

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

Appealing Agency	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
Project Title	Protected and safe access to education as an emergency response for vulnerable communities in the State of Palestine
Project Code	OPT-18/E/114828
Sector/Cluster	Education
Refugee project	No
Objectives	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 & MOEHE Joint Advocacy and Protection Strategy
Beneficiaries	Total: 8,500 girls, boys and teachers Female: 3,500 Male: 5,000 Children (under 18): 8,100 Adult (18-59): 400
Implementing Partners	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)
Project Duration	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
Current Funds Requested	\$321,473
Location	Projects covering just West Bank
Priority / Category	NOT SPECIFIED
Gender Marker Code	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
Contact Details	Maida Pasic, mpasic@unicef.org, 02 584 0400
Cash transfer programming	<p>Is any part of this project cash transfer programming (including vouchers)? No</p> <p>Conditionality:</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <p>Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: 0</p>

Needs

Attacks on education continue to negatively impact children, teachers and the education system in the West Bank as students frequently have to cross checkpoints of the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) and pass by settlements on their way to school, putting them at risk of harassment and violence. In 2016, the UN Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) monitoring mechanism documented 256 violation incidents related to education, impacting a total of more than 29,000 children (45% female). Almost one third of these incidents took place in Hebron Governorate.

This development is alarming as many school-age children continue to experience serious harassment and exposure to risks on their way to and from school, negatively impacting their access to education and learning achievements. As they cross ISF check points and go through closed military zones, children often experience harassment, such as intimidating school bag searches, and violence. 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 female students themselves as well as their parents. 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. More than 55% of the children currently monitored cross through military checkpoints to reach their schools every day.

Incidents linked to ISF include firing tear gas (sometimes landing inside schools) or sound bombs near schools, and entry of Israeli soldiers in schools. Furthermore, passing by Israeli settlements on their daily commute exposes them to additional incidences of abuse, harassment and violence. In the past, the threats of settlement violence have resulted in deterring students from going to school and psychological repercussions on children at early ages, however the introduction of accompaniment by international volunteers has improved the retention rate of students. Access to education is further complicated by the long distances that students and teachers have to travel, the lack of transport in some areas of Area C, and the prevailing movement restrictions such as check points, physical barriers and other means; these issues are compounded by the safety issue on the way to and from school since many of these localities in Area C are surrounded by settlements.

The lack of safe access to education has significant and negative consequences for their schooling and results in a decrease of school hours, an increased drop-out rate of children, discouraging teaching staff and the displacement or separation of families as they seek solutions in getting their children in schools elsewhere. In the most severe cases, these negative factors effect children’s overall well-being.

Activities or outputs

The project responds to the 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 emergencies. In view of this, and in line with increasing requests from schools, communities and Protective Presence Partners, it is a humanitarian imperative to continue protective presence including increasing the frequency, and where necessary the scope, of providing protective presence. Monitored locations are reflected in the Education Cluster and CPWG “Protective Presence Matrix” and have been verified by the MoEHE as well as through UNICEF’s field visits to schools, and conversations with the school staff and parents.

Planned activities:

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 8,100 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 410 teachers (55% female, 45% male).
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 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. Through the Child protection programme, grave violation incidents will be documented through the Children and Armed Conflict Reporting Mechanism (CAAC).

Indicators and targets

of children in vulnerable areas benefitting from protective presence on their way to school (baseline: 0, target: 8,100 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: 410 of which 55% female / 45% male; MoV: see monitoring section below)

Monitoring:

EAPPI, CPT and UNICEF will conduct assurance activities through periodic reviews, on site spot checks of financial records 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. As part of the monitoring framework of the project feedback mechanism will be established 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).

Indicator	Project target
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United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Protective Presence and Coordination in 16 locations in the West Bank	242,000
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	29,040
Operational field support, supply, logistics, admin, finance and security services	26,620
HQ recovery costs (8%)	23,813
Total	321,473

United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)	
Current BUDGET items	\$
Protective Presence and Coordination in 16 locations in the West Bank	242,000
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	29,040
Operational field support, supply, logistics, admin, finance and security services	26,620
HQ recovery costs (8%)	23,813
Total	321,473