

# Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project (ICUD)

The Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project – ICUD, is a 4-year World Bank-funded project jointly implemented by the Ministry of Local Government and the Municipal Development and Lending Fund. The project will work on strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the participating urban areas to plan for sustainable urban growth through the provision of, inter alia, technical assistance (TA), goods, and training.

## Description :

### Project Development Objectives (PDO)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) of ICUD is to enhance the capacity of participating in urban areas to plan for sustainable urban growth.

### Project Beneficiaries

The participating project in urban areas will consist of four urban agglomerations<sup>1</sup> in the West Bank (Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah) and Gaza City. These five participating urban areas have been selected because of their strategic importance in terms of population and future economic growth. The population estimate of these urban areas as they currently stand is 1,340, 4253 (Based on PCBS predicted populations for 456, /2016) representing 28% of the total population of West Bank and Gaza and include 30 LGUs (16 Municipalities and 14 Village Councils).

The currently identified LGUs of the urban areas are:

- (i) Ramallah Al-Bireh agglomeration with the municipalities of Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Betunya and Surda Abu Qash.
- (ii) Bethlehem agglomeration with Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Ad Doha, Artas, and Al Khader local authorities.
- (iii) Nablus agglomeration with Nablus Municipality, and the VCs of Azmut, Deir-al-Hatab, Salim, Rujeib, Kafr Qalill, 'Iraq Burin, Tell, Sarra, Beit Iba, Qusin, Zawata, Beit Wazan, Dair Sharaf.
- (iv) Hebron agglomeration with the municipalities of Hebron, Taffuh, Dura, Halhul, and Beit Kahil. Hebron city and the surrounding adjacent four big towns are highly dense urban areas with a population of over 300 thousand by the end of 2016.
- (v) Gaza Municipality of Gaza City. The Gaza strip is a very population dense which makes identifying a clear agglomeration difficult. After consultations with Gaza City and taking into account the different constraints of working across administrative boundaries, as well as the huge and very dense population in Gaza City proper, the ICUD project will focus its support only on Gaza City.

### Project Components

*Component 1: Planning for Sustainable Urban Growth.*

- **Sub-Component 1.1:** *Structured capacity development support for urban growth planning.* This component objective is to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of participating urban

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<sup>1</sup>1. The urban agglomerations are defined as built-up urban areas extending across existing municipal and village council boundaries with common labor and housing markets and were identified through spatial analysis of urban extent, and in consultation with MoLG and selected LGUs.

areas and analytical underpinning of current urban planning practice to plan for sustainable urban growth through the provision of, inter alia, technical assistance (TA), goods, and training.

- *Milestone I. Establish and actively maintain intra-urban area coordination mechanisms.*
  - *Milestone II. Complete baseline assessment of the existing urban extent.*
  - *Milestone III. Complete exercise to develop cost-analyzed urban growth scenarios, and to disclose them to the public.*
  - *Milestone IV. Modify respective member LGUs' plans based on the optimum urban growth scenario selected at the urban area level.*
- **Sub-Component 1.2:** *Demand-driven customized support for urban growth planning for the West Bank urban areas.*
  - **Sub-Component 1.3:** *Demand-driven customized support for urban growth planning for Gaza urban area: Gaza City*

#### *Component 2: Project Implementation Support and Management Cost.*

This component will finance the training, operating costs, and goods necessary for the technical oversight and implementation support of the proposed project to be performed by, inter alia, a Technical Supervisor (TS) from Urban planning department at MOLG, Technical Coordinator (TC), Local Coordinators (LC) for Bethlehem, Hebron, and Nablus areas, and the existing Local Coordinator for the Ramallah-Al Bireh-Bitunia (RAB) Joint Coordination Unit. This component will also finance the management fee of the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) that will manage procurement, finance, safeguards, and reporting for the proposed project based on technical inputs from the TS.

#### **Financing Partner Contribution**

The project is funded by the WB for USD 5 million. A provision for retroactive financing of USD 500,000 (10% of Grant amount) will be provided to the MDLF to cover necessary financing, e.g. TS salary and initial operating costs.