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Directorate of Joint Service Councils, Ministry of Local Government and Japan International Cooperation Agency

The Project for Capacity Development in Solid Waste Management in Palestine Phase-III

The aim of this Newsletter is to discuss the news and activities of MoLG-JICA Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Solid Waste Management in Palestine - Phase-III (CDSWMP-III), which is implemented by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and contribute to the awareness raising process for the Joint Service Councils (JSCs), Local Government Units (LGUs) and citizens

INAUGURATION REMARKS FROM PROJECT DIRECTOR

Solid Waste Management (SWM) represents a huge challenge affecting human health, livelihoods, environment and prosperity. Moreover, SWM is one of the most prominent challenges facing rich and poor countries in the world, as well as Palestine. The rapid expansion of cities, population growth, and economic development push the global waste to a continuous increase, and emphasize the urgent need for an effective and sound management of solid waste to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Headed by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), Palestinian local government sector is allocating all possible efforts toward sustainable system for sound waste management and develop the treatment methods, through a National Strategy for Solid Waste Management in Palestine. In spite of our special situation under occupation and the lack of capabilities and resources, we are moving steadily and with a strong will towards achieving our goals.

Many international partners provide us with their support in solid waste sector, including the Japanese Government, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). We are now implementing the "Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Solid Waste Management in Palestine Phase-III", which aims to activate the policies and activities of (3Rs), reducing and reusing and recycling, and raise the awareness on waste issues and challenges, in addition to developing the fields of collection and transfer. Thus, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for their continuous support to Palestinian people.



Dr. Tawfiq Al-Budairi
Project Director (PD)
Deputy Minister of MoLG

STIRRING REMARKS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT GROUP – JICA HEADQUARTER

There is no question that SWM is one of the essential public services and its importance is re-recognized in the COVID-19 crisis. Nonetheless, we have faced many questions to explore sustainable ways to operate SWM ensuring public hygiene and safety of workers.

In February this year, when JICA and MoLG developed the framework of the Phase III Project, we agreed to focus on waste minimization and diversion and set five outputs accordingly. Moreover, as we confronted the serious pandemic of the COVID-19, the Project team decided to add another output to strengthen capacity of proper management of infectious waste. JICA also arranged emergency support for provision of equipment necessary for these activities; including PPEs and masks.

The smooth and prompt communication among Palestinian and Japanese members through online meetings was highly impressive and convinced me of the Project success, even under this difficult situation. Encouraged by their great initiative, JICA is now preparing for supplemental budget for more extensive implementation of pilot projects.

Last but not least, I would like to express sincere gratitude for all MoLG and JSCs members for their commitment and professionalism to secure healthy life of citizens. As the waste management is closely linked to people's daily life, I sincerely wish that JICA experts can come to Palestine and physically work together with the great counterparts as soon as possible.



Ms. Chie Shimodaira
Director of Environmental Management Group
Global Environment Department
JICA – Tokyo

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In alignment with the National Strategy on SWM in Palestine (2017-2022), Japan Government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are continuing to support MoLG and the solid waste sector in Palestine, where the "Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Solid Waste Management in Palestine - Phase-III" is implemented to fulfill a group of outputs as follows:

1. Empowering service suppliers, represented by Joint Service Councils (JSCs) for SWM, so they can improve the service quality level for Palestinian people.
2. Raising the awareness of all stakeholders in relation with this important sector.
3. Developing the institutional solid waste framework, especially the legal part, in order to institutionalize the solid waste sector.
4. Activating 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) policies and practices, through implementing pilot projects for recycling some municipal waste components.
5. Reducing waste generation at the JSCs level in governorates.
6. Improving Medical Waste Management in the middle area of West Bank; especially during COVID-19 Crisis.
7. Developing the capacity of solid waste workers in Infectious Waste Management, especially during the pandemic of COVID-19.

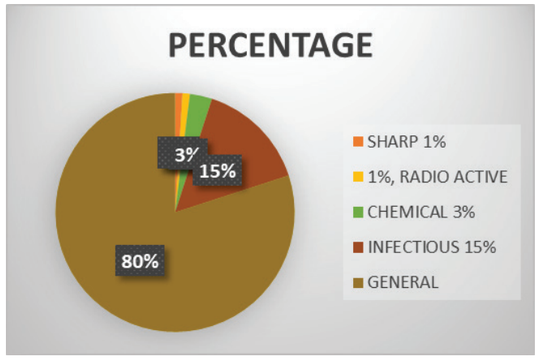
The Project is targeting 15 JSCs in Palestine (13 JSCs in West Bank and 2 JSCs in Gaza Strip), where these JSCs are deeply involved in the Project implementation in different ways. For example, some JSCs will implement a pilot project for recycling, others will improve their service quality by waste reduction, or raising awareness of stakeholders, third group will be able to benefit from improving the governance of SWM in their areas.

Finally, it is important to refer to the integrated efforts by the different donors, and mainly Japan Government, through funding the Grant Aid Project "The Project for Improvement of Collection and Transfer System of Solid Waste in Palestine", JICA as a main partner in developing the solid waste sector in Palestine over the last 20 years. In addition to the funding received from World Bank through LGSIP Program, Enabel through LGRDP Program and KFW, where the targeted JSCs chose to improve solid waste collection system using the fund of these Programs.

We hope within the next 3 years, the duration period of the Project, we will be able to achieve the Project purpose and its objectives; then contributing to the overall strategic goals of the National Strategy on SWM in Palestine (2017-2022).

MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PALESTINE – WEST BANK

As a part of the total generated different types of waste in Palestine, the generated Medical Waste by Health Care Facilities (HCF) in Palestine is a serious problem, especially in West Bank, where most of medical infectious waste is not properly treated. In general, the percentage of medical waste from the total generated waste in HCFs is around 20%, including sharp and non-sharp medical waste.



Special situation: During the pandemic of COVID-19, this problem became more serious and riskier. Visualizing the current situation, there are some minor treatment activities, implanted here and there, but these activities are not enough and partially deal with infectious waste.

This diagram shows the distribution percentages of generated medical waste in HCFs.

On the other hand, the collection system of the municipal waste is suffering from the impact of the improperly collected and disposed infectious waste mixed with municipal waste. In such case, the contamination risk of the entire quantities is very high, and the risk for infecting the workers is more dangerous.

In the southern part of West Bank, specifically in Hebron and Bethlehem, there was a treatment unit, unfortunately, the used technology maintenance is very expensive, where the Higher JSC of Hebron and Bethlehem is not able to maintain.

While in the middle of West Bank, Palestine Medical Complex is internally treating the generated medical waste, but most of other HCFs do not showing what treatment they are practicing. Recently, the MoH provided three treatment units for Al-Minya Landfill, Zahret Al-Finjan Landfill and the transfer station of Ramallah Municipality with 50kg/2hrs treatment capacity, unfortunately they did not start the operation until today.

With regard to the northern part of West Bank, the conducted treatment is not as properly as needed. Besides, the individual level of HCFs' responsibility and monitoring system is not active as required.





Illegal Discharge of medical waste in municipal waste containers

Developing Infectious Waste Management system is urgently needed. Therefore, through this Technical Cooperation Project, we are trying to **pilot the infectious waste treatment** in the middle area of West Bank with the JSC for

SWM - Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate in cooperation with MoH.

We are looking forward to contribute in minimizing the impact of the ongoing and spreading COVID-19 pandemic in Palestine.

The following tables include examples of medical waste generation in Ramallah and Hebron governorates before COVID-19 Pandemic:

Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate			
	Volume kg/d		
Hospital	Medical 20%	Normal 80%	Total
Palestine Medical Complex	1089	2827	3916
Palestine Red Crescent Society	337	815	1152
Abu Rayya Rehabilitation Center	88	828	916
Khaled Hospital	170	515	685
Al-Rahmeh Hospital	76	135	211
Al Razi Ophthalmic Hospital	3	14	18

Hebron Governorate			
	Volume kg/d		
Hospital	Medical 20%	Normal 80%	Total
Al-Mezan Specialty Hospital	23	92	115
Palestine Red Crescent Society	22	88	110
St John Eye Hospital	1	4	5
Bani Naim Hospital	3	12	15
Shahera Hospital for Women	2	8	10
Princess Alia Governmental Hospital	181	724	905
Ahli Hospital	20	80	100
Yatta Public Hospital	66	264	330
Nasser Hospital	5	20	25

* Palestinian Ministry of Health

Mr. Suleiman Abu Muferreh
Project Manager (PM)
General Director - DJSC – MoLG

PUBLIC AWARENESS ON SWM IN PALESTINE

The public awareness in Palestine on various environmental topics, especially SWM is currently not being tackled in a full capacity. COVID-19 increased the strain on the capacity of the solid waste sector as it increased the burden of handling infectious and medical waste; the public were aware that they use their face masks once and then throw it away, this resulted in mixing infectious waste with the municipal waste which led to increasing the load on the solid waste workers to handling that type of waste.

However; the value of sound SWM can be appreciated when visiting the residential neighborhoods in the country.

Environmental awareness is not just a topic to prepare campaigns for, it is a crucial problem that needs to knock on every household door to set in the residents' back minds that solid waste is of major importance in this country that is directly reflected on enhancing our quality of life. Previously, cleaning campaigns were conducted in collaboration with Local Government Units (LGUs), summer camps, school students, women associations and the residents of the target areas, however; the impact of the campaigns were short term and within a week or so the area required another cleaning campaign.

So as can be seen; the problem is not with the campaign itself, the main issue is how the Palestinian citizens perceive their role in the community. Environmental awareness is a status that is supposed to integrate with proper management of solid waste in order to achieve the goals of a cleaner Palestine and to enjoy hygienic environment and scenery.

In this project it is of crucial importance that the JSCs roles are known to the public rising their consciousness that the waste management is a part of their own life. The public ought to know how to handle containers properly; they should be able to make systematic decisions on how to handle their waste. It is of importance to implement a public awareness program that integrates different sectors, involved in the process of SWM.

Social media is the main source of information for many people in this day and age. Therefore, the role it plays in delivering information regarding proper solid waste handling and management is crucial in our future campaigns and methods of reaching out to the residents that are mainly our partners in developing a complete system for public awareness in collaboration with partner ministries, JSCs, LGUs and the private sector.



Waste reduction session at Faisal Husseini School for Girls



Public awareness session in Deir Ibzi School for Boys

Ms. Reiko Shindo
Project Coordinator / CDSWMP-III
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Eng. Ula Aboudi
Specialist on Awareness Raising for 3Rs Strategies / Policies
Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in SWM in Palestine Phase-III
JICA

SWM CHALLENGES IN PALESTINE

The SWM Sector had been subjected to many challenges and achievements over all levels during the past ten years, since the first National Strategy for SWM (2010-2014) had been developed.

The Palestinian governmental institutions led by MoLG succeeded in solving some of these challenges either at short terms or long terms, while some of them remained and still slowing the development of this sector, which represented by the following:

1. Continuous and increasing waste generation rate from households, commercial or industrial facilities, and absence of polices that limit the production of such quantities simultaneously with overloaded of operating sanitary landfills in Palestine, which its operators become unable to manage properly such huge quantities they are daily receiving from one hand, and on the other hand their attempts to separate waste and recycle failed, specially the attempts to recycle the organic fractions which compose about 50-55% of the generated municipal waste and significantly contribute to the generated leachate and odor that represented the biggest challenge the landfills operators are facing.



Solid waste dumpsite in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate

2. Spreading of random dumpsites in Palestine, specially over the middle areas, as a result of the delay in constructing Rammun sanitary landfill as planned in the first National Strategy for SWM (2010-2014). Where the responsible authorities could not find any other suitable sites to construct this landfill within areas

classified (A) or (B), and the available land is located in area (C), which is out of Palestinian Government Control.

3. The discontinuity of the public awareness programs about solid waste reduction at household levels, and what had been implemented is only through specific projects activities MoLG is implementing, and not formulated according to a national strategy with clear goals and polices distributed over a long-term framework.
4. limited financial resources available to support SWM sector from different aspects; technical, institutional and infrastructural one, in addition to the weak public-private participation level in the field, which we believe that can play a significant role in achieving the implemented projects sustainability either at small or large scales.



Leachate Collection pond in Zahret Al-Finjan Sanitary Landfill

5. Absence and week monitoring over activating and applying the related laws and bylaws issued recently; such as SWM Bylaw, and SWM Tariff Systems, which used to be prepared by municipalities and authorized by MoLG.
6. The obstacles made by Israeli occupations in front of constructing any solid managing facility; waste transfer stations, waste landfills and waste recycling facilities, in addition to their practices toward waste collection vehicles such as vehicle seizure.



Open burning for a random dumpsite in West Bank

Eng. Yosrea Ramadan
Environmental Engineer / Solid Waste Specialist
MoLG/DJC

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE MATERIAL MANAGEMENT BYLAW

The C&D Bylaw was issued under the Project for Technical Assistance in SWM in Palestine, funded by JICA, for the purpose of setting effective, safe, and concrete solutions to address and minimize the concerns of illegal dumping of C&D waste in Palestine.

Relevant Partners: The taskforce, which was formed by MoLG, had involved Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of National Economy (MNE), Environment Quality Authority (EQA), Palestinian Contractors Union (PCU), Engineers Association, Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH), and representatives from JSCs for SWM.

Problems addressed:

1. Illegal random dumping of C&D waste material, either disposed in valleys, private and public lands, or on the side roads.
2. Exploitation and utilization of C&D waste materials through applying the 3Rs Strategy.
3. Conscious consuming and minimizing the depletion of natural resources, as well as promoting reusing and recycling practices.
4. Safe disposal of C&D waste material, as some of the material and its components are harmful, contributing to various problems on environment and public health levels.
5. C&D waste including hazardous materials contra banding from the Israeli side to Palestinian areas.





Random Dumpsites for C&D Waste in West Bank

Bylaw Summary:

The Bylaw states and defines articles, clarifying the governing structure policies for treating C&D waste material, starting from applying for a license and procurement process from LGU, or Regional Committee for the construction or demolition of a facility/building. In addition to the preparation of a C&D Waste Management Plan, which includes all phases of construction, demolition and waste separation on site, safe transfer to the final disposal destination/facility, and then managing the generated C&D waste material, starting from separation, recycling, and final disposal of C&D waste material in the allocated facility. Moreover, the C&D Bylaw illustrates the responsibilities of designated parties for implementing this Bylaw, in addition to penalties and infractions in the case of non-compliance.

Expected Challenges:

1. Finding investors in C&D waste.
2. Governmental support for such investments.
3. Lack of control over Occupied Palestinian Territories, due to the division of Areas (A), (B) and (C), and Israeli's confiscation and dominance over many lands.
4. Waste and hazardous materials contra banding from the Israeli side to the Palestinian area.

Eng. Nisreen Hammad
Environmental Engineer / Sanitation Specialist
MoLG – DJSC

For more information and comments

Contact us at

Directorate of Joint Service Council, MoLG
/JICA Project Office
Address: P.O Box 731 RamallahPhone:

Ziad Tawafsheh
+970 594919293
ziadt@molg.pna.ps

Eman Makhlouf
+970 562818210
emanmakh@molg.pna.ps

Yosrea Ramadan
+970 594227818
yosrear@molg.pna.ps

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MESSAGES FROM PROJECT MEMBERS AND EXPERTS

Yes, we consume too much! We need to think and act differently. This partnership between JICA and MoLG is to experiment and generate the best practice on sustainable ways of living. I am very much looking forward to seeing the concept of 3Rs put into practice in this Project lifetime.



I also believe that individual efforts matter. Therefore, let us be a leader and role model of 3Rs in our own community. Let us talk about this subject with people around us and share our own best practice!



Ms. Mariko Hattori
Project Formulation Advisor
JICA Palestine Office

I had the honor to be one of the interview committee members, appointed to interview the candidates for various positions within JICA's support to MoLG in general, and to DJSC in specific. It was a wonderful experience at all stages, as the members of the committees were formed of both, MoLG and JICA's employees.

Moreover, all the tasks starting from screening the CVs, then selecting candidates for interviews and ending with interviewing candidates, were characterized by high professionalism and transparency that led to the selection of the most appropriate qualified staff to carry out the required tasks.

Heaps of thanks to JICA for their efforts and continuous support.

Thanks a lot!



Eng. Mutasem Anani
A Committee Member for
Recruiting Project Local Staff
Projects Department – MoLG

SWM in Palestine relies on establishing landfills for the final disposal of generated waste, which are managed by JSCs or some major Municipalities. Due to land scarcity in Palestine in general, and the scarcity of suitable lands for establishing landfills in particular, several initiatives have been implemented to make use of waste and reduce the waste quantity disposed in landfills as much as possible, through reuse, recycling or composting. Nowadays, these initiatives did not reach their desired goal; they only achieved a limited success, due to the lack of financial sustainability, difficulty in marketing their product; especially compost, and the fierce competition in the local market.

Accordingly, and on account of the increase of population and increase in solid waste generation; especially from households, in addition to the change in citizens' consumption pattern, the increase of service costs of SWM, and the constant threat of these challenges to service providers (JSCs and Municipalities), we need to take several points into consideration. These points are adopting scientific methods, supporting serious initiatives aim at treating solid waste before it reaches the landfills, and trying to benefit from the experience of other countries in choosing the most appropriate method for Palestine. Moreover, we hope that the official Palestinian parties will adopt this important need and try to contact international partners, who are concerned in this field, in order to support us in developing a clear vision on this matter, in line with the National Strategy on SWM in Palestine (2017-2022).



Dr. Ali Barhoum
Executive Director
KRM JSC in Gaza

Challenges in solid waste sector are enormous; it also forms a unique and substantial service at the heart of LGUs in Palestine. Creating and/or running a utility specialized in SWM helps to place this sector under a focused investigation, along with other utilities, like water, wastewater and electricity.

This year came with an additional challenge concerning the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, where the JSCs had to respond along with the health sector in Palestine. Besides, the solid waste service forms a challenge, mainly for the workers toward the collection and disposal of medical waste, in addition to the regular municipal waste, where many people were quarantined. Applying new rules and regulations is a part of SWM process and a guarantee to ensure that people are safe and well protected. MoLG together with JICA, were able to support in this issue, however, this new era posed additional costs and burdens on JSCs.

Last but not least, even though this year is tough, but good news came through MoLG and JICA to the JSCs; announcing that Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Solid Waste Management in Palestine Phase-III was launched, and hopefully, we will have a new and good re-start.



Eng. Iyad Abu Rdaineh
Executive Director
Bethlehem JSC