

**occupied Palestinian territory 2013**

<b>Appealing Agency</b>	<b>UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	Protected and safe access to schools as an emergency response for vulnerable communities in the oPt
<b>Project Code</b>	OPT-13/E/52239
<b>Sector/Cluster</b>	EDUCATION
<b>Refugee project</b>	No
<b>Objectives</b>	To provide protected and safe access to education for prioritized highly vulnerable communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in which protection issues affect access to education
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Total: 3,868 children (50%girls) Children (under 18): 3,868
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)
<b>Project Duration</b>	Jan 2013 - Dec 2013
<b>Current Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$538,004</b>
<b>Location</b>	Projects covering only West Bank
<b>Priority / Category</b>	A - TOP PRIORITY
<b>Gender Marker Code</b>	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
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<b>Enhanced Geographical Fields</b>	West Bank

**Needs**

Outcome 1: Output 1.3 Outcome 2: Output 2.3

Children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, face severe and chronic protection challenges getting to and from school every day. They cross Israeli military check points and go through closed military zones where they experience military harassments and violence. Moreover, they often experience settler harassment and violence on their commute and walk for long distances on dangerous and busy roads. The lack of safe access to education results in a decrease in school hours, an increased drop-out rate of children and displacement or separation of families as they seek solutions to get their children to school elsewhere.

In March 2012 a rapid assessment of protection issues affecting access to education was finalized by the Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group. The mapping targeted vulnerable communities (those facing high protection risks) in both Areas B and C in West Bank and seam zone and Bedouin communities focusing on serious protection issues affecting children and teachers on their way to school and impacting upon access to education.

In 23% of the assessed communities, drop-out of boys and girls is identified as a main issue related to access to education. Girls mostly drop-out when they have to travel to a school outside of their immediate community, which is often the case with secondary education. Harassment by IDF soldiers at the checkpoints is especially mentioned as one of the reasons for drop-out of girls. More than 2,500 children out of the assessed communities cross through one or more checkpoints to reach their schools every day. Thousands more from communities in both West Bank and East Jerusalem not included in the rapid assessment pass through checkpoints as well. While crossing the checkpoints children reported harassment and/or violence by the Israeli military ranging from unnecessary delays, bag searches and physical harassment. In addition, settler violence has been identified as a main issue affecting access to education in 24% of the assessed communities. Settler violence ranges from verbal harassment, setting up of temporary checkpoints to physical assault such as rock throwing.

Building on the rapid assessment and as a result of a call within the humanitarian community to coordinate protective presence at checkpoints more effectively, the Child Protection Working Group and Education Cluster developed a matrix of all organizations providing protective presence in order to have a wide coverage of all checkpoints and prevent overlap. Based on the rapid assessment and the Protective Presence Matrix EAPPI and UNICEF would like to maintain and if possible increase protective presence at the following 14 checkpoints and gates: Beit Yattir, Checkpoint 56 & 55, Dar Al Aytam- Wadi rababeh - Silawn; Dung Gate, Al Jib, Zaytoun, Shufat, An Numan, Jubara, Nazlat Isa, Habla, Azzun Atma 2, Al Auya, Taqu'. In addition EAPPI has selected Mutanabi School and the communities of Tuqu and As Sawiya to provide protective presence since the school children in these locations are facing physical harassment on a regular basis when commuting to school.

Activities will be conducted in coordination with the MoE , Education Cluster, Child Protection Working Group and local communities.

#### **Activities or outputs**

1. Train incoming accompaniers on protective presence principles (cultural and country specific background, including gender sensitivity and equality issues, monitoring, reporting, intervening, awareness raising);
2. Accompany 3,868 children (50% boys / 50% girls) on their way to school through at least 14 different checkpoints and three different communities in West Bank and East Jerusalem; This activity will also provide protection for teachers especially female teachers
3. Send accompaniers / observers to additional checkpoints and schools on an ad hoc basis in case of a reported increase in harassment, violence and intimidation towards boys and girls as a form of immediate response to emergencies and crisis;
4. Intervene directly in cases of harassment at the different checkpoints and schools to prevent and/or deescalate the situation in order to facilitate better access to education;
5. Record cases of intimidation, harassment and excessive violence that are sex-disaggregated - electronically (by using mobile phones and webcams) and in special incident reports and checkpoint monitoring forms;
6. Conduct action appeals, advocacy work and awareness raising activities nationally and internationally based on the above mentioned incident reports and electronic documentation;
7. Refer cases of severe stress through facilitating contact between victims (both male and female) and organizations working on psycho-social support and legal-aid based on the above mentioned incident reports.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Both EAPPI and UNICEF will conduct assurance activities through periodic reviews, on-site spot checks and programmatic monitoring on a monthly basis in accordance with EAPPI and UNICEF standards and guidelines. EAPPI will ensure that all targeted schools and communities are aware of their activities, exact role and goals. In addition EAPPI will inform the community and UNICEF on all contextual changes.

### Indicators and targets

1. At least 3,868 children (50% girls) access schools timely and safely through protective presence in the field;
2. Boys and girls and teachers (both male and female) feel safe and more secure on their commute to schools and in crossing checkpoints;
3. Cases of harassment of boys and girls decrease in targeted areas and checkpoints resulting in an expected decrease in absenteeism, drop-out and family separation.

<b>United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)</b>	
<b>Original BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
Protective Presence and Coordination	243,157
Travel, Training & Debriefing	81,157
Advocacy activities	118,157
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	60,337
HQ indirect support costs (7%)	35,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>538,004</b>

<b>United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)</b>	
<b>Current BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
Protective Presence and Coordination	243,157
Travel, Training & Debriefing	81,157
Advocacy activities	118,157
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	60,337
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