

**occupied Palestinian territory 2016**

<b>Appealing Agency</b>	<b>NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) to protect the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip affected by displacement
<b>Project Code</b>	OPT-16/P-HR-RL/86392
<b>Sector/Cluster</b>	Protection
<b>Refugee project</b>	No
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Palestinian HLP and Residency rights are protected.</p> <p>2. Beneficiaries are empowered and capacity of individuals and organisations to protect HLP and Residency rights is enhanced</p> <p>3. Policies and practices causing displacement are highlighted, challenged and ultimately changed.</p>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<p>Total: 14,145 persons affected by displacement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip</p> <p>Female: 4,245</p> <p>Male: 9,900</p>
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Jersusalem Legal Aid Centre, Society of St Yves, HaMoked, Community Action Centre, Yesh Din, Bimkom, Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and Al Mezan
<b>Project Duration</b>	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016
<b>Current Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$6,787,990.00</b>
<b>Location</b>	Projects covering both West Bank and Gaza
<b>Priority / Category</b>	Top
<b>Gender Marker Code</b>	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
<b>Contact Details</b>	Martino Costa, martino.costa@nrc.no, +972547360786
<b>Enhanced Geographical Fields</b>	
<b>Project filtering</b>	Area C, East Jerusalem and Gaza

### Needs

The risk of displacement and forcible transfer of Palestinian communities within the West Bank and Gaza Strip remained high during 2015 as a direct result of the protracted Israeli occupation and the lack of progress on a resolution of the Israel/Palestinian peace process. Israeli policies and practices which continued to cause displacement within the West Bank included the widespread demolition of homes, livelihood structures and community infrastructure in order to facilitate forcible transfer and settlement expansion through the creation of a coercive environment, settler takeover and settler violence, land confiscation, restriction on Palestinian access to land, declaration of closed military zones and a discriminatory planning and zoning regime. 456 Palestinian structures were demolished by Israeli authorities in the West Bank between January to October 2015 and total of 11,000 demolition orders are outstanding in the West Bank (OCHA 2015). Only 1.5% of settler violence crimes were successfully prosecuted by Israeli authorities (Yesh Din 2015). The statistical likelihood for a Palestinian to obtain a building permit in the West Bank in 2015 was 1.6% (Bimkom, OCHA 2015). Israeli authorities continued to actively promote the forcible transfer of up to 46 mainly Bedouin communities in Area C to sites in the Jordan Valley and the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Following a series of security incidents in East Jerusalem in October 2015, Israeli authorities imposed a series of widespread and arbitrary security measures on Palestinian communities including checkpoints, roadblocks and barriers resulting in the 'collective punishment' of these communities in violation of international law. In addition to the establishment of over 35 checkpoints and roadblocks, Israeli authorities initiated a campaign of punitive demolitions resulting in nine court proceedings with a further 16 punitive demolition orders pending. On 25 October 2015 the Israeli Security Cabinet indicated that they were considering cancelling the residency of all East Jerusalemites on the other side of the Wall, potentially affecting up to 80-100,000 persons. If implemented this could result in the displacement of one third of the population of East Jerusalem.

Over one year after the July-August 2014 military conflict in the Gaza Strip, code-named 'Operation Preventative Edge' by Israeli authorities, very little reconstruction had taken place as a result of the Israeli blockade with an estimated

100,000 persons remaining internally displaced. Legal assistance to displaced persons to allow them to obtain ownership documents, protect their HLP rights and rebuild remained a critical unmet need. UNRWA anticipate that at least 7,000 UNRWA refugees alone currently require specialist HLP advice. Women were particularly impacted in the conflict through the loss of family homes, overcrowded living conditions resulting in a loss of privacy, increased parental responsibilities and very often, the loss of a spouse in the conflict, resulting in complex and stressful inheritance proceedings. (NRC Report: 'Gaza' The Impact of the Conflict on Women' 2015). A further need is legal support with civil documentation and registration issues for the 54 Syrian refugee families and estimated 200 Palestinian Refugee from Syria (PRS) families in Gaza who fled the civil conflict in Syria for Gaza.

### **Activities or outputs**

Whilst the Israeli legal system remains a manifestly inadequate mechanism for protecting Palestinian Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and Residency rights under international law, legal interventions to Israeli administrative and judicial authorities can prevent, delay or mitigate many of the violations. In order to constitute an effective legal response, legal interventions under the ICLA programme are combined with legal empowerment of communities as to their rights, research, technical assistance and legal advocacy to promote change in relation to the policies and practices causing the displacement of Palestinian communities. Domestic legal arguments and strategies are combined with the proactive use of international law arguments under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) to challenge rights violations at different levels. The programme directly supports the UNOCHA Strategic Response Plan Objective 1, namely 'increased respect for IHL and IHRL and accountability for violations' and will provide legal assistance on HLP rights to displaced persons in Gaza, legal support to persons facing demolition in the West Bank and legal information to beneficiaries on their rights and entitlements to services (Protection Cluster indicators).

In 2016 the ICLA programme will engage in the following activities and outputs;

- Legal information, counseling and representation to persons and communities facing HLP, Residency and Freedom of Movement violations through NRC lawyers, partner organisations and private lawyers;
- Legal assistance to women claiming their HLP and inheritance rights in the Gaza Strip
- Legal counseling and assistance for Palestinians displaced during 'Operation Preventative Edge' in the Gaza Strip.
- Legal support to undocumented and stateless Palestinians in Gaza, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) and Syrian refugees in Gaza on civil documentation issues
- Capacity building and training for lawyers, law students and members of humanitarian organisations
- Mainstreaming IHL and IHRL into legal casework
- Information sessions for female beneficiaries in the Gaza Strip and Bedouin women in Area C on HLP rights.
- Coordination between Israeli/Palestinian legal aid providers through the Legal Taskforce, as well as active participation in forums including the Humanitarian Country Team, the Protection Cluster, Shelter Cluster, Legal Advice Group and others.
- Supporting the PA, local municipalities, local and national authorities and affiliated organisations on cases, legal developments and advocacy around HLP and Residency rights.
- Litigation of public interest cases that challenge discriminatory and unfair Israeli policies and practices through Israeli courts and international mechanisms
- Legal advocacy on legal issues and public interest cases
- Research on legal developments and applicable domestic and international laws
- Research into gender impact of violations on females in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The integrated legal response will be provided through a combination of NRC lawyers, partner organisations (Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre, Society of St Yves, HaMoked, Community Action Centre, Yesh Din, Bimkom, Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and Al Mezan) as well as private lawyers and other specialist consultants. Whilst legal aid services will be provided without discrimination throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there will be a particular focus in the following areas; (West Bank) East Jerusalem, Hebron, northern Jordan Valley, Jerusalem Periphery; (Gaza Strip) Shejai'iyah, Khuza'a and other communities particularly affected by the July-August 2014 Gaza conflict.

### **Indicators and targets**

Progress on the ICLA legal response to displacement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be measured through the following outcomes indicators

- 70% of surveyed beneficiaries who report the ability to act on HLP and residency rights.
- 90% 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.

- 70% of female beneficiaries assisted by NRC with HLP issues using customary dispute resolution in Gaza who are satisfied with the outcome.
  - 70% of women surveyed in HHs receiving legal representation and counselling who report involvement in their case.
  - 50% of beneficiaries who obtain residency permit or other registration as a result of NRC services.
  - 60% 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.
  - 70% of beneficiaries participating in information sessions who report the information presented will assist them in their daily lives.
  - 70% of male and female beneficiaries who competently identify HLP and residency rights and responsibilities. Target 70%
  - 20 instances of change in policy or practice by authorities or stakeholders in which NRC information has played a contributing role.
- 20 instances where power holders act positively on information received from NRC in an effort to reduce forced displacement. Target 20
- 5 NRC recommendations adopted privately or publicly by UN Mechanisms.

Beneficiary targets under the project will be as follows:

- 3,680 opened and continuing cases for legal assistance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (West Bank 900 new and 2,580 continuing, Gaza Strip 200 new)
- 2,675 persons receiving legal counselling in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (1,175 West Bank comprising 825 male, 325 female; 1,500 Gaza Strip comprising 1,000 male and 500 female).
- 2,000 persons displaced during Operation Preventative Edge in the Gaza Strip receiving HLP legal services
- 500 females in the West Bank and Gaza Strip receiving gender-targeted HLP legal services (information, counselling, legal assistance) (200 West Bank; 300 Gaza Strip)
- 4,440 persons receiving information services (1,440 West Bank comprising 1,010 male and 430 female; 3,000 in the Gaza Strip comprising 2,000 males and 1,000 females)
- 600 persons receiving training (100 West Bank, comprising 70 male and 30 female; 400 Gaza Strip comprising 300 male and 100 female)
- 250 Palestinian refugees and Syrian refugees in Gaza provided with civil documentation assistance in the Gaza Strip
- 50 technical assistance and capacity building services provided to partners, private lawyers, the PA and local and national authorities
- 50 advocacy briefings given on specific HLP and residency issues (verbal or written).
- 20 research documents prepared on identified HLP issues.
- 10 of instances information is submitted to other UN mechanisms.
- 20 public interest cases challenging unjust HLP issues

Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted through a combination of statistical analysis, beneficiary surveys and end of project internal evaluation of results. Partners and private lawyers will provide monthly updates on services provided and results obtained which will be fed into the NRC Management Information System (MIS). The results will be used to show progress against indicators. Beneficiary surveys will be conducted to assess the relevance of information provided by partners and to gauge beneficiary ability to act to defend their rights against the violations. Further, 'policy change' outcomes will be monitored by documenting instances in which powerholders (international community, diplomats/donors, UN agencies) have acted positively on information provided under the project. All data will be gender disaggregated.

<b>Norwegian Refugee Council</b>	
<b>Original BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
Implementing partner costs (including legal aid provided by NGOs and private lawyers)	3,232,410
Direct staff implementation costs (including programme staff)	1,795,290
Technical assistance (including technical and legal experts, research and advocacy)	755,590
Information, training and publication costs (including translation, printing, seminars, venue costs)	326,700
Indirect costs (admin costs, HO costs, finance and audit costs, office and utilities)	678,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,787,990</b>

<b>Norwegian Refugee Council</b>	
<b>Current BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
Implementing partner costs (including legal aid provided by NGOs and private lawyers)	3,232,410
Direct staff implementation costs (including programme staff)	1,795,290
Technical assistance (including technical and legal experts, research and advocacy)	755,590
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