

Strengthening the Resilience of Gaza’s Population (GRP)

Peace Building and Resilience

Background

The Gaza strip is caught in an unprecedented crisis with multi-dimensional effects on the living conditions of its population of 2.1 million people. With recurring rounds of conflict and various movement restrictions, this densely populated area has witnessed the highest poverty and unemployment rates in Palestine, particularly among the young and vulnerable groups of the population. Hence, the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and inadequate essential services have weakened the resilience of Gaza’s conflict-affected population.

Objectives

As a Transitional Development Assistance (TDA) project, GRP aims at addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people such as women, children, and people with disabilities. In doing so, GRP focuses on improving essential services, building capacities, and promoting innovations and entrepreneurship linked to renewable energy and green economy.

Approach

GRP pursues inclusive and agile implementation approach. Linking small-scale infrastructure with relevant capacity and skills building measures is an important pillar of GRP towards a longer-term development. GRP facilitates networking and know-how exchange, as well as promotes green innovative entrepreneurships. Moreover, GRP supports the use of synergy with other GIZ projects.

Project Name	Strengthening the Resilience of Gaza’s Population
Commissioned By	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Project Region	Gaza Strip
Partners	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) The Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) Palestinian Employment Fund (PEF) The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Academic Institutions and Innovation Hubs Other Local and International NGOs
Duration	November 2018 – November 2024

Achievements

Essential Basic Infrastructure

GRP has implemented several small-scale infrastructure projects linked to renewable energy and green economy. It included the introduction of clean energy (PV- systems) to 39 public health, education and WASH facilities serving vulnerable communities across the Gaza Strip. In 4 locations, GRP integrated the introduction of solar energy with a resource-efficient farming to enhance basic food security, promote creativity and provide job opportunities.

Our support has reached more than half of Gaza’s population, of which 60% are women and youth.

Supporting the fishery sector is an important element in strengthening the resilience of Gaza’s economy. In collaboration with UNOPS, GRP created a repair workshop for the fisherman to restore their demolished fisher boats. The workshop is currently used by the fishermen in coordination with UNOPS. Essential



L. to r.: Deir Al-Balah Community Center, Green Girls Group Ideal Farm



L. to r.: Seafront Park
Development Interventions for Gaza Sea Port

tools and equipment were provided to assist them in the maintenance of their boats.

GRP provided Mustafa Sadiq Al Rafe'i Vocational School with a source of clean energy. This intervention has facilitated the provision of a reliable learning environment for 190 hearing-impaired students. GRP also supports the establishment of a demo green space for the hearing-impaired students.

The ongoing construction of the Gaza Seafront Public Park is a collaboration example for enhancing the resilience of the conflict-affected population in Gaza. It aims at giving Gaza's vulnerable population improved access to recreational, multi-purpose, secure, inclusive, inspiring, and sustainable green public spaces that they can enjoy safely.

"A total of 4000 fishermen and about 18000 of their dependents benefit from the German supported interventions".

Local Innovations and Entrepreneurship

The "Wave to Energy Plant" at Gaza Sea port is one of the highlights of GRP. The initiative supports young pioneers in implementing locally adapted solutions benefiting the local community. Through the Palestinian Employment Fund (PEF), other green initiatives were supported following a Green Competition for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Building on our experience in supporting ideal green farming, GRP is supporting young agricultural entrepreneurs to enhance food security and combat unemployment. In this context, GRP supported the establishment of a model resource efficient farm that will be managed by the young Green Girls Group (GGG) team.

GRP supported the establishment of a protected space for young female and male Gazans to provide self-sufficient community services, including a space for skills development and green innovations.

The completed project targets Deir El-Balah area of 53,000 people including one Refugee Camp. This new model of community service centre will be managed as a social enterprise (agribusiness) to sustain community support and other skills development services.

GRP currently is supporting the installation of additional 70 agricultural home-based income generation units for vulnerable women and youth to support their engagement in the local market and enhance food security.

Improved Availability of Qualified and Trained People

More than 650 people received training in the fields of renewable energy, WASH and ecological farming. In cooperation with UNRWA, a one-year training module on the operation and maintenance of solar systems was concluded for 98 students, 27 out of which were females. One of the female graduates won the first award of the international competition "Green Skills Award". Additionally, 440 students benefited from the newly constructed and rehabilitated training halls in Gaza and Khan Younis vocational training centres run by UNRWA.

Covid-19 Response

GRP worked with the Coastal Municipal Water Utility (CMWU) to enhance its COVID-19 emergency preparedness and response capacity to sustain minimum level of WASH services to more than 700,000 people. GRP also supported the improvement of hygiene conditions of 74 water desalination plants serving more than 600,000 people across the Gaza Strip.

GRP supported a food security project for 200 vulnerable families affected by COVID-19. The project assisted these families in establishing home-based gardens to secure their immediate food needs. 10 out of the 200 supported units evolved as small agri-businesses, and 71 others are providing basic vegetable needs and generate an extra income for their respective households because of selling surplus production.

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