



Reference: CRDP -00084013

02 August 2017

Dear Ms Etzell,

**Subject: Brief Update Report on the Community Resilience  
and Development Programme**

We thank the Government of Sweden for its continued support, confidence and cooperation with UNDP/PAPP in support of the Palestinian People.

In addition to our regular reporting and continuous meetings and updates, please allow us to share with you a brief status report on the Community Resilience and Development Programme (CRDP).

Thank you again for your partnership and we welcome any feedback you may deem relevant in this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

  
Khaled Shahwan  
Officer-in-Charge  
UNDP/PAPP

Ms. Christina Etzell  
Consul - Head of Development Cooperation  
Consulate General of Sweden  
Jerusalem

CC: Maher Daoudi  
Senior Programme Manager  
Consulate General of Sweden

## Project Status Report for Month Ending July 2017

Project Name:	Community Resilience and Development Programme (CRDP)	Donor (for 2017):	1. Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) 2. Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
Project Manager:	Jamal Al Aref	Project Number:	00084013
Project Start Date:	30.09.2012	Project End Date:	31.03.2018 (pending on no-cost extension approval)
Project Status:	Ongoing	Project Completion <sup>1</sup> :	68%

### 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. Qalqiliya 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 Qalqiliya, 15 in Tubas, 22 in East Jerusalem, in addition to Area C Coordination Office (ACCO) and the Local Economic Development (LED)). As of the end of July 2017, 21 of the projects have been completed. 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.

<sup>1</sup> 75 projects have been completed out of 110 projects. Progresses from still ongoing projects (35 projects) are not reflected in this achievement rate.

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.

### **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, 35 projects are still ongoing in July 2017: 15 in East Jerusalem, 18 in Tubas and Qalqiliya clusters as well as ACCO and the LED. So far, progresses against each output are as follows:

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

- **Education:** A total of 355 children have enjoyed improved preschool education facilities through the rehabilitation of 5 kindergartens in Qalqiliya cluster and 1 kindergarten in Ras Tira in Qalqiliya. In Tubas cluster, the educational sector was supported by the provision of a mobile educational centre which will be utilized in the new academic year 2017-2018 and is being used for relevant summer activities.
- **Health:** A total of 10,209 Palestinians, including 5,065 females, have benefited from improvement of access to subsidised health services in East Jerusalem.
- **Housing:** A total of NIS1,332,923 (50% of taxes) is the total reduction of land development taxes achieved as a result of the implemented project with the Union of Jerusalem Housing Assembly. This represents around USD 12,500 per family on average with a total of 28 families benefitting. In addition, and as a result of the project activities, a stop order for the demolition of 51 structures in East Jerusalem has been issued with a postponement of 5 years until an alternative solution to the problem is submitted.
- **Youth:** At least 400 Palestinian youth and children enjoy weekly sports activities including summer camps in each of the two constructed athletic fields in Tubas and Qalqiliya clusters. In addition, 3 women athletic spaces were rehabilitated to enable at least 350 women from 9 villages in Qalqiliya cluster to use the spaces for activities that improve their wellbeing and social integration.
- **Culture and Palestinian identity:** A total of 4,441 Palestinians youth including 1,777 females living in East Jerusalem communities took part in 5 initiatives aiming at integrating youth within the Palestinian community and strengthening the Palestinian identity.

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

- **Economic opportunities:** 28 marginalized families were economically supported in East Jerusalem. Marketing exhibition took place to which donors and local community were invited.
- **Land reclamation:** A total of 100 dunums of land were rehabilitated in Kardalah in Tubas cluster. The activity generated 19-part time job opportunities.
- **Road rehabilitation:** 1.7 km of agricultural road was rehabilitated in Al Aqaba village in Tubas cluster. As a result, access has been improved to at least 200 dunums and 15-part time job opportunities were created.
- **Water networks:** In Qalqiliya cluster, water network for domestic and agricultural purposes was rehabilitated. As a result, water loss is reduced to zero and cost of water is reduced by 40%. In Tubas cluster, water reservoir was constructed in Qaoun plain. In addition, a total of 3.1 km of main water pipelines were rehabilitated while 2.1 km of pipelines from the main reservoirs in Kardalah were extended
- **Water cisterns and springs:** In Tubas cluster and based on the results of a technical assessment, Al Himmeh spring was rehabilitated.

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

- **Gender:** A total of 810 women were trained and received awareness on women participation in public life in both clusters of Tubas and Qalqiliya. In addition, 2 women forums were established aiming at identifying women needs in the clusters as well as networking with other actors to address these needs. Moreover, 3 of the targeted women were nominated for the recent local elections and 2 of them are currently members in the village councils.

- **Capacity development:** Capacity for carrying out development projects was enhanced in 6 LGUs benefiting at least 24 persons, including 3 women, through implementing various projects in partnership with these LGUs.

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

Area C Coordination Office (ACCO) was established in June 2016 and its capacity development continues in 2017, while specific deliverables have to be developed for the remainder of 2017.

Ongoing projects as of July 2017 are on track except for the following projects.

#### ▪ **Ard Al Immeem Project**

Activating Jerusalemite youth as agents of positive change in their community, including utilization of a Waqf space. This project is being conducted in East Jerusalem in partnership with Burj Al Luq Luq with a total budget of USD100,000. Project implementation is pending approval from the municipality of Jerusalem. A final request was put forward to having the Ottoman registration of deeds translated into Hebrew. The Turkish consulate is currently doing that and our implementing partner expects it to be completed within the first half of August. Following the approval, the project would only need 30-40 days to be completed. Due to its importance in the Old City of Jerusalem, CRDP is working closely with the partner on two tracks: (i) to speed up getting the final approvals from the Municipality to start the works, (ii) come up with an alternative project proposal (which is to be received from them by Monday, 07 August 2017 for review) that could be shared with the Review Board for approval.

#### ▪ **Yarza Connecting dirt track**

Rehabilitation/construction of 3 km of existing access paths (dirt track) to improve mobility of residents of Yarza, Tubas Governorate. This project is being conducted in Tubas Cluster in Area C in partnership with Al Aqaba village council. Total budget for this activity is USD 80,000. This is a high-risk project that the local community is finding it difficult to acquire the services of a local contractor willing to carry out the risk and implement this project. The advance money that was administered has been recalled and CRDP is currently formulating a new alternative proposal that will be shared with the Review Board shortly.

During the reporting period, another incident took place to a project previously supported by CRDP; **Al Himmeh Spring Project**. This project faced an incident in July 2017, whereby the Israeli authorities confiscated equipment that were installed at the spring. *Note that a court injunction was earlier issued in June preventing any action to be taken at the project site; a full incident report was sent to all donors outlining the full course of events.* UNDP is closely communicating with the community to support their actions. So far, Israelis are claiming that they have not confiscated but are holding them in their custody until the court issue sits final verdict on 15 September 2017 (if the court hearing does not get postponed further).

On the issue of recruiting additional staff for the CRDP, the following update is given:

Regarding the posts of the EJ Field Coordinator and the Communication Assistant, UNDP identified and interviewed candidates for the two posts from its roster and is currently moving forward into bringing them on board, on Individual Contract (IC) basis until end of December 2017. UNDP expects that they would be on board within the second half of August 2017. As for the post of the Administrative Clerk, UNDP will be seconding a candidate from the Jerusalem office to CRDP on an 80% basis. She will start her work with CRDP on Monday, 07 August 2017.

On the final evaluation of the CRDP, UNDP is working closely with the consultant to finalize the final draft report, based on the comments received. UNDP expects to receive the final evaluation report from the consultant during the second half of August 2017, and the report will be shared with all stakeholders soon afterwards.

### Risk Register (if any)

Id.	Description	Mitigation plan (what is being done to prevent the risk)	Contingency plan (what will be done if the risk occurs)	Likelihood of occurring	Potential impact (dollar / schedule / quality etc.)
1	Deterioration of security situation in the entire WB and EJRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Security and contingency planning for UNDP and partners</li> <li>- Two-ways sharing of information on security situation</li> <li>- Development of partnerships with local partners</li> <li>- Opening of communication channels with communities for security updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suspension of UNDP and partners' travel</li> <li>- Implementation through local partners</li> <li>- Programme suspension if situation is critical</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 3	Loss of major funding may result
2	General access restrictions increase: closures, lack of movement, restriction on staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liaising with OCHA and Palestinian Government to monitor access restrictions</li> <li>- Developing partnerships with local partners</li> <li>- Opening communication channels with communities for access updates</li> <li>- Wide geographic distribution of operations</li> <li>- Relationship management with CA officials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UN, Palestinian Government, Donor pressure on Israeli authorities to remove access restrictions for programme operations</li> <li>- Advocacy on access restrictions</li> <li>- Implementation through local partners / use of locally available material</li> <li>- Suspension of UNDP and partners' travel in affected areas</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 3	Substantial delays in implementation would occur
3	UNDP's implementing partners under threat / pressure from Israeli authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UN, Palestinian Government, Donor pressure on Israeli authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advocacy initiatives by local partners and UN in coordination with Protection Cluster Working Group</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 3	Substantial delays in implementation would occur

4	The infrastructure built under the programme attracts the attention of Israeli Authorities, and the infrastructure is demolished or materials brought under the programme are confiscated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measures to minimize visibility are in place</li> <li>- Integrate protection elements in the design of the projects</li> <li>- Advocacy and communication strategy in place</li> <li>- Relationship management with Israeli authorities</li> <li>- Pal Government, UN, Quartet and Donor support and follow-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal cases initiated</li> <li>- Communities are properly consulted in advance of the risk involved and accept it</li> <li>- Communities' interest is preserved. Response is designed to address their concerns</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 2	Loss in the order of several million USD could be sustained
5	Corruption in the management of funds by implementing partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audits will be done for all project initiatives (UNDP selecting auditing firms)</li> <li>- Funding of local partners according to UNDP financial rules and regulations</li> <li>- Continuous contact with target population and follow up of projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal steps against misuses of funding</li> <li>- Liaison with governmental and non-governmental anti-corruption institutions</li> <li>- Proper selection of implementing partners based on capacities and experience</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 1	Loss in the order of several million USD could be sustained
6	Decisions on project approvals are not taken on technical grounds and influenced by third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessments done in 271 communities in Area C, which defines priorities for target population</li> <li>- Final accountability lies on UNDP. Contracts signed by UNDP always complying with internal rules and regulations and clear guidelines to be developed for CRDP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steering Board co-chaired by PA and UNDP</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 2	Substantial delays in implementation would occur
7	Conflict with communities for the decisions of supporting certain projects against others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full, open communication among UNDP, implementing partners and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When community assessments done, make always clear that budget is limited, priorities are many and there are other actors involved</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 2	Substantial delays in implementation would occur
8	PMU's capacity to provide support and effectively monitor progress of all projects of all funding cycles is lower than the expected level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plan new funding cycles with a view to minimize overlap between other cycles</li> <li>- adopt customized monitoring and financial controls based on capacity of implementing partners and type of interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribute tasks effectively among CRDP team</li> </ul>	Probability (1-5) = 3	Substantial delays in implementation would occur