



2020 UN Country Results Report State of Palestine



UNITED NATIONS
State of Palestine



UN COUNTRY TEAM IN PALESTINE



FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCO	Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

FOREWORD

The context of the UN Country Team's work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) remains deeply challenging. The lack of progress on negotiations toward a two-State solution, violence, illegal settlement expansion, demolitions, ongoing militant activity, continued intra-Palestinian division, and a humanitarian, socio-economic and health crisis in Gaza, complicate the work of the United Nations in delivering assistance to the Palestinian people.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this protracted crisis and even reversed development gains, with far-reaching consequences. In 2020, approximately 155,000 cases were recorded in the OPT, leading to over 1,500 deaths. Throughout the year, the Government of Palestine periodically imposed significant public health measures to combat COVID-19 but which at the same time sharply curtailed social and economic activity. The breakdown in coordination between the Government of Israel and the Government of Palestine due to the prospect of Israeli annexation of parts of the West Bank – a breakdown which lasted from May to November – also damaged the humanitarian and development conditions of the Palestinian people.

This Country Results Report draws a holistic picture of the United Nations contributions to the Government of Palestine's national development priorities and collective efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations' response is framed within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2018-2022) which places the Palestinian people at the centre of development programming and proposed approximately \$1.26 billion in support over five years.

Despite the context, in 2020 the United Nations continued to deliver humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestinian people, focusing its efforts on reaching the most vulnerable segments of the population by providing education services, promoting universal health coverage, supporting access to food and social protection, reinforcing the resilience of the

agriculture and business sectors, ensuring the mainstream of human rights in national strategies and strengthening Palestinian institutions.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the United Nations and its partners have mobilized significant resources in support of the Palestinian Government's efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthen its health systems, and procure and deliver equipment, supplies, and, now, vaccines. The UNCT also responded to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic through its COVID-19 Development System Response Plan.

Despite the challenging context, the United Nations reform agenda continued. In 2020, the United Nations Country Team formally adopted a "nexus approach" to its humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts. This decision will ultimately transform the United Nations' work across the humanitarian, development, and peace pillars. The UNCT and Government of Palestine also released the landmark Atlas of Sustainable Development 2020 and delivered a UNCT-sponsored household survey on the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19.

Finally, I wish to highlight that throughout the year the UNCT worked effectively with a wide range of partners including the Government of Palestine, humanitarian and development actors, academia, the private sector, and civil society. The pandemic has showed us the importance of collaboration to respond to rapidly evolving needs on the ground. Moving forward, the UNCT will continue to work with its partners to address the socio-economic impact of the pandemic and continue the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestinian people.

Lynn Hastings

Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator





1. COUNTRY CONTEXT AND TRENDS

2020 was marked by a significantly deteriorated socio-economic situation due in large part to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The period was also characterized by Israel's continued military occupation of Palestinian territory, the absence of a political process to resolve the conflict, a protracted humanitarian and protection crisis, illegal settlement activity in the West Bank and demolitions of Palestinian structures. The dire situation in Gaza—an Israeli-imposed blockade, more than a decade of Hamas control, and militant activity—served to undermine peace and development efforts.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palestinian and Israeli authorities imposed prolonged lockdowns and strict movement restrictions to control the spread of the virus. All sides, including the Government of Israel, worked closely with the UN and its partners to ensure that equipment and supplies, and more recently vaccines, have been delivered to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

In Gaza, the relative calm between Palestinian militants and Israel was maintained. Nonetheless, in August, Palestinian militants resumed launching incendiary balloons from Gaza towards Israel, sometimes escalating to rockets and mortars. Israel retaliated by striking targets in Gaza and tightening the closures, until a de-escalation was achieved at the end of August 2020. The UN continued leading diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions, in close coordination with Egypt. These efforts were supported with generous assistance from Qatar, which provided direct cash assistance to needy Gazans, supported the regular supply of fuel to the Gaza Power Plant, and advanced important projects.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Regrettably, in the middle of the worst global pandemic in a century, coordination between the Israeli authorities and Palestinian authorities broke down almost completely. In Israel, proposals to annex parts of the West Bank were prominent in the lengthy election season and in the negotiations forming a coalition government in May 2020. In response to this threat of annexation, Palestinian President Abbas announced that the Palestinian leadership considered itself “absolved of all the agreements and understandings” with the United States and Israeli governments, suspended security and civilian coordination with Israel, and called on Israel to assume its obligations as the occupying power. The suspension of coordination, which lasted until 18

November 2020, significantly impeded the public health and humanitarian responses to the pandemic. Among other things, the UN temporarily assumed responsibilities for processing deliveries of humanitarian aid and related equipment and for facilitating the exit of medical patients from the Gaza Strip—coordinated actions that would have ordinarily taken place bilaterally between Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

Far more serious for the economy, the halt in coordination meant that the PA refused to receive the revenues that Israel collects on its behalf. This action contributed to an 80 percent reduction in the PA's overall revenues, forced the adoption of additional austerity measures by the PA on top of a budget already cut to the bone, and greatly amplified the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Palestinians. Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the collapse of coordination, the Palestinian economy contracted around 10 to 12 percent in 2020—one of the largest annual contractions since the PA was established in 1994. The overall unemployment rate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was 25.9 per cent in 2020 (15.7 per cent in the West Bank and 46.6 per cent in Gaza). Women's participation in the labour force remained among the lowest in the world, at below 20 per cent.

Initial studies suggest that Palestinian poverty rates and food insecurity rates are up sharply, that gender-based violence has increased, and that educational attainment was slowed. There is little doubt that the unfortunate events of 2020 will negatively shape Palestinian development trajectories for many years to come.

For more information on the various development indicators in OPT, the **Atlas of Sustainable Development**, which was launched in 2020 by the UN with the government of Palestine, provides an up-to-date analysis of the development landscape and progress on SDGs in OPT.



1 No Poverty

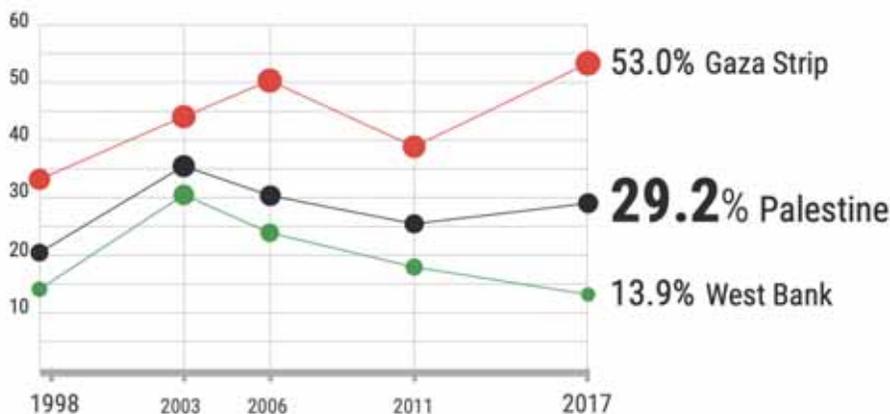
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.2. Reduce Poverty

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line

Poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision making. Various social groups bear a disproportionate burden of poverty. Poverty rates in Palestine have been volatile since 1998, rising sharply during each period of conflict and recession and recovering slowly thereafter. According to monthly consumption patterns, 29 percent of Palestinians lived in poverty in 2017. Poverty rates in Gaza are higher and more severe than in the West Bank.





2 Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1.

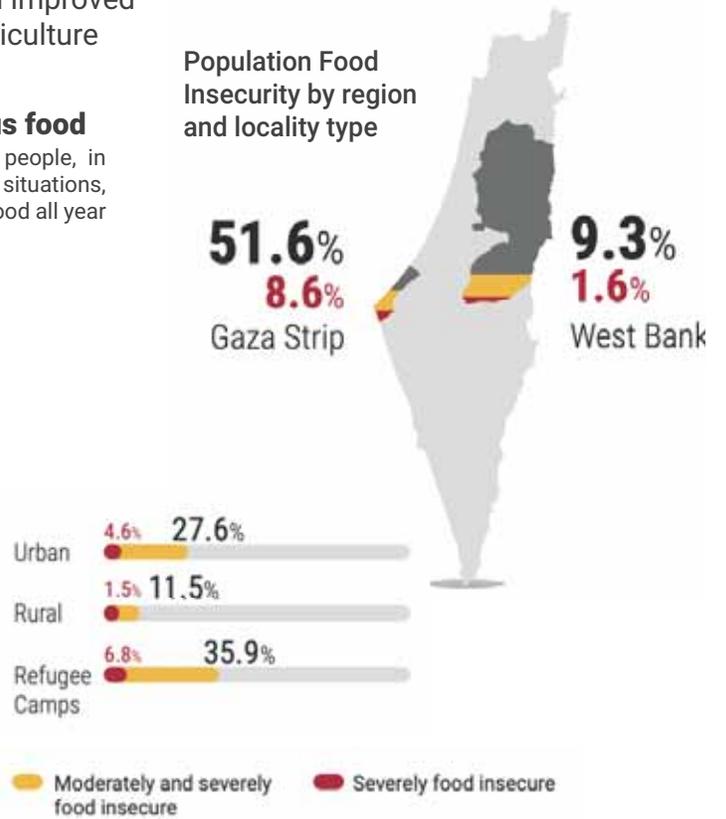
Universal access to safe and nutritious food

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

Regional and territorial disparities, as well as disparities among population groups, are characteristic traits of food insecurity and malnutrition in Palestine. In addition to the disparities between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the prevalence of food insecurity within the West Bank also has a remarkably different incidence, with Area C being worse-off with the highest peaks of food insecurity among Bedouins and herding communities. Similar pockets of high food insecurity can be found in all disadvantaged groups suffering from vulnerabilities, including female headed households, refugees, small-scale farmers, among others.

Population Food Insecurity by region and locality type



2. RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

After the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in February and March 2020, the Israeli and Palestinian Governments responded decisively and in a coordinated manner to limit the spread of the disease, closing schools and businesses, restricting the movements of most workers and families, and mobilizing their public health infrastructures. These interventions were initially successful, and the local caseload was far lower than in many comparison countries in the region and globally. However, after authorities loosened restrictions in early summer, COVID-19 cases began rapidly increasing in late June. According to figures from WHO, by the end of 2020, approximately 155,000 Palestinians had tested positive for COVID-19 in the OPT and just over 1,500 had died. Since the start of the pandemic, about 70 percent of cases and 75 percent of deaths have occurred in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and 30 percent of cases and 25 percent of deaths have occurred in the Gaza Strip.

Throughout 2020, the Government of Palestine periodically imposed significant public health restrictions in response to fluctuating caseloads, and these restrictions sharply curtailed social and economic activity. The Palestinians' closest trading partner, Israel, suffered an even higher caseload in both absolute and per capita terms, and large parts of the Israeli economy were shut down for significant stretches of 2020. Consequently, Palestinian workers commuting into Israel faced both lower demand for their labour and unpredictable public health restrictions on their

movement. During the first lockdown in spring 2020, around 150,000 Palestinians lost their jobs, of which 41,000 were employed in Israel and the settlements. By the end of 2020, nearly half of all Palestinians needed some form of humanitarian assistance. Rising needs and complicated operating environments put great stress on Palestinian systems of social protection, education, and health.

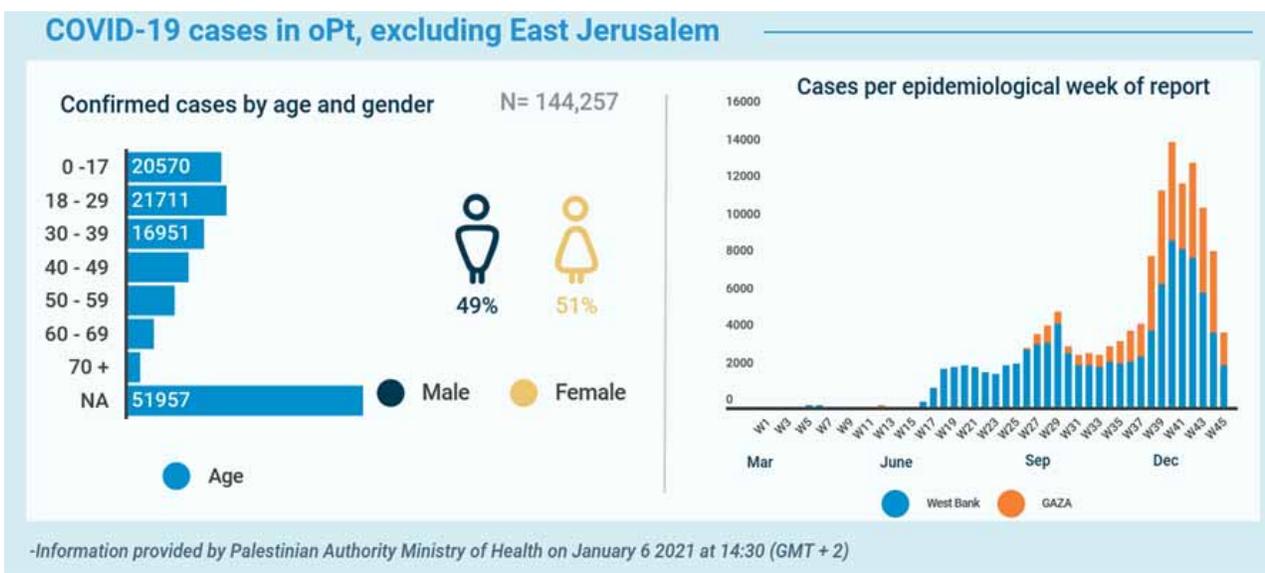
In the face of this emergency, the United Nations, international partners and NGO's, have continued to deliver critical humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestinian people. In March 2020, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) prepared an Inter-Agency Response Plan, to support efforts by the Palestinian authorities to contain the pandemic. The initial financial request (\$42.4 million), which covered interventions through the end of June, was subsequently expanded to cover needs until end December 2020 and eventually amounted to \$77.75 million.

On 15 December 2020, the Palestinian Prime Minister and the Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory launched the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. The plan included an appeal for \$417 million, currently funded at 14.2 per cent, to help 1.8 million vulnerable people over the coming year. The latest humanitarian needs assessment found that 2.5 million Palestinians—some 47 per cent of the population—currently need aid.



On the development side, the UNCT published its COVID-19 Development System Response Plan in July 2020. The UNCT is currently implementing \$140 million in COVID-19 development response programming to be delivered across 2020 and 2021. Approximately two-thirds of this amount is already funded through existing or reprogrammed resources. In addition to the \$140 million in direct programming, the UNCT has also identified an additional \$45 million in “scalable” support programs for affected households and SMEs, comprising a portfolio of Cash for Work programs, Cash Transfer Programs, microfinance and revolving loan support, and direct support to smallholder agricultural producers. These support programs can be rapidly scaled up should additional donor support be forthcoming.

During 2020, UN agencies and their partners delivered a range of medical supplies, including more than 171,000 COVID-19 PCR tests; approximately seven million infection protection and control items; 95 ventilators; 40 oxygen concentrators; 75 patient monitors; 37 ICU beds and 86 other patient beds. Advocacy and mediation from the UN Special Coordinator and Deputy Special Coordinator helped create conditions for the restart of coordination between Israel and Palestine and the subsequent transfer of \$1.1 billion in revenues to the Palestinian Authority in December 2020. The reengagement between the parties has improved and will continue to improve the Palestinian public health response to COVID-19 and accelerate the socioeconomic recovery.





3. HUMAN, SOCIO AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Despite the challenging context, the United Nations continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian and development assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Some of that assistance targeted Palestinian individuals and communities in areas beyond the reach of the Palestinian Authority, including East Jerusalem and Area C, in the occupied West Bank, and Gaza. The United Nations focused its efforts on the most vulnerable segments of the population.

EDUCATION

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



In 2020, UNRWA continued to provide free primary education to 286,645 students in 278 elementary and preparatory schools in Gaza the majority of which are operating on a double shift basis. A further 45,883 students received education in 96 elementary and preparatory schools in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In addition, technical and vocational education and training is provided to an additional 1,949 students in Gaza and 1,053 students in the West Bank.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted students' education. UNRWA Schools were closed in both Gaza and the West Bank from March until the end of the 2019/20 school year, in line with the decision of the State of Palestine. During the 2020/21 school year, temporary closures have continued in schools with high numbers of COVID-19 cases.

To accommodate an expanding student body, reduce the number of facilities that operate on a double and triple shift basis and enhance the protection of students, UNRWA upgraded ten Agency schools in Gaza during the reporting period. A further ten schools were rehabilitated and one was reconstructed in the West Bank.

UNICEF provided 1,670 schools with essential hygiene and cleaning materials reaching nearly 62,250 students.

With UNFPA, UNDP, the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Empowerment, the private sector, and academia, UNICEF supported ten teams of young people to design solutions to improve education and civic engagement through GenU Youth Challenge initiatives. Five teams were mentored and financially supported to develop their ideas. Two teams were selected to compete globally with 80 teams from 40 different countries.

UNICEF, together with local partners, provided 1,585

adolescents with entrepreneurial and civic engagement skills. Among these adolescents, 100, who were Out of school Adolescents from Gaza, were integrated into a one-year professional vocational diploma.

UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education to support around 50,000 education staff in 2,259 schools to operationalize and implement the "COVID-19 Prevention and Control in School Protocol"

UNFPA supported Youth Friendly Health Services in three universities in the West Bank and Gaza. 2,500 university students were reached with health services, including sexual and reproductive health and psychosocial support. A mobile application focused on young people's sexual and reproductive health information needs was launched.

UNFPA supported gender equality and GBV prevention in schools, training 40 teachers in the West Bank and reaching over 12,000 adolescents with gender equality education through 'Majd' – a virtual character who faces issues and challenges typical for adolescents, helping students to reflect and learn.

UNDP installed solar systems in three governmental girls' schools in Gaza, benefiting approximately 3008 students. 389 undergraduate students benefited from the Al Fakhora Scholarship and Empowerment Programme.

UNDP supported improved access to quality education for 21,308 students in 55 schools in marginalized communities of East Jerusalem and the West Bank.



UNESCO worked with the Ministry of Education to conduct an assessment for the development of the educational TV Channel and supported the Ministry's website and e-learning platform to increase interaction with the community, partners and students. It also supported the Ministry with online learning materials such as Arabic stories through the Global Digital Library project and videos for healthy lifestyles and psychosocial support.

UNESCO finalized the training manual on inclusive education and started the training of trainers, which will be scaled up to around 3,000 teachers in the most vulnerable schools in Palestine. It also provided a needs assessment workshop and started preparing a teacher's guide to mainstream cognitive, emotional, social, and

behavioural skills for students in determination schools in hospitals.

In Gaza, UNMAS provided training to over 15,000 persons at risk of being harmed by explosive remnants of war. UNMAS continues to provide emergency explosive ordnance disposal and risk mitigation support to all United Nations school facilities in Gaza.

UNOPS is supporting the construction of an educational facility in East Jerusalem that focuses on science and technology to increase access to quality education for Palestinian girls and boys in the city. UNOPS also supported the furnishing and equipping of the newly constructed Palestine National School for Administration in Ramallah.

HEALTH

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



WHO continued to promote universal health coverage and the right to health, through health system strengthening, monitoring of barriers to health care access and attacks against health care, and advocacy to address policies and practices impacting on the health rights of Palestinians. The organization continued its work to enhance information systems, build capacities through implementation of a regional framework for action, and undertook assessments of management and performance of the primary health care system.

WHO worked to strengthen capacities to prevent, manage and control NCDs, including mental health disorders, and to reduce risk factors for violence and injuries. WHO continued providing technical support to the Ministry of Health to sustain the implementation of the Package of essential NCD Interventions across all primary health-care centres in the West Bank and Gaza.

WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, with the support from the Government of France, worked to improve the provision of maternal and neonatal health care services in Gaza. WHO implemented the Early essential new-born care (EENC), a cost-effective package of interventions, in five government hospitals and six non-governmental hospital maternity units in the Gaza Strip. WHO coached 294 midwives and nurses and 169 doctors on EENC and ad-hoc teams were formed in all Gaza hospitals.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health through partnerships with local NGOs to update the National Neonate Health Care Protocols, including the early identification of developmental delays and disabilities in children and the baby-friendly hospital initiative's

principles. The newly endorsed neonatal protocol is a critical mechanism for harmonizing neonatal services and improving their quality in Palestine.

UNICEF ensured uninterrupted procurement of vaccines and sustained continued vaccination of children. UNICEF and WHO supported the development of the comprehensive multi-year immunization plan (2020-2024).

UNRWA conducted approximately 2.7 million face-to-face primary health care patient consultations at its 22 health-care facilities in Gaza and over 756,000 consultations in the West Bank at its 43 health-care facilities. The number of face-to-face consultations declined steeply compared to the previous reporting period because of the pandemic.

During the suspension of coordination between the Palestinian Authority and Israeli authorities WHO established a temporary mechanism for patient and companion permit applications submitting over 1400 patient applications and over 1600 companion applications for permits.

In Gaza, UNOPS supported the installation of a 715 kilo-volt-ampere (kVA) solar power system at the European Gaza Hospital, contributing to a sustainable source of electricity.



In addition, 23,067 Palestine refugees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and a further 13,924 Palestine refugees in Gaza received assistance for secondary and tertiary health-care costs. UNRWA continued to prioritize care for the 98,373 patients in Gaza and 42,177 patients in the West Bank diagnosed with NCDs. Services were adapted to protect those at high risk of contracting COVID-19.

UNFPA procured essential sexual and reproductive health supplies including medical equipment, drugs, disposables, and personal protective equipment for 76 health facilities covering an estimated 300,000 people. UNFPA provided capacity development for some 595 health care providers on essential sexual and reproductive health services

UNDP upgraded the Chemotherapy department at the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, providing

access to healthcare services to around 3,200 cancer patients.

UNDP installed 2 microwaves for medical waste treatment in Gaza, 15 autoclaves, medical waste transport vehicles, and trained over 6,110 healthcare workers.

WFP extended its Cash-based Transfer assistance to 1,616 beneficiaries enabling them to buy vitamin and mineral rich food from local shops. WFP helped creating a community of women eager to exchange views and ideas about different topics on health and nutrition, such as the prevention of anaemia.

UNMAS provided explosive remnants of war risk mitigation advice and clearance to UNRWA health centres.



595
Healthcare providers
received capacity
building and training

UNFPA provided 52,000 people living in remote areas of the West Bank with access to essential primary health care services through mobile clinics. The services integrate gender-based violence response and youth friendly services in addition to sexual and reproductive health services.



WATER AND SANITATION

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



UNICEF reached 320,650 children and their families, who benefited from the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation services, and the promotion of safe hygiene.

UNICEF, with the Palestinian Water Authority, completed the rehabilitation and construction of water networks in the southern West Bank providing approximately 5,000 people in vulnerable communities with safe drinking water. In coordination with local municipalities, UNICEF provided water for 1,045 children and their caregivers in the southern West Bank.

UNDP handed over the Khan Younis Waste Water Treatment Plant to the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility. UNDP constructed the plant with a 26,600 cubic metres capacity per day, serving 217,000 Khan Younis residents. UNDP is installing the first phase (1.3 MWp) of the 07 MWp solar energy system that will provide a constant supply of electricity.

UNOPS, in collaboration with UNRWA, is supporting the

construction of wastewater collection and storm water drainage systems in Ein Sultan Refugee Camp in Jericho to improve health and hygiene conditions.

UNMAS provided Explosive Remnants of War risk assessments for water projects implemented by UNICEF and the Office of the Quartet, which helped to clear 15,580 m² of land and benefited vital infrastructure projects.

FAO supported access to irrigation for 3,000 households in the West Bank and Gaza through the rehabilitation and construction of ground-water wells, rain-water harvesting cisterns, water towers, reservoirs and irrigation wells. These activities improved the management of more than 30,000 cubic meters of water.

Khan Younis Waste Water Treatment Plant



EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



UNDP cash-for-work programme in Gaza provided 2,883 short-term jobs and generated approximately 308,409 workdays. In addition, 200 youth benefited from internship opportunities and 90 others participated in E-works technical and freelancing initiatives provided by Al Fakhora Scholarship and Empowerment Programme.

Approximately 23,329 workdays were generated under UNDP's Employment Generation Programme (EGP) through investments in 43 social and economic infrastructure interventions across the State of Palestine.

UNDP in partnership with the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection (PFESP) provided financial and technical support to 78 MSMEs in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip in the services, light industries and agricultural sectors retaining a total of 393 employees. In parallel, UNDP and the Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committee rolled out a mixed financial and technical support package to 25 women led MSMEs in the service sector in Gaza.

UNDP established a Business Centre at the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP) to support Palestinian business development and expansion, and enhance their competitiveness at local and international markets.

FAO established a mechanism for supporting private investments in agribusiness by matching investment grants. FAO supported 105 private investments for a total value of \$9.1 million through investment grants for \$4.4 million.

FAO provided entrepreneurship training to 400 Palestinian youth from four Universities to promote youth's uptake of green jobs and green enterprises. The trainees will receive internship opportunities and investment grants to undertake entrepreneurial initiatives across the agri-food sector.

ILO supported to the Ministry of Labour to improve labour market analysis and responsive policy planning that promotes inclusive and sustainable employment creation.

ILO continued to work on the review of the Palestinian Labour Law. Following the review, 16 new amendments and 19 new recommendations have been proposed.

ILO conducted a study to review the policies, mechanisms for workers' protection, working conditions of a part of the professional services sector where there

is a high female labour participation in administrative jobs, specifically within law firms, engineering offices, private medical clinics, accounting and auditing offices.

ILO continued to address issues related to labour inspection and occupational safety and health (OSH). Despite the pandemic, ILO conducted trainings for 163 government officials and staff on occupational safety and health and gender-responsive labour inspection.

ILO provided support for the strengthening of the Cooperative Work Agency, to help it to fulfil its mandate in serving the cooperative sector as a regulatory administrative body and a centre of promotional services. In 2020, ILO supported the update of the Cooperative Work Agency sectoral strategy (2021-2023).

UN-Women reached 52,311 women, girls, men, and boys through a social media campaign raising awareness on the importance of women's work force participation and economic empowerment through a national social media campaign.

In 2020, UNRWA provided 1,790 microfinance loans worth \$2.23 million to Palestine refugees in Gaza. In the West Bank, UNRWA delivered 4,516 loans, valued at \$6.18 million.

UN-Women provided technical assistance to the financial sector, in particular the banking sector, with the aim of mainstreaming gender in the workplace and improving women's access to upper-level management positions.

ILO supported the development of the first National Employment Strategy, a critical tool for the recovery and sustainability of the labour market, which will benefit all Palestinian men and women.



SOCIAL PROTECTION

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



In Gaza, UNRWA distributed quarterly food parcels to 98,935 individuals classified as abject poor. Another 36,129 beneficiaries in the West Bank were assisted through cash-based transfers.

UN-Women refurbished and rehabilitated four operating women’s shelters in the West Bank and Gaza, and standard operating procedures were developed. During the pandemic, awareness-raising activities were conducted on gender-based violence services and on the importance of reporting cases of violence against women.

WFP worked with national institutions to enhance the capacity of social safety nets to assist poor and vulnerable people through cash-based transfers and in-kind food distribution regularly assisting around 350,000 people. This system not only gives beneficiaries a dignified choice in what products they buy, it also acts stimulate the local economy by regularly injecting approximately \$4 million. In response to the pandemic, WFP scaled up food assistance to support additional 84,000 people.

WFP extended its cash-based transfer assistance to 265 families by targeting vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and children under five years in the H2 area of Hebron enabling them to purchase vitamin and mineral rich food.

With the Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF launched a social protection response to COVID-19 to support 687 households made newly poor. Each household will receive \$200, which is planned to cover 50 per cent of a household’s needs for two months.

UNFPA provided 23,000 women, girls, men and other vulnerable children and adolescents with GBV services and case management through the 10 established “safe spaces” across Palestine. UNFPA provided 3,000 vulnerable women with cash and voucher assistance to alleviate financial pressure and prevent GBV.



WFP cash-based transfers and in-kind food distribution results



CULTURE

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



Throughout the year, despite the restriction of movements, UNESCO continued to supervise the rehabilitation works in the Riwaya Museum in Bethlehem to allow this place to become a multimedia interactive museum on Palestinian culture. The initiatives provided temporary job opportunities totalling 4,000 working days. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic UNESCO, in close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, is conducting the digitization of a small size educational museum to provide online public access to its objects.

UNESCO promoted the safeguarding of Palestinian intangible cultural heritage through a series of capacity-building activities during which more than 60 professionals and heritage practitioners have been trained. UNESCO also conducted 22 pilot-inventorying exercises in the field on different dimensions of Palestinian intangible heritage, including in Gaza and within Bedouin communities.

UNESCO supported the Ministry of Culture in promoting the resilience of the Palestinian artists and cultural industries by organizing three #ResiliArt debates focusing on youth and emerging technologies in times of COVID-19, the status of women in culture, the resilience of Palestinian cultural institutions and prospects for the independent cultural scene in Palestine.

UNDP rehabilitated two historical sites in Qalandia and Kufr Aqab as part of the Employment Generation Programme, in addition to 40 shops in the H2 area of Hebron.

UNESCO fully rehabilitated five cultural heritage sites, including the Hebron Old Town museum and a vocational school in the Old City of Jerusalem.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



In 2020, FAO delivered close to \$17.5 million to promote the resilience of vulnerable fishing, farming and herding communities through the adoption of innovative technologies.

The 2030 National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the 2020–2022 National Investment Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture, formulated with the support of FAO, was endorsed by the Government of Palestine cabinet on 7 October 2020.

FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture in updating the National Agriculture Sector Strategy and conducting food losses studies, and also conducted bi-weekly rapid appraisals of COVID-19 impacts on the Palestinian agrifood system.

FAO increased the productivity of 1213 small farmers in agriculture cooperatives through in-kind and technical support, including post-harvest technologies, tractors, planting and harvesting machines, and drying facilities

and nurseries.

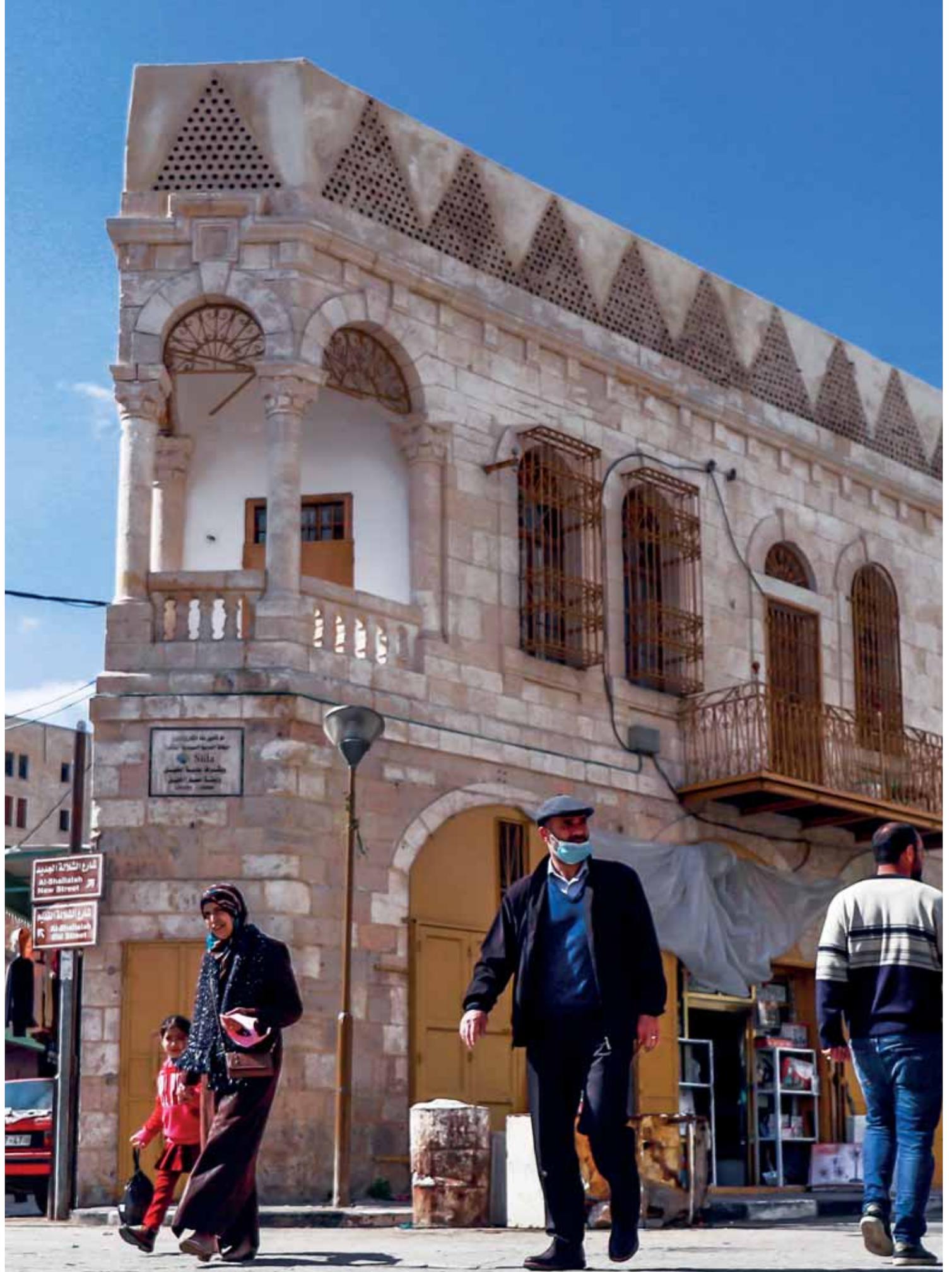
UNDP provided agricultural inputs in priority sub-sectors to 164 small scale farmers and 13 cooperatives living in 25 marginalized communities in the West Bank. In parallel, UNDP provided 700 vulnerable farmers impacted by COVID-19 with tools, equipment and seeds.

UNDP supported eight farmers to adopt Hydroponic technology in the West Bank to increase food security in marginalized families.

UN-Habitat supported 60 vulnerable households in the Bethlehem area with home-based agro-technologies to secure more food for vulnerable and elderly people.

UNOPS is supporting the upgrading of the Palestinian side of the Kerem Shalom Commercial Crossing contributing to the protection of food and medical supplies and the reduction of economic losses and transaction costs.





HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



OHCHR worked with governmental institutions, civil society and other UN agencies to ensure the adoption of a human rights-based approach in the response plan to COVID-19 and supported the preparation of guidance notes on issues including detention, justice, women, children and persons with disabilities' rights.

OHCHR continued supporting the national human rights institution and civil society organizations to build their capacities to engage with the treaty body mechanisms and strengthen their monitoring and follow-up of the implementation by the Government of Palestine of its international human rights treaty obligations.

OHCHR coordinated the protection cluster work with partners in West Bank and Gaza with focus on the protection issues in relation to the pandemic outbreak, including: mapping and advocating on behalf of communities without access to services; mainstreaming protection amongst partners to enhance their capacities in assessing and responding to the pandemic.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development to establish a process to follow up on the Concluding Observations issued by the Committee on the Convention on the

Rights of the Child. UNICEF and OHCHR detailed the reporting process on the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF contributed to strengthening child protection systems and ensuring documentation, prevention, and response services are in place for grave violations. The Social Work curriculum was finalized, and the National Intersectoral Violence Against Children Strategy (2021-2023) defined a framework to ensure social workers' capacities are enhanced, and children are better protected.

UNICEF reached 62,140 children with child protection, mental health and psychosocial support services.

UN-Habitat engaged 40 female and male youth from Khan Younis in the design of a safe and inclusive public space by utilizing digital tools and computer games.

OHCHR implemented activities with the SDG16 National Team, in particular the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior to mainstream human rights and integrating SDG16 targets and indicators into national strategies.



UN-Women helped to provide 719 sessions of individual and group therapy and psychological first aid to female inmates detained in the correctional and rehabilitation centres in Jenin, Ramallah and Jericho.

UN-Women supported the Palestinian Bar Association in Gaza to develop its gender strategy. Furthermore, 86 lawyers participated in awareness-raising activities to enhance their knowledge on the personal status law, violence against women, and international human rights.

With UNFPA support, more than 100,000 young people were reached with empowerment programs through community-based initiatives, capacity development interventions and community awareness sessions. UNFPA supported 2 women's emergency shelters in the West Bank and Gaza and fully equipped an isolation room in each shelter to be able to receive new cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNODC delivered a workshop on challenges of access to information of media professionals in the criminal justice system, as part of the wider efforts to support the capacity of first responders and the media to deal appropriately with violence against women.

Under the Line Up, Live Up! Programme to promote sports among youth, UNODC handed over sports equipment to 30 Ministry of Education schools benefitting around 15,000 students.

In Gaza, UNMAS implemented a community-based

resilience training initiative focusing on women's empowerment, which reached 1,084 individuals, including 788 women.

In the West Bank, UNRWA provided counselling and case management services to 148 survivors of gender-based violence and 181 child protections cases. Of those cases, 41 received health-care, relief and social services from UNRWA. Furthermore, 63 emergency cases received immediate assistance.

In Gaza, UNRWA provided mental health and psychosocial support services to 11,104 Palestine refugees and referred 901 Palestine refugee women to legal counsellors. Community-awareness and prevention activities relating to GBV, domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse reached a further 1,784 Palestine refugees.

UNESCO, OHCHR and partners organized a high-level webinar on freedom of expression online and offline, press freedom and human rights defenders. The webinar helped building synergies with international counterparts and fostering discussion and information sharing among national counterparts.

UNICEF, UN-Women and UNDP provided legal aid services including for COVID-19 response, to over 21,000 Palestinians (72 per cent women and girls). Some 11,500 people benefited from in-person legal awareness.

ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



UNDP enhanced access to adequate housing for 120 people through the restoration and rehabilitation of 22 houses in East Jerusalem.

UNDP developed the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Transport, Palestinian Water Authority and Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority on mainstreaming climate change in the government planning and budget process. In addition, a five-year country programme for the green climate fund articulating Palestine's climate actions was developed.

UNDP developed a comprehensive Master Plan for Wadi Gaza along with an Investment Needs and Park Programme Development Strategy to support native biodiversity, improve water quality, eliminate solid waste and construction debris, and manage flood risk.

UNDP supported the Palestinian Water Authority

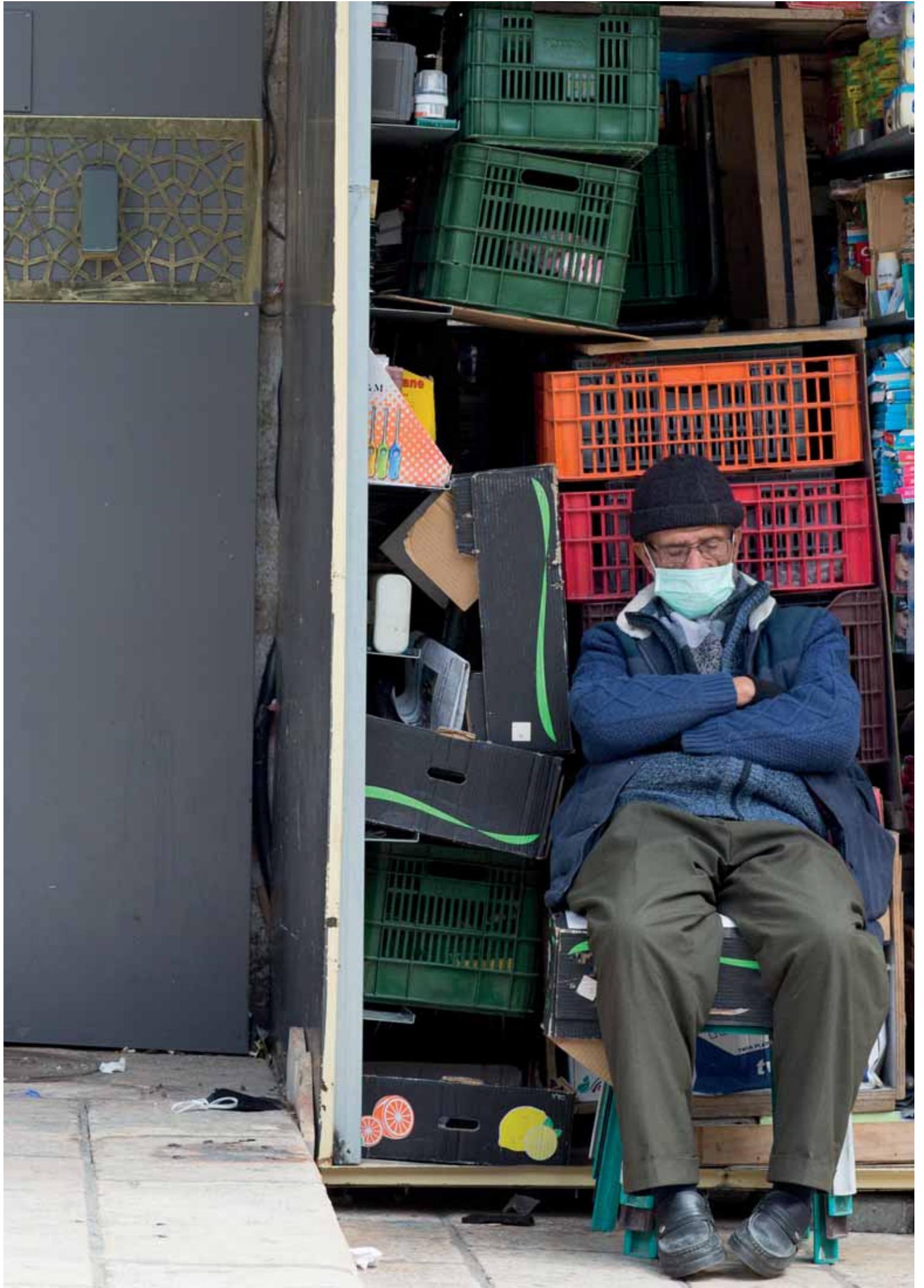
managing transboundary wastewater in the West Bank and developed a digital platform to monitor, record and analyse data on wastewater flow.

UN-Habitat conducted a series of awareness-raising sessions on eliminating violence against women in public spaces. UN-Habitat delivered spatial planning support targeting 1.5 million Palestinians, mostly living in Area C, and it is supporting the formulation and adoption of the flagship National Urban Policy for Palestine.

UN-Habitat, in partnership with UNRWA, supported the collection of solid waste, and installed hand washing units to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Bethlehem urban area.

UNOPS is supporting the construction of a wastewater treatment plant at the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park, which will reduce the load of industrial wastewater.





4. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

An estimated 1.8 million Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory need humanitarian assistance. Given donors' limited resources, humanitarian agencies continue to streamline and prioritize activities to target the maximum number of vulnerable people in a highly constrained context. In 2020 humanitarian agencies had three priorities: protecting civilians; providing basic services and improved access to resources to enhance livelihoods; and supporting vulnerable Palestinians to cope with the protracted crisis. The inter-agency COVID-19 response plan for the OPT was designed to enable effective public health and multisector interventions, with a continued emphasis on supporting the most vulnerable people. It aims to support the efforts, led by the Government of Palestine, to contain the disease and mitigate its impact. One of the key UN activities to support the people and economy in Gaza is the procurement and delivery of around 3 million liters of fuel every week to the Gaza Power Plant, increasing the electricity supply from 4 hours daily to around 12, implemented by UNOPS.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SUPPORT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



FAO provided critical emergency agriculture support to more than 3,000 families in Gaza by installing solar energy systems to operate irrigation, poultry and dairy farms, ensuring uninterrupted production of food amidst the electricity crises in Gaza.

In the West Bank, UNRWA, in partnership with WFP, provided in-kind food assistance to more than 37,000 members of Bedouin communities. A further 24,218 food-insecure individuals received cash assistance from UNRWA. Additionally, the Agency provided critical support to 14,094 families in quarantine and in isolated communities by providing food parcels.

In Gaza, WFP supported additional 24,000 people who have been affected by COVID-19 through the cash-base transfer programme. Furthermore, WFP extended its direct cash assistance to 7,332 people under its pilot Multi-Purpose Cash project.

WFP provided 100 vulnerable households in Gaza and 123 families and three institutions in the West Bank with climate-smart agricultural assets (including hydroponic

food and green fodder production units, wicking beds, home gardens, floating beds and greenhouse) to improve their dietary intake and strengthen their resilience.

UNICEF supported a total of 3,191 young children with assessment for malnutrition and ECD, of which 109 children were treated for malnutrition. A total of 2,732 high risk pregnant and lactating mothers benefited from 85 educational sessions.

With the Ministry of Education, UNICEF supported the implementation of the Nutrition Friendly School initiative in 22 primary schools, reaching 7,724 adolescent girls and 467 teachers in the West Bank and Gaza.

UNRWA supported 1,043,173 beneficiaries through in-kind emergency food assistance in Gaza. To contain the spread of COVID-19, UNRWA established door-to-door delivery of food baskets, enhanced hygiene measures and introduced an appointment system to avoid overcrowding.



EMERGENCY EDUCATION SUPPORT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



UNICEF facilitated safe access to schools for 658 children and 32 teachers in the H2 area of Hebron.

With UNICEF support, 36,336 humanitarian-affected children were provided with essential stationery kits to enable them to continue learning.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNRWA's Education in Emergencies programme was adapted to ensure the continuity of education through self-learning. Since the onset of the pandemic, the Agency developed and distributed electronic and printed self-learning materials

to supplement student textbooks. Where possible, education staff in both Gaza and the West Bank reached out to students through social media and telephone to monitor their learning progress.

In response to the pandemic, UNRWA adopted a blended learning modality in all its schools in the West Bank. Approximately 32,200 students accessed remote learning during periods of school closures. Psychosocial support continued to be provided in all schools and 46,016 students accessed this service.

EMERGENCY HEALTH SUPPORT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



The UN and its partners supported the Palestinian Government's effort to control the pandemic, reduce the demand for hospital critical care services and provide adequate care for COVID-19 patients. The UN and its partners facilitated the procurement and delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE), oxygen therapy machines, testing materials and other critical equipment.

WHO provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health to strengthen the health system. Activities included the establishment of respiratory triage centres and quarantine, isolation, and treatment facilities; the implementation of good practices for disease surveillance, contact tracing, laboratory diagnosis, infection prevention and control, clinical management of critical cases, and respiratory triage through the training of frontline workers and provision of the latest evidence-based guidance.

WHO worked with the Ministry of Health to develop the national emergency action plan to respond to mental health needs during the pandemic and conducted a study on the impact of COVID-19 on Palestinian adolescent mental health.

WHO and UNICEF assisted in the formation of a risk communication and community engagement taskforce comprising the Ministry of Health, the Bank of Palestine,

the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations, to produce a national health awareness campaign.

WHO continued to support pre-hospital response services, emergency departments, acute surgical capacities, and the provision of limb-saving and limb reconstruction surgeries and treatment, responding to long-term needs from injuries sustained during demonstrations of the Great March of Return in Gaza from March 2018 to December 2019.

In Gaza, UNRWA provided secondary or tertiary care to 4,865 refugees classified as poor and an additional 4,500 patients were provided with life-saving medicines. In West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA introduced specific COVID-19 prevention measures and prioritized essential services, established a triage system at its health-care facilities and introduced telemedicine consultations and home delivery of medicines.

Through the efforts of WHO and UNICEF, the UN has supported the Palestinian government's preparedness to receive and administer vaccines, including through the global COVAX-AMC facility.

UNRWA provided uninterrupted mental health and psychosocial support services in Gaza and the West Bank. Mental health counsellors provided counselling to 2,541 adults in Gaza, and 3,054 adults in the West Bank.

In Gaza, UNICEF supported the training of around 55 nurses and midwives on the updated PNHV protocol and ensured delivery of PNHV services to 6,579 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and babies. UNICEF-supported interventions contributed to the improved quality of neonatal health care services in five neonatal health-care units benefitting 14,650 newborns.

UNFPA provided access to essential primary health care services through mobile clinics to an estimated number of 52,000 people living in Area C of the West Bank. The services integrate gender-based violence response and youth friendly services in addition to sexual and reproductive health services.

UNFPA provided training to 255 health professionals on infection prevention measures in major maternities and primary health-care clinics. Gender-based violence service providers were supported to shift to virtual and phone services and counselling, through training for 70 service providers on safety and protection protocols. These service providers provided virtual and phone based services to over 2500 women in need of protection.

UNDP strengthened the health sector response to COVID-19 through the deployment of 143 health workers

in Gaza and 689 health workers in the West Bank.

During the suspension of coordination between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Authorities, WFP facilitated - through the logistics cluster - customs clearance of a humanitarian cargo, which carried COVID-19 related aid equipment to Palestinians.

UNODC provided the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centers across the West Bank with 2500 communicable disease leaflets, 1500 hygiene leaflets, and 200 COVID-19 awareness posters, in addition to PPEs for prisoners and officers during the outbreak of the pandemic.

UNOPS supported the procurement and delivery of essential drugs and medical consumables for Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem and the European Gaza Hospital, also in support of the COVID-19 response.



UNICEF ensured that quality essential lifesaving health and nutrition services, including the provision of assistive devices, were accessible, available, and acceptable to 27,604 high-risk pregnant and lactating women and 112,391 children under the age of five.



EMERGENCY HOUSING SUPPORT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



Following the summer 2014 hostilities, 11,000 homes were totally destroyed and 142,041 Palestine refugee houses were impacted, of which 7,445 were categorized as totally destroyed and in need of reconstruction. In 2020, UNOPS supported the reconstruction of 310 houses in Gaza and the rehabilitation of another 363. UNRWA rehabilitated 396 substandard shelters in Gaza.

UNRWA provided cash assistance to 54 displaced families following the demolition of their homes by the Israeli authorities. Furthermore, 284 Palestine refugee families received cash assistance and referrals to meet their humanitarian needs caused by search and arrest operations by Israeli security forces in Palestine refugee camps.

UNDP supported 1,397 internally displaced people to

return to their homes following the reconstruction of 215 totally damaged housing units in Gaza, generating approximately 60,000 workdays.



UNOPS continued to support the import of construction materials to Gaza for the reconstruction and repair of housing. Since 2015, 2.5 million ton of cement have been imported and monitored.



EMERGENCY INCOME GENERATION

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



In 2020, UNRWA's cash-for-work programme in Gaza was partially suspended due to COVID-19. Nevertheless, UNRWA provided 8,105 people with short-term job opportunities, generating approximately 416,192 work-days and injecting over \$5 million into the local economy.

UN-Women provided 300 women, rendered vulnerable by the pandemic, with cash-for-work assistance and job placements in service sectors deemed essential during the lockdown.

EMERGENCY WATER AND SANITATION SUPPORT

GOALS WE ARE SUPPORTING



UNICEF supported safe drinking water for vulnerable communities and children in the West Bank through the rehabilitation and construction of water pipeline networks in Area C as well as developing hydraulic maps to ensure the fair distribution of water.

UNICEF provided hygiene kits through e-vouchers for 18,000 households in Gaza and 5,000 households in the West Bank. UNICEF also distributed 86,520 water bottles and 2,040 hygiene kits to quarantine and health centres in the Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. UNICEF provided hygiene materials to schools and conducted COVID-19 related awareness raising activities for over 3,500 students.

UNRWA continued to provide basic water and sanitation services in all eight refugee camps in Gaza and 19 refugee camps in the West Bank to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases and other public health hazards. In response to COVID-19, UNRWA enhanced hygiene and sanitation measures, including the hiring of 300 additional sanitation workers in Gaza and 304 additional workers in the West Bank.

Responding to the pandemic, UN-Habitat supported the manufacturing and installation of handwashing units in the urban area of Bethlehem governorate contributing to enhance personal hygiene and safety and prevent the rapid spread of the virus.



5. INSTITUTION-BUILDING

WFP provided support to the Ministry of Social Development to strengthen the efficiency and robustness of the national Social Protection System. WFP, ILO and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of Social Development to strengthen the capacity of national systems to include persons with disabilities and elderly people.

FAO provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture to lead, coordinate and ensure the functionality of three multi-stakeholder interest groups namely for value chain and markets, land and water development, and food security.

UNOPS continued to provide technical assistance to the High Judicial Council to strengthen its capacities for strategic planning and management of facilities.

UNOPS supported the Palestinian Authority Security Forces to develop a unified gender training manual.

UNODC supported the forensic science laboratory of the Palestinian Civil Police. UNODC helped to establish a new biological screening services section within the laboratory, for the examination of biological evidence of sexual and gender-based violence, and provided training in that regard. To enhance digital evidence processing, UNODC also delivered hardware digital forensic equipment to the Palestinian Public Prosecution Office.

In 2020, UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to the national programme on drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, in the revision of a draft law to combat human trafficking in the State of Palestine.

UNFPA supported the establishment of an Adolescent Health Unit at the Ministry of Health. This was accompanied by the development of a three-year strategic framework on adolescent & youth sexual and reproductive health, endorsed by the Ministry of Health and the Palestine Adolescent Health Coalition.

UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP jointly supported the Prime Minister's office to begin roll-out of a Youth National Volunteer service to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and employability skills training for young people.

WHO supported the Palestinian National Institute of Public Health and the Ministry of Health to develop a national COVID-19 Surveillance System, a website to provide information and indicators on COVID-19, undertake a survey addressing experiences of stigma, assess to antenatal and postnatal care, immunization, and medicines, and train frontline health care workers.

UN-Women worked with the Palestinian Civil Police, the High Judicial Council, the Attorney General Office, the Supreme Judge Department, and the Ministry of Social Development to support the development of 14 protocols including Standard Operating Procedures, 5 emergency plans, gender responsive guidelines on strategic litigation for violence against women prosecutors.

UN-Women facilitated training for 78 judges, police, and prosecutors to strengthen their capacity in line with international standards.

UN ESCWA supported the State of Palestine by organizing the second advanced workshop on the Implementation of the Institutional Gaps Assessment Methodology in the Workforce planning field.

UNMAS, with the Ministry of Interior, provides advice and support to the Palestinian Mine Action Centre to implement the PA's obligations under the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

UN-Habitat supported Palestinian governmental institutions, including the Ministry of Local Government and the Land and Water Settlement Commission, to build their technical and operational capacities, including for the adoption of recovery plans following the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

Inclusive partnerships are at the core of the 2030 Agenda, which calls for renewed cooperation between governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Following the dire socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Palestinian society, there is an even greater need for strong partnerships to support Palestine in its efforts to recover from the negative shocks of the pandemic.

The pandemic has taught us the importance of improving access to technology, investing in innovation and sharing knowledge to sustain national systems in adapting to new problems and challenges.

GOVERNMENT

The United Nations principal counterpart is the Government of Palestine, and its aim is to support the national development priorities, the COVID-19 response and the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are not left behind. The United Nations system in Palestine works closely with all levels of the Government and national institutions, including the Prime Minister's office and line Ministries. As highlighted in the previous chapter, the United Nations interventions look at developing new legislation and policies, providing direct technical assistance, strengthening national capacities and institutions, addressing key drivers of vulnerability. Other examples of partnerships include:

Together with the Prime Minister's office, and through the Palestinian Accelerator Lab, UNDP is supporting a challenge to solicit solutions to agri-food value chains to curb the levels of unemployment.

FAO organized a virtual training on measuring SDG 2 for the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to enhance the national capacities of the bureau to monitor SDG progress. FAO also provided technical support to prepare for the agricultural census in 2021 by reviewing data collection tools to be in line with international tools and guidance.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PARTNERS

The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) serves as the principal policy-level coordination mechanism for development assistance to the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The AHLC is chaired by Norway and co-sponsored by the EU and the US. The United Nations participates together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The AHLC seeks to promote dialogue between donors, the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel.

The AHLC met in June 2020 and convened a local donor meeting in December 2020. The AHLC maintained its

UNICEF, with the Ministry of Health, continued the implementation of a comprehensive package of services provided in governmental maternal, neonatal and child health facilities in Gaza, to address women's and children's immediate and urgent health, nutrition and developmental needs. In collaboration with WHO and UNFPA, UNICEF scaled up this support to address major gaps in services reaching 13,700 neonates.

In coordination with the Ministry of Culture and with the support of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, UNESCO partnered with the Drosos Foundation, to conduct a study based on the Culture|2030 Indicators methodology. The survey aims at measuring and assessing the transversal contribution of culture to SDGs through the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data under 22 thematic indicators divided into four main dimensions: Environment and Resilience, Prosperity and Livelihood, Knowledge and Skills, Inclusion and Participation.

UN-Habitat supported the realization of Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda through a set of interventions including, multi-layers of spatial plans to foster social cohesion, support urban-rural linkages, along with other land-based interventions to map land rights and secure tenure security, especially for the most vulnerable groups, including women and Bedouin groups.

strong support for the implementation of the package of urgent humanitarian and economic interventions agreed upon in September 2018 and for the COVID-19 response. Donor support provided space for political efforts by Egypt, the United Nations and others to prevent renewed conflict and support Palestinian reconciliation. They also provided the impetus for larger scale development projects. Qatar-funded fuel supplies for the power plant in Gaza increased the electricity supply to Gaza to an average of 12 hours per day in 2020. Important progress was also made on the construction of critical water and sanitation facilities and imports of equipment for the health-care sector.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

CSOs and NGOs are core partners to the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and are essential to the delivery of development assistance to the Palestinian people. The UN system has had working partnerships with a range of local and international NGOs and rely on local NGOs as key implementing partners especially in Gaza and Area C.

UNICEF led the implementation of the East Jerusalem action plan to safeguard the rights of children through five local NGOs and reached over 2,126 vulnerable children.

UNODC partnered with a local NGO, MEND (Middle East Non-Violence and Democracy), to engage young people

to co-create awareness raising initiatives allowing them to directly formulate their challenges, vulnerabilities, and root causes for crime, violence and other risky behaviours.

UNFPA, in partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), the Red Crescent Society, and the NGO SAWA, supported 28,635 people in Gaza and the West Bank to respond to COVID-19. Support included: provision of personal protective equipment to 1,466 frontline health and gender based violence providers; training of 242 sexual and reproductive healthcare workers on infection prevention and control; provision of life-saving sexual and reproductive health services for 7,399 women and girls. Through this joint initiative, SAWA expanded the operations of its emergency call line from 16 to 24 hours per day to ensure that man and woman in need received assistance.



THE PRIVATE SECTOR

UN-Women worked with the Palestine Monetary Authority, Bank of Palestine, Palestine Exchange and The National Bank, as signatories of the Women Empowerment Principal (WEP), to enhance women empowerment and further their efforts on gender equality. In 2020 the Arab Palestinian Investment Company (APIC), and Palestine Investment Fund (PIF) joined the WEPs community in Palestine.

UN-Women provided the Gender focal points of the Arab Palestinian Investment Company, the Palestine Exchange, the National Bank, Palestine Investment Fund,

with technical and capacity building support on gender responsive policy making, gender responsive Corporate Social Responsibility and product development in response to COVID-19.

UNDP is partnering with universities and start-up incubators to solicit innovative solutions through the Hack the Crisis initiative, reduce misinformation, provide academic counselling, and enhance e-learning.

7. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

The United Nations Country team and the Humanitarian Country team continued to meet regularly and coordinate its development and humanitarian programming in alignment with the Government's priorities.

UN JOINT PROGRAMMES

In 2020, the UNCT continued the implementation of joint programmes, including:

- Sawasya II on promoting the Rule of Law in Palestine (UNDP, UNWomen and UNICEF);
- HAYA on eliminating Violence Against Women (UN WOMEN, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNODC);
- Strengthening the food security coordination system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (FAO and WFP);
- Palestine Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme (UNICEF, UNRWA, UNDP, UNESCO);
- Enhancement of Palestinian agribusinesses capacities in trade development (FAO, ITC);
- Building the capacities of farmers and women's cooperatives or associations targeted by FAO project to efficiently and sustainably apply international cooperative practices and good cooperative governance to their businesses (FAO, ILO);
- Strengthening sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal and young children health in Gaza (UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF);
- Towards a universal and holistic social protection floor for persons with disabilities and older persons in the State of Palestine Joint Programme (UNICEF, WFP, ILO);

HDP NEXUS

In January 2020, the UNCT formally adopted a "nexus approach" to its humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding efforts. The UNCT agreed to an ambitious transformation of its strategic planning processes across the humanitarian and development systems. As a first step, the UNCT and HCT merged its data and analysis groups and worked collaboratively on several joint projects, including the Atlas of Sustainable Development, a COVID-19 impact household assessment, and the COVID-19 Socioeconomic

- Food Assistance to Bedouins and Herders in Area C (WFP, UNRWA).

In 2020, the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) programme reached over 351,000 children, aligned with the ECW global "whole-of-child" joint programming.

UNICEF, UN-Women and UNDP, under the Sawasya II joint programme provided legal aid services including for COVID-19 response, to over 21,000 Palestinians.

In 2020, the HAYA Joint Programme, led by UN WOMEN, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNODC, equipped 13 hospitals and 6 Primary Health Clinics. The Joint Programme completed the physical refurbishment and renovation of the four operating shelters in the West Bank and Gaza. Women's access to services through providing physical support to these facilities and building the capacities of responders to violence against women has been intensified during the year.

WFP along with the UNICEF and ILO are implementing the programme "Towards a Universal and Holistic Social Protection Floor for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in the State of Palestine" to reduce poverty and food insecurity amongst persons with disabilities and older persons by supporting data generation; developing legal, policy, financial frameworks; strengthening system and capacity (of supply side of social protection system); and demand generation and capacity strengthening of population.

Response Plan. In 2021, the UNCT and HCT will conduct a multi-sectoral needs assessment with an explicitly nexus-based approach. From 2021 to 2022, the humanitarian and development systems will proceed to align their strategic planning exercises—that is, the new Cooperation Framework and Humanitarian Response Plans—including identifying collective outcomes and making their timelines parallel. In broad terms, the objective is to transform the work of the United Nations system and its partners to reduce humanitarian need, accelerate sustainable development, and build peace.



COMMUNICATING TOGETHER

WHO and UNICEF supported the setup of the COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce. The taskforce is co-lead by the Ministry of Health, with participation from the Bank of Palestine, the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) and other UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The taskforce works on a national health awareness campaign and contributed to fortnightly social media assets, videos, and brochures; dissemination of risk communications messages through billboards, text messages, radio, media interviews and social media; and the establishment and maintenance of a COVID-19 dashboard and website.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY

Throughout 2020, the original BOS (approved for the period 2019-2022) transitioned to the online BOS2.0 platform. Several briefing sessions were conducted for the OMT and agencies were guided to provide input for the Cost Benefit Analysis regarding their participation in selected Common Services within BOS.

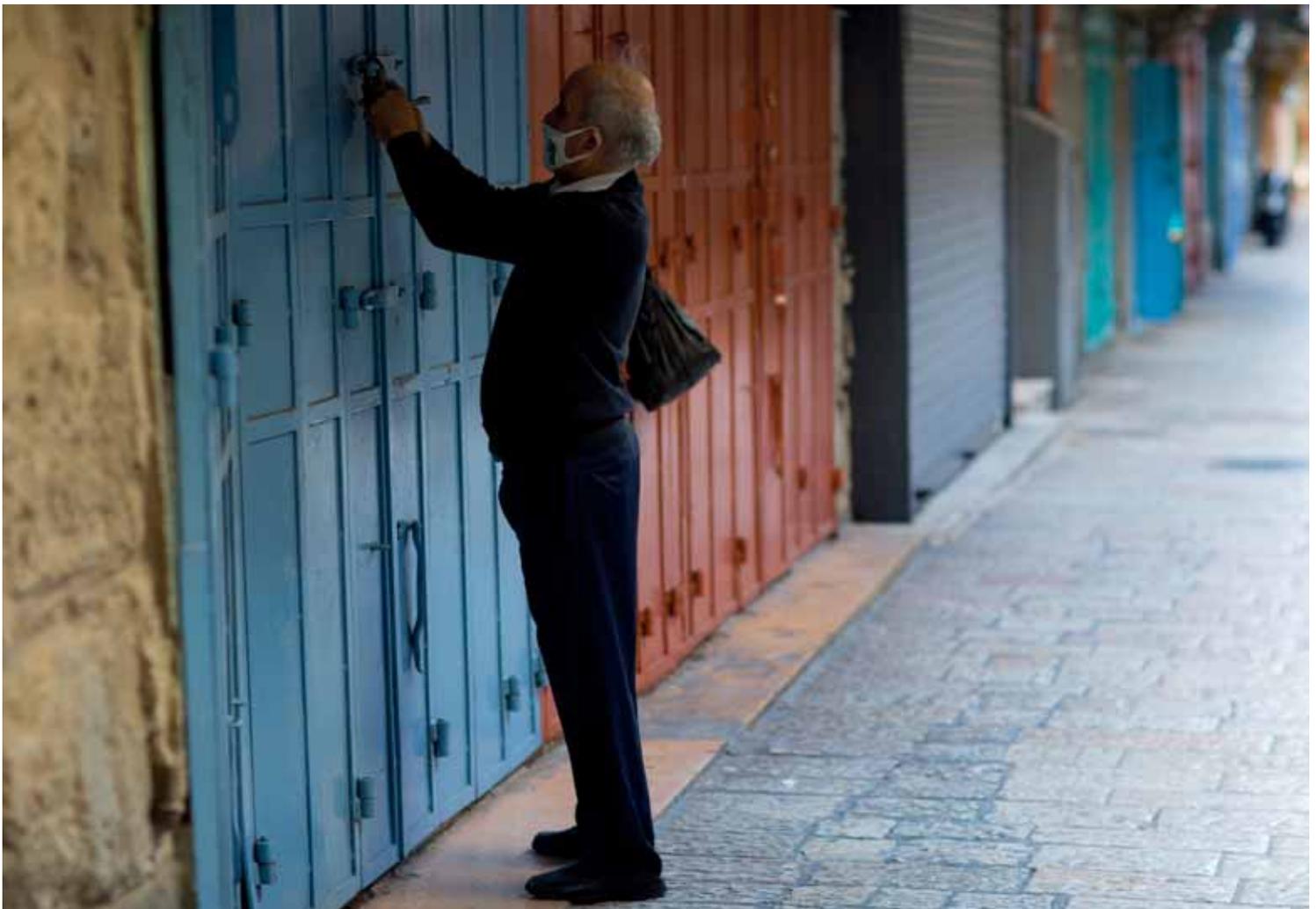
Simultaneously, Working Groups continued to meet virtually and implement part of their work plans despite the challenges due to COVID-19. Several long-term agreements (LTAs) were extended (mobile phone services and insurance for instance) and/or established (travel ticketing services); an OMT platform was created in TEAMS for the benefit of the OMT and Working Groups

in terms of data and knowledge sharing; and an HR consultant was recruited to work on the UN roster for common Service Contract positions.

Moreover, the ICT group concluded preliminary work in terms of data collection on internet services and classification of required specifications for a future ICT equipment LTA. The Procurement group, through assigned agencies, initiated efforts on several other LTAs/Common Services, which are to be concluded within the first half of 2021. The HR Working Group managed, through the OMT, to increase harmonization among UN agencies by collecting, discussing and sharing data on various issues such as staff return to the office, proposed virtual training courses for staff that could not perform duties from home (i.e. drivers), flexible working arrangements/work-life balance and available counselling services.

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

The Access Coordination Unit (ACU), established under the auspices of the Humanitarian and UN Resident Coordinator in 2008, provides critical support to the work of UN, NGO and diplomatic missions. In 2020, the ACU worked on multiple major access challenges – long-term and ongoing restrictions as well as new restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting over 10,000 UN and NGO colleagues, assisting 570 staff during access incidents through its 24/7 hotline, and providing 154 access briefings, thereby facilitating the coronavirus response and UN and partner programming.



8. LESSONS LEARNED

The continued absence of a political process to end the occupation and achieve a viable two-State solution continues to be the largest impediment to Palestinian development. Continued Israeli settlement expansion, demolitions, closures, access and movement restrictions, and other aspects of the protracted military occupation continue to have a severe impact on the humanitarian, social and political life of Palestinians and their ability to exercise their fundamental human rights. Violence and incitement continue to perpetuate mutual fear and suspicion. The internal Palestinian political divide places severe obstacles to addressing humanitarian needs and restoring a political horizon.

Furthermore, donor assistance to Palestine has been dwindling over the past years. Though Palestine, since 2008, has made progress toward reducing the budget deficit and achieving financial sustainability, it is still reliant on international assistance for government expenses and development spending. The decline in funding to the State of Palestine and the United Nations poses a challenge to the provision of development and humanitarian assistance. For example, in 2020 severe financial challenges continued to constrain UNRWA operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In addition, the viability of the Palestinian Authority has been severely undermined by an economic and fiscal crisis that has been exacerbated by the Palestinian decision to end civilian and security coordination with Israel and by the negative effects of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching humanitarian and development consequences. This crisis remains a persistent health threat that has triggered a massive economic fallout.

- Investments are needed in comprehensive preparedness and emergency response systems to protect people's health from disease outbreaks, natural and human-made disasters, armed conflict, and other hazards.

- Investments in continuation of the essential health services during the pandemic to address the risks of death, disease and disability posed by the interruption of essential health and social services for diagnosis and treatment of, and rehabilitation from, diseases other than COVID-19.

9. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2018–2022 describes the collective vision and response of the United Nations to the Government of Palestine's national development contained in the Palestinian National Policy Agenda for 2017–2022. The Framework places the Palestinian people at the centre of development programming, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requires financial resources of approximately \$1.26 billion over five years.

The humanitarian, economic and development needs of the Palestinian people are reflected in several complementary strategic and resource mobilization documents. Under the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, \$426 million was sought which combined the original \$348 million Humanitarian Response Plan request and \$78 million in subsequent COVID-19 appeals. For the 2020 Humanitarian Response

Plan, the UN system raised a total of \$295.1 million. Overall, \$380.7 million were delivered in humanitarian assistance to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

On the development side, the UNCT published its COVID-19 Development System Response Plan in July 2020. The UNCT immediately began implementing \$140 million in COVID-19 development response programming to be delivered over the subsequent 12 to 18 months. Approximately two-thirds of this amount was funded through existing or reprogrammed resources. In addition to the \$140 million in direct programming, the UNCT also identified an additional \$45 million in "scalable" support programs for affected households and SMEs, comprising a portfolio of Cash for Work programs, Cash Transfer Programs, microfinance and revolving loan support, and direct support to smallholder agricultural producers.

10. LOOKING FORWARD

In 2021, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT will continue its support to the Palestinian Government and people, including refugees, in addressing the socio-economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the areas of education, social protection, livelihood and governance.

The imperative to combat inequalities and discrimination and mainstreaming human rights and gender will continue to be at the forefront of the support the UNCT provides to the government and will continue to inform the UNCT's engagement with its various interlocutors.

The UNCT will also continue to provide policy, programmatic, and capacity development support to the Palestinian Government to ensure the 2030 Agenda and SDGs are mainstreamed in the Government planning processes and policy work. Furthermore, the UNCT will expand its support to knowledge exchange, capacity development and data management on SDGs through strengthening coordination and support to the SDGs national team, line ministries, and the national statistical office. The interventions under the COVID-19 Development System Response Plan also aim at

safeguarding progress made on the SDGs in Palestine with majority of programmatic interventions contributing to addressing the threats to SDGs imposed by the pandemic. These joint efforts will focus on access and provision of basic health services, advance social protection systems and advocate for universal basic income; women's economic participation and empowerment during the pandemic and other programs on women protection; support remote education and safe schools' operation to ensure continuity of primary and secondary educational services. Furthermore, the UNCT will continue the work of the joint coordination bodies to explore inter-agency linkages and avoid duplication of efforts.

The UNCT will provide assistance to meet the increasing needs of the population in Gaza, key to promote stability and prevent escalation. Given the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Palestinian economy, the UNCT will focus on supporting job creation in key industrial and productive sectors as well as private sector development.





Photo Credits

© Ahd Izhiman

Page 6

Page 18

Page 21

Page 24

© UNDP/PAPP – Ahd Izhiman

Page 18

Page 20

Page 29

Page 31

© UNDP/PAPP – Mohammad Za’houn

Page 3

Page 5

Page 12

Page 32

© UNDP/PAPP – Abed Zaqout

Cover page

Page 9

Page 11

Page 21

© UNDP/PAPP

Page 13

© UNESCO National Office for Palestine

Page 17

© UNFPA

Page 27





UNITED NATIONS
State of Palestine

