon School – After Rehabilitation



Second: Al Saftawi School

The school facilities were deteriorated due to lack of regular maintenance. With BoP support, UNDP intervention included maintenance and rehabilitation of external façade, painting of classrooms and maintenance of boards, maintenance of protection wood in all classes, maintenance of aluminum windows, maintenance of wooden and metal doors, repair of protection windows, supplying and installing electrical lights and switches. The maintenance was instrumental to ensure adequate learning environment at the targeted school.



Al Saftawi School – Before Rehabilitation



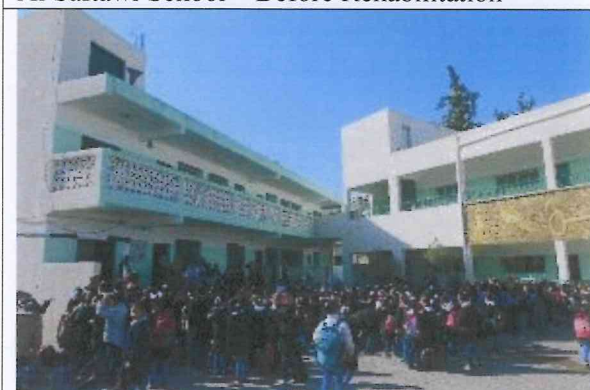
Al Saftawi School – During Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – Before Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – After Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – After Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – After Rehabilitation

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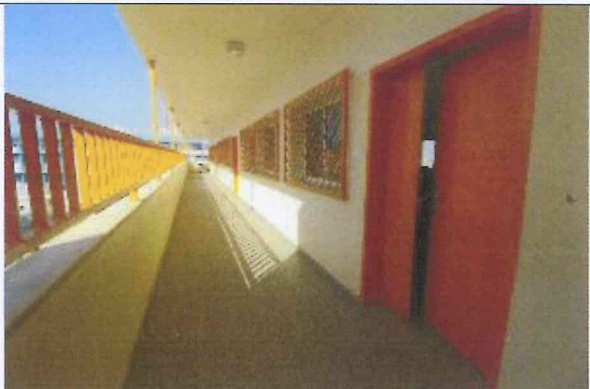






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Third: Salah El Deen School

The school facilities were deteriorated due to lack of regular maintenance. With BoP support, UNDP intervention included maintenance and rehabilitation of external façade, painting of classrooms and maintenance of boards, maintenance of protection wood in all classes, maintenance of aluminum windows, maintenance of wooden and metal doors, repair of protection windows, supplying and installing electrical lights and switches. The maintenance was instrumental to ensure adequate learning environment at the targeted school.

Salah El Deen School – Before Rehabilitation	Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation
	
Salah El Deen School – Before Rehabilitation	Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation
	
Salah El Deen School – During Rehabilitation	Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation
	
Salah El Deen School – During Rehabilitation	Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation



Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation



Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation

B. Hand-Over Ceremony of the Rehabilitation Works





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Project Manager: Mohammad Abu Mezyad

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mohammad Abu Mezyad'.

Programme Specialist: Iman Al Hussein/ Infrastructure unit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Iman Al Hussein'.

Head of Gaza Office: Basil nasser

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Basil nasser'.

Date of submission: 10 January 2017