

occupied Palestinian territory 2015

Appealing Agency	NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)
Project Title	Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) to protect the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza affected by displacement
Project Code	OPT-15/P-HR-RL/72928
Sector/Cluster	Protection
Refugee project	No
Objectives	Prevention of displacement of Palestinians and better protection of their Housing, Land and Property (HLP), residency and civil documentation rights in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza Strip) through the provision of legal assistance.
Beneficiaries	Total: 25,000 West Bank 15000 (12000 beneficiaries for new and continuing HLP cases, 1500 counseling, 1500 information) Gaza 10000 (1300 HLP cases for IDPs, 500 counseling, 1500 information) Female: 9,000 Other group: 4,000 Bedouin (including Jerusalem Periphery, Masafer Yatta and Jordan Valley)
Implementing Partners	Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre (JLAC), Society of St Yves, HaMoked, Community Action Center (CAC), Yesh Din, Bimkom, Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR), Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), Al Mezan, Gisha
Project Duration	Jan 2015 - Dec 2015
Current Funds Requested	\$9,000,000.00
Location	Projects covering both West Bank and Gaza
Priority / Category	Top
Gender Marker Code	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
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Enhanced Geographical Fields	West Bank Gaza Strip
Project filtering	Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza

Needs

The humanitarian context in Palestine in 2014 was dominated by two major events; firstly the devastating military conflict in Gaza between July and August 2014 which killed 2,100 Palestinians and destroyed an estimated 18,000 housing units; secondly a massive increase in arrests, detentions, home demolitions, settlement expansion and restrictions on movement in Palestinian communities, particularly in Area C, Hebron and East Jerusalem in July 2014. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli authorities and settlers in East Jerusalem have increased to levels not seen for many years. Both situations have resulted in the need for increased legal assistance to displaced persons and persons at risk of displacement in order to defend and protect their Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and residency rights, obtain property documentation for their transitional shelter and reconstruction needs, and prevent the demolition of their homes.

Following the end of Israeli military operation 'Preventative Edge' in Gaza, there were still nearly 60,000 IDPs in 41 UNRWA schools and an estimated 50,000 staying with host families and in makeshift shelters. Given that the homes of more than 108,000 people were destroyed or severely damaged during the fighting, a large number of IDPs are expected to find themselves with needs for legal advice in relation to their transitional shelter options and in order to reconstruct their homes. Women were disproportionately affected in the conflict with an increase in the number of female-headed households and require specialised legal advice to protect their HLP rights, particularly inheritance rights.

The large-scale military offensive by Israeli forces in the West Bank during July/August 2014 resulted in the detention of over 2,000 Palestinians, raids on 1,400 homes, particularly in Hebron Governorate and 280 cases of reported damage to property and other belongings. Restrictions on movement affected over 25% of the population of the West Bank and Israeli authorities re-commenced the practice of punitive demolitions. Efforts by Israeli authorities to forcibly transfer up to 7,000 Bedouin in 46 localities in the Jerusalem periphery to Nweima on the outskirts of Jericho accelerated with the publication of the Nweima plan in July 2014. Minutes from Knesset meetings in June 2014 indicated a broader intention by Israeli authorities to crackdown on the work of humanitarian agencies, and Third States, providing humanitarian

assistance in Area C, particularly in relation to shelter construction in Area C. This was borne out by the demolition or seizure of 133 donor-funded structures and equipment, marking a 24% increase on 2013 levels. A total of 489 structures were destroyed from January to October 2014 displacing hundreds of Palestinian families.

In the West Bank, from June 2009 until August 2014, NRC, its partners (St Yves, JLAC, HaMoked, Yesh Din and CAC) as well as private lawyers providing legal aid services, provided information and counselling 17,371 to individuals on housing, land and property rights and provided legal representation in court for 4,069 cases. In the Gaza Strip, NRC and its partners (PCHR, PCDCR) provided information, counselling and legal advice to 18,428 individuals about their property rights. Despite the numbers of households assisted, the need for legal aid remains high. A legal needs assessment conducted by NRC in January 2014 indicated that 60% of persons surveyed did not know how to take legal action to defend their rights, whilst 46% were unaware of the existence of legal aid. Women's levels of knowledge of their HLP legal cases remained low according to surveys conducted by NRC in the West Bank with figures varying between 37% to 0% for some Bedouin communities, indicating a greater need for legal empowerment. The NRC Women's HLP report highlighted low rates of land ownership by women in Palestine (7.7%) and of women claiming their inheritance rights (20%)

Activities or outputs

NRC's legal assistance programme is divided into a 3 phased approach:

1. Immediate Response: Refugees, IDPs and persons/communities at risk of forced displacement receive immediate legal assistance, information, counseling and representation through NRC lawyers, partner legal aid NGOs (including JLAC, St Yves, CAC, HaMoked, Yesh Din, PCHR, PCDCR and Al Mezan) and private legal aid lawyers. All partner teams have been trained in the gender dimensions of HLP.

a) Legal information and counseling for those facing violations leading to displacement including home demolition, eviction, land confiscation, settler violence, restrictions on access to land, other HLP violations, revocation of residency, child registration issues, freedom of movement and permit restrictions, through NRC lawyers and partner legal aid NGOs;

b) Legal representation by partner legal aid NGOs or private legal aid lawyers before administrative bodies and Israeli courts for persons facing imminent displacement, demolition, residency restrictions and other HLP violations

c) Legal assistance to women facing difficulties in accessing their HLP rights, including inheritance rights in the Gaza Strip, and for Bedouin women in Area C

d) Legal counseling for Palestinians displaced during 'Operation Preventative Edge' in the Gaza Strip requiring assistance with HLP issues concerning transitional shelter options, property registration documents or other HLP support.

e) Legal support to humanitarian organisations concerning HLP law and practice, including seizure of equipment, restrictions on access, demolitions and other issues affecting the provision of humanitarian assistance.

2. Preventative Response: NRC will undertake the following preventative responses to prevent Palestinians being forcibly displaced:

a) Capacity building and training for lawyers and members of humanitarian organisations on relevant HLP and residency law in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

b) Awareness raising for target vulnerable communities and organisations on HLP and residency rights and applicable laws, carried out by NRC lawyers and partners.

c) Targeted information sessions for female beneficiaries on HLP rights including female headed households in the Gaza Strip and Bedouin women in Area C.

d) Coordination through the co-chairing of both the Legal Taskforce in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip under the Protection Cluster, as well as active participation in forums including the Humanitarian Country Team, the Protection Cluster, Legal Advice Group and others.

e) Development of strategies and information to contribute to a sustainable legal aid system within Palestine, particularly HLP rights, in coordination with implementing partners, international organisations and the PA.

3. Policy response. NRC will engage in a range of coordinated activities to try to change policies and practices giving rise to displacement.

a) Identify and initiate public interest cases through Israeli courts and international mechanisms that challenge discriminatory and unfair Israeli policies and practices, through individual lawyers and/or partner NGOs, supported by NRC lawyers.

b) Advocacy strategy on key legal issues and public interest cases devised and implemented through high level national and international channels.

c) Sex disaggregated data and analysis integrated into information and advocacy. Regular updates and briefings prepared and disseminated to high level stakeholders and policy makers.

d) Production and distribution of research documents/legal opinions on key legal issues prepared by NRC lawyers for

practitioners and international community.

e) Development and implementation of coordinated legal strategies in key thematic areas to positively influence policy change

f) Use of international justice mechanisms to highlight violation and influence change

Indicators and targets

Project indicators and targets within the project duration include the following:

Outcomes/Results

1. Immediate Legal Response

a) % of surveyed beneficiaries who report the ability to act on HLP and residency rights (gender disaggregated) (Target 70%)

b) % of surveyed beneficiaries who are at least satisfied with the quality of legal counselling and representation services provided (gender disaggregated) (Target 60%)

c) % of beneficiaries in East Jerusalem and Area C who have eviction or demolition orders remain in their homes due to legal representation provided through NRC partners (Target 90%)

d) % of beneficiaries applying for Seam Zone permits who obtain a permit due to legal representation provided through NRC partners (Target 80%)

e) % of total number of documented victims of HLP violations in the ARA who receive legal counseling. (gender disaggregated) (Target 70%)

f) % of female beneficiaries assisted by NRC with HLP issues using customary dispute resolution in Gaza who are satisfied with the outcome (Target 70%)

g) % of women surveyed in HHs receiving legal representation and counselling who report involvement in their case. (Target 80%)

h) % of beneficiaries who obtain residency permit or other registration as a result of NRC services (gender disaggregated) (Target 50%)

i) % of beneficiaries assisted by NRC following Operation Protective Edge who obtain ownership documents, a rental contract or a resolution of an HLP issue as a direct result of NRC assistance (gender disaggregated) (Target 60%)

j) % of male beneficiaries who cite at least one way that they will support women HLP and residency rights as a result of information service provided (Target 70%)

2. Preventative Legal Response

a) % of beneficiaries participating in information sessions who report the information presented will assist them in their daily lives (gender disaggregated) (Target 70%)

b) % of male and female beneficiaries who competently identify HLP and residency rights and responsibilities (gender disaggregated) (Target 90%)

c) # of instances where trained professionals have used information received from NRC training and technical assistance in their work. (Target 40)

d) % of beneficiaries of HLP and residency trainings of I/NGOs/UN/ PA fieldworkers who cite at least one way they will use the HLP or residency training in their daily work (Target 70%)

3. Policy Change Response

a) # of instances of change in policy or practice by authorities or stakeholders in which NRC information has played a contributing role. (Target 6)

b) # of instances where power holders act positively on information received from NRC in an effort to reduce forced displacement. (Target 5)

c) # of discriminatory and/or unfair laws, policies or practices highlighted through public interest cases. (Target 15)

d) # of instances of usage of legal research by stakeholders. (Target 25)

e) # of NRC recommendations adopted privately or publicly by UN Mechanisms (Target 3)

Coordination of legal responses to displacement between different stakeholders and legal aid providers is a key programmatic objective. Coordination is achieved through regular liaison with members of the Legal Taskforce to minimize overlap between partner projects in the fields of HLP and Residency rights where there is a large and increasing need for services and where free legal aid services cover a limited percentage of the need. NRC works together with UNDP in the Gaza Strip, as co-chairs of the Legal Taskforce, and accepts referrals from Awn network

members in the specialist areas of HLP and Residency rights.

Norwegian Refugee Council	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Implementing Partner costs (including legal aid provided by NGOs, private lawyers and other consulta	4,260,000
Direct implementation costs (including ICLA staff salaries for provision of counseling and informati	2,900,000
Advocacy and Research costs (including ICLA and Advocacy staff salaries, research, preparation of ad	850,000
Indirect costs (admin costs, HQ costs, programme support, financial and accountancy	990,000
Total	9,000,000

Norwegian Refugee Council	
Current BUDGET items	\$
Implementing Partner costs (including legal aid provided by NGOs, private lawyers and other consulta	4,260,000
Direct implementation costs (including ICLA staff salaries for provision of counseling and informati	2,900,000
Advocacy and Research costs (including ICLA and Advocacy staff salaries, research, preparation of ad	850,000
Indirect costs (admin costs, HQ costs, programme support, financial and accountancy	990,000
Total	9,000,000