

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

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

Final Report 2015-2017



Opening Ceremony of Mustafa Sadeq Al-Rafei School for the Deaf in Gaza

Donor: Bank of Palestine

Country: State of Palestine – Gaza Strip

Date of Submission: 20 December 2017



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Contents

- I. PROJECT SUMMARY 3**
- II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4**
- III. BACKGROUND: 5**
- IV. ACHIEVEMENTS REVIEW: 6**
- V. FINANCIAL STATUS 9**
- VI. LESSONS LEARNED..... 9**
- VII. CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD 9**
- VIII. PROJECT IN MEDIA 10**
- IX. ANNEX I : PHOTO GALARY 13**
- FIRST PHASE: THREE GOVERNMENTAL SCHOOLS:13
- SECOND PHASE: THREE GOVERNMENTAL SCHOOLS:14
- THIRD PHASE: FIVE GOVERNMENTAL SCHOOLS:16
- INAUGURATION CEREMONIES.....18



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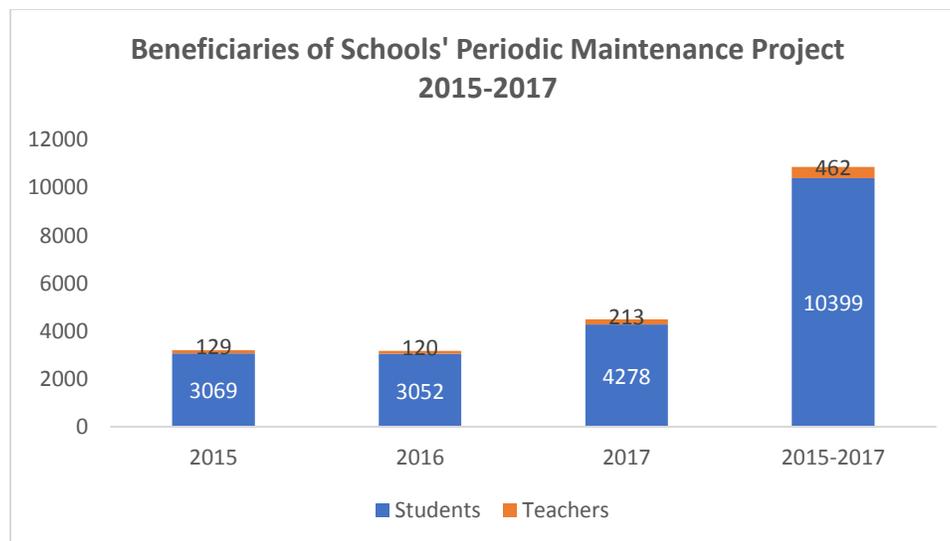
I. Project Summary

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 are experiencing difficult conditions, especially the scale of destruction and devastation resulted from the last Israeli war on Gaza in July-August 2014 is unprecedented, and has affected an already fragile situation 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 affected or used as shelters during the last war to accommodate internally displaced people who lost their homes, while other schools sustained major corrosion and deterioration in their premises due to lack of regular maintenance.

With generous support from the Bank of Palestine (BoP), UNDP/PAPP implemented the "Periodic Maintenance of Governmental Schools in Gaza Strip" Project which aims ensure periodic maintenance and rehabilitation of governmental schools in Gaza Strip throughout the period 2015-2017. Throughout the implementation period, eleven governmental schools were rehabilitated which benefited around 10,399 students (6,551 boys and 3848 girls) and 462 teachers (269 males and 193 females).



Selection of targeted schools was done in coordination with the MoEHE taking into consideration the most affected schools and the geographic locations. In 2015 and 2016, three schools were targeted annually, while in 2017, five schools were targeted. Number of targeted school varied based on the needs of the schools in terms of maintenance and rehabilitation which was approved by the BoP.

In phase I (2015), three governmental schools were maintained: Al-Huda Secondary Girls Schools, Hassan Al-Nakhal Primary School and Al-Abbas Ibn Abedl Motalib Primary School. The rehabilitation and maintenance works, including internal and external paint, tiles, doors, windows. and complete maintenance for WASH facilities. In Hassan Al-Nakhal school, the destroyed canteen was reconstructed.

In phase II (2016), three governmental schools were maintained, namely As'ad Al Saftawi School, Salah El-Deen School and Shuhada Al Zaitoon school. The rehabilitation works includes painting of walls, maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, and renovation of class boards.

In phase III (2017), Five schools have been maintained which are: Mustafa Al-Rafei Secondary School for Hearing Impaired Students in Gaza; Omar Bin Al Khattab School in Beit Lahia; Ahmed Yasin School in



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Rafah; Al Shujaia School in Gaza; and Beit Dajan School in Gaza. The rehabilitation works includes painting of walls, maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, and renovation of classrooms.

Targeted schools were in dire need for maintenance, where some of these schools were subjected to partial damages, while others were used as temporary shelters during the war. One of these schools is Mustafa Al-Rafei School for the Deaf which is the only secondary school in the Gaza Strip that serves persons with hearing difficulties. Through the project, the essential maintenance was undertaken in order to keep the schools' environment healthy and safe and to ensure adequate learning conditions for the students and 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 during the first year.

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.

The existing schools cannot accommodate these increasing numbers of students and thus require that teaching take place in double shifts at 70 percent of the public and UNRWA schools, in a few cases even necessitating triple shifts (which limits students' attendance to only four hours/day; a comparable situation exists at 0.1 percent of schools in the West Bank). With more than 38 students per classroom, a poor environment is being created for students to learn and for teachers to teach, and learning outcomes and completion rates for students keep dropping, with the result that students' performance in Gaza is falling behind that of students in the West Bank.

In 2012, the UN Report "Gaza in 2020, a liveable place?" found that in order to meet the demands of a rapidly expanding population, 250 additional schools were needed immediately, and another 190 schools would be needed by 2020. This situation has been aggravated on the one hand by Israel's closure policies, implemented since 2007, which have prohibited the construction, rehabilitation, and upgrading of nearly all educational infrastructures. On the other hand, repeated hostilities that have damaged and destroyed schools have forced education providers to prioritize constant repair and rebuilding, which comes at the detriment of the need for new schools to match population growth. Between 2012 and the end of 2016, only 33 governmental schools and 24 UNRWA schools were built, which is much below the actual need.

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	Time frame			Activities status	Achievements
		2015	2016	2017		
Output Rehabilitation of Governmental Schools in Gaza Strip	Maintenance of Al-Huda Secondary girls school	X			Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance works for all classes (internal and external paint, tiles, doors, windows) and complete maintenance for the WASH facilities.
	Maintenance of Hassan Al-Nakhal Primary Boys School	X			Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance works for all classrooms including internal and external paint, tiles, doors, windows and complete maintenance for WASH facilities.
	Maintenance of Al-Abass Bin Abed Al-Motaleb School Canteen	X			Completed	The school canteen sustained damages during the war on Gaza which led to complete destruction of the canteen and the surrounding area. The rehabilitation works at Al-Abass school included Reconstruction of the destroyed canteen.
	Maintenance of Shuhada Al-Zaitoon Secondary School		X		Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance works for 25 classrooms and administrative facilities including principal's, counsellor's and teachers' rooms, libraries, laboratories, stairs and corridors. Works included maintenance and painting of these facilities.

	Maintenance of Al Saftawi Primary Boys School		X		Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance of 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		Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance of 13 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 Mustafa Al-Rafei School for the Deaf			X	Completed	Maintenance and painting works of the school's internal and external façade and fences in addition to repair of the school's boards, doors and aluminium windows.
	Maintenance of Omar Bin Al Khattab School in Beit Lahia			X	Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance of school's doors, aluminium windows and broken glasses which were damaged due to nearby bombardments
	Maintenance of Ahmed Yasin School in Rafah			X	Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance of the school's internal and external façade and fences in addition to repair of the school's boards, doors and aluminium Windows



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	Maintenance of Al Shujaia School in Gaza			X	Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance of the school's internal and external façade and fences in addition to repair of the school's boards, doors and aluminium Windows.
	Maintenance of Beit Dajan School in Gaza			X	Completed	Rehabilitation and maintenance of the school's doors, aluminium windows and broken glasses which were damaged due to nearby bombardments.
Opening Ceremonies	Organizing opening ceremony in each phase.	X	X	X	Completed	Upon the completion of each phase, an opening ceremony was organized at one of the targeted schools in cooperation with and Bank of Palestine and Ministry of Education and Higher Education to celebrate the opening of the governmental schools.

V. Financial Status

Budget Main Items (According to Proposal)	A. Original budget According to PD USA	B. Disbursement US	C. Balance (A-B) US	D. Rate of Disbursement (%) (B/A*100)
Periodic Maintenance of School	127,299.00	127,299.00	0.00	100%
Miscellaneous	11,601.00	11,601.00	0.00	100%
GMS (8%)	11,100.00	11,100.00	0.00	100%
Grand Total	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	100%

VI. Lessons Learned

- 1) The number is not always the best result, but rather the impact and quality would be equally or even more important. The rehabilitation of the eleven governmental schools has resulted in substantial impact on the schools and created better learning environment for the children.
- 2) The implementation of rehabilitation activities during the academic year which requires taking high security measures to ensure safety of school children. Alternatively, rehabilitation activities are preferred to take place during summer vacation.

VII. Conclusions and Way Forward

- The "Periodic Maintenance of Governmental Schools in Gaza Strip" Project is effective in addressing the urgent needs of many governmental schools that are dire need for maintenance and rehabilitation. Many governmental schools sustained substantial damages due to frequent hostilities on Gaza and excessive usage by students in double shifts, thus the periodic maintenance of the governmental school become essential.
- The project remains highly relevant and needed under the current conditions of the Gaza Strip.
- The maintenance of the schools has positive impact on students and teachers through improving and upgrading the school facilities to ensure adequate learning environment.

Building on the achieved successes and after completion of the planned activities as per the signed agreement, UNDP is looking forward more cooperation with the Bank of Palestine in the upcoming years to improve improving the education sector in the Gaza Strip.



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VIII. 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 "UNDP"](#)
- [بنك فلسطين يمول أعمال صيانة لثلاث مدارس حكومية بغزة](#)
- [وزارة التربية يختتمون مشروع صيانة المدارس الحكومية في غزة UNDP بنك فلسطين و](#)
- [: بنك فلسطين يتبرع بـ150 ألف دولار لصيانة وتأهيل مدارس حكومية بغزة UNDP](#)
- [بنك فلسطين وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي ووزارة التربية والتعليم يختتمون مشروع صيانة المدارس الحكومية في قطاع غزة](#)



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- **Press Release published in UNDP website ([click here](#))**



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Press Release

With Support from the Bank of Palestine

Opening Ceremony for Three Renovated Governmental Schools In Gaza

Gaza Strip, 06 December 2016 – As part of the continuing efforts to support the education sector in the Gaza Strip, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Bank of Palestine and UNDP’s Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) celebrated the opening of three governmental schools in Gaza, providing improved access to educational facilities to over 3000 students.

Ashraf Herzallah, Deputy of Training and Supervision at the Ministry of Education thanked UNDP and the Bank of Palestine for the contributions made. “We want to provide students with the proper educational environment. They are our real fortune. We will invest in our students who are the notion of our culture and their future will shape the Palestinian State.”

The project comes as part of the “Periodic Maintenance of Governmental Schools in Gaza Strip” project, funded by the Bank of Palestine for the amount of USD 150,000 over a three-year period, and implemented by UNDP/PAPP. It is expected that more than 15000 children youth will benefit from access to the renovated facilities in 15 governmental schools across the Gaza Strip.

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.”

The rehabilitation works in the targeted schools; As’ad Al Saftawi School, Salah El-Deen School and Shuhada Al Zaitoon school, included painting of walls, maintenance of water and sanitation facilities, and renovation of class boards.

Iman Hussein, Head of infrastructure unit at UNDP office in Gaza highlighted that education is a basic human right. “UNDP and its partners are committed to facilitating students’ access to an improved learning environment. Providing quality education is the fourth sustainable development goal and we aim to achieve it for the students in Gaza,” she added.



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It is worth noting that the educational facilities assisted in the first renovation package (Al-Huda Secondary Girls Schools, Hassan Al-Nakhal Primary School and Al-Abbas Ibn Abedl Motalib Primary School) benefited approximately 1900 students, 1561 of whom were female students. The schools were used as a temporarily shelter for internally displaced people during the 2014 hostilities on Gaza.

About UNDP

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. For more information on UNDP's work in the West bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip, visit www.ps.undp.org.

About Bank of Palestine

Bank of Palestine was established in 1960 with the view of promoting financial services in Palestine, financing projects and fulfilling the financial and banking needs of the different economic and social segments of the Palestinian society. Bank of Palestine is one of the largest national banks operating in Palestine with a broad range of branches, offices and ATMs. The Bank employs a crew of qualified personnel providing services to more than 600,000 customers including individuals, firms and organizations. Through keeping abreast and utilization of the latest technology conjointly with the adoption of the best policies and international practices including disclosure, good governance, transparency, Bank of Palestine has been instrumental in contributing to the development process allocating 5% of its net annual profit to social responsibility programs. The Bank's trading shares were listed in the Palestinian Exchange in 2005 hence becoming the second largest company listed by its market value amounting to about 15% of the Exchange market value.

IX. Annex I : Photo Galary

First Phase: Three Governmental Schools:



Al-Huda School – Before Rehabilitation



Al-Huda School – After Rehabilitation



Canteen of Al-Abbas School – before rehabilitation



Canteen of Al-Abbas School – After rehabilitation



Hassan Al-Nakhal School - Before Rehabilitation



Hassan Al-Nakhal School - After Rehabilitation

Second Phase: Three Governmental Schools:



Al-Zaitoon School – Before Rehabilitation



Al-Zaitoon School – After Rehabilitation



Al-Zaitoon School – After Rehabilitation



Al-Zaitoon School – After Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – Before Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – After Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – After Rehabilitation



Al Saftawi School – After Rehabilitation



Salah El Deen School – Before Rehabilitation



Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation



Salah El Deen School – Before Rehabilitation



Salah El Deen School – After Rehabilitation

Third Phase: Five Governmental Schools:



Mustafa Al-Rafei School for the Deaf – before



Mustafa Al-Rafei School for the Deaf – After



Omar Bin Al Khattab School – before



Omar Bin Al Khattab School – After



Ahmed Yasin School – before



Ahmed Yasin School – After



Al Shujaia School - Before



Al Shujaia School – After



Beit Dajan School in Gaza - Before



Beit Dajan School in Gaza - Before

Inauguration Ceremonies

The inauguration ceremonies took place at the targeted schools in the presence of Bank of Palestine representatives, MoEHE and UNDP.



The banner features logos for the Bank of Palestine, the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoEHE), and UNDP's 50th anniversary. The main title is "Handover of Rehabilitation Works in Three Governmental Schools (As'ad-Al_Saftawi - Salah-El_Deen - Shuhada' Al Zaitoun)". Below this, the Arabic text reads "فعالية الانتهاء من أعمال الصيانة في ثلاث مدارس حكومية (مدرسة أسعد الصفاوي، مدرسة صلاح الدين، مدرسة شهداء الزيتون)". The English subtitle is "Periodical Maintenance of Governmental Schools in the Gaza Strip Project". The banner also includes a row of educational icons and an illustration of a school building.















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