



USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA



- USAID supports the development of Palestinian institutions by promoting the rule of law, increasing civic engagement, and enhancing respect for human rights.
- USAID supports the Palestinian Authority's ability to serve effectively as a governing body and meet constituents' needs.
- USAID encourages youth to engage in the governance process and community development initiatives.

Photo credit: USAID

Members of the Bethlehem Youth Shadow Local Council meet Secretary Kerry during a recent visit to the West Bank.

Program Profile

Democracy and Governance Program

Program Overview

USAID supports the development of Palestinian institutions necessary for a future Palestinian state by promoting the rule of law, increasing civic engagement, and enhancing respect for human rights. These initiatives strengthen the ability of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to meet constituents' needs.

USAID also supports Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants as part of a congressionally-mandated effort to encourage people-to-people reconciliation activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of conflict to address the root causes of tension and instability. Along with the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, USAID has supported 69 CMM grants for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza since 2004. For more information and a list of the current awards see our CMM fact sheet.

Goals

- Improve the capacity of PA institutions to deliver high-quality services to the public on a sustainable basis.
- Enhance communication and coordination among the PA, local governments, and civil society organizations.
- Promote peaceful coexistence among Israelis and Palestinians.

Active Projects

The Enhanced Palestinian Justice Program (EPJP)

EPJP builds upon the work achieved under the Palestinian Justice Enhancement Program and aims to strengthen public confidence and respect for justice sector institutions and the rule of law through activities that: develop the capabilities of the High Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice; improve legal education; and increase public understanding of the justice system.

Implementing partner: Chemonics; Life of Project: 09/20/2013-09/19/2018; Total Estimated Cost: \$26,457,752.

Effective Governance Program (EGP)

EGP supports the PA's efforts to build more effective public institutions that are accountable to the public and respond to citizens' needs. The program helps the PA strengthen the operational and management capabilities of ministries and public institutions to: govern more effectively; improve service provision mechanisms; and improve accountability and oversight functions.

Implementing Partner: Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI); Life of Project: 03/05/2013-03/04/2017; Total Estimated Cost: \$20,451,849.

Civic Participation Program (CPP)

CPP aims to reinvigorate Palestinians' participation in the PA's decision-making process, monitoring and oversight of government institutions, and public discourse so as to ensure a more vibrant and robust democratic dialogue between the government and people. CPP supports civil society organizations (CSOs) to: improve internal organizational capacity; build partnerships between CSOs and government agencies; and support CSO advocacy campaigns to engage the public.

Implementing partner: Catholic Relief Services; Life of Project: 09/30/2010-09/30/2014; Total Estimated Cost: \$17,934,743.

Enhancing Palestinian Independent Media project (EPIM)

EPIM develops the institutional and professional capacity of independent media and promotes informed media dialogue, through activities that: enhance the quality of news and information programming; provide small grants to media outlets; partner with media schools to develop curricula that focus on modern media; and develop a new Media Policy and Research Center that conducts research, develops policy recommendations, and advocates on behalf of media institutions.

Implementing Partner: INTERNEWS; Life of Project: 09/29/2010-09/29/2014; Total Estimated Cost: \$5,999,995.

Successes

- Supported the establishment of the first Palestinian Judicial Institute.
- Helped the Palestinian Ministry of Finance create systems that increased property tax collection by 56 percent.
- Revitalized the Palestinian postal service helping it develop private-sector partnerships and increase customers and revenue by 49 percent, and facilitated the launch of domestic express mail.
- Refurbished the Jenin, Jericho, Tulkarem, and Hebron Civil Affairs Offices and improved their service delivery, resulting in the reduction of application processing time for core services from 15 days to 20 minutes.
- Supported eight Youth Shadow Local Councils that engage youth in community development initiatives.
- Brought together more than 1,000 community members and their municipal council representatives in 42 communities, leading to the production of community-led plans identifying strategic development objectives.
- Supported 20 CSO-led advocacy initiatives, including a successful campaign for the passage of a minimum wage law that will improve the quality of life for more than 300,000 low-wage workers.
- Improved the Central Elections Commission's capacity by providing education on voter registration, laws, and procedures.
- Provided training and equipment to the coalition for Independent Audio-Visual Media and an independent Israeli-Palestinian radio station to enable them to develop their production and build their capacity.

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