Ministry of Social Development



Social Development Sector Strategy

2017-2022

Summary

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Introduction

Being the leader of the social development sector in Palestine, the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) recognizes that "social development is essentially a process and not merely a program". It is a conceptual and policy framework that *seeks complementarity between the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions and necessitates reinforced social and economic policies*. Social development is a hence policy issue. We also acknowledge the various challenges that we face as we walk our path towards achieving our objectives. First and foremost is the Israeli occupation, in addition to other challenges related to the ministry's institutional development, its human resources, organizational structure and the limited financial envelope.

Our strategy is based on the inalienable *right of the Palestinian people in development*, as a key component of the international human rights foundation, including our right to self-determination and full sovereignty on natural resources. We acknowledge the challenges we face in our external environment, particularly the continued Israeli occupation, which undermines the right to development of the Palestinian people. Hence, in our Palestinian context, we will continue to claim our right to development, along enhancing the communities' steadfastness and resilience, which are the key compasses guiding our development work. Furthermore, we adopt in this strategy a Palestinian concept of social development, emanating essentially from the fact that it is a community change process that focuses on community empowerment, including people and institutions. Social development aims to improve and enhance the quality of life of the society, as well as provides social protection and basic services to all the members of poor and vulnerable households, so that they can enjoy a dignified life and decent jobs. To achieve full equality, this process also entails caring for and promoting economic, social and political inclusiveness of marginalized groups, particularly children, girls, women, people with disabilities, older women and men, youth, as well as Palestinians living in marginalized areas (East Jerusalem, Area C in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, H2 areas in Hebron, refugee camps, etc.).

Since the beginning of April until December 2016, MOSD was engaged in a series of internal consultations within the ministry, as well as with partners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A total of 18 workshops and meetings were conducted to identify social development priorities with the participation of 518 stakeholders representing official institutions and relevant governmental bodies, civil society, private sector, and United Nations organizations, as well as international partners.

Vision

> **A resilient, cohesive, solidary, productive and innovative Palestinian society that provides dignified life for all its members, unleashes their potentials and believes in rights, equality, justice, partnership and inclusivity.**

We set forth this vision for the social sector that incorporates a broad spectrum of partners: public, civil society, private sector and United Nations organizations, and other international partners, to guide our joint efforts and potentials, confirm our aspirations to move forward towards a solidary and cohesive Palestinian society. We aspire reaching a society whose members are *bonded by strong and interdependent relations*. We seek a society whose members work together to achieve their social, economic and national aspirations, steer their collective potentials and believe in human rights, as well as values of equality, justice, partnership and inclusivity. We foresee a *Palestinian society that is lively, vibrant and prosperous in its remarkable productivity and innovation;* a society that shines with its female and male pioneers and innovators. It is a society that considers the needs of its current and future generations and grows by their diversity, *fosters its social capital* and treats its citizens with justice and respect without any discrimination or exclusion. We aspire for a society where all Palestinians - men, women, boys and girls, people with disabilities, the elderly and children -*enjoy a dignified quality life.*

Strategic objectives and results

The strategy has set three strategic objectives that are closely interlinked with the National Policy Agenda (2017-2022) and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. These objectives include *reducing poverty, eliminating all forms of marginalization and violence and social exclusion in the Palestinian society, as well as enhancing social cohesion* (*see Figure below*).

A resilient, solidary, productive and innovative Palestinian society that provides dignified life for all its members, unleashes their potentials and believes in rights, equality, justice, partnership and integration

First strategic objective: Reducing poverty	Second strategic objective: eliminating all forms of marginalization, violence and social exclusion in the Palestinian society	Third strategic objective: Enhancing social cohesion
Outcomes		
1. Poor and vulnerable households are able to ensure their basic needs in appropriate quality and quantities. 2. Women, men and youth from poor households are engaged in economic and collective empowerment projects. 3. Effective national and local social protection frameworks that protect poor and vulnerable women and men from shocks, crisis and disasters.	1. Protective policies and legislations that promote justice, equality and rights for all. 2. Societal culture that promotes rights and accountability. 3. The poor, vulnerable groups and gender based violence victims are able to access the justice system. 4. Marginalized groups enjoy social, infrastructure and technology services. 5. Social, economic and political participation of marginalized groups.	4. Expanded and effective voluntary interventions 5. Effective models of social responsibility at the local and national levels. 6. Fair and inclusive economic policies. 7. Social upbringing systems promote human values. 8. Efficient and effective social development institutions, as well as responsive to the needs

Targeted priority marginalized groups and areas



Ministry's contribution in achieving the strategy through its Budget Programs (2017-2019)

1. Empowerment and Combating Poverty Program

The program aims at supporting poor and vulnerable households to ensure their basic needs, through the provision of food vouchers for 159000 individuals, regular cash assistance for 118000 families, exemption from fees for 80000 students, emergency assistance for 5000000 families, health insurance card for 120000 families, as well as food assistance to 57000 individuals in the West Bank. The program also aims at empowering poor and socially and economically vulnerable households through the provision of projects to 1000 families, loans to 250 people with disabilities, as well as income generating projects for 1000 youth, empowerment projects for 500 women and collective projects benefiting 50 farmers.

2. Development and Protection of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

The program's key outputs include:

- 4000 people with disabilities have received care and protective services, as well as rehabilitation and awareness raising.
- 18210 of children and their families have been protected, rehabilitated and cared for, as well as provided with awareness raising, counseling and sponsorship.
- 4025 gender based violence women victims receive protective and empowerment services, as well as psychosocial and legal rehabilitation.
- 1800 elderly receive protection services, counseling as well as day and residential care.
- Enhancing partnership and complementarity with charitable organizations, as well as the local and civic community to achieve community protection for all vulnerable and needy groups, as well as to provide social services within the framework of social responsibility.

3. Administrative Development and Planning Program

The program focuses on providing administrative, logistic, legal and structural support, as well as developing monitoring and evaluation and electronic information systems. The program also seeks to publically promoting the Ministry's programs, fundraising, and developing plans and reports as well as implementing capacity building initiatives. These interventions are essential to efficiently and effectively implement the Ministry's programs.