



**PALESTINIAN-BELGIUM STUDY AND CONSULTANCY
FUND**

PZA 01 004
NN 19184/11

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



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1 PROJECT SHEET

Project Title	Palestinian-Belgium Study and Consultancy Fund
Navigation Code	PZA01 004
Sector	Strengthening of Public Institutions
Signature Specific	12.11.2001
Agreement	
Technical and Financial File	Palestinian-Belgium Study and Consultancy Fund
Signature of convention	07.12.2001
Starting Date	12.11.2001
Ending Date	11.11.2011
Budget	250.000 €
Budget Disbursement	90.451 €
Geographical Location	Palestinian Territories, West Bank and Gaza
Partner Institution	Ministry of Planning
Project Manager	Dr. Cairo Arafat

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 and three are in the beginning phase since the inception of the project.

The studies that have been conducted 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 are ongoing are:

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

- Dr. Cairo Arafat, Director General – Aid Coordination and Management Unit/Ministry of Planning

2 BRIEF FACTUAL OVERVIEW

The main developments that happened in the studies that had been carried out were region ones. The eruption of the 2nd Intifada created a new environment to implement the studies. Ministries have been operating under a backdrop of instability in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Circumstances have continued to change. Elections took place at the beginning of 2006, which had an effect on the entire country and the way other countries deal with Palestine. Also due to the elections and new government, two cabinets were formed within less than 15 months.

The new studies have just started. There are no main developments or changes.

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.

Five studies have been carried out and three are in the beginning phase since the inception of the project. The first five studies have been formulated, implemented and followed up. The total expenses of these studies are 89.924 Euro. While the new three studies still at the beginning phase with only 496 Euro disbursed. The actual remaining balance for the Study Fund is 159.549 Euro.

The studies that have been conducted 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 situation of the three studies that are ongoing is as follows:

1. In December 2007, a new study was approved for "Enhancement of Civil Protection and Emergency Services" (35.000 €). The study started the execution by doing a tender for the international and national consultants. The 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.
2. An approval to use the Study Fund for "Artas, Low cost sanitation technology Project"(15.000 €); to review and improve the drawings, the technical specifications and the tender documents prepared by the Joint Council for Planning and Development, was given on the 30th of October 2008.

A meeting was set on December with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) Director to discuss this issue. It was agreed to draft the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the consultancy service by the PWA on January 2009.

3. An approval for the use of the Study Fund for "E-Learning Curriculum in the Primary & Secondary Education in Palestine Project"(16.000 €); to support developing an E-learning strategy for the Palestinian Education Sector, was given on the 10th of November 2008.

The TOR of the national consultant E-learning Curriculum Formulation was approved by BTC Brussels. And the selection of the national consultant was finalized. The consultant will start on the 1st of February 2009.

4 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

4.1 Overview of expenditure versus financial planning

FIT - [Financial Planning vs Actuals YtM]						
File Edit View Insert Format Records FIT Window Help						
Annual Planning vs Actuals (Year to Month) of PZA/01/004						
Project Title:		Fonds d'Etudes				
Planning Version:		2008Q1				
End date last closing:		31/12/2008				
Currency:		EUR				
	Status	Fin Mode	Forecast 2008 (version 2008Q1)	Actual Expenses YtM	Planning vs actuals	% Exec
A ALLOCATED FUNDS			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Streamlining of Public Health Training in Palestine			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
02 MOP Identification			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
03 Technical & Vocational Education Training in			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
04 Identification/Formulation - Extension of			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
05 Palestinian Cardiology program			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
06 reinforcement of the Teritary Health care in palestine			0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
01 Allocated Funds		COGES	0,00	0,00	0,00	0%
Z UNALLOCATED FUNDS			30,00	-0,07	30,07	0%
01 Unallocated Funds			30,00	-0,07	30,07	0%
01 Balance for new studies		COGES	30,00	-0,07	30,07	0%
		REGIE				
		COGEST	30,00	-0,07	30,07	0%
		TOTAL	30,00	-0,07	30,07	0%



4.2 Analysis of financial planning

A study for the civil defenses was planned to be conducted in 2008, however due to some administrative and technical problems it could not be executed.

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

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

5 MONITORING OF THE INDICATORS

5.1 Specific objective

The Specific Objective of the Study Fund is "Financing studies and consultancies including identification, preparation, follow up studies, investigation, missions, seminars, and services".

Five studies have been implemented, one approved in 2007 and two approved in 2008. So, three studies will be ongoing in 2009. Therefore the study fund is contributing to the achievement of its specific objective.

5.2 Results

Not applicable.

5.3 Indicator evolution

Not applicable.

6 ASSESSMENT OF MONITORING CRITERIA

6.1 Efficiency

Activities could be carried more efficiently, and progress would have been noted if the recent political changes did not take place. However, the project continued despite all challenges and was quite flexible to deal with such changes.

6.2 Effectiveness

The studies implemented through the study fund serve the objective of the project. Studies are being funded and implemented through the Study Fund program. Suitability of the project can be improved by improving the process of soliciting proposals from Line Ministries to the Ministry of Planning.

6.3 Sustainability

The partner institution is taking over the management of the project to maintain in the sustainability.

7 MEASURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Overview of the assessment criteria

For the project, "Palestinian-Belgium Study and Consultancy Funds" activities are somehow efficient, effective and sustainable so, the action taken thus far should continue.

7.2 Recommendations

- The administrative rules are too long and often without added value.
- The study fund is unknown by the line Ministries and not used because other funds are easier and faster to use.
- The process of having a proposal to do a study should be shorter.
- Our cooperation needs less administration and needs to be axed on the objective of the study fund; "to finance studies and consultancies in the framework of the Belgo-Palestinian cooperation".

8 PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR (YEAR N+1)

8.1 Activity planning year N+1

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

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

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Activities and Finance

9.2 Monitoring criteria

9.2.1 Efficiency

Still the studies are in the beginning phase (have just been started). BTC seems room for improvement especially in cooperating with the Ministry of Planning for increasing the number of studies funded and implemented through this program.

The process can be enhanced through a better mechanism of solicitation of proposals by the Ministry of Planning and support of BTC.

9.2.2 Effectiveness

The studies implemented through the study fund serve the objective of the project. 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.

9.2.3 Sustainability

Overall, the studies have a long standing impact. Specifically those that were for identification of the projects were used as a basis for projects' formulation and then implementation.

9.3 Advice of the JLCB on the recommendations

9.3.1 Recommendations on activity planning

9.3.2 Recommendations on financial planning

9.3.3 Recommendations on Logical Framework

9.3.4 Other recommendations

Approved and Signed:


Dr. Cairo Arafat

Director General of Aid Management and Coordination

Ministry of Planning

Luc Laloo

Resident Representative



Belgian Technical Cooperation

10 ANNEXES

10.1 Tracking Gantt view / Activities

10.2 Baseline report / Activities (AdeptTracker)

10.3 Measuring indicators

10.4 Checklist efficiency

Timeliness of results		comments
Are activities being completed on time?	Mostly	
Is there any delay which might affect whether the results are achieved?	Yes	The political changes mainly. For the Civil defence study, national and international consultant issue still pending.
Use of resources in completing activities		
Could resources be better utilised?		
How high is the quality of the activities?		The studies have just started, but for the civil defence it is not satisfactory.
Has the organisation model for the project been a positive one?	Mostly	
Could activities be carried out more efficiently?	Yes	If the recent political changes did not take place, more progress would have been noted. However, the project continued despite all challenges and was quite flexible to deal with such changes.
Progress in achieving results indicators		
To what extent have results indicators been achieved?	Not yet	The studies has just started.
Are the activities contributing to the planned results?		
Could the project be made more efficient and if so how?		

10.5 Checklist effectiveness

Level of progress as regards indicators for the Specific Objective		Comments
What progress has been made in terms of the indicators for the Specific Objective?	Not yet Achieved	The studies has just started.
Are the results contributing to the Specific Objective?		
Can the suitability of the project be improved and if so how?	Yes	By improving the process of soliciting proposals from Line Ministries to the Ministry of Planning
Other factors affecting the Specific Objective		
Are external factors affecting the Specific Objective?	Yes	
Are there any positive or negative side effects?		
Target groups' satisfaction with the results		
What kind of target groups is involved?		Line Ministries and other governmental service offices
Do the target groups have access to the results achieved?	Yes	Results of studies are the ownership of target groups
Do the target groups use the results?	Yes	
Does the project respond to their problems and priorities?	Yes	

10.6 Checklist sustainability

Development processes brought about by the project		Comments
Have development processes been launched in any of the following fields: political, cultural, social, economic, technical, organisational or institutional)?	Yes	
Is the project rooted in local institutions?	Yes	MoP
Is there a plan to integrate the project within the partner institution?	Yes	
Responsibilities of the various partners		
Is the partner institution involved in carrying out the project?	Yes	Totally
Is the partner institution preparing to take over management of the project?	Yes	It is managing the project

Are the partners fulfilling their obligations?	Yes	
Preconditions for sustainability		
Are resources available to continue the project once it has been completed?	Yes	
Are there any plans for institutional training for the partner institution?		
Are efforts being made to consolidate skills (capacity-building)?	Yes	
Project framework		
Is the project governed by conditions imposed by the donor?		
Is the principle of untied aid being respected?	Yes	
Is the implementation framework conducive to sustainability?	Yes	
Is the aid framework conducive to sustainability?	yes	

10.7 Input in PIT

10.8 Logical framework year

10.9 Overview public contracts