

Area C Development Programme

Introducing Area C

Under the interim Oslo Accords negotiated by the Israelis and the Palestinians in the mid-1990s, land in the West Bank was divided into three areas: Areas A, B, and C. In Area A, the Central Government assumed full control for civil affairs and security; in Area B, the PA would similarly administer civil affairs but share security control with the Israelis; and in Area C, Israel assumed responsibility for most civil affairs and has full security control. This arrangement was considered temporary pending a final status agreement on Palestinian statehood.

Area "C" is the largest contiguous landmass in the West Bank. It represents 64 percent of the land including the Jordan Valley, an economically strategic area. More than 250 Palestinian communities live in Area C, and most of Area C is still inaccessible to large-scale Palestinian investment and economic enterprise. Given its economic importance, the expanded development of Area C by the Palestinians is critical for the future viability of the Palestinian economy.

The Palestinian population in Area C is among the most vulnerable and marginalized in the West Bank. Demolitions of housing and livelihood and forced evictions are causing severe poverty. 24% of the households in Area C, are food insecure. Over 70% of communities located entirely or mostly in Area C are not connected to the water network and rely on rainwater or on tanked water at vastly increased cost. The Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) takes action to disrupt the supply of water that residents try to obtain from alternate source.

About the Programme

This Programme for developing Area C is located in the context of the overall financing agreements between the central government and the European Union (EU) , namely:

- The agreement signed on March 19th, 2013 and amended on August 24th , 2015.
- The agreement signed on March 17th, 2015 and amended on July 13th , 2016.

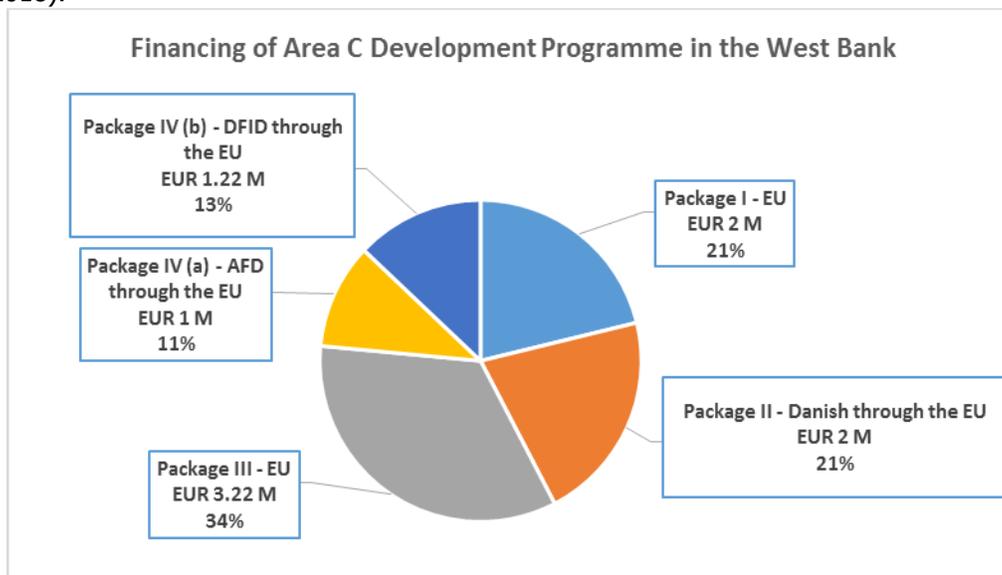
The Programme which aims to develop the so-called Area C, designated the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) as the implementing agency for the infrastructure component.

The overall objective of the programme is to improve the social and economic conditions of Palestinian communities in Area C which is crucial for maintaining Palestinian presence in Area C and for the development of the Palestinian economy.

The specific objective (outcome) of the action is composed of two folds (i) to improve access to essential and public infrastructure in Area C; (ii) strengthening the Palestinian institutions' capacity to deliver essential social and public infrastructure in Area C.

Program Financing

The Municipal Development & Lending Fund "MDLF" signed several agreements with donors to begin the process of developing Area "C" in the West Bank as part of a comprehensive programme directed and supported by the central government, it is fully aligned with the Palestinian National Policy to develop the less advantaged communities in Palestine. The programme has been funded through a number of different international partners: the European Union and its member states, namely the Kingdom of Denmark, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom government (DFID), and the French Development Agency (AFD), with a total contribution EUR 9.5 Million over the years (2015-2018).



The Selection Criteria

A Steering Committee composed of the European Union (EU), the Central Government, MDLF and of other donors financing the programme was formed as an organizational set-up of implementing this programme. The Steering Committee is mandated to discuss and endorse the localities as well as the selected projects to be implemented in the target localities in Area C.

The Ministry of Local Government (MOLG) and the MDLF prepared a competitive selection criteria which was shared and discussed with financing partners (EU, DFID, DRO, AfD) and hence finally approved by the **Steering Committee (SC)** on 30 June 2016.

The selection criteria for localities is composed of sub criterion starting from the high level eligibility and screening, followed by a competitive scoring of the eligible localities, and ending with a competitive selection criteria for projects as illustrated below:

- Locality eligibility criteria: the statutory outline plan has to be either approved or tacitly approved if no major objection has been raised within 18 months following the submission of the plan by the Village Council to the ICA.
- Primary competitive criteria for locality selection: it includes, inter alia, number of population and vulnerability assessment based on OCHA vulnerability assessment.
- Social infrastructure projects' eligibility criteria: the proposed projects have to be prioritized by the local communities and to be fully located in Area C within the master plans.
- Secondary competitive project's selection: it includes, inter alia, cost efficiency, readiness and cross cutting issues.

Target Localities

The programme has targeted 31 localities across the West Bank Governorates as follows:

Localities	Governorate	No. of Localities
Ras Al-Wad O'qban Al Ma'asara Al Halqum Al Manshiya Marah Ma'allah Khirbet Ad Deir	Bethlehem	7
Immnaizel Twaneh Ad Deirat Idna North Al-Rifa'iyya Khashem Ad Daraj	Hebron	6
Abdallah Al-Younis T'innik Umm Rihan Barta'a Ash Sharqiya Daher Al 'Abed Imreiha	Jenin	6
Al Jiftlik	Jericho	1
Um Al-Lahim	Jerusalem	1
Ein Shibli Furush Beit Dajan	Nablus	2
Dab'a Ras Tira Ezbit Al-Tabeeb	Qalqilia	5

Al Funduq Habla		
Kardala	Tubas	1
Khirbet Jubara Al Masqoufa	Tulkarm	2

In terms of number of projects, 42 projects have been identified with a total (EUR 7,868,530) distributed across the four packages as follows:

- 14 projects under package I and financed by the EU.
- 8 projects under package II and financed by the Danish through the EU.
- 10 projects under package III and financed by the EU.
- 10 projects under package IV and financed by the (AFD and DFID) through the EU.

Expected Results

The implementation of the identified projects is forecasted to have a positive impact on the living conditions of the lesser-served residents in the target localities, **where the total number of beneficiaries is around 38,000 inhabitants**, who have been suffering from the Israeli practices including the access restriction to lands and resources as well as the limitations on their planning, construction, and development of their infrastructure. The expected outcomes of the sub-projects can be summarized as follows:

- To improve the social, the economic and the environmental conditions of the residents.
- To lower the health risks resulting from the unpaved roads.
- To improve access to better education through the expansion and development of the existing schools.
- To provide the residents with better city services.

At the output level, the programme is expected to achieve the following:

- Construction and rehabilitation of 1.3 Km of water networks (one project).
- Construction of 8 schools with a total 3,854 Sq.m. (8 projects)
- Construction and rehabilitation of 12.49 Km of roads. (13 projects)
- Construction of 3,000 Sq.m of playgrounds. (2 projects)
- Construction/Renovation of 16 Multipurpose buildings with a total 3,152 Sq.m. (16 projects)
- Supply of Furniture and Equipment's for the multipurpose buildings. (one project)
- Supply and install of electrical transformer for one locality. (one project)

