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Strengthening capacities towards a coherent national social protection system across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus

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Location

Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)



Donor

European Union (EU)



Duration

36 months (July 2024–June 2027)



Partners

International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ministry of Social Development (MoSD)



Budget required

US\$2 million

► The urgent need for a strong Palestinian social protection system

What are the challenges?

Needs are sky-rocketing – especially in Gaza, but also in the West Bank – due to the war and protracted crisis.

But the Occupied Palestinian Territory's current **social protection system** alone cannot support people in this crisis, or in times of income insecurity, poverty or vulnerability.

Humanitarian programmes provide a huge share of social protection support, even greater than the Palestinian Authority's main scheme, the National Cash Transfer Programme, implemented by the Ministry of Social Development.

Financing is limited on all sides. Development funding is declining, as was humanitarian financing pre-October 2023, and the Palestinian Authority is facing a fiscal crisis.

A **lack of coordination** between national and humanitarian programmes limits the effectiveness of social protection. This results in a fragmented sector with scattered results.

People risk slipping through the cracks, especially people who are already more vulnerable – persons with disabilities, older persons, women and children.

What is the solution?

Palestinians need a **national social protection system** that can support them through emergencies like the current crisis, and at points of need or income insecurity across the life cycle.

How do we get there?

To **strengthen the Palestinian social protection system** and ensure the coverage of all those in need, we need to:

Apply an adaptive humanitarian-development-peace "nexus" approach to social protection, to respond the unique context and current crisis.

Increase the coordination, coherence and alignment of programmes and systems across the nexus.

Enhance local capacities, especially at the Ministry of Social Development.

Build on existing progress in social protection reforms (including EU-funded reforms).

Develop evidence-based nexus financing strategies.

► Moving towards a coherent national social protection system

Objective

This project aims to improve access to rights-based social assistance for all Palestinians by strengthening the ability of the Ministry of Social Development to lead, coordinate and deliver a coherent national social protection system across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

1. Coordination

Strengthen the Ministry of Social Development's coordination and leadership capacities to enhance coherence within the national social assistance system, and across the nexus

- Strengthening the design and implementation of social allowances, including existing social allowances for persons with disabilities and older persons, and designing a costed child allowance
- Delivering an on-demand technical assistance facility to support the Ministry of Social Development with nexus facilitation
- Supporting the Ministry of Social Development to update systems, such as the National Social Registry
- Working with partners to strengthen alignment in programme design between the large cash programmes, including for recovery

2. Programming

Ensure that programming is evidence-based, conflict-sensitive and coherent across the nexus – for national systems, as well as humanitarian, recovery and development interventions

- Facilitating and expanding the Social Protection Cash and Voucher Assistance Thematic Working Group (SPCVA TWG) and its sub-groups
- Holding annual theory of change workshops to test and adapt the project's theory of change, as well as through recurrent conflict- and gender-sensitive analyses
- Building towards a national vision for social protection, developed and owned by key stakeholders, including Palestinian social partners
- Delivering advanced training courses for the Ministry of Social Development, social partners and humanitarian cash actors

3. Financing

Develop evidence-based nexus financing strategies to move towards a more sustainable national system

- Applying public financial management diagnostic tools to provide leverage to channel additional funding for social protection through nationally-owned systems
- Developing a costed roadmap and a multi-year financing strategy

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