

**occupied Palestinian territory 2017**

<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 including East Jerusalem affected by displacement
<b>Project Code</b>	OPT-17/P-HR-RL/98197
<b>Sector/Cluster</b>	Protection
<b>Refugee project</b>	No
<b>Objectives</b>	Indicator 1 under Strategic Objective 1 under the HPC protection cluster indicators. 1. Palestinian HLP and Residency rights are protected. 2. Beneficiaries are empowered and capacity of individuals and organizations to protect HLP and Residency rights is enhanced 3. Policies and practices causing displacement are highlighted, challenged and ultimately changed.
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Total: 13,060 Female: 3,387 Male: 9,673 Children (under 18): 3,265 Adult (18-59): 9,795 IDPs: 13,060
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Community Action Centre, HaMoked, International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC), Jerusalem Community Advocacy Network (JCAN), Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre (JLAC), Peace Now, Society of St Yves, Terrestrial Jerusalem, and Yesh Din.
<b>Project Duration</b>	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017
<b>Current Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$6,787,990</b>
<b>Location</b>	Projects covering just West Bank
<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

**Needs**

As a direct result of the protracted Israeli occupation and the lack of progress on a resolution for the Israel/Palestinian peace process, the risk of forcible displacement and forcible transfer of Palestinian communities remained high during 2016. In the West Bank, Israel's planning and permit regime, regularly issues stop-work, demolition and confiscation orders throughout Palestinian communities, resulting loss of property, livelihood, and in the case of East Jerusalem, loss of residency rights. The Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) also operates a system of checkpoints, road-blocks, and trenches, these obstacles along with a series of land designations declared for vast swaths of land (i.e. State Land, Closed Military Zones, Nature Reserves, etc.) prevent Palestinian access to land, curbing the growth of Palestinian communities, while freeing-up space for further Israeli settlement expansion.

In this scenario, the ICLA program offers communities legal information, legal counseling, and legal representation, while providing legal practitioners, INGOs/NGOs and the PA with legal training and technical assistance.

ICLA program is a gender sensitive program integrating the various actors and targets females Bedouins, girls and boys students at their schools, the teachers and parents in the various communities aside with reaching out to all communities affected by the various HLP violations aiming at increasing their knowledge and involvement in their legal access and increasing their access to justice. The current ratio of female and male recipients of legal aid services is 70 % males and 30 % females for demolition and residency cases.

NRC intervention came as a response to the demolition impact on women and men: women are not informed nor involved in the follow up on the demolition cases, whereas they are put in the forefront when the ICA inspectors deliver demolition orders or when the demolition takes place. As for residency related issues, women are more involved in the legal follow up because the issues are directly related to residency rights such child registration. Therefore, NRC provides services to females through female lawyers and target the parents especially mothers in tailored counseling and information sessions in schools and communities.

In 2017 the ICLA program 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 organizations and private lawyers;
- Capacity building and training for lawyers, law students and members of humanitarian organizations;
- Mainstreaming international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) into domestic legal casework;
- Information sessions for male and female beneficiaries, Bedouin women, school students (boys and girls), parents and male and female teachers 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, Protection Cluster, Shelter Cluster, Legal Advice Group, etc.;
- Supporting the PA both locally and nationally on casework, legal developments and advocacy pertaining to 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; and
- Research into gender impact of violations on women in the West Bank.

The integrated legal response will be provided through NRC's Legal Officers & Advisors, partner organizations, private lawyers and consultants.

### **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 engage Israeli administrative and judicial authorities can prevent, delay or mitigate violations. The ICLA program offers communities legal information, legal counseling, and legal representation, while offering legal practitioners, INGOs/NGOs and the PA, legal training and technical assistance.

ICLA program is a gender sensitive program integrating the various actors and targets females Bedouins, girls and boys students at their schools, the teachers and parents in the various communities aside with reaching out to all communities affected by the various HLP violations aiming at increasing their knowledge and involvement in their legal access and increasing their access to justice.

ICLA combines arguments grounded in international law with domestic legal strategies to challenge rights violations at different levels. The program directly supports Objective 1 of UN OCHA's Strategic Response Plan, "Increased respect for IHL and IHRL and accountability for violations", and in-line with the Protection Cluster's strategic objectives and indicators, "legal support to persons facing demolition in the West Bank", and "legal information to beneficiaries on their rights and entitlements to services". In 2017 the ICLA program 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 organizations and private lawyers;
- Capacity building and training for lawyers, law students and members of humanitarian organizations;
- Mainstreaming international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) into domestic legal casework;
- Information sessions for female beneficiaries, Bedouin women, school students, parents and teachers 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, Protection Cluster, Shelter Cluster, Legal Advice Group, etc.;
- Supporting the PA both locally and nationally on casework, legal developments and advocacy pertaining to 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; and
- Research into gender impact of violations on women in the West Bank.

The integrated legal response will be provided through NRC's Legal Officers & Advisors, partner organizations, private lawyers and consultants. Whilst legal aid services will be provided without discrimination throughout the West Bank, there will be a particular focus in East Jerusalem, Hebron, northern Jordan Valley, and Jerusalem Periphery in the West Bank.

### **Indicators and targets**

Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be conducted through a combination of statistical analysis, beneficiary surveys and an end-of-project internal evaluation of the results.

Beneficiary interviews are conducted as part of a programme M & E follow up on the implemented activities, including the legal assistance. The ongoing surveys found high levels of beneficiary satisfaction with services provided across all donors; 87% of the surveyed beneficiaries reported that the quality of information provided was satisfactory; 78% were satisfied with the professional attitude of the lawyers; 100% satisfied with the privacy and confidentiality of the sessions; 67% reported satisfaction on the clear communication from the lawyer about the legal issues and next steps. Overall, the beneficiaries interviewed were pleased with the quality of the response they received and the service.

Partners and private lawyers will provide monthly updates on services provided and results obtained 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 the beneficiaries' abilities to act to defend their rights against violations. Policy change outcomes will be monitored by documenting instances in which power-holders (i.e. third states, diplomats, donors, UN agencies, etc.) have acted positively on information provided under the project. All data will be gender disaggregated.

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

- 70% of surveyed beneficiaries report the ability to act on HLP and residency rights; and
- 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
- 50% of beneficiaries who obtain residency permit or other registration as a result of NRC services;
- 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.
- 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; and
- 5 NRC recommendations adopted privately or publicly by UN Mechanisms

Beneficiary targets under the project will be as follows:

- 3628 opened and continuing cases for legal assistance in the West Bank (West Bank 612 new and 3016 continuing,
- 1173 persons receiving legal counseling in the West Bank (comprising 842 males, 331 females);
- 1534 persons receiving information services (comprising 876 males and 658 females);
- 526 persons receiving training (comprising 274 males and 252 females)
- 153 technical assistance and capacity building services provided to partners, private lawyers, the PA and local and national authorities
- 40 advocacy briefings given on specific HLP and residency issues (verbal or written).
- 10 research documents prepared on identified HLP issues.
- 10 of instances information is submitted to other UN mechanisms.
- 75 public interest cases challenging unjust HLP issues

<b>Norwegian Refugee Council(NRC)</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 program staff, ICLA legal advisors, officers, advocacy)	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(NRC)</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 program staff, ICLA legal advisors, officers, advocacy)	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>