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Belgium helps vulnerable areas adapt to climate change by installing solar photovoltaic systems

Currently, the Palestinian Territory is depending on Israel for 88% of its energy needs. 97% of the electricity in Israel is produced from non-renewable sources, such as gas, diesel and coal. This situation comes with both an environmental and a financial cost.

Meanwhile, solar radiation in the region is high, with more than 300 days of sunshine per year. Studies, confirmed by a previous pilot project of Enabel, show that each kW of photovoltaic panels installed produces an average of 1,700 kWh/year of electricity. The development of photovoltaic systems has therefore a great potential and leading by example in schools could have a greening impact that is not limited to the schools themselves.

Belgium wanted to use this potential. Thanks to funding provided by the Brussels-Capital Region, Enabel was able to install solar photovoltaic systems for 53 schools in the Palestinian Territory.

The installation of 430 kW of solar panels is expected to produce 745,000 kWh/year, which would reduce CO_2 emissions by 500 tons per year, which is the equivalent of 100 cars driving 18 000 km each. It is also expected to reduce the energy bill of the Palestinian Authority by € 113,000 per year .

Meanwhile, the installation of panels and the display of energy savings in schools is expected to raise awareness of students, teachers and Ministry officials on the potential environmental and financial benefits of green energy.

The Palestinian Ministry of Education has understood the potential of solar energy well and is planning to cover all other schools. Funding has been already been secured for 500 schools, which will be covered in the near future.