



ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
JERUSALEM OFFICE



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As Head of the Jerusalem Office of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, during my two years in office I had the opportunity to realize the level of appreciation that the Palestinians have towards the Italian people and our contribution for the development of their country. In return, thanks to our cooperation approach, always close to the beneficiaries, their rights and needs, the achievement of the results is often combined with the building of precious human relations, that I value every day and make our job so rewarding.

Currently, AICS Jerusalem has a portfolio of programmes and projects for a total amount of 180 million euro, with a significative 24 million euro in direct management and more than 20 million euro in budget support to Palestinian line ministries, in order to ensure ownership and accountability of our initiatives.

Our strategy focuses on the contribution we would like to offer for the full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Palestine as identified by the Palestinian Authority, our main partner, in the National Policy Agenda: the enhancement of an enabling environment for the thriving of economic initiative, the improvement of the Palestinian Health System and the resilience of the most vulnerable groups.

In this effort, our collaborations include a large range of partners such as the European Union in Jerusalem, several Italian Civil Society Organizations active in the country, many UN agencies for the implementation of multilateral projects, as well as a large number of Palestinian Institutional and Civil Society partners, key players for the achievements of concrete results on the ground.

With other Member States of the European Union, we are fully engaged in the EU Joint Programming as lead donor in the Health and Gender sectors and active donor in the Economic Development sector, thanks to our commitment and substantial long-standing financial contribution. In addition, our Humanitarian AID Programme continues to represent a pillar of the AICS Jerusalem strategy, supporting vulnerable communities in Area C, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Cristina Natoli



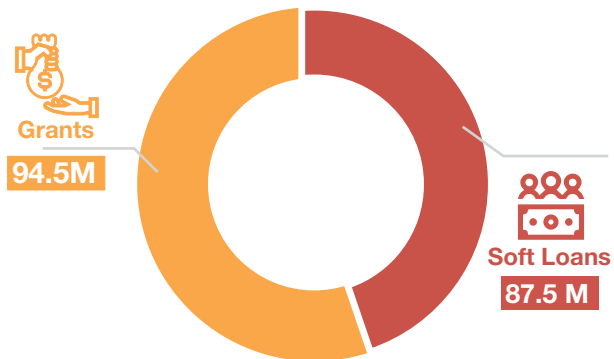


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GENERAL LAW ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

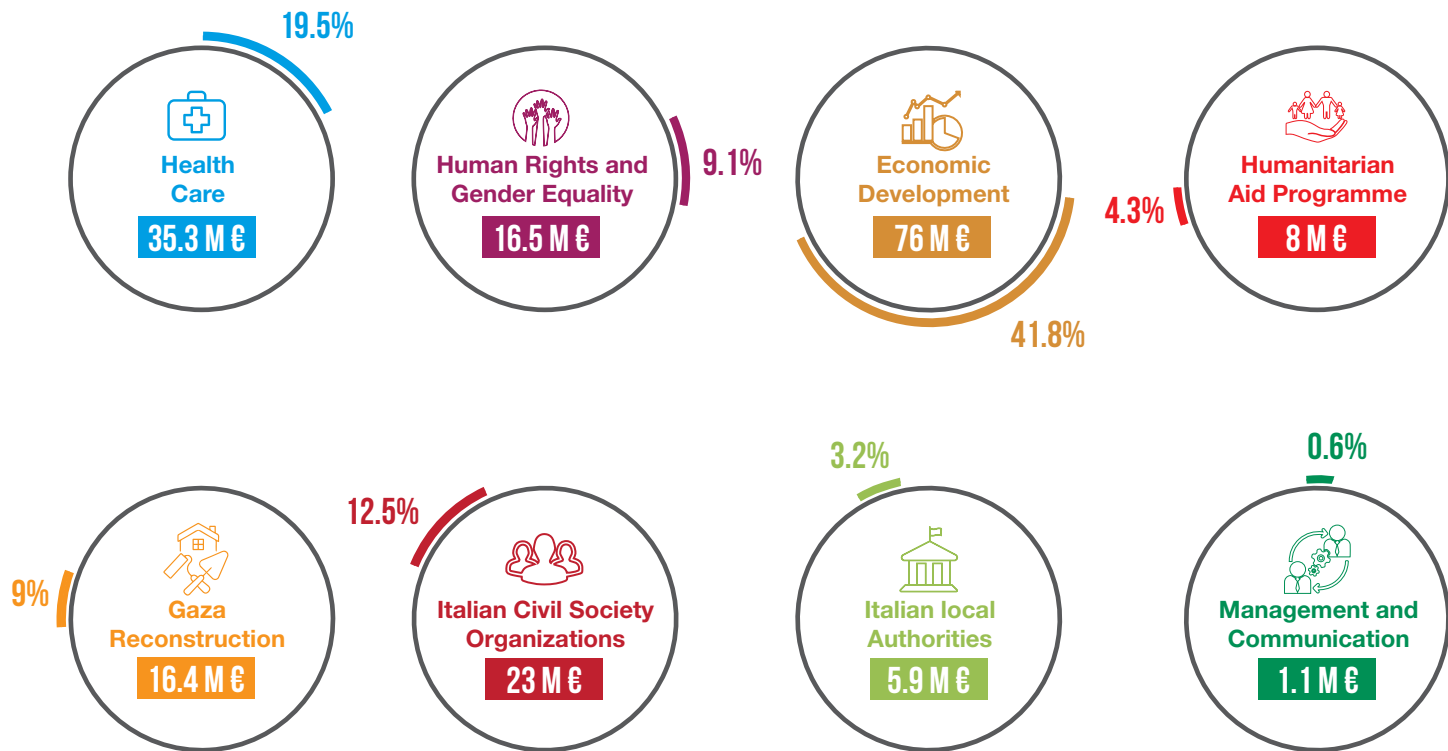
The new Italian Agency for Development Cooperation is established to better implement development projects and humanitarian aid initiatives

182 MILLION EURO



Budget Support to Palestinian Institutions **24 M**

Ministry of Health	Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA)
Ministry of Finance and Planning	Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection (PFESP)
Ministry of Women's Affairs	Palestine Capital Market Authority (PCMA)
Ministry of Social Development	General Attorney Office
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
Ministry of Public Works and Housing	Palestinian Energy and National Resources Authority (PENRA)



HEALTH CARE

Italy is currently lead donor for the Health sector in the framework of the European Union Joint Programming.

The Italian commitment allowed to achieve relevant results for the enhancement of the Palestinian Health sector, including hospitals' networking, the delivery of quality primary care services and the institutionalization of a Central Lab for Public Health.

Thanks to a well-structured programme in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, for a total commitment of € 20 million, AICS Jerusalem is supporting the prevention and the control of non-transmissible chronic diseases; community mental health and the disability programme; emergency services and vocational trainings for the hospitals personnel; awareness and health education campaigns for primary and secondary prevention, in



addition to one infrastructural intervention to primary care services and the supply of medicines and equipment. This group of activities are implemented through the funding of three different programmes: **POSIT** (2014), **CRONO** (on-going) and **RING** (at its onset).

Within a total budget of 11,500,000 Euro (4,016,000 € directly managed by AICS and 7,484,000 € in budget support), RING Programme will last 36 months and will inform the population in West Bank and Gaza about the importance of health promotion, the prevention of Non-transmissible Chronic Diseases and the protection through adequate regulations.

AICS Jerusalem contributes also to the multi-donor Programme **PEGASE (Palestino-Européen de Gestion de l'Aide Socio-Economique)**, aiming

at sustaining the running costs of the six Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem, to the development of the **Hebron's hospitals networking** through a soft loan credit line (€ 10 million) for the construction of two new hospitals in Dura and Halhoul and on the multilateral channel to improve the Primary Health Care (PHC) service delivery mainly by supporting the Family Practice programme and by strengthening the Health Information System (HIS) in partnership with **WHO (World Health Organization)**.



The construction site of Dura Hospital

A technical meeting between AICS Representatives and the Ministry of Health



PEGASE (PALESTINO-EUROPEEN DE GESTION DE L'AIDE SOCIO-ECONOMIQUE)

This Project is funded by



launched on the 1st February 2008 by the European Commission to support the Palestinian National Development Plan



ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Ensure the functioning of East Jerusalem's Hospitals through the payment of medical referrals of patients from the Ministry of Health
- ✓ Reduce the number and the cost of referrals to hospitals abroad (for example Israeli hospitals)
- ✓ Provide quality services by East Jerusalem Hospitals to the population living in West Bank and Gaza Strip
- ✓ Strengthen a continuum of care from primary health care centers to referral hospitals



HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

Human Rights and Gender Equality represents a strategic sector for the Italian Cooperation in Palestine. With a long-standing history of commitment, it includes women's economic and social empowerment and fostering women's participation in the public sphere, prevention and response to gender-based violence, as well as the promotion of the defence and realization of human rights, particularly of children, and the promotion of a culture respectful of the dignity of individuals.

AICS Jerusalem commitment in promoting a society based on human rights and gender equality is reaffirmed by Italy's leading position as donor in this sector in the framework of the EU Joint Programming.

The Human Rights and Gender Equality Programme includes 10 projects, 5 bilateral and 5 multilateral initiatives, for a total amount of €16,5 million.

On the bilateral channel, working with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and of Social Development (MoSD), the programme endeavours to combat violence against women and to promote women's decent work opportunities (**WELOD 3 - Women's Empowerment and Local Development** – € 3.3 M; **IRADA - Women Informing Responses for their Agency, Development and Advocacy** – € 1.5 M).

The project **KARAMA** (€ 600,000) aims to foster a human rights culture, improving children's rights and promoting the abolition of the death penalty.

Two recently approved programmes have also started in 2018: **SI-GEWE - Support to the Institutionalization of Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment in the NPA 2017-2022** (€ 4 M), to promote gender mainstreaming in the Palestinian government; improving gender based violence services; supporting the gender sensitive analysis of statistical data for a more equitable society in partnership with MoWA, MoSD, Attorney General's Office (AGO), the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the civil society organisations; **AMAL, Human Rights and Gender Equality** (€ 4 M), that intends to promote human rights and gender equity principles among educational institutions and the monitoring of SGDs, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, AGO and the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT).

KARAMA ACHIEVED RESULTS



- ✓ 35 public prosecutors have been specialized in juvenile Justice and 245 professionals from juvenile justice and protection system departments have been part of capacity building; moreover, the professionals of all units of the Ministry of Justice became more competent in writing international reports
- ✓ The cases solved by juvenile justice department or by mediation have been tripled and the number of minors arrested by the Palestinian Authority has decreased to more than %58
- ✓ 30 professors and more than 300 university students are being involved in a public debate about death penalty and about more 1000 children have improved their access to law and quality of justice

WELOD 3 & IRADA ACHIEVED RESULTS

- ✓ Capacity building of 25 Gender Units within line ministries, MoWA staff, Gender Sensitive National Media Network, Tawasol centers and their network of more than 250 civil society organizations, including a -3year professional GBV course for frontliners at the Birzeit University
- ✓ Prevention, protection, reintegration and awareness raising services to around 1,500 GBV survivors annually through 4 anti-violence shelters in the West Bank and Gaza, 3 counselling centers, the National Helpline and ongoing establishment of a GBV National Observatory
- ✓ Business development training and coaching for 80 female SMEs



MULTILATERAL PROGRAMME



500,000 €

Sheltering Services for Women Survivors of Violence in Palestine responding to their social, protection and economic needs.



1,000,000 €
(Phase 1 + phase 2)

Policy, service and social determinants aiming at upholding sexual and reproductive health rights for youth and in particular for girls.



1,000,000 €
(Phase 1 + phase 2)

Enhance women's economic empowerment in Palestine through promoting their equal access to decent work opportunities through reinforcement of equitable laws, legislations, policies and active labor market programmes, while engaging public, private and community actors.



GTWG
Gender Technical Working Group
EU in Palestine

GENDER TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

For the coordination of EU, Member States and like-minded donors within the framework of the European Joint Strategy on gender issues in Palestine.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AICS Jerusalem promotes the development of the Palestinian economy through financial inclusion. It encourages entrepreneurial initiative and provides innovative financial tools tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable socio-economic groups.

The portfolio includes 10 projects, 6 bilateral projects and 4 multilateral initiatives, for an overall amount of 76 million euros.

FINANCIAL TOOLS FOR THE PALESTINIAN ENTREPRENEURS

The credit line **SME – Small and medium enterprises** (€25 M) provides loans at concessional terms for equipment purchase to Palestinian enterprises.

START UP Palestine (€20 M), in partnership with the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection, facilitates access to credit for financially marginalized groups such as women, young graduates and small-scale farmers.

A third soft loan has been provided for the rehabilitation of the electricity distribution network in the West Bank (**EUMP**, €17M).

WORKING FOR A CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

FIN PAL (€2 M) provides capacity building to microfinance institutions, saving and credit cooperatives and the main institutional actors of the Palestinian financial environment (Palestine Monetary Authority, Palestinian Capital Market Authority and Ministry of Finance and Planning).

Enhancing the Business Environment for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (€2,5 M) aims at improving the enabling environment for private initiative, with a dedicated focus on increasing efficiency and streamline production costs.



**SMALL
& MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES**
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



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MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES



Strengthening resilience and livelihoods of Gazan fishing communities through promoting the establishment of a marine cage farming social business

The project aims at the establishment of an offshore cage mariculture system in the Gaza Strip, to be managed by the fishers' communities in the form of a social business



Upgrading the footwear value chain in the Hebron District

The objective is to increase the competitiveness of the Footwear Value Chain in Hebron through technology, quality and product development as well as by improving market access.



International
Labour
Organization

Establishing an Independent Social Security Corporation for the Administration of the New Social Security System for Private Sector Workers and their Family Members in Palestine

The project seeks to provide technical assistance for the setting-up of a well-functioning administration for the new Palestinian Social Security Corporation.



HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAMME

*Every year AICS allocates humanitarian funds, through calls for proposals open to **Civil Society Organizations**, for projects targeting the most vulnerable communities in East Jerusalem, Area C of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including those at risk of displacement and forcible transfer.*

In particular, AICS Humanitarian Programmes focus on the Protection of refugees and IDPs with an integrated approach, combining the provision of essential services with community empowerment and risk mitigation measures.

With an overall contribution of € 1.3 million since 2014, AICS also participates in the oPt Humanitarian Fund managed by **UNJOCHA** to respond to unforeseen emergencies as well as to provide funding for high priority humanitarian projects. Moreover, since 2014 Italy has contributed over € 650,000 to **UNMAS** as part of a multi-donor action in Gaza. This has allowed for the continued implementation of a comprehensive ERW risk mitigation process.

Italy also supports the humanitarian activities of the **West Bank Protection Consortium**, established in January 2015 to prevent the forcible transfer of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Together with the European Union (DG-ECHO) and eight Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden and the UK), Italy pooled resources into this basket fund in order to upscale the humanitarian assistance to at risk communities and individuals. The Consortium is comprised of five International NGO members who collectively implement an integrated approach to protection in their humanitarian responses, predicated on fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).



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2018 / 2019 PROGRAMME

<p><i>Integrated approach for better waste management, environmental awareness and healthy nutrition education for refugees from the Nurshams and Tulkarem camps</i></p>	 	<p>20,444 refugees in Tulkarem and Nur Shams camps</p>
<p><i>READY: Resilience, Empowerment, Advocacy for a Deeper Inclusion in Shufat Refugee Camp</i></p>	 	<p>2502 beneficiaries, including 247 women, 731 girls and 669 boys</p>
<p><i>RISE UP - Strengthening inclusive mechanisms and tools for the prevention and mitigation of gender-based violence in Palestine</i></p>	 	<p>4968 beneficiaries, including 4778 women and 1248 persons with disability</p>
<p><i>Our lives, our future. Protection, resilience and empowerment of vulnerable Palestinian women in East Jerusalem</i></p>	 	<p>1 130 beneficiaries in Silwan and Issawya neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem</p>
<p><i>Child-friendly schools: integrated intervention to increase the resilience of the students from the schools of Mantiqat Shi b al Butum, Khirbet al Fakheit, Khirbet al Majaz, Jinba in the Masafer Yatta area (Area C)</i></p>	 	<p>1446 beneficiaries, including 711 women and 735 men</p>
<p><i>Reinforce resilience and improve living conditions in the West Bank Palestinian communities at risk of forcible transfer</i></p>	 	<p>11,139 beneficiaries from Area C villages, including 2827 girls, 2972 boys. 2536 women, 2668 men and 322 persons with disabilities</p>



GAZA RECONSTRUCTION

281 DAMAGED HOUSES

Rehabilitation of 281 damaged houses located in the 4 districts of the Gaza Strip (1826 displaced persons can return to their houses)

111 NEW HOUSING UNITS

Creation of 111 new housing units in Al Nada for a total of 15000 mq of built up area and 700 mq of semi-private open space, to accommodate 720 displaced individuals

75 HOUSING UNITS

Reconstruction for 75 housing units organized in 11 buildings in Al Nada neighborhood for a total of 11.000 mq of built up area and 2700 mq of semi-private open space

42087 MQ OF URBAN AREA

Basic environmental infrastructure and landscaping rehabilitation works on 42087 mq of urban area in Al Nada

21 BUILDINGS

Rehabilitation for 21 buildings (374 housing units) part of Al Nada social housing complex

8300 MQ OF RESIDENTIAL AREA

Reconstruction of 8300 mq of residential area (accommodating 50 housing units) and 3000 mq of commercial area at the Italia Mall

SOFT LOAN	GRANT
15,000,000 €	1,450,000 €



Italian Contribution



2017 PROJECTS ON-GOING



11,8 MLN EURO AS OVERALL ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION IN PALESTINE

- ✓ Promote alternative masculinities and respond to gender-based violence in UNRWA schools from first to ninth grade
- ✓ Mitigate the effects of emergencies on youth through skill and capacity building training offered by vocational and technical education centers
- ✓ Increase Palestine refugee youth employability in Gaza's competitive labor market



2018 NEW INITIATIVES

14,8 MLN EURO AS OVERALL ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION IN PALESTINE

- ✓ Regular distribution of in-kind food assistance and creation of cash-for-work opportunities inside camps – 2 MLN EURO (UNRWA Emergency Appeal)
- ✓ 400,000 medical consultations delivered to Palestine refugees patients and three health centers (Bureij, Khan Younis and Maghazi health centers) - 2 MLN EURO (SAGA - Supporting the provision of primary health care at UNRWA health centres)



ITALIAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Italian Civil Society Organizations represent an important player in the implementation of development projects in Palestine. AICS Jerusalem is currently funding 18 projects (for a total amount of € 23 million) in West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

These projects are related to different intervention sectors, addressing AICS Jerusalem and the Palestinian Authority's strategic priorities: economic development, agriculture, education and health assistance.

At the end of 2017, 9 new initiatives have been approved focusing on social entrepreneurship to fight youth unemployment in the West Bank and on services in the wastewater management, social/environmental rehabilitation and inclusion for people with disabilities in Gaza.



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ITALIAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PALESTINE

In October 2017, AICS Roma selected a list of projects submitted by Italian Municipalities and Regions, in order to attribute a new role to the territorial cooperation.

On 17 accepted proposals, 6 projects will be implemented in Palestine, for a AICS total contribution of around € 6 million.

Local Authority	Title	Place
 Municipality of Comacchio	SPECIALITY - Development of an inclusive tourism in Beit Sahour and Bethlehem	Beit Sahour Bethlehem
 City of Torino	NUR (New Urban Resources) - Renewable energy for Bethlehem	Bethlehem
 Region of Umbria	BEE the change - Reinforcement of the honey and officinal plants value chain for the socio-economic development of Palestine	Ramallah Al-Bireh Governorate Jenin
 Municipality of Pavia	System of management and control of the urban growth for the heritage conservation and improvement of the quality of life in the city of Bethlehem	Bethlehem
 Municipality of Prato	WWPAL - Waste Water Palestine	Nablus Jenin Gaza Strip
 Municipality of Gubbio	Integrated poles for professional and entrepreneurial training and qualifications in the construction sector	Palestine Jordan

SUPPORT TO THE REHABILITATION AND VALORIZATION OF A PALESTINIAN LANDMARK: THE CHURCH OF NATIVITY (€ 1.050.000)

- ✓ Restoration of 12 stone columns from the Crusader period including their capital, base and painted shafts
- ✓ Cleaning, restoration and exposition of 21 mq of IV century floor mosaic
- ✓ Drafting of a Conservation Management Plan for the Church of Nativity
- ✓ Elaboration of a research highlighting the property's OUVs
- ✓ Editing and print of an interpreting booklet for tourists of the WHS



PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- ✓ € 4,8 million: total budget for all the initiatives submitted
- ✓ Involvement of the private sector is encouraged because of their positive contribution in terms of creativity and innovation, according with the sustainable development challenges
- ✓ Companies are eligible if they respect international standards for human rights, decent work, social and environmental responsibility
- ✓ Conservation and rehabilitation works at the grotto of St. Nicholas Church
- ✓ Vocational trainings for young Palestinians about conservation and valorization of the cultural heritage
- ✓ Introduction of innovative tools for touristic and cultural promotion of the Church

Designed By: *Creative* 
Forever young



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