

occupied Palestinian territory 2018 (part of 2018-2020 HRP)

Appealing Agency	NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)
Project Title	Information, Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) to protect the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) affected by displacement, and Palestinians facing Movement Restrictions between Gaza and the West Bank
Project Code	OPT-18/P-HR-RL/115636
Sector/Cluster	Protection
Refugee project	No
Objectives	In line with the Protection Cluster objectives, our aims are the following: 1. Beneficiaries have increased confidence and enhanced ability to exercise HLP and residency rights (SO 2, indicators 2, 4 and 5) 2. Beneficiaries have improved understanding of HLP and residency rights, and the capacities of stakeholders to protect these rights are improved (SO 2, indicator 2, SO 1, indicator 3)
Beneficiaries	Total: 13,133 Female: 4,650 Male: 8,483 Adult (18-59): 9,718 IDPs: 13,133
Implementing Partners	Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre (JLAC), Society of St Yves, Community Action Centre (CAC), Yesh Din, HaMoked, Jerusalem Community Advocacy Network (JCAN), Peace Now, Haqel, CCPRJ, BIMKOM and Terrestrial Jerusalem.
Project Duration	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
Current Funds Requested	\$7,987,990
Location	Projects covering both West Bank and Gaza
Priority / Category	NOT SPECIFIED
Gender Marker Code	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
Contact Details	Thomas Hill, thomas.hill@nrc.no, +972 054 736 0786
Cash transfer programming	Is any part of this project cash transfer programming (including vouchers)? No Conditionality: Restrictions: Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: 0

Needs

Since Israel's illegal unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem in 1967 Israel has unlawfully applied Israeli domestic law to East Jerusalem. The use of Israeli domestic law in occupied territory not only breaches international humanitarian law, but Israel's arbitrary and discriminatory use of its domestic law has resulted in the widespread displacement of thousands of Palestinians. In addition, Israel requires Palestinian permanent residents of East Jerusalem to continually demonstrate their 'centre of life' in East Jerusalem and imposes other residency restrictions, thereby rendering them at constant risk of having their residency revoked and thereby of being displaced. A new development is the punitive revocation of residency of family members of persons suspected of attacks, which disproportionately ends up targeting women and children. Israel has furthermore applied legislation such as the Absentee Property Law to confiscate Palestinian owned land in East Jerusalem, while enforcing a planning regime, which effectively excludes Palestinian participation, making it almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain building permits for construction. This has forced many Palestinians in East Jerusalem to build without permits leading to demolition and/or eviction proceedings. Israel continues to expand existing settlements and issue plans for new settlements. The combination of these policies and practices work together to cause the forced displacement of Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Palestinians living in Area C, experience protection threats resulting from domestic laws, policies and actions aimed at the forcible transfer of the protected population and the expansion of settlements. Israel systematically denies Palestinians in Area C to have adequate access to basic services, such as shelter, food, water, schools, health and electricity. These hardships are exacerbated by discriminatory planning laws, demolitions, evictions, seizure of land, declarations of state land and military zones, access restrictions, settler violence and takeover, and the shrinking humanitarian space continue to coerce Palestinians to leave Area C. Moreover, since 2011 Israeli has been advancing plans to relocate the Bedouins to alternative sites to facilitate settlement expansion. At current 20 Jahalin Bedouin communities in the Jerusalem periphery are at an imminent risk of wanton destruction and forcible transfer. These Bedouin communities are traditional, and women are normally not privy to information or decision-making processes, leaving them ill-informed and exposed to Israeli IHL and IHR abuses.

Palestinians in the Old City of Hebron suffer from harassment, violence and vandalism by Israeli settlers, and humiliation, abuse and arrests by Israeli soldiers and police officers; as well as, severe restrictions on movement due to a network of 120 physical obstacles (i.e. military checkpoints, fences, roadblocks, etc.). According to UN OCHA, 1,829 Palestinian shops and 1,014 Palestinian apartments have been closed/vacated since the outbreak of the Second Intifada. Those who remain in the Old City suffer from frequent clashes, a lack of security from radical settlers, loss of livelihood/poverty, severely restricted access to education and healthcare, and loss of property. The coercive environment, including the prevailing restrictions on movement, impunity and lack of security, means that women and girls find themselves isolated and more vulnerable.

Palestinian women's lives revolve in general around the private sphere, thus they experience anxiety and depression in anticipation of demolitions and forced evictions, in addition to the psychological impact of actual demolitions and forced evictions. Displacement forces families to live with extended families in unsuitable conditions, including loss of privacy and the risk of violence and sexual assault against women/children.

Activities or outputs

The project will engage in the following integrated activities and outputs:

Legal information, counselling and representation for persons and communities who have HLP, Residency and Access rights issues;
Capacity building and training for lawyers, students and the staff of humanitarian organizations;
Mainstreaming IHL and IHRL into litigation;
Information sessions for male and female Bedouins, East Jerusalemites, students, teachers and parents;
Coordination of legal aid providers through the LTF, as well as active participation in other relevant coordination forums;
Supporting the PA on casework, legal developments and advocacy pertaining to HLP and Residency rights;
Litigation of Public Interest Cases (PICs) that challenge discriminatory and unfair Israeli policies and practices;
Engage in EU, UN and Third State lobbying; and
Research on legal developments and applicable domestic and international laws.

ICLA programme and the PA are jointly the largest provider of legal aid services within Area C. There exists a referral mechanism that enables ICLA and partners to receive referrals from the PA, notably cases involving demolition and eviction orders. NRC provides this coordination and capacity building service in order to better facilitate referrals, enhance coordination and sharing of relevant data and case updates.

NRC ensures beneficiaries have access to the project's services through the various partners who collectively cover all parts of the WB. Information sessions, which include information on the availability of legal aid, are conducted in all areas of the WB to maximize reach. The ICLA programme has criteria in order to ensure fair access to legal assistance, and special access to vulnerable groups and people with specific needs. Women are specifically targeted for information sessions on HLP rights, thereby empowering them to access rights. Bedouin women also receive separate case information and legal information sessions, held by a female ICLA staff member. In order to receive legal representation, beneficiaries must fulfill the ICLA programme's legal aid criteria, which prioritizes vulnerable groups of beneficiaries, specifically including female-headed households. NRC consults with beneficiaries and communities in order to understand their needs and does not intervene if the community does not agree with the approach. Programming is constantly evolving in relation to beneficiary participation in the assessment of their needs, the design of interventions and the monitoring and evaluation of the activities. NRC perceives its M&E system, which includes mechanisms for beneficiary feedback, as a built-in way of promoting the "Do No Harm" principle, whereby beneficiary feedback relating to unintended consequences can be monitored and, if necessary, the project adjusted accordingly.

NRC believes in national capacity in furthering the objective of the project. Palestinians affected by or at risk of displacement are better placed to self-protect and uphold their rights through the project's provision of legal information, aid services, and increased access to justice. PNGOs are able to take large caseloads of HLP and residency cases through the legal system: they have grassroots connections to the communities at risk of displacement, 'rights of audience' in the Israeli military and civilian courts and the requisite expertise and knowledge. National contribution to the project is furthermore essential for the sustainability of the programme (forming an integral part of NRC's eventual exit-plan). This is specifically addressed by stakeholder capacity building, which includes training, mentoring and the provision of technical assistance. These actions delivered to stakeholders, allows them to play a key role in protecting and/or advocating for beneficiary rights, as well as becoming agents of positive change for the beneficiaries' communities, even at the end of the proposed project.

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 program 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 by 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:

- 5,399 opened and continuing cases for legal assistance in the West Bank (West Bank 1162 new and 4237 continuing,
- 1,997 persons receiving legal counseling in the West Bank (comprising 1398 males, 599 females);
- 4,533 persons receiving information services (comprising 2720 males and 1813 females);
- 855 persons receiving training (comprising 342 males and 513 females)
- 348 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.
- 135 public interest cases challenging unjust HLP issues

NRC commits itself to report on each provided indicator to the PC, and to continue to uphold its commitment to coordinate the LTF and to be an active member of the cluster system. In terms of the the increment in the current budget, the deterioration of the political situation is affecting the legal interventions and the caseload composition towards more financially taxing legal counselling, representation and PIC cases.

Indicator	Project target
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Norwegian Refugee Council(NRC)	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Implementing partner costs (including legal aid provided by NGOs and private lawyers)	4,232,410
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)	955,590
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
Total	7,987,990

Norwegian Refugee Council(NRC)	
Current BUDGET items	\$
Implementing partner costs (including legal aid provided by NGOs and private lawyers)	4,232,410
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)	955,590
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