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Recent or On-Going Development Projects in the Gaza Strip

Ethan Fine Maron, Roger Williams University

WORLD BANK:

Southern Area Water

Dates: 5/27/1999-10/31/2005

Project Number: P051564

Loan Size: \$21 million

This project is designed primarily to improve water delivery and sanitation capacity in the southern portion of the West Bank, by strengthening the institutional capacity of the Palestinian Water Authority. Project also funds direct repair/expansion of water pipelines. "Southern Area Water" is providing water assistance on an emergency basis in the Gaza Strip, pending approval of the Gaza II Emergency Water Project.

Electricity Sector Investment and Management:

Dates: 8/31/1999-12/31/2005

Project Number: P040506

Loan Size: \$15 million

Project to maintain and upgrade power distribution systems in the West Bank. 2005 SOPE notes that considerable progress has been made in the West Bank, with the establishment of two new power companies as a chief success. This project has also facilitated the creation of a Palestinian Energy Regulatory Council, and the drafting of a proposed Palestinian electricity law.

Education Action:

Dates: 05/31/2001 - 09/30/2005

Project Number: P065593

Loan Size: \$7 million

School construction, Education Ministry reform.

Gaza Emergency Water:

Date: 06/07/2005 (approved)

Project Number: P065920

Loan Size: \$20 million (none disbursed)

Project is designed to build the institutional capacity of the Coastal Municipalities Water Authority. Provides technical training to CMWA, as well as materials and equipment for waste processing.

Integrated Community Development Project:

Dates: 05/23/2002 - 06/30/2006

Project Number: P069986

Loan Size: \$10 million

Provides grants to local governments and NGOs for "microprojects" in sanitation, road construction, education, etc. Also funds construction of 10 "telecenters" with Internet access. The World Bank is concerned that this project may be unsustainable at existing funding levels.

Second Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations:

Dates: 06/21/2001 - 08/31/2005

Project Number: P071040

Loan Size: \$22.52 million

Project is designed to assist in technical and organizational capacity building in NGO sector. Grants include cooperative programs between large and small NGOs in multi-year, million-dollars projects, as well as smaller emergency and "NGO coordination" projects. Capacity-building and training in smaller NGOs is a common component of grants issued under this program.

Northern Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment:

Dates: 09/07/2004 - 06/30/2010

Project Number: P074595

Loan Size: \$7.8 million

Beit Lahiya Waste Treatment Plant in Northern Gaza is operating at over double capacity, depositing wastewater in surrounding dunes faster than it can be infiltrated. This has led to the creation of a 1.5 million cubic meter lake of wastewater – sewage, essentially – which poses serious health risks to the 190,000 people living in nearby municipalities, and has devastated a village situated a few meters from the lake. The erosion of dunes containing the lake has also raised the possibility of flooding. This program seeks to build a new sewage treatment plant, and drain the wastewater lake.

Emergency Municipal Services Rehabilitation:

Dates: 12/17/2002 - 03/31/2006

Project Number: P078212

Loan Size: \$20 million

Program to provide short-term infrastructure repair and technical assistance in Palestinian cities.

Land Administration:

Dates: 01/26/2005 - 12/31/2007

Project Number: P080892

Loan Size: \$3 million

Property law and deed reform.

Social Safety Net Reform:

Dates: 06/03/2004 - 12/31/2008

Project Number: P081477

Loan Size: \$10 million

Expansion, reform of social services.

Tertiary Education:

Dates: 04/26/2005 - 12/31/2009

Project Number: P083767

Loan Size: \$10 million

Funding for local colleges, universities.

Gaza Industrial Estates:

Dates: 1998-2005

Project Number: P040503

Total project budget: \$84.5 million, \$10 million provided by World Bank.

Partners: World Bank, USAID, IFC, European Investment Bank, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency

Industrial park was constructed at the Karni crossing, with the intention of stimulating foreign investment and job creation, as well as the export of goods via Israel. The World Bank believes that this project has more-or-less failed, mostly due to the irregular closure schedule of the border crossing.

Only 1,060 new jobs were reported at the GIE when the World Bank's involvement in the project ended, compared to the expected 6,000. The project also fell short by other measures – indirect job creation, contribution to Palestinian GDP, and so on. By the end of 2005, only 20 businesses were operating, mostly garment factories.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK:

Electricity Network Upgrading – EIB is contributing 45 of 98 million Euros for projects to improve Palestinian electricity infrastructure.

Credit Guarantee Fund – EUR 28 million fund, operated with German Financial Cooperation, designed to assisting small businesses in gaining access to credit.

US AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Economic growth projects:

Project: Palestinian Agribusiness Partnership Activity

Date: April 8th, 2005-April 7th, 2008

Budget: \$19.9 Million

Leading Partner: CARANA

Provides training to food processors to improve agricultural food quality, and address hygiene issues. Also assists in creation of "high value...agricultural products". One component, the Gaza Development Program, provides technical assistance to farmers, and assists in greenhouse privatization.

Project: Financial Markets Reform Project, Phase II

Dates: Sept. 2003- Jan. 2007

Leading Partner: Financial Markets International

Budget: \$10.8 Million

Assists in job creation by facilitating procurement of bonds and securities. Has created 2,400 new jobs, issued \$5.5 million in loans, and trained more than 150 companies.

Palestinian Enterprise Development Project

Dates: Sept. 22nd, 2005- Sept. 21st, 2008

Budget: \$5.6 million

Leading Partner: Development Alternatives, Inc.

Technical assistance to businesses, business associations, and the PA.

Palestinian Information Communication Technologies Incubator

Dates: Oct. 1st, 2003- Sept. 29th, 2006

Budget: \$2.7 million

Non-profit organization provides funding to Palestinian IT startups.

PalTrade 2

Dates: Sept. 20, 2004-Sept 19, 2006

Budget: \$1 million

Partner: Palestine Trade Center

Two-year program to assist Palestine Trade Center – a trade development organization that organizes foreign trade missions, provides marketing, and training for Palestinian businesses.

Emergency Financial Services for Palestinians

Dates: Sept. 28th, 2001-Sept. 20th, 2006

Budget: \$8.15 million

Partners: Save the Children, FATEN

Program to support micro-finance loans through FATEN (Palestine for Credit and Development). FATEN provides loans to women for micro-enterprise activities, such as knitting, vegetable sales, etc.

Emergency Microenterprise Financial Services

Dates: Dec. 4, 2001- Sept. 30th 2006

Budget: \$8.55 million

Partners: Cooperative Housing Foundation

Project to fund Palestinian Economic Opportunity Program for Loans and Economic Development (PEOPLED), a loan program to finance home improvements in the West Bank and Gaza. Loans are given at the market rate, with a cap of \$15,000.

Palestinian Enterprise Revitalization Program

Dates: Sept. 22, 2002- June 30, 2006

Budget: \$8.9 million

Partner: Development Alternatives, Inc.

Technical assistance in finance, marketing, QA and production. Also provides assistance in business-to-business transactions. Trains recent university graduates in management, technical fields.

Water Resources:

Palestinian American Recreation and Conservation Services

Dates: May 5th, 2005-May 4, 2006.

Budget: \$2 million

Leading Partner: CHF International

Public park and municipal green space construction.

Democracy and rule of law

Bridge Project for Judicial Training

Dates: Sept. 27th, 2004- Dec. 3, 2006

Budget: \$800,000

Partners: UNDP, Birzeit University

UNDP and Birzeit University provide legal training to Palestinian judges and prosecutors, including continuing legal education.

ARKAN: Supporting Rule of Law Reform

Dates: September 2004-September 2007

Budget: \$4 million

Partner: Chemonics International, Inc.

Grants to law schools at Al-Quds, Birzeit, An Najah, and Al Azhar to support legal research and student activism. Also funds unspecified "public awareness campaigns".

Consortium On Electoral and Political Processes I and II

Dates: Sept. 20, 2000- March, 2006

Budget: \$1.4 million

Leading Partners: National Democratic Institute, International Republican Institute, International Foundation for Election Systems

Technical support to political parties and elections.

Health

Emergency Medical Assistance Program III

Dates: Sept. 30th, 2005 – Sept. 29th, 2007

Leading Partners: CARE International

Budget: \$10 million

Procurement support for supplies for Ministry of Health and NGOS, including monitoring of supply usage. Issues sub-grants to specialized health NGOS.

Hanan: Maternal Child Health and Nutrition

Dates: Jan. 1, 2005- Dec. 31, 2007

Budget: \$21 million

Leading Partners: John Snow International Research and Training Institute, Inc.

Counsels Palestinian women on reproductive health issues, nutrition, provides treatment for basic childhood illnesses. Goal is to provide majority of "non-refugee" Palestinian women with access to basic maternal health care and child health care.

Health Inforum II

Dates: May 10, 2004- May 9th, 2005

Budget: \$100,000

Leading Partners: WHO Health Inforum

Information clearinghouse on Palestinian health issues. Website maintained at

<http://www.healthinforum.org/> .

BINA

Dates: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006

Budget: \$3,084,744

Leading Partners: Save the Children Federation

Program to run summer camps and classes to help “strengthen coping mechanisms and resiliency” in the Palestinian territories.

Community Services

RUWWAD – Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program

Dates: Sept. 30, 2005 – Sept. 29, 2010

Budget: \$24.4 million

Leading Partners: Educational Development Center

Apprenticeships and job training for 14-24 year olds, service learning programs, playground construction and other civic projects.

Palestinian Infrastructure for Needed Employment (PINE)

Dates: Sept. 2004 – March 2007

Budget: \$14 million

Leading Partners: Save the Children, ANERA, CARE, CHF, Catholic Relief Service, UNDP, IOCC

Temporary job creation program – unemployed persons are hired to work on reconstruction of public schools.

Jobs Opportunities Through Basic Services

Dates: July 2002- December 2006

Budget: \$71.5 million

Leading Partners: CHF-PEIP, CHH-PHOENIX, World Vision, Mercy Corps, CRS, YMCA, UNDP, ANERA, Save the Children

Similar to PINE – unemployed people, youth and women are hired for temporary work in repair and construction of public buildings, primarily schools.

Emergency Assistance – RAFEED

Dates: May 2002-May 2006

Budget: \$18.2 million

Leadings Partners: ARD, Inc.

Emergency humanitarian grants, distributed to local NGOs.

Education**Presidential Scholarship Program**

Dates: Sept. 20th, 2003 – August 26, 2007

Budget: \$9,892,315

Pays for 70 Master's degree candidates to study in the United States. Fields of study include MBAs, IT, Education, and Health Services

Higher Education Support Initiative

Dates: August 19th, 2002 – Aug. 18th, 2006

Budget: \$9,221,962

Partners: Academic for Educational Development, Needs Assessment Report

Funds scholarships for local schools, assists in assessing local educational needs.