

SWISS COOPERATION STRATEGY FOR THE OPT (2015–2019) Occupied Palestinian territory



Qatanna citizens work on colouring the walls of their town, decorating it with benches and flowers, painting graffiti murals. © Qattan

In 1994, following the Oslo Agreement and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA), Switzerland began a development program through SDC to support institution-building that would underwrite the establishment of a viable Palestinian state. Since the second Intifada, Switzerland has also increased the provision of humanitarian aid in what has become a prolonged protection situation.

The ongoing Israeli occupation and the limited powers of the Palestinian Authority (PA) have led to increased fragility in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). They also have prevented the possibility of sustainable development. The internal Palestinian division has exacerbated the situation, in particular as regards territorial unity and integrity, economic development, the rule of law and good governance.

The overall goal of the current Swiss Cooperation Strategy for the oPt (2015-2019) is to enhance the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to contribute to creating a democratic and viable Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders. The strategy focuses on protec-

tion and resilience, and seeks to reduce the negative effects of the Occupation and the internal Palestinian division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It further aims to enhance the basis for democratic and pro-poor development. It is implemented jointly by SDC and the Human Security Division (HSD) which are part of the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs (FDFA).

Three domains of intervention were defined with specific objectives:

Domain 1: Rule of law and protection

This domain aims to “contribute to the promotion of and respect for international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in view of ensuring protection of the Palestinian population’s rights in the oPt by all duty bearers”.

Domain 2: Effective service delivery through local governance

This domain’s goal is to “strengthen local and national institutions in providing public services in a transparent, inclusive and accountable manner.” Cultural activities have been supported as means to increase public debate on democracy and governance as well as to encourage youth participation.

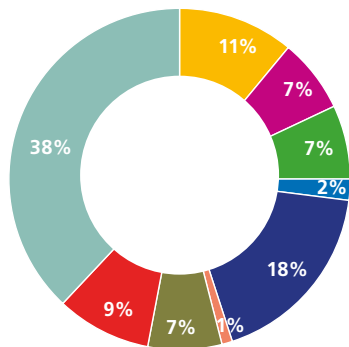
Domain 3: Agro-economic development

This domain focuses on “improving small-scale agribusiness holders’ performance and resilience and contributes to a more conducive economic environment.”



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Financial planning 2015–2019



- Rule of Law and protection 29 m
- Local governance 19.5 m
- Agro-economic development 19.5
- Other 4.2
- Budget SDC South Cooperation (Development Aid) 50 m
- Budget Human Security Division 2.5 m
- Budget Humanitarian Aid 20 m
- Budget Humanitarian Aid multi-bi funds 25 m
- Budget UNRWA 105 m (53% or 55.6 m of overall contribution is allocated to oPt)



Imprint

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;
 Cooperation Office Gaza & West Bank
 Link to SDC’s strategy in the oPt:
<http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/gazaandwestbank/>