

**occupied Palestinian territory 2017**

<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 State of Palestine
<b>Project Code</b>	OPT-17/E/97831
<b>Sector/Cluster</b>	Education
<b>Refugee project</b>	No
<b>Objectives</b>	To provide protective presence, and accompaniment to ensure safe access to education for vulnerable school children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem SO 2 (act 7) & MOEHE Joint Advocacy and Protection Strategy 2017
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Total: 4,700 children and teachers Female: 1,895 Male: 2,805 Children (under 18): 4,400 Adult (18-59): 300
<b>Implementing Partners</b>	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)
<b>Project Duration</b>	Jan 2017 - Dec 2017
<b>Current Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$843,264</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>	Maida Pasic, mpasic@unicef.org, 02 584 0400
<b>Cash based Intervention</b>	<p>Is any part of this project cash based intervention (including vouchers)? <span style="float: right;">No</span></p> <p>Conditionality:</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <p>Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: <span style="float: right;">0</span></p>

**Needs**

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 can experience harassment and even violence. On their daily commute, they pass by Israeli settlements which can also be a source of abuse, harassment and violence. In remote communities, students often must walk distances of up to 10km to reach their schools each day. Schools located in Area C are also the most frequently attacked, with students exposed to regularized military activity and settler presence around their schools. Impeded access to education, as a result of checkpoints and the Barrier, means exposure to conflict related violence and delays, which in turn can lead to higher school dropout rates for the children living in East Jerusalem communities located on the far side of the Barrier. Children walk for long distances on dangerous and busy roads. The lack of safe access to education has significant and negative consequences for their schooling and results in a decrease in school hours, potential increase in drop out rate of children and displacement or separation of families as they seek solutions to get their children to school elsewhere. In the most severe cases, these problems combine, dramatically increasing the risks for the affected children. Girls, in particular, are at the risk of drop out when they have to travel to a school outside of their immediate community, as is often the case for secondary education. According to a mapping exercise undertaken by the Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) on “access to education”, the reasons cited for girls dropping out, include the presence of IDF soldiers at checkpoints, travel by public transport, and co ed travel, all of which raise security and socio cultural concerns felt by both girl students themselves as well as their parents.

According to the MOEHE estimates, there are currently 6,600 children (60% boys and 40% girls) and over teachers 400 (55% male and 45% female) in need of protective presence in the most vulnerable areas of West Bank. These include children living close to settlements, crossing checkpoints to and from schools, children living in the seam zone.

More than 55% of the children currently monitored cross through military checkpoints to reach their schools every day. Harassment by IDF soldiers at the checkpoints is especially mentioned as one of the reasons for drop out of girls. 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. Even though boys are often treated more violently than girls and are more often subject to detention and arrest, the fear experienced by girls during their commute is markedly higher than for boys. Delays within checkpoints, sometimes within enclosed spaces with male soldiers, frequent bag checking and occasional physical searches has prompted a considerable number of girls to drop out of school altogether. Types of harassment most prominent include: unnecessary delays, verbal abuse and provocation, bag searches and physical harassment. Moreover settler violence further encourages school drop out; it consists mainly of verbal harassment, spitting, provocation inciting graffiti and damage to school properties, physical assaults and rock throwing.

As part of the worsening political turmoil during 2016, an increase in the number of cases of harassment by soldiers and settlers towards school children and teachers has been recorded through MRM, by EAs as well as Protective Presence Partners.

### **Activities or outputs**

The project responds to MOEHE Joint Advocacy and Protection Strategy that identified protective presence as one of its key humanitarian priorities. The priority list of schools being monitored is provided by MOEHE and includes vulnerable communities (those facing high protection risks) in both Areas B and C in the West Bank, Seam Zone and Bedouin communities. EAPPI and CPT will focus on serious protection issues affecting children and teachers on their way to school, thus necessitating protective presence and accompaniment on the way to school in order to ensure adequate access to education.

In view of this, and in line with increasing requests from schools, communities and Protective Presence Partners, have requested the continuation of protective presence, increasing the frequency, and where necessary scope, of providing protective presence in the following locations:

Beit Yattir (South Hebron Hills), Checkpoint 55 & 56 and Mutanabi School (Hebron), Tuqu schools, Al Miniya School and An Nu'man checkpoint (Bethlehem), Dar Al Aytam School, Al Jib, Zaytoun and Shu'fat checkpoints (Jerusalem), Khibet Jubara and Nazlat 'Isa gates (Tulkarm), Habla gate and Azzun Atma 2 checkpoint (Jayyus), Al Sawiya School and Urif School (Yanoun) Qitoun (Hebron), and Salaymeh(Hebron). These locations are reflected in the Education Cluster and CPWG "Protective Presence Matrix" and have been verified by the MOE as well as through UNICEF's field visits to schools, and conversations with the school staff and parents.

1. Training incoming accompaniers on protective presence principals (cultural and country specific background, including gender sensitivity and equality issues, monitoring, reporting, intervening, awareness raising);
  2. Accompanying approximately 4,400 children (60% boys and 40% girls) on their way to schools in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This activity will also provide protection for approximately 300 teachers (55% male, 45% female).
  3. Sending accompaniers / observers to additional checkpoints and schools on an ad hoc basis, as a form of rapid response, in cases of a reported increase in harassment, violence and intimidation towards boys and girls;
  4. Intervening directly in cases of harassment at the different checkpoints and schools to prevent and/or de escalate the situation in order to facilitate better access to education;
  5. Recording cases of intimidation, harassment and excessive violence that are sex disaggregated in special incident reports and checkpoint monitoring forms;
  6. Conducting action appeals, advocacy work and awareness raising activities nationally and internationally based on the above mentioned incident reports and electronic documentation;
  7. Referring cases of severe stress through facilitating contact between victims (both male and female) and organizations working on psychosocial support and legal aid, based on the above mentioned incident reports.
- Activities will be conducted in coordination with the MoEHE , Child Protection Working Group and local communities.

#### **Indicators and targets**

- # of children in vulnerable areas benefitting from protective presence on their way to school (baseline: 0, target: 4,400 of which 60% boys / 40% girls; MoV: see monitoring section below)
- # of teachers in vulnerable areas benefitting from protective presence on their way to school (baseline: 0, target: 300 of which 55% male / 45% female; MoV: see monitoring section below)

#### **Monitoring:**

EAPPI, CPT and UNICEF will conduct assurance activities through periodic reviews, on site spot checks and programmatic monitoring on a monthly basis in accordance with EAPPI, CPT and UNICEF standards and guidelines. EAPPI and CPT will ensure that all targeted schools and communities are aware of their activities, exact role and goals. In addition EAPPI and CPT will inform the community and UNICEF on all contextual changes. UNICEF staff will conduct assurance activities through periodic reviews, on site spot checks of financial records, and programmatic monitoring of activities. As part of the monitoring framework of the project feedback mechanism will be established to be able to collect feedback from students, teachers and parents on the achievements of the project compared to their expectations (including project close-out questionnaire on beneficiaries' perceptions on safety and security).

<b>United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)</b>	
<b>Original BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
Mobilisation, training and debriefing for volunteers on protective presence principles	55,000
Provide Protective Presence and Coordination in 16 locations in the West Bank	605,000
Reasearch, advocacy and communication costs	44,000
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	76,800
HQ recovery costs (8%)	62,464
<b>Total</b>	<b>843,264</b>

<b>United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)</b>	
<b>Current BUDGET items</b>	<b>\$</b>
Mobilisation, training and debriefing for volunteers on protective presence principles	55,000
Provide Protective Presence and Coordination in 16 locations in the West Bank	605,000
Reasearch, advocacy and communication costs	44,000
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<b>Total</b>	<b>843,264</b>