







United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



**« Culture and Development in the
Occupied Palestinian Territory »**

**MDG-F Culture and Development
Joint Programme implemented in
oPt**

DURATION : March 2009 – November 2012	CONTRIBUTION TO MDGS :    
UN PARTNERS : UNESCO, UNDP, UN Women, FAO	
BUDGET : 3 million USD	

OVERVIEW :

Foster social cohesion and improve the livelihoods of Palestinians by developing their rich cultural heritage. Projects are particularly focused on boosting women’s incomes in areas such as handicraft production and home hospitality for tourists. The programme also helps develop policies that safeguard Palestinian culture.

Specific objectives :

- Policies and practices for safeguarding cultural heritage are established
- The potential of cultural and eco-tourism and creative industries is identified and utilized for inclusive economic growth and social cohesion

DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED BY THE JOINT

PROGRAMME:

- Economics
- Education
- Heritage
- Governance
- Social
- Environment
- Gender equality

CULTURAL DOMAINS COVERED :

- Cultural and natural heritage
- Intangible cultural heritage
- Performance and celebration
- Visual arts and crafts
- Books and press
- Audio-visual and interactive media
- Design and creative services
- Tourism

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CONVENTIONS COVERED :

- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE :

Northern West Bank (Jenin, Salfit and Nablus Governorates), Gaza

SNAPSHOT OF MAIN ACTIONS TO DATE :

- **Enhanced institutional capacity of the culture sector:** National Plan for the Palestinian Culture updated and operationalised ; first ever National Strategy for the Culture Sector developed ; cultural indicators produced ; Ministry of Culture and related Ministries strengthened through trainings and on the job coaching (140 people trained in natural resources management, culture sector strategy development and inventory and database management ; 250 people trained in cultural site management ; 20 people trained in Results Based Management, M&E, reporting and development indicators) ; increased knowledge and understanding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through the establishment of an ICH inventory ; national database created on moved and uncovered historical and cultural objects since 1967
- **Cultural industries and businesses supported, and cultural goods produced:** 60 people trained and supported in the pilot production of home appliances, light fixtures, accessories and clothes using traditional skills and materials ; support provided to 7 women food processing associations to ensure the production of quality food products using traditional crop varieties and processing methods ; grant mechanism set up and benefitting 25 micro projects
- **Cultural tourism and environmental sustainability promoted:** conservation plan established for the historic site of Sebastiya with the aim of providing basic tourist facilities ; 7 home-hospitality women-run businesses opened ; trekking offered and tour guides trained ; environmental conservation plans developed to enhance land use ; training on natural resource management conducted for Ministries and school personnel (manual produced on the conservation of endangered local crops, plots of traditional species created to promote environmental conservation and preservation of local biodiversity)
- **Cultural diversity and artistic training promoted:** 20 festivals and fairs organised ; music classes opened to girls in Hebron for the first time ; extra-curricular manual on Palestinian culture produced ; book published promoting Jericho as the birthplace of civilization 10 000 years ago

BENEFICIARIES :

Direct: 20 000 – 77% women

Indirect: 343 000 – 51% women

- Ministries: Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Economy and Finance, Planning and Development, Women's Affairs, Agriculture, Local Governance, Education and Higher Education
- Local authorities: municipalities of Sabastiya, Yaabad, Arrabeh, Beit Oad; village councils of Awarta, Doma, Aqraba, Birzeit, Kufur Malek
- Women and Palestinian residents of targeted geographic regions
- Palestinian artisans
- Cultural industries and entrepreneurs - namely 25 micro-projects , 14 young handicraft designers, 7 home-hospitality businesses, cultural industries in the areas of home appliances and light fixtures
- Independent professionals, academics and experts – namely from Birzeit and Al Najah University
- NGOs and associations – namely 7 women food processing associations, research institutes, consultation companies, cultural centers

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS :

- Ministries: Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Women's Affairs, Agriculture
- Research institutes and national conservatories – namely the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
- Village councils and municipalities
- NGOs, women associations, community leaders, theatres and companies
- European Union delegation in Jerusalem

ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES :

The Joint Programme is aligned to multiple national strategies: the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PRDP), the National Plan for Palestinian Culture, and strategies for the Culture, Tourism and Antiquities sectors

SUCCESS STORIES :**❖ Building synergies through capacity-building activities**

Job creation and sustainable livelihoods have been fostered by reinforcing Palestine's handicraft sector through the establishment of a network of handicraft designers and producers benefiting from access to new market opportunities, and through the creation of synergies between national initiatives in the crafts sector. Indeed, training courses on crafts design and production were organised for young designers (mostly unemployed) in the West Bank and Gaza, after which trainees were contracted to produce innovative designs of home appliances and light fixtures and asked to act as trainers in the framework of other national initiatives in the crafts sector. Women's empowerment was also targeted by increasing the skills of women handicraft producers, through placement programmes in which trainees were placed in remote areas to transfer their knowledge to women associations, and by linking them up with national galleries to market their products and thus enhance their incomes and market opportunities.

❖ Knowledge transfer and change in culture

Social development has been fostered in the conservative city of Hebron, where music education is not culturally accepted, by advocating for gender equality in music classes and shifting the community's attitude towards music teaching in general. Indeed, two music institutions were trained and received new instruments, enabling them to organise mixed music classes for 92 children and participate in music festivals.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :

MDG-F website: <http://www.mdgfund.org/program/cultureanddevelopment>