



BTC PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

**BELGIAN
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

PALESTINIAN-BELGIUM STUDY AND CONSULTANCY FUND

PZA 01 004
NN 19184/11



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1 Project sheet

Project Title	Palestinian-Belgium Study and Expertise Fund
Navigation Code	PZA01 004
Sector	Multi-Sectoral
Signature Specific Agreement	12.11.2001
Technical and Financial File	Palestinian-Belgium Study and Consultancy Fund
Signature of convention	07.12.2001
Starting Date	07.12.2001
Ending Date	11.11.2011
Budget	250.000 €
Budget Disbursement	123.565 €
Geographical Location	Palestinian Territory; West Bank and Gaza
Partner Institution	Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MoPAD)
Project Manager	Dr Estephan Salameh, Special Advisor to the Minister Interim Head of Aid Management and Coordination Directorate, MoPAD

Objective: The general objective of this fund is to finance studies and consultancies in the framework of the Belgo-Palestinian cooperation. While the specific objective is to finance studies and consultancies including identification, preparation, follow up studies, investigations, missions, seminars and services.

Short description: Five studies have been carried out from 2001-2008, one was cancelled, and two were finalized in 2009. No studies were financed in 2010.

The study that was cancelled (in 2009) is:

- Supporting the Palestinian Civil Defence Department: "Enhancement of Civil Protection and Emergency Services".

The studies that were finalized in 2009 are:

- Reviewing and improving the drawings, the technical specifications and the tender documents prepared by the Joint Council for Planning and Development" for "Artas, Low cost sanitation technology" Project.
- Support developing an "E-Learning Strategy for the Palestinian Education Sector" for the "E-learning Curriculum in the Primary & Secondary Education in Palestine" Project.

Key Contacts:

Estephan Salameh - Special Advisor to the Minister / Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development.

2 Brief factual overview

In December 2008, there was an Israeli incursion in Gaza which resulted in humanitarian crisis and severe losses of lives in addition to damage to infrastructure and environment as a result of the shelling and bombing using the internationally banned phosphorous bombs. Therefore, the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development in cooperation with the UN/NGOs and the concerned Palestinian institutions embarked on preparing an assessment of the situation in Gaza and setting the proper response to the crisis in the form of the "GAZA Early Recovery Needs Assessment" and "Gaza Early Recovery Plan". Consultations with the donor community and internally took place to decide on the implementation modalities in Gaza as well as internal discussions on how to integrate this plan into the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan.

The next issue that affected the work of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)/ Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MOPAD) in general is the resignation of the previous government and the instability that resulted afterwards. Most donors tried to be on the safe side and implement through NGOs and UN agencies and use channels as Palestino Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio – Economique (PEGASE) and World Bank Trust Fund (WBTF) in case there was an undesirable change in the government. Others continued to work with the PNA in a conservative manner.

At the institutional level of the Ministry of Planning, a new Minister –Dr. Ali Jarbawi – took over and the Ministry of Planning mandate changed as well as its name to become the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development.

Despite the previous events, the PNA/ MoPAD tried to resume the work in the development field despite the fact that the international community was focusing on the emergency aspect in Gaza and in the reserved mode till the features of the new government became clear.

3 Overview of activity planning

A study and consultancy fund, jointly managed by Palestinian partners and BTC, is a tool to finance preparatory steps to further projects. The study fund was launched in 2001 and kept on going till now. Noticeable progress has been noted and identification studies have been conducted in different sectors as can be seen in the activities below. This fund is needed and BTC recommends make it sustainable in spite of the difficulties listed below.

Seven studies have been carried out. The first five studies have been formulated, implemented and followed up from 2001 to 2008. The total expenses of these five studies was 89.924 Euro.

The disbursement for the new two studies that were finalized in 2009 is 28.950 Euro in 2009 and 3.550 Euro in 2010.

The remaining balance for the Study Fund at the end of 2010 is 126.435 Euro.

The studies that have been conducted since the establishment of the fund are :

- Streamlining of Public Health Training.
- Identification Study for “Capacity Building and Institutional Development Support to the Ministry of Planning” - Phase II
- Identification Study for Technical and Vocational Education Training in Palestine
- Identification & formulation “Neonatology at Shifa Hospital in Gaza”
- Identification Study for the “Reinforcement of the Tertiary Health Care”.

The studies that were finalized in 2009 and the activities that has happened during the year 2009 are the following :

- Reviewing and improving "Artas, Low cost sanitation technology Project" drawings and technical specifications:
 - The Terms of Reference of "Artas, Low cost sanitation technology" Project was received from the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA).
 - The tender for Consultancy Service was launched and opened on the 8th of February 2009. The contract with the consultancy firm was signed on March 2009.
 - The outputs of this study enabled BTC and the Palestinian to relaunch the “Artas project “ by confirming the relevance and feasibility of constructing a low cost technology wastewater treatment plant in Artas. The project itself is currently in a closing stage.
- Support developing an E-learning strategy for the Palestinian Education Sector "E-Learning Curriculum in the Primary & Secondary Education in Palestine Project":
 - A service contract for nine months consultancy was signed on February 2009 for the "E-Learning Curriculum in the Primary & Secondary Education in Palestine Project". It helped clarifying the strategic and institutional framework of the e-learning sub-sector, preparing the ground for the formulation of the new e-learning project of the ICP 2008-2011. The project itself started in 2010.

The Study that was cancelled in 2009:

- "Enhancement of Civil Protection and Emergency Services". A tender was published on the 28th of April 2008 for National and International Consultants. Only one offer proposal has been submitted for the Local Consultant, while no offers were received for the International Consultant. The study of the Civil Defense was stopped due to internal problems between the Ministry of Planning and the Civil Defense Department.

4 Financial overview

4.1 Overview of expenditure versus financial planning

The execution rate at the end of 2010 is 50%.
See also the budget follow-up in Annex 1.

4.2 Analysis of financial planning

Three studies were planned in 2009, for a total amount of 66,000 Euro. The studies were:

- 1- Civil Defence.
- 2- E-learning study
- 3- Artas assessment study

Two studies were finalized in 2009 with an amount of 28.950 Euro disbursed in 2009, whereas the study of the Civil Defense was cancelled due to internal problems between the Ministry of Planning and the Civil Defense Department.

The Study Fund was not used in 2010.

5 Measures and recommendations

5.1 Overview of the assessment criteria

As far as the efficiency and effectiveness of the "Palestinian-Belgium Study and Consultancy Funds" are concerned, the following remarks can be done :

5.1.1 Efficiency

The resources were used efficiently during 2009 except for the civil defence study.

5.1.2 Effectiveness

The studies implemented through the study fund serve the objective of the fund. They also contribute to the initiation of other projects in the PIC such as "Artas, Low cost sanitation technology" and "E-learning Curriculum in the Primary & Secondary Education in Palestine" projects.

The following weaknesses can nevertheless be underlined :

- The administrative rules and procedures are not always well known by the different stakeholders and can result in delays in study implementation .
- The study fund itself is unknown by the line Ministries and not used because other funds are easier and sometimes faster to use.
- The process of study request and study proposal should be shorter

5.1.3 Sustainability

Overall, the studies have a longstanding impact. Specifically those that were for identification of the projects were effectively used as a basis for projects' formulation and/or implementation.

5.2 Recommendations

- Information and communication on the existence and the functioning of this instrument is needed (by BTC but also by the MOPAD ,towards the Line Ministries)
- This tool must remain flexible and easy to activate : the procedures for request of a study should simplified
- But in the meantime a close follow-up of the (financial, procurement, administrative) procedures has to be ensured
- Steering Committee sessions have to been organized to allow closer piloting and management of the fund
- A manual of procedures will be elaborated early 2011
- Studies should be carried out more and more in collaboration with other donors in order to promote harmonization of the aid.

6 Planning for the upcoming year (2011)

6.1 Activity planning year 2011

A study on “Building an Appropriate and Effective Administrative Structure in spite of Geographical Separation” is foreseen for early 2011.

The Specific Agreement for a new Study Fund (combining aspects of a consultancy and expertise fund) is currently under signature.

The Belgian contribution to this Fund is fixed at 1.6 million Euros , as agreed upon at the Joint Committee Session of March 2008 : 1.4 million Euros for the “Expertise Fund” (of which approximately 1.2 millions will be placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MoPAD) for capacity and institutional building, and 0.2 million Euros for the “Study and Consultancy Fund”.

The remaining budget of the present Study and Consultancy fund of 12th of November 2001 will be added to this 1.6 million Euros. This amount is estimated at 126.435 Euros.

The Ministry (MoPAD) will provide an annual planning, made with support of the Belgian Development Agency (“BTC”), to the Belgian Party at the beginning of each year. This annual plan will contain all details on the projected capacity and institutional building of MoPAD.

6.2 Financial planning year 2011

The financial planning for year 2011 will be finalized when the new Study and Expertise Fund will be operational.

Following expenditures are foreseen for 2011 :

- Study “Building an Appropriate and Effective Administrative Structure in spite of Geographical Separation” is foreseen for early 2011” :
= 9250 €
- MOPAD Plan for Capacity Building
= 393.000€

7 **Annexes**

Annexe 1: Expenditures 2009-2010

Budget vs Actuals (Year to Date) of PZA/01/004

Project Title : Fonds d'Etudes
 Budget Version: **C07**
 Currency : EUR
 YtD : Report includes all valid transactions, registered up to today

	Status	Fin Mode	Amount	Start - 2010	Expenses 2011	Total	Balance	% Exec
A ALLOCATED FUNDS			129.439,00	123.503,50	0,00	123.503,50	5.935,50	95%
01 Streamlining of Public Health Training in Palestine			28.831,00	28.830,96	0,00	28.830,96	0,04	100%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	28.831,00	28.830,96	0,00	28.830,96	0,04	100%
02 MOP Identification			3.468,00	3.467,88	0,00	3.467,88	0,12	100%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	3.468,00	3.467,88	0,00	3.467,88	0,12	100%
03 Technical & Vocational Education Training in Palestine			26.970,00	26.969,75	0,00	26.969,75	0,25	100%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	26.970,00	26.969,75	0,00	26.969,75	0,25	100%
04 Identification/Formulation - Extension of Neonatology at Shifa			20.134,00	20.133,81	0,00	20.133,81	0,19	100%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	20.134,00	20.133,81	0,00	20.133,81	0,19	100%
05 Palestinian Cardiology program			7.500,00	7.500,00	0,00	7.500,00	0,00	100%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	7.500,00	7.500,00	0,00	7.500,00	0,00	100%
06 reinforcement of the Teritary Health care in palestine			3.535,00	3.534,10	0,00	3.534,10	0,90	100%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	3.535,00	3.534,10	0,00	3.534,10	0,90	100%
07 Civil Defense Study			1,00	567,00	0,00	567,00	-566,00	56700%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	1,00	567,00	0,00	567,00	-566,00	56700%
08 Artas study			15.000,00	11.300,00	0,00	11.300,00	3.700,00	75%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	15.000,00	11.300,00	0,00	11.300,00	3.700,00	75%
09 E-Learning study			24.000,00	21.200,00	0,00	21.200,00	2.800,00	88%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	24.000,00	21.200,00	0,00	21.200,00	2.800,00	88%
Z UNALLOCATED FUNDS			120.561,00	61,82	0,00	61,82	120.499,18	0%
01 Unallocated Funds			120.561,00	61,82	0,00	61,82	120.499,18	0%
01 Balance for new studies		COGES	120.561,00	61,82	0,00	61,82	120.499,18	0%
		REGIE						
		COGEST	250.000,00	123.565,32	0,00	123.565,32	126.434,68	49%
		TOTAL	250.000,00	123.565,32	0,00	123.565,32	126.434,68	49%