

ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR DEVELOPING A BETTER FUNCTIONING ECONOMY



GLOBAL CONTEXT

Economic development of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is considered to be an important issue at the regional and global levels. The unique challenges and volatile economic and political dynamics in the OPT have wider repercussions across the Middle East.

The complex conditions faced by the Palestinian people underscore the need for greater efforts on the part of the Palestinian National Authority for socioeconomic development, with the full support of the international community. The challenges in the OPT require careful strategies and initiatives to address the needs of the Palestinian people for building the institutional capacities and economic base required for a future sovereign Palestinian State, as called for in relevant United Nations resolutions.

Against this backdrop, and with more than 30 years of expertise on Palestinian trade and development issues, UNCTAD formulates and implements technical cooperation projects, and provides training and advisory services to facilitate economic development in the OPT.

HOW DOES UNCTAD HELP THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE?

UNCTAD addresses the Palestinian economy's complex and evolving needs through four clusters of work: (a) trade policies and strategies; (b) trade facilitation and logistics; (c) finance and development; and (d) enterprise, investment and competition policy.

UNCTAD conducts research, carries out technical cooperation projects and provides training and advisory services, in close cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian private sector, civil society organizations and United Nations and other international agencies. UNCTAD aims at strengthening the capacity of the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian private sector, and laying the foundations for the institutional capacities required for sustainable economic development and efficient functioning of the economy of a future independent Palestinian State.

RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Between April 2011 and March 2015 UNCTAD implemented a project on capacity development for facilitating Palestinian trade, with the explicit goal of consolidating the institutional capacity of the Palestinian Shippers Council and enhancing awareness



**PROGRAMME
FACTS AND FIGURES**

Programme start date:
1979 (first technical assistance project
in 1995)

Number of projects to date: 15

**Projects implemented
per year since 1995:**
1 (average)

Programme website:
unctad.org/Palestine

among professionals in the private and public sectors on best practices in trade facilitation. Several success stories came out during implementation of the project, particularly through the training programme under the project:

- The project generated new job opportunities for Palestinian youth who were trained on trade facilitation and logistics. Upon completion of a “training of trainers” programme, these young professionals were certified as trainers on the trade facilitation supply chain.
- The training aimed at achieving gender balance by ensuring that 30 per cent of the trainees were women, despite the fact that the field of trade facilitation has been historically dominated by men.
- Some of the professionals who benefited from the training reported considerable cost savings in the trade facilitation supply chain as a direct result of the knowledge they gained from the training programme.

Results in-depth

Strengthening capacity for economic analysis and policymaking

In 2011, UNCTAD and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the Central Bureau's economic modelling and forecasting capacity and to enhance the Palestinian National Authority's capacity for constructing, evaluating and interpreting socioeconomic indicators and assessing alternative policy scenarios. UNCTAD

has conducted training programmes for staff of the Central Bureau of Statistics and Palestinian National Authority in Geneva (Switzerland) and Ramallah (Palestine). UNCTAD efforts on building Palestinian capacity for econometric modelling and forecasting led to the establishment of a forecasting unit within the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, headed and staffed by professionals trained by UNCTAD.

UNCTAD also handed over its econometric model of the Palestinian economy to the Central Bureau of Statistics; as a result, the forecasting unit has used the model to produce official economic forecasts, which are used by the Palestinian National Authority, Palestinian Ministry of Finance and other entities for planning and other purposes. UNCTAD continues to cooperate and provide advisory services to the Central Bureau. In April 2015, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics held meetings with UNCTAD staff and solicited advice on developing regionally disaggregated econometric models for the State of Palestine.

DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

Current and past:
Canada, Italy, Norway,
European Commission,
World Bank