

Project Status Report for Month Ending December 2017

Project Name:	Community Resilience and Development Programme (CRDP)	Donor (for 2017):	1. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) 2. Austrian Development Agency (ADA) 3. Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
Project Manager:	Jamal Al Aref	Project Number:	00084013
Project Start	30.09.2012	Project End Date:	31.03.2018
Project Status:	Ongoing	Project Completion ¹ :	98 % ⁽¹⁾

Brief Summary

CRDP was designed to strengthen the resilience of Palestinians living in Area C and East Jerusalem to enable them to remain on their land. The project empowers local stakeholders, through the most suitable partners, to respond with resilience to threats that affect their sustenance on the land. To this end, the programme will contribute to the following:

- Preventing the erosion of living conditions of Palestinians in Area C and East Jerusalem that undermine their development capital
- Protecting Palestinian land and property in Area C and East Jerusalem; and
- Mitigating and ideally reversing migration flow from Area C and East Jerusalem by enhancing human security and livelihood of Palestinians.

The CRDP, in its fifth year, is the result of a fruitful partnership led by the Palestinian Government, funded by the Governments of Sweden, Austria and Norway since its inception and implemented by UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP). So far, the project targeted more than 80,490 Palestinians residing in Area C and East Jerusalem through the implementation of multi sectoral activities based on thorough community assessments and in coordination with projects' stakeholders. In Area C, the project has targeted 112 communities. Since April 2016, the project moved to the geographical cluster approach and two clusters i.e. Qalqilia and Tubas Area C were approved by the CRDP Project Review Board. In East Jerusalem, a number of activities were designed to support Palestinians living in the 15 neighbourhoods (including Old City).

In 2017, 56 projects were ongoing (17 in Qalqilia, 15 in Tubas, 22 in East Jerusalem, in addition to Area C Coordination Office (ACCO) . As of the end of December 2017, only two of the 56 projects will remain ongoing. Due to the context of Area C and East Jerusalem, e.g. their legal status, lack of access and outreach of the Government of Palestine, there are more risks unique to the areas and thus risk management is an integral part of project management.

UNDP/PAPP closely monitors and updates the risks analysis to mitigate and manage risks. Some of the approaches for mitigation and management of risks are as follows: supporting initiatives not needing permits, community involvement, enhancing ownership and leadership of the Government of Palestine.

¹ 108 projects have been completed out of 110 projects. Progresses from still ongoing projects (two projects) are not reflected in this achievement rate.

Progress and Challenges (if any)

Since the start of the CRDP, a total of 110 agreements have been signed with various implementing partners. Out of these, the following two agreements will remain ongoing:

- ACCO, with SDC funds will continue until end of March 2018
- The delivery of the school bus for Tubas cluster is scheduled to be completed during January 2018. The bus was directly procured by UNDP back in September 2017 and the delivery from its country of origin (Italy) usually takes around 4-6 months between ordering, manufacturing, shipping and clearance at the Israeli ports until it is delivered to the beneficiary. According to the manufacturer, the bus is currently at the Israeli port awaiting clearance and delivery. The full cost of the bus was paid in advance (against an unconditional bank guarantee that UNDP holds valid until end of March 2018).

During the month of December, two focus group discussions with beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders were conducted in the two clusters (on 19 December in Tubas and on 21 December in Qalqilia). These discussions were conducted to gather beneficiaries' feedback regarding the following four topics:

- Projects impact upon beneficiaries.
- Sustainability of projects results
- Challenges during implementation including coordination and partnership modalities
- Beneficiaries' recommendations for development priorities in the clusters.

An analysis of the focus group discussions will be provided in the completion report.

For the month of December 2017, the following progress was made against each output:

Output 1: Public and social infrastructure in Area C and EJRM improved.

There is no update under output 1 from the November report.

Output 2: Improved access to sustainable livelihood and business opportunities.

There is no update under output 2 from the November report.

Output 3: Strengthened governance including human capital knowledge management and public participation.

Capacity assessment study for 15 Local Government Units (LGUs) and 12 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) was carried out and completed in Tubas and Qalqilia clusters. The assessment focused on five capacities: managerial, administrative, financial, service delivery and planning. The report is currently being cleared by UNDP senior management for publication. Once this step is complete, the report will be shared with the Donors, hopefully during the first quarter of 2018.

The assessment report determined strengths, weaknesses as well as proposed solutions and mechanisms to address the identified gaps. The findings were presented and discussed with representatives of the LGUs, CBOs as well as line ministries in both clusters. The study will guide the Ministry of Local Government (for the LGUs) and the CBOs in devising and implementing appropriate capacity building plans in the near future.

Output 4: Supported nationally led developmental role in Area C and East Jerusalem

On 4 December, ACCO conducted a consultation meeting with the Donor community to discuss the draft Area C National Strategy. During the meeting, ACCO declared that the final strategy will be shared with UNDP and the donors once the document is cleared by the Prime Ministers office. As of this report, UNDP has not received a copy of the final Area C Strategy. During the consultation meeting, Dr. Estephan Salameh, the Head of Policy and Reform Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister, clarified once again the position regarding ACCO that the latter is not in a position to share information with any party because such information is considered as sensitive to the communities.

Al Himmeh Spring Project – Incident

The local community and the lawyer both confirmed that there is no change in the status since the last reporting period in November 2017.

Based on the agreed budget and work plan, four posts in CRDP, i.e. two field coordinators for Area C, the driver as well as the communication consultant will complete their assignment by the end of December 2017.

The remaining staff who will continue until the end of March 2018 include: the Programme Manager, the Administration and Finance Officer, the M&E and Reporting Coordinator, and the East Jerusalem Coordinator. They will be working on preparing the 2017 annual progress report, the final completion report, as well as ensuring the smooth closure of the CRDP.



Economic Empowerment to families waiting for unification event, held by Youth Development Department (YDD)- 14 December 2017



Focus group discussions in Tubas held on 19 December 2017



Focus group discussions in Qalqilia held on 21 December 2017