Gaza Emergency Cash for Work and Self-Employment Support

September 17, 2018

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Current Situation in Gaza Strip

The Emergency Cash for Work operation aims to alleviate the dire situation young Gazans are facing while supporting more sustainable medium-term development goals.

- Economic growth in Gaza has come to a virtual halt. Bringing unemployment to alarming levels. (more than **50%** - one of the highest in the world)
- The decline in aid flows is having a significant impact on services and jobs. (donor aid to the PA has declined by 20% a year since 2014)
- Living standards are quickly deteriorating to the verge of a humanitarian crisis. (53% poverty rate and 34% deep poverty)
- Unemployment and inactivity is highest among youth and women. (female unemployment reached 60% and 36% for men; young women - 88% unemployed compared to 58% young men)

Current Situation in Gaza Strip

- Gaps in access to and control of assets further exasperate Gazan women and men's ability to participate in economic and entrepreneurship opportunities. (only 16 percent women have ownership of an account at a financial institution compared to 34 percent of men; less than a third of youth in Gaza have access to computers)
- Access to medical treatment, electricity, and clean water also remains a challenge. (Electricity cuts of up to 20 hours a day; only 5-10 percent of aquifer water is drinkable)
- Gazans face disproportionate outbursts of conflict and violence that affect women and men, girls and boys in different ways. (increased risks to gender based violence persist with reported rates of 51 percent in Gaza (compared to 30 percent in the West Bank)

Current Situation in Gaza Strip

GAZA STRIP KEY FACTS[1]

Total Area

365 km²

Total Population

1,912,267

Registered Refugees

1,435,616

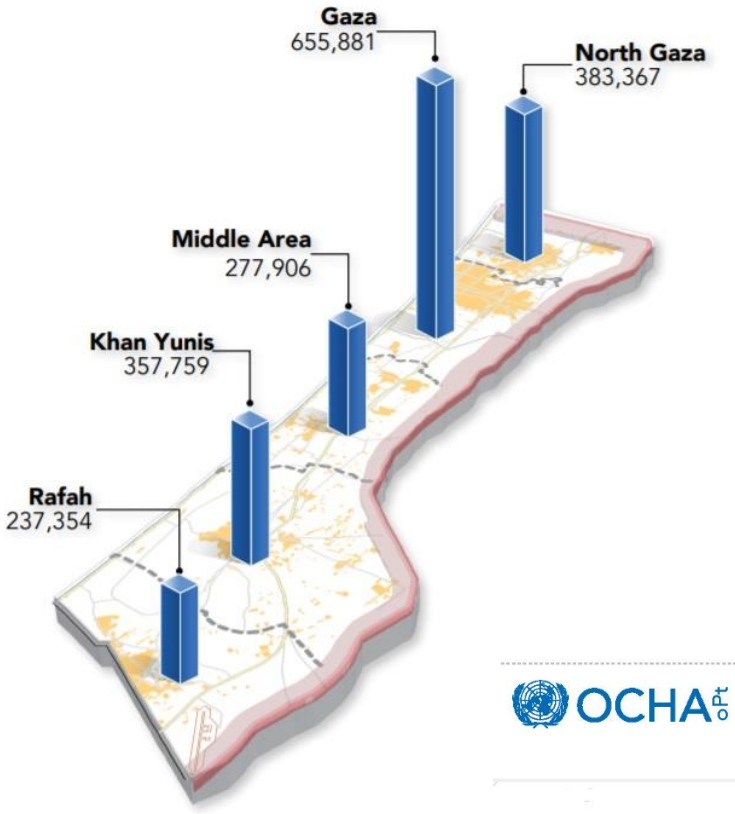
Source: UNRWA as of 31 December 2016

Unemployment Rate

41.7 %

34.4% Males
65.2% Females

Source: PCBS 2017



OCHA oPt

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory
Cartography: OCHA Information Management unit
Map Produced: August 2017
Base data and statistics: OCHA, JRC, PAMOPIC, PCBS
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www.ochaopt.org

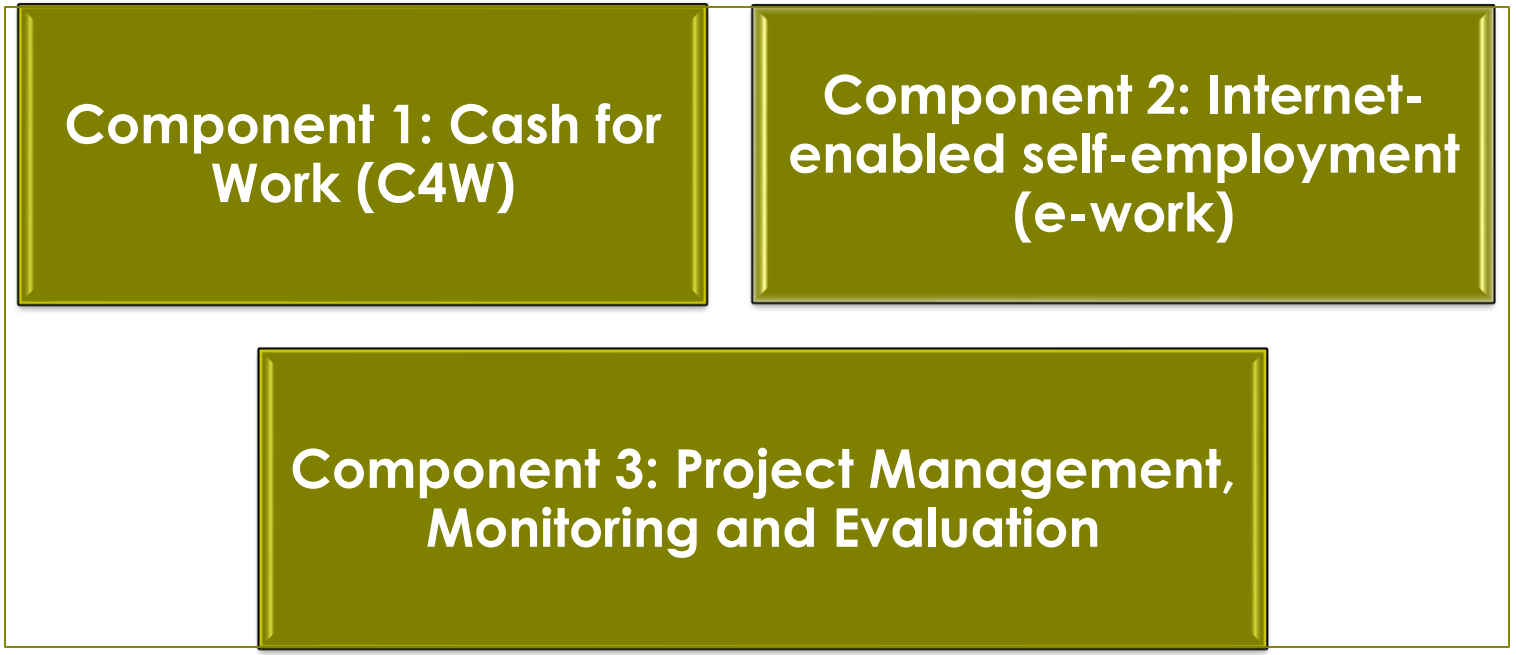
Gaza Emergency Cash for Work and Self-Employment Support

Approval date:	10 August 2018
Effectiveness Date:	27 August 2018
Expected closing date:	31 October 2021
Total Project Cost:	USD 17 million
Implementing Agency:	NGO Development center (NDC)

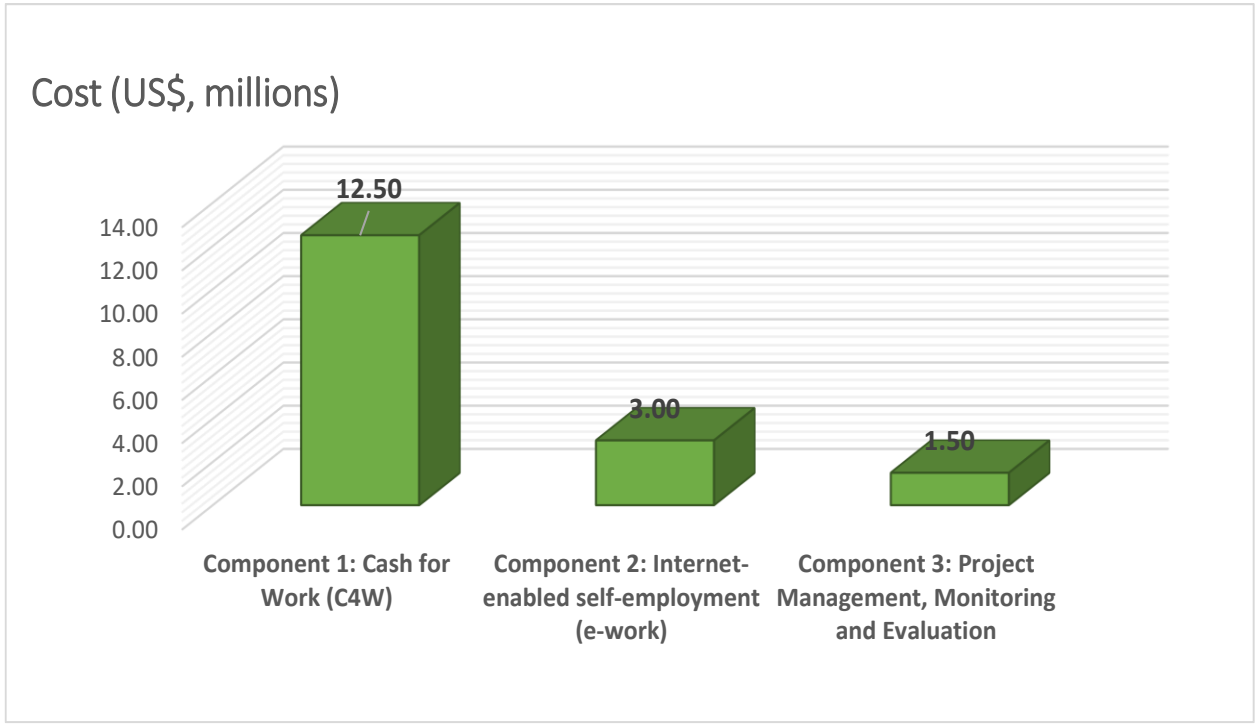
Project Development Objective

To provide target youth in Gaza with short-term income support and increased access to internet-enabled self-employment opportunities

Project Components



Project Components









Component 1: Cash for Work (C4W) (US$ 12.5 million)

- This component **addresses gaps in social services** and will finance C4W opportunities for target youth **in services provided by NGOs**, providing them with **a temporary safety net** but also **relevant work experience** and hope.
- **NGOs Services** will be provided to poor communities across the Gaza Strip and will include support to **economic livelihoods** (e.g. enhancements to agricultural and fishing activities) and **social services** (e.g. health, education, support to disabled and elderly and psychosocial support).
- Each work opportunity will be for a duration of **6 months**.
- The monthly stipend for beneficiaries is **US$380** for each C4W opportunity.
- **Target**: **4400** beneficiaries receiving cash for work from the Project, of which **50% are females.**

Component 1: Cash for Work (C4W) (US$ 12.5 million)

Direct beneficiaries

- Youth (**ages 18 to 34**) in Gaza who have been **unemployed for at least 1 year.**
- Unemployment status will be verified against the **Ministry of Labor's database**, with additional checks to be performed by hiring NGOs as needed.
- As one the objectives of the C4W component is to also **provide a safety net**, youth in poor families that are either in the **waiting list for UNWRA's Job Creation Program** or benefiting from the **Cash Transfer Program** (CTP) will receive preferential access to C4W opportunities. CTP beneficiary status will be verified against the **MoSD CTP beneficiary database.**
- **Only one youth per household** will be allowed to benefit from this project.

Component 1: Cash for Work
Selection of NGOs

NDC will select NGOs to implement C4W sub-projects based on a single call for proposals and following **a rigorous appraisal process**. NGOs have to meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. NGO is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan organization with offices registered in West Bank **for at least five years**;
2. NGO has an operating office in the Gaza Strip **for at least one year**;
3. NGO has proven track record working in poor and marginalized communities;
4. NGO possesses financial management and administrative systems to implement Cash for Work Sub-projects deemed acceptable to the World Bank; and
5. NGO has annually disbursed in funds **no less than $200,000** between 2015 and 2017.

Component 2: Internet-enabled self-employment (e-work) (US$ 3 million)

- The objective of this component is to support target youth **to become e-workers/online freelancers.**
- The type of e-work to be supported by the project includes complex tasks (e.g. software development, graphic design, media production, content development, website design, animations, e-marketing, translation), but also more simple tasks (e.g. labelling photos or videos, describing products, transcribing scanned documents, data gathering, answering calls). These tasks are linked to larger projects through online networks and platforms at the regional and global levels.
- Online freelancers can work on their own or as part of local freelancing companies.

Component 2: Internet-enabled self-employment (e-work) (estimated cost: US$ 3 million)

- The intended support programs includes **skills training** that include freelancing skills **for a period of 2 months** and **'on-the-job' support for a period of 6 months**, including co-working space and equipment (computer, internet, and electricity), payment system, mentorship/technical support and access to online discussion groups/communities.
- The support also include transportation allowance to the youth for the 8-month period.

Component 2: Direct Beneficiaries

The **direct beneficiaries** of the project are:

- Young women and men between the ages of **18 to 34** in Gaza
- **Unemployed**; unemployment status will be verified against the Ministry of Labor's database
- **Posses qualifications** required for the e-work support
- **Only one youth per household** will be allowed to benefit from this project.

Component 2: Selection of Organizations

Each organization is allowed to submit **only one project proposal**. The eligibility criteria for the organizations are:

- Non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan organization
- Officially registered for at least **3 years** and able to provide evidence of legal registration
- Has a **solid track record in implementing e-work projects**
- Has an operating office in the Gaza Strip for **at least one year**
- The organization's financial management and administrative systems are adequate to implement sub-projects
- The organization has annual audited financial statements by a qualified external auditor
- The average annual total disbursement for the last three years (2015 to 2017) **is not less than $200,000**

Component 3: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (estimated cost: US$ 1.5 million)

This component will finance the costs of project management and monitoring incurred by the NGO Development Center (NDC). More specifically, it will finance:

I. The preparation of the POM, guidelines and outreach material for NGOs providing C4W services and not-for-profit organizations providing support to e-work;

II. Outreach activities; Call for proposals; evaluation and selection of proposals;

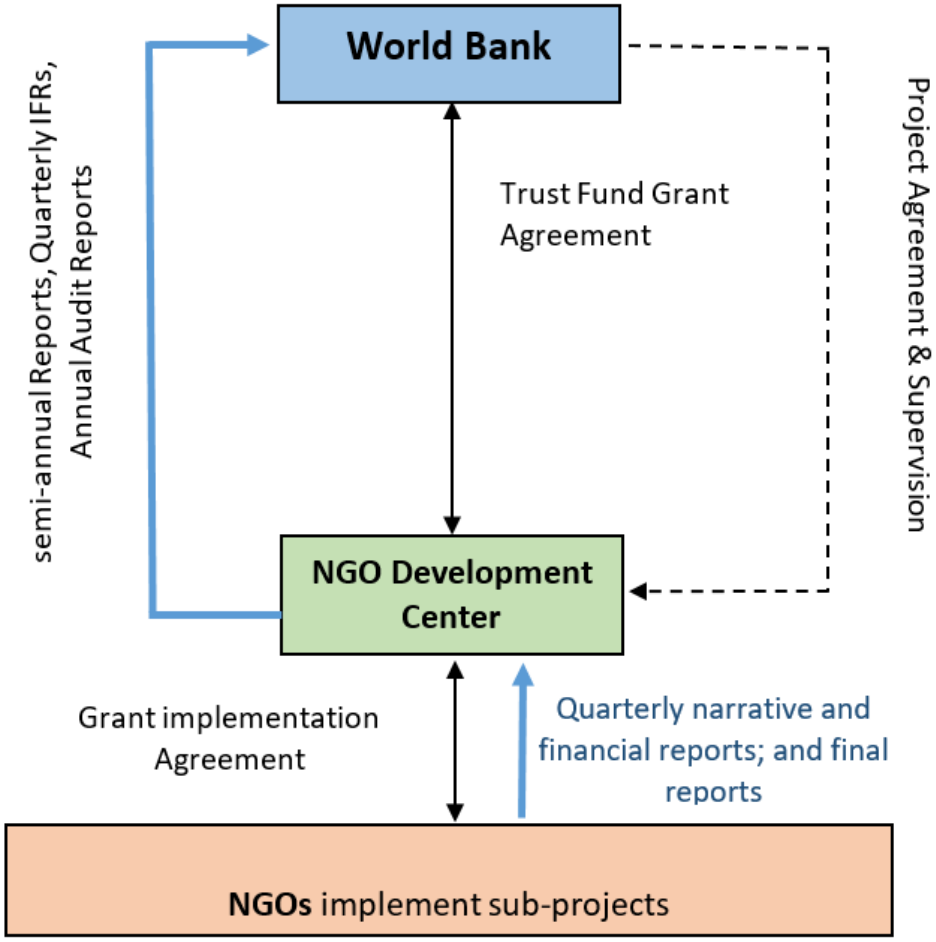
III. Assistance to selected NGOs and not-for-profit organizations in the identification of target youth and the validation of eligibility information;

IV. Supervision and audits of selected sub-projects;

V. Monitoring and evaluation of the project against PDO-level and intermediate indicators; and

VI. Mid-term Evaluation and a final Implementation Completion Report

Project implementation



Coordination with the PA

The Project interventions **complement services** provided by government institutions and will be closely coordinated with relevant government agencies.

During Preparation and Design:

- There was **a broad consultation process** with key government agencies during project preparation and design; including with the **MoSD**, **MoL**, **Employment Fund** and the **Ministry of Finance and Planning.**
- The **Ministry of Finance and Planning**, on behalf of the PA, **approved the project** and its much needed interventions and approved the selection of NDC as the implementing agency for the project.

Coordination with the PA

During Implementation:

- NGOs will consult sub-project proposals with relevant government institutions,
- An **advisory committee w**ill be established to ensure alignment with the PA's strategies and to facilitate linkages and coordination between NDC and the relevant PA institutions. The advisory committee will comprise officials from: i) **Ministry of Labor**; ii) **Ministry of Social Development** ; iii)**The Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection**; iv)**The Ministry of Finance and Planning**; and **NDC**.

Coordination with the PA

Roles of the Advisory Committee

- **Ensure alignment** with the PA's strategies; the National Policy Agenda and social development and employment strategies;
- Ensure that the process for identification of eligible NGOs has been carried out in accordance with the advertised eligibility criteria; and consequently **endorse the list of NGOs and the award recommendations;**
- **Endorse the list of selected beneficiaries** and ensure that the selection has been carried out in accordance with the advertised selection criteria;
- Oversee cash for work implementation progress.

Coordination with the PA

A PA representative from the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) will be invited to NGO Development Center (NDC)'s Board meetings to review and approve the NGO sub-project proposals.

Coordination with the PA

The selection of Beneficiaries:

- The validation of the eligibility information provided by youth applying for Project support will be done through **MOL**, the Employment Fund and MOSD.

- Youth from households benefiting from the **Ministry of Social Development** (MOSD)'s **Cash Transfer Program** (CTP) will be given preferential access to C4W, and some CTP families will benefit from the social services provided through C4W.

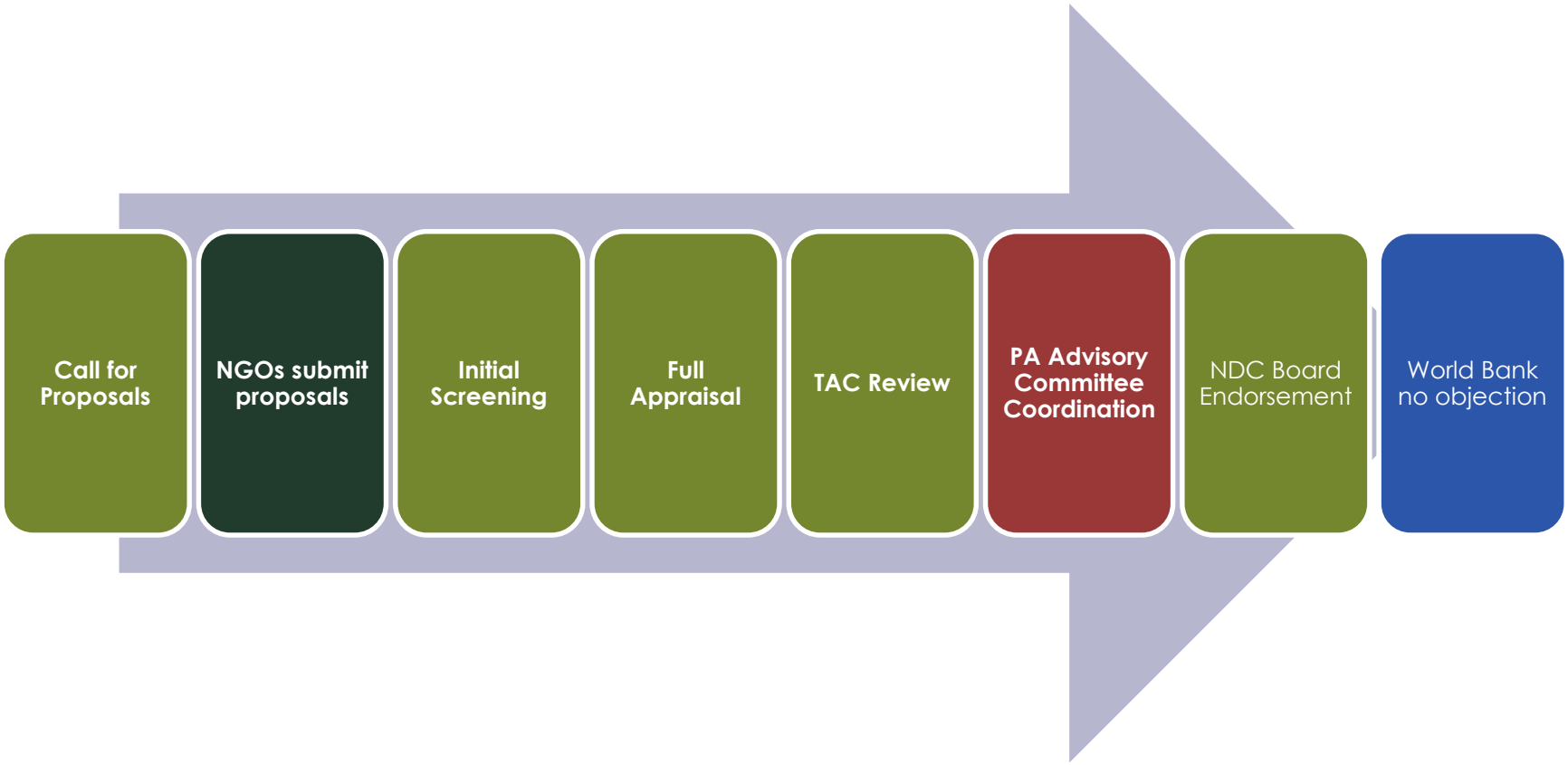
Coordination with the PA

Formalizing PA Coordination

- **MOUs** between NDC and the MoSD, MoL, the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection and the MoFP are being established.
- MoUs highlight the **scope of cooperation** and specifically refer to the tasks related to **coordinating efforts and the cross checking of the relevant databases** for the validation of beneficiaries.

  - **MoSD** already reviewed the draft MoU and provided inputs
  - **MoL** received MOU for inputs

C4W: Stages of Grant Application and Award



Early Results

- NDC started its promotional plan since early August 2018.
- Four workshops were conducted by the NDC Gaza team.
- 91 representative from 71 NGOs attended these workshops.





Early Results

- In accordance with the Project expedited implementation plan and to **ensure rapid results** at the early stages of the project, **3 NGOs** that meet the eligibility criteria were directly selected to submit C4W sub-project proposals.
- The three NGOs will provide their services across the Gaza Strip in the **health** and **education** sectors.
- Together they will provide **900 employment opportunities** to beneficiaries, of which **553 are females** representing 61.4%.
- The recommendation for selection of these three NGOs along with the award recommendation has been **submitted to the World Bank for "no objection"**.
- The three NGOs will start sub-project implementation following the Bank's no objection decision.

Summary Results Framework

PDO Indicators by Objectives	Unit of Measure	End Target
Provision of short-term income-support to target youth		
Number of youth receiving cash for work from the Project, by gender	Number	**4,400**
of which, female	Number	**2,200**
Increased access to e-work support for target youth		
Number of youth receiving e-work support that have done at least one paid freelancing job during the support of 6 months after that, by gender	Number	**375**
Of which, female	Number	**188**

Results Chain: C4W Component

Activities

- C4W sub-projects are contracted through NGOs

Outputs

- Target youth are hired and services are provided

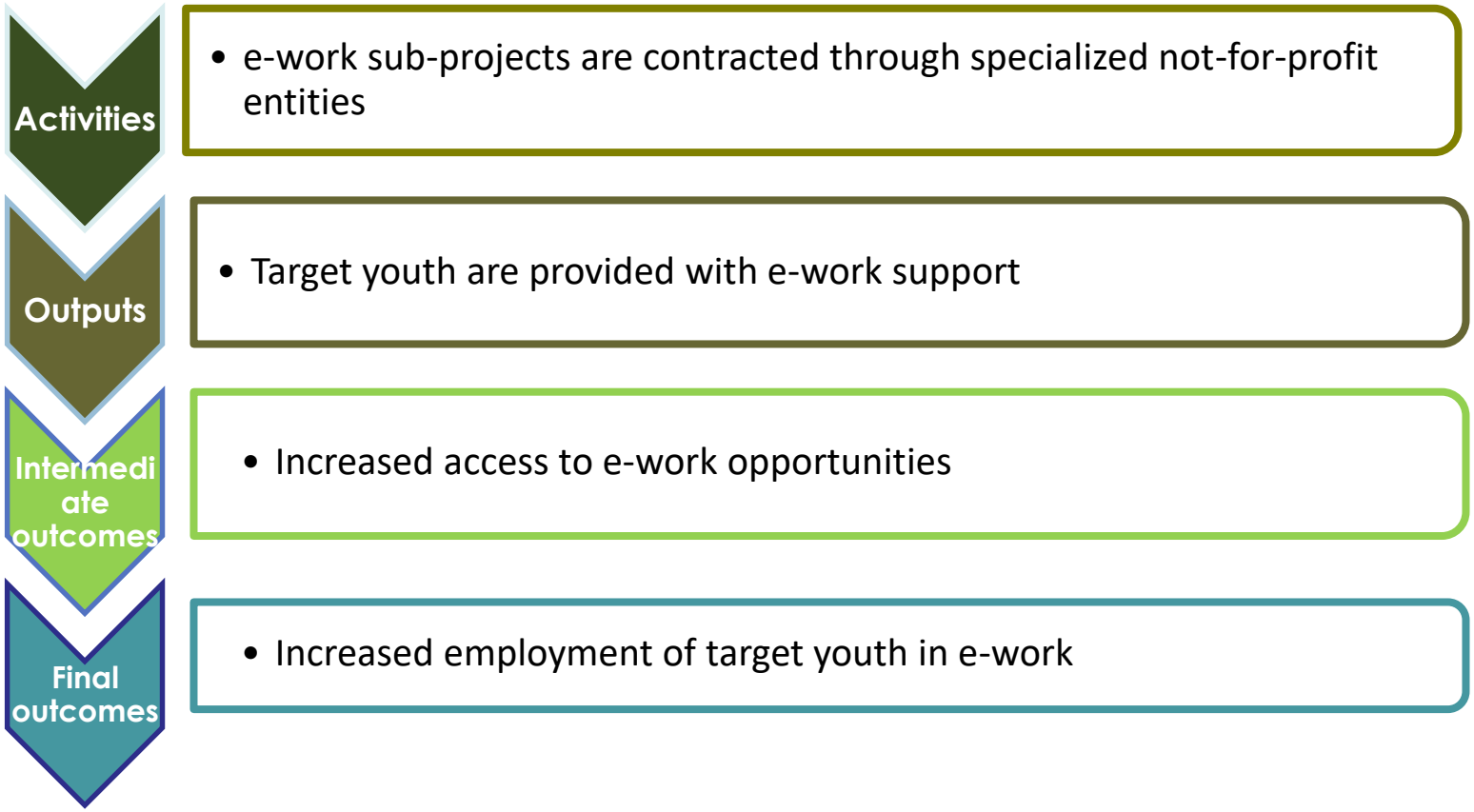
Intermediate outcomes

- **Target youth:** Increased access to short-term employment
- **Indirect beneficiaries:** Increased access to social services among vulnerable groups

Final outcomes

- **Target youth**
  - Increased employability through relevant work experience
  - Increased self-value and social cohesion through participation and civic engagement
  - Enhanced protection (target youth and their families)
- **Indirect beneficiaries**
  - Enhanced protection of vulnerable groups

Results Chain: E-work Component



Thank You...