

## occupied Palestinian territory

### Country Fact Sheet

The MDG-F in occupied Palestinian territory	
<b>Joint Programmes: 2</b>	<b>Total Budget:</b> USD 11,990,993
Joint Programmes Information	
<b>Joint Programme</b>	<i>“Culture and Development in the occupied Palestinian territory (MDGF-1841)”</i>
<b>Thematic Window</b>	Culture and Development
<b>Budget</b>	USD 3,000,000
<b>Participating Agencies</b>	UNWOMEN, FAO, UNESCO, UNDP
<b>Participating Government Agencies</b>	Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA), Ministry of Culture (MOC), Ministry of Women Affairs( MOWA), Ministry of Agriculture( MOA),
<b>Dates</b>	March 10, 2009 – 30 November 2012
<b>Regions of Intervention</b>	National scope with special focus on Nablus, Jenin, Hebron Sebastya (pilot), and the Gaza Strip.
<b>Programme in Brief:</b>	
<p>This joint programme contributes to fostering institutional development, social cohesion and sustainable economic development through culture related activities and tailor-made programmes based on the notion of cultural diversity. It supported the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP) by providing Palestinians institutions, organizations and professionals concerned with the skills and tools necessary to better understand, access, enjoy, protect and profitably manage their rich and diverse cultural heritage.</p> <p>The JP relied on a participatory bottom-up approach to: a) establish policies and practices for safeguarding tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and b) utilize the potential of cultural heritage and creative industries for inclusive economic growth.</p>	
<b>Key Achievements<sup>1</sup></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the first time in Palestine, a knowledge-based tool for understanding, managing and disseminating data on the Palestinian Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in addition to an archive for ICH was developed. Three domains of intangible cultural heritage were included:</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Rajab (2013) Independent Joint Programme Final Evaluation: *Culture and Development in the occupied Palestinian territory*.

traditional agricultural knowledge, fishermen culture and food culture.

- The programme revised and made operational the National Palestinian Plan for Culture (NPPC), through institutional capacity development. For example, training programmes on gender mainstreaming and culture training workshop; museum exhibition development and curatorial practices; strategic protection of the Palestinian Cultural Heritage.
- The programme provided a thorough analysis of cultural and eco-tourism and well as of creative industries. Results were communicated and adopted by related ministries that started the implementation of the recommendations. The JP produced a comprehensive model of integrated replicable actions that build and complement each other on both national and local levels.
- At the national level, the JP created socially responsible partnerships with established Palestinian art groups and cultural organizations to create a space for rights to culture and dialogue (e.g partnership between Edward Said Conservatory (ESC) in Bethlehem and Dar Al Tifil and the France-Hebron Society in Hebron city; partnership with Al Mahatta Gallery (a youth voluntary independent initiative) to conduct trainings on innovative designs for young artists in West Bank and Gaza.)
- The programme produced an integrated management plan for Sebastiya that is the first of its model, as a venue for cultural tourism and socio-economic development, and supported the construction of the basic tourist facility in that location. The programme also supported communities in Sebastiya, Arrabeh and Yaabad in developing and adopting two conservation plans for enhancing land use, landscape planning and environmental impact assessment skills, as well as ameliorating environmental and culturally sound economical utilization of local natural resources.
- A comprehensive programme for production and marketing of local agro-biodiversity products was completed in partnership with MoA. The programme targeted 140 women entrepreneurs within seven women associations. The programme included building the capacities of women in the targeted communities, to produce and market high quality food products using traditional crop varieties and processing methods (traditional cottage industry).

<b>More information</b>	<a href="http://www.mdgfund.org/content/cultureanddevelopment">http://www.mdgfund.org/content/cultureanddevelopment</a>
<b>Joint Programme</b>	<i>“Gender equality and women’s empowerment in the occupied Palestinian Territory (MDGF-1702)”</i>
<b>Thematic Window</b>	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
<b>Budget</b>	USD 8,990,993
<b>Participating Agencies</b>	UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNRWA, ILO
<b>Participating Government Agencies</b>	Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Labor; Ministry of Social Affairs; Ministry of Woman’s Affairs; Ministry of Youth and Sport; Palestinian Legislative Council; National Women Employment Committee; Palestinian Central Bureau of

	Statistics; Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association; Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions of Palestine; Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture; Bisan Center for Research and Development; Birzeit University; Islamic University of Gaza; Central Elections Committee; Chamber of Commerce; and CSOs.
<b>Dates</b>	January 30, 2009 – 31 March 2013
<b>Regions of Intervention</b>	National (West Bank and Gaza)

**Programme in Brief:**

The program aimed to address gender based violence (GBV) and violence against women (VAW), and foster political participation of women and equal economic rights in a joint effort by strengthening the national Gender Machinery in Occupied Palestinian Territories. Activities were implemented through a two-tier process by linking research with policy action to improve service provision of the Palestinian Authority, its institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs), and by developing sustainable institutional capacities and encouraging innovative projects.

The JP followed a rights-based approach, working on three strategic levels: grassroots, sub-central and central government. Interventions included: formative research and lessons learned; capacity building of key institutions and organizations for advocacy for gender equality, gender-sensitive service delivery and monitoring of the MDGs. Also, an innovative mass media and communication campaign to raise popular support for gender equality.

**Key Achievements<sup>2</sup>**

- The programme provided support to strengthen the foundation for an institutionalization of research and knowledge based systems on GBV and VAW at the central level so that a wider repository of surveys, data and research studies on VAW and GBV exist with the aim to provide policy makers with more evidence based data on how to reduce GBV and tackle VAW in oPt. Main achievements were: development of the *Violence Against Women (VAW) Strategy*; a gender-sensitive “*violence survey*”, enabling policy-makers to address violence cases in a much more targeted and comprehensive way; institutionalization of the national Gender Machinery by means of establishing a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Unit within the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA).
- Another important achievement of the programme was the establishment of the National Committee on Women’s Employment (NCWE) as an advisory body to the Minister of Labor. It’s mandate is to advocate for gender sensitive policies, legislations, capacity building interventions, social safety net for women workers and a healthy work environment.
- The Participatory Gender Audit (PGA) has been an important tool that was conducted within several institutions and private sector companies in order to promote organizational learning at the individual, work unit and organizational levels on how to practically and effectively mainstream gender.
- The delivery of training courses for judges (36), lawyers (137), prosecutors (20) and fourth year students in the Faculty of Law at the Birzeit University in Ramallah has initiated a

<sup>2</sup> Kurt (2013) Independent Joint Programme Final Evaluation: *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in the occupied Palestinian territory*

remarkable shift within the attitudes of training participants. According to the final evaluation, the gender sensitive trial processes guaranteeing the freedom of speech for women and making them more aware of their legal rights under the Sharia law, is one measurable progress achieved by the programme.

- The programme strengthened capacities to provide refuge, security and basic services (e.g training sessions to 150 front health providers in Emergency Units, primary health care and distric clinic; and establishment of the Hayat multipurpose center, a first of its kind center in Gaza.)
- Regarding the promotion of employment opportunities for low-income women and female graduates, 43 micro and small business were created for the most vulnerable women, 51 permanent employment opportunities were created, and around 700 cooperatives were established in the West Bank with the support of the programme (500 are classified as active ones.)
- The programme jointly developed (and implemented) a Media and Advocacy Strategy on GEWE issues for the very first time in oPt, including a sensitization workshop for senior journalists; first of its kind TV talk show (12 episodes), website web-published, 6 issues of the well-known voice of women newspaper supplement, joint media campaigns run in Gaza, etc. The awareness raising campaigns have benefitted 19,006 women, 4,289 men and 8 religious leaders in 19 refugee camps across the WB. As for Gaza, 19,495 women and 1,656 men have benefitted.

**More information**

<http://www.mdgfund.org/content/genderequalityandwomensempowerment>