

**United Nations Development Programme**  
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People  
برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



Ref: PAL 10-00106652

Date: 18 June 2020

**Subject: Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project - Gaza Strip  
Narrative Report from January 2019 to April 2020**

Dear Ms Norstein,

Reference is made to the agreement between the Government of Norway and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People for the Access Coordination and Monitoring Support project signed on 15 August 2017, amendment number 01 dated 19 August 2018, and amendment number 02 dated 16 February 2020 for the period from February to 30 April 2020, Grant Five.

UNDP is pleased to submit herewith the narrative report for the Access Coordination and Monitoring Support project, covering the period from 01 January 2019 to 30 April 2020.

I take this opportunity to thank the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority and look forward to strengthening our partnership in support of the Palestinian people.

Sincerely yours,



*Helle*

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Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



## Annual Progress Report UNDP – Access Coordination and Monitoring Support, Gaza

From January 2019 to April 2020

<b>Title of Project:</b>	UNDP/PAPP - Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project – Gaza Strip
<b>Project Code/Number:</b>	Award No. 00060907
<b>Project Manager:</b>	Ahmad Al Hammal
<b>Name of Donor:</b>	Government of Norway
<b>Name of Executive:</b>	UNDP/PAPP
<b>Project Location(s):</b>	Gaza Strip
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	18 October 2010
<b>Grant Start Date:</b>	01 September 2017
<b>Grant End Date:</b>	30 April 2021
<b>Grant Total Months:</b>	44 Months
<b>Period Covered by the Report:</b>	From 01 January 2019 to 30 April 2020

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## Executive Summary

During the last decade, Gaza's infrastructure has been in continuous deterioration to the extent that the UN declared in 2012 that Gaza would be "uninhabitable" for its two million residents by 2020. The blockade imposed on Gaza since 2006 is entering its 14th year. The Gaza Strip continues to have devastating humanitarian consequences on the daily lives of people residing within the Gaza Strip. Movement restrictions and extremely high unemployment and poverty rates adversely affect the households' food security, eroding coping mechanisms and worsening the living conditions of the Gaza population. Unemployment rates in the Gaza Strip are, by some margin, the highest recorded anywhere in the world. Large proportions of the population are living in poverty and food insecurity and remain dependent on international aid. The situation is further compounded by ongoing internal political instability.

In an attempt to ameliorate the delivery of assistance and enhance livelihoods, the Access Coordination and Monitoring Support project (ACMSP) was established in 2010 to develop a pro-active access strategy for materials, as well as to provide direct support to the humanitarian and development community, including through access negotiations with the Israeli side. The work of the ACMSP is made possible through the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs generous support through UNDP. The ACMSP continues to respond to the need of materials required for essential projects in the Gaza Strip through a proper coordination mechanism, for UNDP, Non-UNDP and international organizations. During year 2019, and up to end of April 2020, the ACMSP received a total of 14,929 tons of ABC construction materials, in addition to the load of 92,897 of different miscellaneous items.

The reporting period was characterized by more intensive, efficient coordination operations, relying on the accumulated experience built over 10 years of intensive work in the Gaza Strip. It was also characterized by more focus on miscellaneous materials, bridging the gap for restricted materials to enter the Gaza Strip. Miscellaneous items are diversified, ranging from heavy equipment to electrical, mechanical, chemical and advanced electronics. The coordination of different miscellaneous items other than ABC materials (Aggregate, Bar steel, Cement) has increased over the last years compared to previous need of miscellaneous items. Despite the enormous efforts, and the different levels of approvals to be obtained, the ACMSP has efficiently succeeded to coordinate a total of 92,897 miscellaneous items (395 trucks) that were considered prohibited.

On top of the extensive efforts exerted by the Access Project in coordinating and receiving of materials, the Project has levelled and cleared an area around 36,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the buffer zone near the Israeli fence. A total of around 4,237 tons of municipal solid waste and solid waste was removed and pushed back from the buffer zone to Joher Al Dik landfill.

This annual report covers the reporting period from January 2019 to April 2020, outlining progress, milestones, achievements, and advanced capacities of the ACMSP in coping with challenges faced, in addition to the financial report from September 2017 to end of April 2020.

## **Background**

There is a strong geopolitical sentiment that the economic and humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip needs to be addressed in an effective and sustainable manner<sup>1</sup>. Recent deterioration in the political environment, and the renewed eruption of clashes makes it even more urgent. Dealing with the ongoing electricity crisis is the first step towards economic revival. Hospitals, schools, water desalination, sewage treatment facilities and agriculture are at the receiving end of the electricity crisis, with the poorest segments of the population enduring most of the distress, as electrical generators and clean water are beyond their means.

There has been delays since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in the arrival of goods to the Gaza Strip from Israel due to both security and health measures. Lack of goods, high prices and scarcity of items, Gaza markets are living in a state of fear after imports from China and Turkey have ceased; among other areas. The repercussions of the pandemic on Gaza's economy will eventually be felt, especially after commercial stocks run out, which will leave a heavy financial burden on traders who are already suffering from a low purchasing power. As a result, traders are forced to increase their prices, which in turn, will affect the already poor part of the population.

## **Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project (ACMSP)**

The establishment of the Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project was to ensure the coordination, monitoring and control of materials' movement and storage of UNDP construction materials in light of access restrictions imposed by Israel. Since then, the situation has worsened with increased poverty and unprecedented unemployment rates reaching as high as 45%<sup>2</sup>.

The need for the ACMSP continues to facilitate materials entry for construction projects, which represent a major sector in supporting Gaza's already collapsing economy.

The uncertainty of the political and security situation in the Gaza Strip requires a risk analysis to ensure the continuous availability of construction materials for the planned projects, even during post-crisis. The Access project has developed strategies and action plans to act promptly, taking into consideration the different scenarios. The experiences accumulated by UNDP over the past ten years allow for a rigorous monitoring system to react to any

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (September 27, 2018), p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> PCBS, [http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/\\_pcbs/PressRelease/Press\\_En\\_7-11-2019-LF-en.pdf](http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_7-11-2019-LF-en.pdf)



unforeseen situation, and a strong relationship with the Israeli and local authorities to address challenges encountered.

As the ACMSP has been designed in response to the constraints imposed by the blockade, and there is no viable exit strategy unless there is a political resolution, and there is no intention for the mechanism to be sustained. Moreover, and in this context, the neutrality presented by a third party is of paramount importance, as local ownership is not acceptable to the Israeli authorities.

However, through the Access project, UNDP is advocating for a better understanding of the challenges in Gaza, including the impact of the blockade on the people. Having a strict mechanism to ensure accountability and transparency of the import and use of goods and materials could prevent further restrictions imposed by the authorities. Furthermore, the project contributes to keeping the local market prices stable through increased access and stockpiling. Without the mechanism, local suppliers could take advantage of the scarcity of goods and materials and dictate prices in the local market. Thus, the ACMSP has a role in sustaining the positive impact of the recovery and development projects in Gaza.

The grant agreement between the Government of Norway and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People to fund the Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project was signed on 15 August 2017 (Grant Five). Amendment No. 1 was signed on 19 August 2019 to extend the project from September 2019 to end of February 2020, while amendment No. 2, dated 16 February 2020, was to extend the project from March 2020 to end of April 2020. Amendment No. 3, dated 30 April 2020, is to extend the project from May 2020 to end of April 2021.

The approved contributions of NOK 32,284,337 for Grant Five and its amendments were transferred over a set plan of disbursements.

## ACMSP achievements up to April 2020

### Summary of Coordinated Materials from 2011 up to April 2020:

Since the establishment of the Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project (ACMSP), and up to end of April 2020, the Access Team managed to coordinate and receive a total of 276,927.77 tons of construction materials, in addition to 279,605 items of different miscellaneous materials. The total amount of materials are dispersed per year and between various types as per the following table and chart:

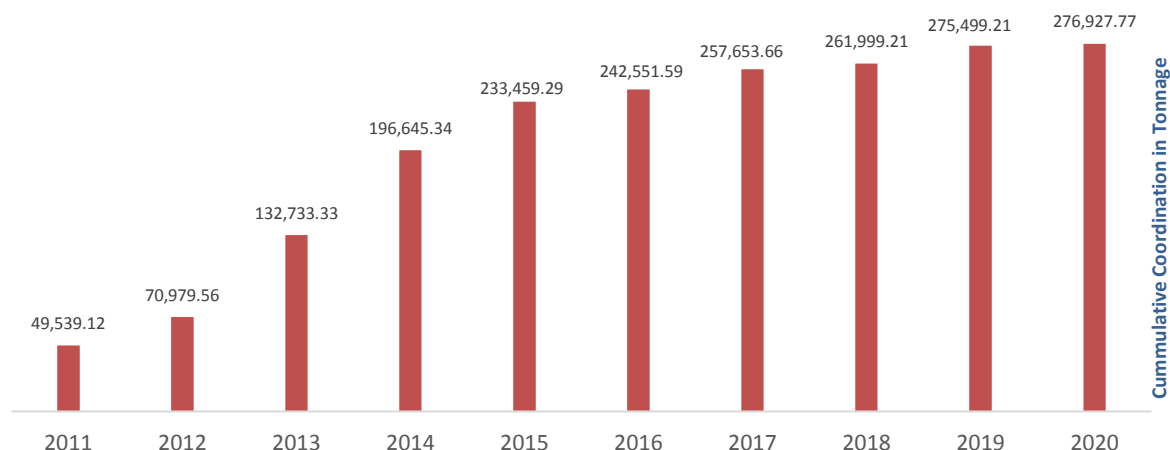
Year	Aggregate Ton	Cement Ton	Steel Ton	Miscellaneous per Item
Year 2020	0.00	348.56	0.00	5,007.00
Year 2019	0.00	360.00	0.00	87,889.70

**Annual Progress Report 2019 and up to April 2020 –  
Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Project**

Year 2018	359.90	3,985.65	0.00	92,238.18
Year 2017	0.00	14,046.73	1,055.34	31,460.52
Year 2016	425.75	8,364.25	302.29	36,432.30
Year 2015	30,004.35	6,113.60	696.00	5,874.48
Year 2014	59,536.27	3,790.95	584.79	1,556.00
Year 2013	56,877.77	4,515.00	361.00	17,082.00
Year 2012	18,564.98	2,424.00	451.46	1,173.64
Year 2011	42,786.54	5,794.75	957.83	891.20
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>208,555.56</b>	<b>49,743.49</b>	<b>4,408.72</b>	<b>279,605.02</b>

**Figure 1:** ACMSP accumulative achievements of material coordination from 2011 up to end of April 2020

In terms of cumulative quantities of materials coordinated since the establishment of the project and up to end of April 2020:



**Figure 2:** Accumulative coordinated materials in tons from 2011 up to end of April 2020

### Miscellaneous Materials Received up to April 2020:

Over the past few years, many materials have been added to the dual-use list by the GOI. The current dual-use list of materials includes many of the essential miscellaneous items that were crossing without any coordination request before December 2015. The current dual-use list includes more than 500 additional items between the period from 2016 to 2020. Consequently, the coordination of different miscellaneous items other than ABC materials (Aggregate, Steel, Cement) has increased over the recent years compared to previous need of miscellaneous items, as per the following table:



Year	Received Miscellaneous Items	
	Yearly Total	Accumulative Total
2020	5,007	279,605
2019	87,889	274,598
2018	92,238	186,708
2017	31,461	94,470
2016	36,432	63,009
2015	5,874	26,577
2014	1,556	20,703
2013	17,082	19,147
2012	1,174	2,065
2011	891	891

**Figure 3:** Coordinated miscellaneous materials from 2011 up to end of April 2020

The efforts exerted to obtain approvals, materials coordination, and necessary communication to receive one truck of miscellaneous materials is equal to the work needed for hundreds of ABC trucks coordination. The efforts are also extended in the receipt, transportation, escorting, and monitoring of end-use of these items.

Moreover, the required clearance and approvals for these miscellaneous items have been increased to include additional levels. The miscellaneous items are categorized into five categories as follow: a) General Miscellaneous; b) Electrical Items; c) Tele-communication Items; d) Chemical Items; and e) Industrial Materials. Each category needs to be cleared from different Israeli departments. The general miscellaneous items are cleared directly from CLA. The electrical and tele-communication items are usually cleared and approved from the Israeli Tele-Communication Department, while, the chemical items are checked and approved by the Israeli Environmental Department. The final category is Industrial Items i.e. laboratory equipment and medical and analytical tools which are usually cleared by the Department of Industry, Trade and Labour.

Despite the enormous efforts and different levels of approvals required to clear these miscellaneous items, ACMSP succeeded to coordinate and receive a total of 92,898 miscellaneous items prohibited during year 2019 and up to 30 April 2020, as summarized in the following table:

S.N.	Materials Category	Total Quantity Received
1	Electrical Cable (Different types & Sizes)	5,3178
2	Aluminium Materials	9,156
3	Mechanical Items and Fittings	5,799
4	Electrical Materials	5,076

S.N.	Materials Category	Total Quantity Received
5	Ductile Iron Pipes	4,309.2
6	Steel Pipes	3,511
7	Solar Energy Materials	2,685
8	Laboratories Equipment	2,677
9	Marble Tiles (different types)	1,921.5
10	False Ceiling	1,750
11	Bitumen (different types)	1,600
12	Wood	436
13	Medical Equipment	273
14	Ladders	144
15	Desalination Plant and Accessories	98
16	IT Materials	48
17	Structural Steel	37
18	Welding Rods	36
19	Electromechanical items	35
20	Generators	35
21	Fiberglass Pipes	24
22	Vehicles and Heavy Equipment	18
23	3 phase, Indoor Distribution Transformers	17
24	Blowers (different types) and related fittings	10
25	Mechanical Tools	9
26	Passenger and Food Elevators	5
27	Doors	4
28	Gas Heating Stove	2
29	"Deodorization system including all accessories"	1
30	Distilling Unit	1
31	Fume hood	1
Grand Total		92,896.7

**Figure 4:** Coordinated miscellaneous materials during 2019 up to end of April 2020

## Coordination of Five Heavy Equipment for CMWU

In order to improve its efficiency in operations and maintenance, the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) has procured five heavy equipment (excavator, wheel loaders and backhoe loaders) for drilling and maintenance work in the Gaza Strip in 2015, with funding from the World Bank for the Gaza Water Supply and Sewage Systems Improvement Project (WSSSIP) with a total value of US\$ 876,350, through the Palestinian Water Authority, and for the benefit of CMWU. Despite the various interventions of many international bodies to

obtain the approval for the entry of the five heavy equipment, the UNDP access coordination team was the only party who succeeded in obtaining the required approvals and managed to coordinate and receive the five-heavy equipment (excavator, wheel loaders and backhoe loaders) from the West Bank to Gaza in January 2020.



**Figure 5:** Five Heavy Equipment received for CMWU through UNDP Access Coordination Project

### **Responding to COGAT Requests**

#### **Levelling and Clearing Activities at Joher Al Deek Landfill (garbage removal – municipal)**

In January 2019, CoGAT had requested UNDP to support in clearing and levelling the area near to the Israeli fence east of Gaza. UNDP responded to CoGAT's request and agreed to support the implementation of "levelling and clearing activities at Joher Al Dik landfill" in collaboration with Gaza Municipality and Northern Solid Waste Council. UNDP responded and collaborated with the Municipality of Gaza and arranged for the necessary logistical services to carry out the planned activities, conducted in February 2019.

UNDP, through the Access Coordination Project, has levelled and cleared an area of around 36,000 M<sup>2</sup> of the buffer zone near the Israeli fence. A total of 4,237 tons of garbage and solid waste was removed and pushed back from the buffer zone to Joher Al Dik landfill.



**Figure 6:** Site Status during implementing the works activities (Municipal Solid waste)

### **Submitted Applications to CoGAT/CLA during 2019 and up to April 2020:**

UNDP has established an access coordination mechanism that entails cooperation with all involved partners. It is based on the purpose, scope, roles and responsibilities, management commitment of the entities of the following: a) Israeli Coordinator of the Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) and its division of Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA); b) Palestinian Authorities, in particular, the Border and Passage General Department, Presidential Committee for Commodities Coordination and Ministry of Finance; c) Gaza Local Authorities; d) Palestinian Contractors Union (PCU); and e) UN and other international partners (UNRWA and UNOPS).

It should be noted that some UN organizations were not able to coordinate for some of the above listed items, while UNDP did through its ongoing coordination mechanism.

Department	Submitted Requests	Description
Coordination Liaison Administration (CLA)	35	Thirty-five UNDP requests and applications submitted to CLA during year 2019 and up to April 2020. Thirty-one requests were completely approved While, two requests received initial approval, and still waiting the dual-use approval for the miscellaneous materials. The other remaining two requests are still pending CLA approval.

Israel Department of Industry, Trade and Labour	3	Three UNDP requests and applications submitted to Israeli Department of Industry, Trade and Labour during year 2019 and up to April 2020, and all were approved and coordinated.
Israel Environmental Department	3	Three UNDP requests and applications were submitted to the Israeli Environmental Department during year 2019 and up to April 2020. Two requests were approved and coordinated and one request is still pending approval.
Israel Tele-communication Department	20	Twenty UNDP requests and applications were submitted to the Israeli Tele-Communication Department during year 2019 and up to April 2020. All the requests were approved and coordinated.
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	

**Figure 7:** Applications submitted to Israeli Partner during year 2019 up to April 2020

### Supported Projects by ACMSP:

The coordinated materials facilitated the implementation and completion of 187 projects with a value over US\$230 million. Other projects with the value of over US\$58 million are in the pipeline. The coordination for the needed materials for these projects will start once the projects are tendered and awarded.

During 2019, and up to 30 April 2020, ACMSP coordinated the required materials for the projects illustrated in the below table. These projects availed 1.6 million days of labour for skilled and unskilled workers and directly benefited approximately 500,000 people.

Description	Number of Projects	Value of Projects US\$	Coordination Status
Completed Projects	187	\$230,514,153	Coordination Completed 100%
Projects under the Pipeline for 2020-2022	29	\$58,437,759	Coordination shall start once the projects commence
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 288,951,912</b>	

**Figure 8:** Supported Project by ACMSP



## UNDP Warehouse Management for ACMSP Operations:

### Role of UNDP Warehouse Management:

UNDP Warehouse is a competitive advantage for the implementation of the required warehousing operations in an efficient manner by the access coordination unit. The Warehouse has a multi-functional use; starting with storage for non-aggregate materials, mainly construction such as steel, cement or other items as mechanical/ electrical equipment, and ending with sorting capability.

UNDP Warehouse is serving as a junction point in the materials delivery cycle from entry to points of destination, through which critical operational functions are performed. In addition, UNDP Warehousing operations require equipment and tools to be used for loading and off-loading as well as packing equipment that are stored on site at the Warehouse s' location.

Access Project resident offices are located within the UNDP Warehouse to perform the monitoring and follow up functions and materials handling, testing, and issuing to project sites, or destination points. The rapid and global spread of COVID-19 following the outbreak in December 2019 has pushed countries and regions around the world to reinforce border controls and impose limitations on movement of people and materials. The ACMSP did not cease its operation nor stop any of its activities during the pandemic. However, UNDP internal recommendations were to clean and disinfect surfaces of materials received as precautionary measure. Disinfecting and sanitizing of the UNDP warehouse has become of top priority since it can further lower the risk of spreading infection. These steps were adopted to ensure safety not only for UNDP personnel, but also for all the other partners who receive the material subsequently.



**Figure 9:** Disinfecting the coordinated materials at UNDP Warehouse



**Warehouse Materials Movement:**

During the reporting period from January 2019 up to April 2020, the UNDP Warehouse started with an opening balance of 42.85 tons of cement and 915.6 items of different miscellaneous materials. During 2019 and up to April 2020, a total of 708.56 tons of cement and 92,896.70 items of different miscellaneous items were received. Additionally, a total of 729.41 tons of cement and 93,174.70 items of miscellaneous materials were delivered to its final destinations as allocated and approved by UNDP infrastructure team. Therefore, the last physical inventory takes of materials stored at UNDP Warehouse as of 30 April 2020 shows 22 tons of cement and 637.60 items of miscellaneous materials available as of end of April 2020.

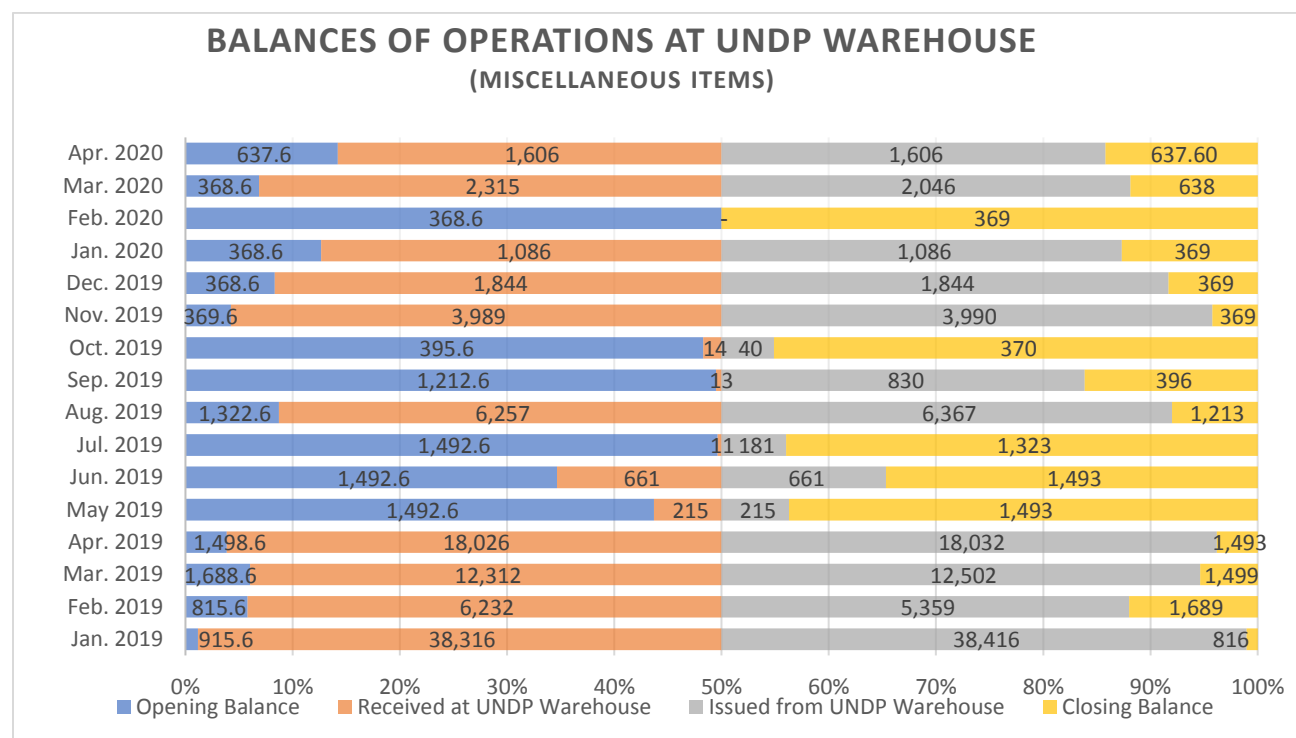
Material Type	Unit	Opening Balance (as of 01 January 2019)	Materials Received during 2019 and up to 30 April 2020	Materials Delivered during 2019 and up to 30 April 2020 to Project Site/Factories	Closing Balance (as of 30 April 2020)
Cement	Ton	42.85	708.56	729.41	22
Miscellaneous Materials	Item	915.6	92,896.70	93,174.70	637.60
Steel	Ton	2.28	0.00	0.00	2.28

**Figure 10:** Materials opening and closing balances of UNDP Warehouse in year 2019 and up to 30 April 2020

Month	Unit	Opening Balance	Received Materials	Delivered Materials	Closing Balance
Jan-19	item	915.60	38,316.30	38,416.30	815.60
Feb-19	item	815.60	6,232.00	5,359.00	1,688.60
Mar-19	item	1,688.60	12,312.00	12,502.00	1,498.60
Apr-19	item	1,498.60	18,026.00	18,032.00	1,492.60
May-19	item	1,492.60	215.00	215.00	1,492.60
Jun-19	item	1,492.60	661.00	661.00	1,492.60
Jul-19	item	1,492.60	11.00	181.00	1,322.60
Aug-19	item	1,322.60	6,256.50	6,366.50	1,212.60
Sep-19	item	1,212.60	13.00	830.00	395.60
Oct-19	item	395.60	14.00	40.00	369.60
Nov-19	item	369.60	3,989.00	3,990.00	368.60
Dec-19	item	368.60	1,843.90	1,843.90	368.60
Jan-20	item	368.60	1,086.00	1,086.00	368.60
Feb-20	item	368.60	0.00	0.00	368.60

Mar-20	item	368.60	2,315.00	2,046.00	637.60
Apr-20	item	637.60	1,606.00	1,606.00	637.60
Totals			92,896.70	93,174.70	

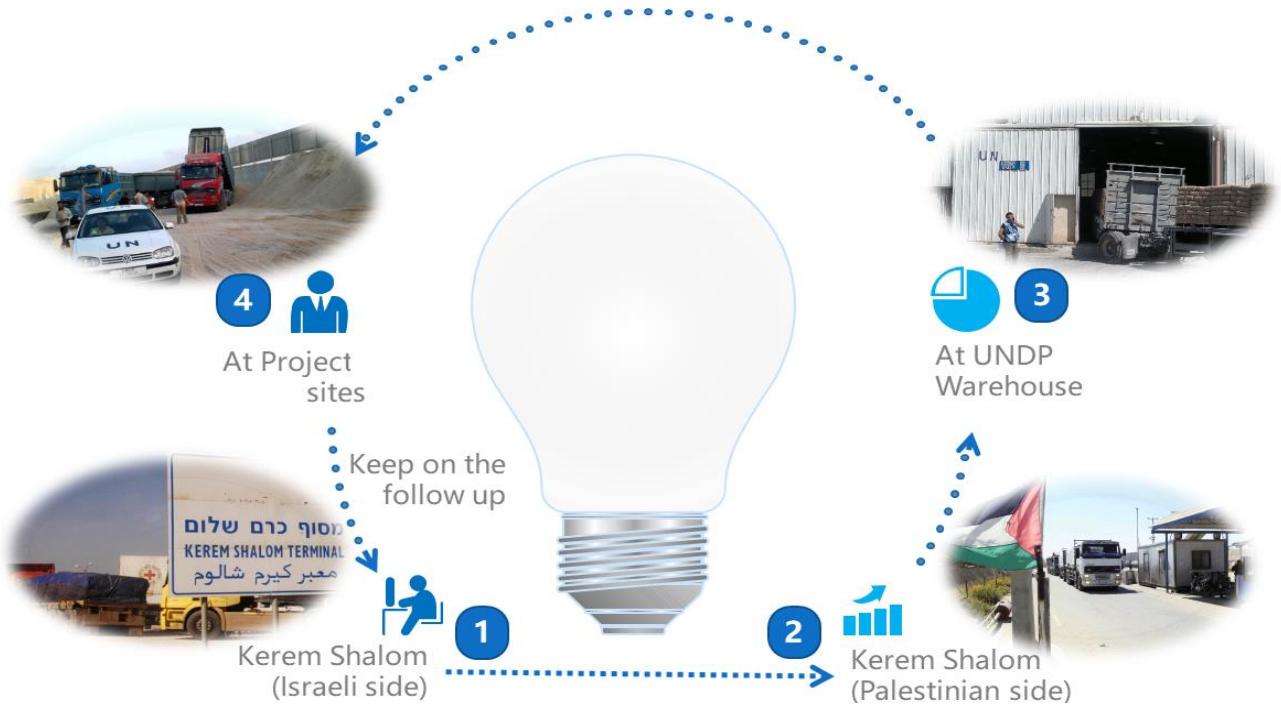
**Figure 11:** Miscellaneous materials received at UNDP Warehouse and delivered during the year 2019 and up to end of April 2020



**Figure 12:** Balances of operations at UNDP Warehouse (Miscellaneous)

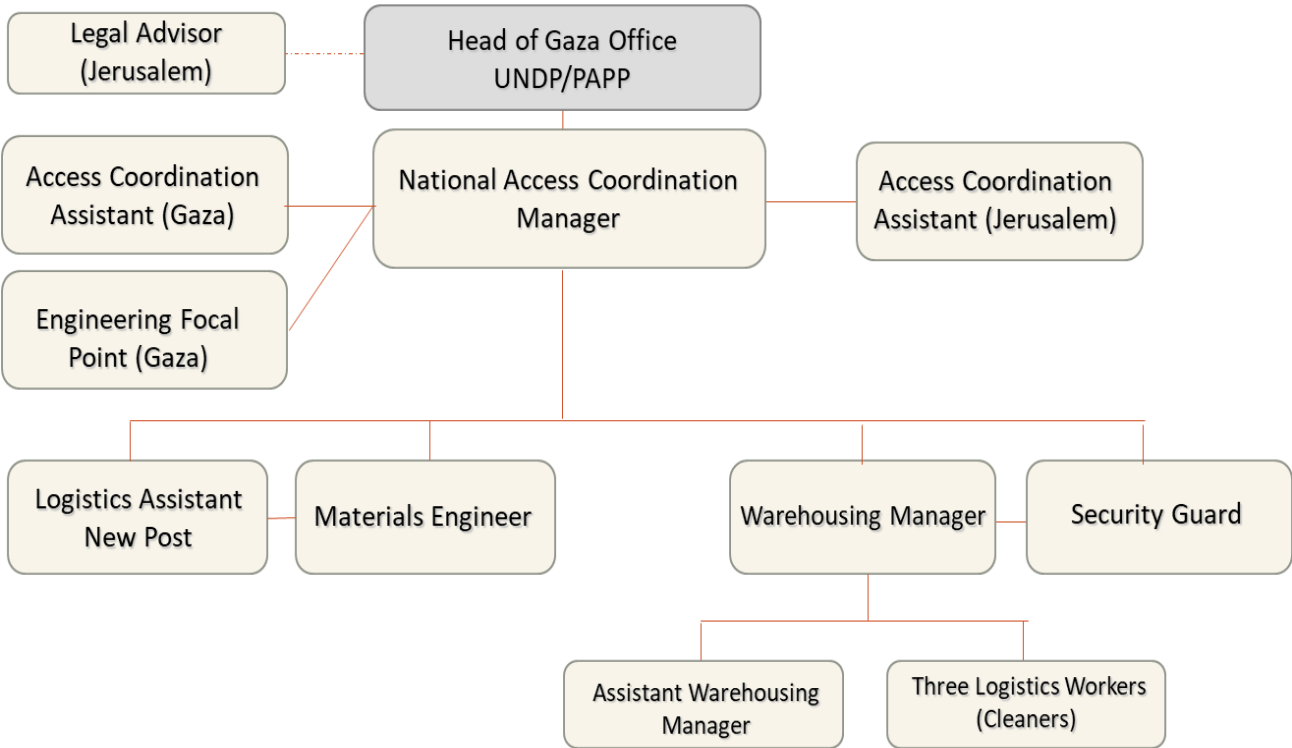
### ACMSP Implementation Framework and Organizational Structure

The ACMSP has provided an effective model in access coordination and has been an essential driver for the entry of dual-use materials into Gaza. It has increased the availability of construction materials to enable the implementation of various UNDP projects across the Gaza Strip that are essential to economic recovery and improved livelihoods.



**Figure 13:** ACMSP implementation framework

The Access Coordination and Monitoring Support Team (ACMST) structure for implementing activities is highlighted below.



**Figure 14:** ACMST structure for implementing ACMSP activities

## Lessons Learned

The Access team has established a system throughout ten years of operations highlighting risks encountered and lessons learned. This system is enabling the smooth operation of its activities and more effectiveness in accomplishing and coping with projects' demand in the Gaza Strip, which usually requires more efforts and measures to be applied to maintain the same integrity ACMST has managed to keep since 2011.

### **Avoiding confiscation of coordinated materials through ACMSP at Karem Abu Salem crossing point – at Palestinian side (De facto government)**

ACMSP used to face issues with the contractors who did not fulfil their financial and tax obligations towards the De facto government in Gaza. This has resulted in confiscating coordinated materials to projects implemented through those contractors. As a mitigation measure, the materials from the crossing are placed under ACMSP's custody at UNDP Warehouse until the contractors clear all their financial/tax obligations. Restrictions are also placed on the contractors to fulfil all their financial/tax obligations before being eligible to conduct projects requiring coordination through the ACMSP.

### **Removing confusion resulting from discrepancies between planned and actual coordination**

Coordination with CLA entails providing actual photos coordinated materials and accessories coordinated according to approved coordination requests and Lists of Material (LOM).

To eliminate discrepancies, ACMSP through the contracted Israeli Logistics company, equip CLA with the necessary photos according to the actual brands and specifications coordinated for CLA to make proper checks at the Israeli side, and hence avoiding unnecessary delays

### **Coordination of materials from Egypt through Al Awja Crossing Border (at Egyptian Side)**

The contractor of Project "Rehabilitation and Furnishing of Five Playgrounds and Cultural Centre Package 7: Installation of Stadium lighting for 3 playgrounds in Gaza Strip" has procured electrical steel poles for the project from Egypt. However, the contractor could not coordinate the materials. The already procured materials were stuck at the Egyptian side at Al Awja Crossing border between Egypt and Israel for more than two months

The contractor requested from the Access Coordination Project to interfere to coordinate and facilitate the entry of his materials from Egypt to Gaza, then with Kerem Shalom Crossing to help him avoid additional cost of renting a space and project implantation delay.

The Access Project has immediately contacted the Palestinian government liaison office via which the contractor had previously submitted a private coordination, also contacted the CLA to ease and facilitate the entry of these materials required for UNDP Project.

The Access Coordination Team has successfully obtained CLA approval for the necessary coordination of such materials through Al Awja Crossing then with Kerem Shalom Crossing management under the condition that the materials should be followed by UNDP Monitoring mechanism.

### **Handling ad hock pending issues**

Obtaining the necessary approvals from Israeli authorities to allow goods and materials to enter Gaza is always a challenge. The current dual-use list of materials is scaled up to include many other items that were crossing without any coordination. However, the project has established communication channels and process with CLA with mutual respect, including proper planning, monitoring and follow up; hence succeeded to gain CLA's trust and enabled the handling of pending issues as they arise, in a timely manner.

Some projects need certain types of miscellaneous items, especially health, water and sanitation (WATSAN) projects. The needed clearance and approvals for these miscellaneous items require additional higher levels. Whereas, the GoI is classifying miscellaneous items into five categories that include: a) General Miscellaneous; b) Electrical Items; c) Telecommunication Items; d) Chemical Items; and e) Industrial Materials. The approval for each category is delegated to a different Israeli department, and all of the categories must initially be endorsed by CLA, before referral to final approval from the delegated department. General miscellaneous items are cleared and approved directly from CLA. The electrical and tele-communication items are usually cleared by CLA and approved from the Israeli Tele-communication Department, while the chemical items are checked and approved by the Israeli Environmental Department. The final category is Industrial Items i.e. laboratory equipment and medical and analytical tools. This category is usually cleared by CLA and approved by Department of Industry, Trade and Labour. Despite the enormous efforts and complex levels of approvals that are required to approve these miscellaneous items, the ACMST succeeded to approve and coordinate a total of 92,897 different miscellaneous items during 2019 and up to end of April 2020, that were prohibited.

### **Coordination for Bitumen for MoLG**

UNDP, through the access project, provided an exemplary trusted access mechanism. In the beginning of 2019, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) approached UNDP requesting the support to facilitate the approval of 1030 tons of Bitumen that were required for the

"Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in North Gaza Governorate" project, which was submitted to CLA through GRM under number 2335 and approved except for an essential item – bitumen - which was crucially needed to implement the project. The access team raised the issue to CLA and managed to approve the required bitumen.

Key challenges that faced the access project and had negative impact on UNDP projects' implementation related essentially to the unforeseen or un-planned deterioration of the security situation in the Gaza Strip. The security deterioration occurred in November 2018, with a military operation following in November 2019, causing in the process damage to the ductile pipes coordinated for UNDP's Khan Younis Waste Water Plant project. Later on, the access team managed to coordinate additional materials to replace the damaged pipes. The main mitigation measures for such a risk is to temporary suspend project activities and reallocate materials and staff away from dangerous areas.

### **Coordination of Heavy Equipment**

Coordination of heavy equipment into the Gaza Strip is a crucial challenge, since it requires installation of GPS along with monthly monitoring and reporting. Regardless of these challenging restrictions, UNDP through its access project, managed to facilitate the entry of forty-five (45) heavy equipment into the Gaza Strip for different purposes. The access project also secured approvals for five heavy equipment for daily operational activities of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utilities (CMWU), even though the transfer of this equipment from the West Bank to Israel was a challenge due to allowed size-limits of scanning machines at the West Bank borders. The access team managed to obtain approval from CLA on an exceptional basis for the heavy equipment to be checked manually. It is recommended to establish direct communication lines with the Administration of the West Bank borders using the access staff at Jerusalem as focal point.

## **Stories of Success**

### **Ductile iron pipes for Khan Younis project implemented by CMWU through GRM system:**

The main pressure line of Khan Younis Waste Water Treatment Plant (KY WWTP) to the sea and to the infiltration basins is an international project implemented by different parties (CMWU and UNDP), whereas each party coordinates for its own materials through different mechanism; CMWU coordinated for their materials and pipes through the GRM system on a twice-a week basis, while UNDP coordinated and entered the required materials through the Access project under their own mechanism on daily basis. Hence, UNDP managed to receive all the required materials long time before CMWU. Whereas the implementation of the project depends on the full entry and receipt of all materials from all parties, waiting for the entry of CMWU's materials through the GRM will cause major delays in the project's implementation. Therefore, the CMWU management requested from UNDP to intervene with



CLA to speed up the entry of the required materials for CMWU submitted through GRM system.

The Access project has promptly and intensively communicated with CLA and conducted various meetings at different levels to find solutions to accelerate the entry of the required materials for CMWU under the GRM submitted request.

Special and exceptional approval was obtained by UNDP for the CMWU project to enable them receiving the materials on daily basis and managed to get all their materials on time and avoided the potential delay if materials were entered through the GRM system.



**Figure 15:** Receiving ductile pipes at Rafah Border for CMWU project

### **Rehabilitation of the Latin Patriarchate Church and Schools' facilities**

As part of its obligation to support non-UNDP projects, and with the difficult measures applied on material coordination, ACMSP responded in the middle of 2016 to the Latin Patriarchate's request in Gaza to support the facilitation and approval of materials coordination for essential repair works at the Latin church.



**Figure 16:** Rehabilitation of the Latin Church and schools facilities



**Figure 17:** The Latin Patriarchate Church

UNDP applied for the approval requests for each project. The Access team facilitated the coordination and entry of all required materials for the three projects.

The scope of work included different components and facilities:

- Latin Church Foundation Strengthening and Rehabilitation (with value of US\$420,000)
- Rehabilitation of the Latin Schools Facilities (with value of US\$240,000)



- Gaza Safety and Security Project for Latin Church Wall Compound (with value of US\$260,000)

### **Project Beneficiaries:**

The project benefited 262,000 residents in Gaza after the rehabilitation of the Latin Church and Schools facilities.

### **Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in North Gaza Governorate**

The Ministry of Local Government approached UNDP requesting the support to facilitate the approval of 1030 tons of bitumen that were required for the "Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in North Gaza Governorate" project, which was submitted to CLA through GRM under number 2335 and approved except for an essential item – bitumen - which was under the CLA's dual- items list but critical to the implementation of the project.



**Figure 18:** Main roads in in North Gaza Governorate before and after

### **Project Beneficiaries:**

The project benefited more than 450,000 people residing in North Gaza as the project provided accessibility throughout their city.



**Figure 19:** Rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in North Gaza Governorate

### **Support Access coordination for providing drinking Water – Rafah / Oxfam International**

As part of its ongoing support to provide access to basic life needs such as access to drinking water, the ACMSP supported OXFAM International following their request to UNDP for facilitating approval of an essential humanitarian intervention namely the “Supplying and installing 200 m<sup>3</sup>/day desalination plant” project . OXFAM applied for the project two years ago through GRM but did not manage to get the approval. Therefore, they requested UNDP to facilitate the necessary approval for the project.



**Figure 20:** Support access coordination for providing drinking Water – Rafah / Oxfam International

### **Project Beneficiaries:**

After the project completion, 9000 people from Rafah were able to receive quality drinking water on daily basis.

## Planned projects for 2020-2022

The planned projects for years 2020 – 2022 will generate a total of two million intensive labour workdays (skilled and un-skilled) in the construction industry, in addition to availing 500 permanent jobs for the Gaza population. These different interventions will contribute to securing quality basic services for one million people in the Gaza Strip.

Projects	Value	2020				2021				2022			
	US\$	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
On-going Projects of Sport Facilities & Arab Orthodox Cultural Centre (AOCC)	622,000												
Remaining packages related to Khan Younis Wastewater Treatment Plant	11,424,760												
Renewable Energy for Khan Younis Wastewater Treatment Plant	6,330,999												
25 Projects funded by KFW	4,060,000												
Nasser Internal Medicine Hospital in Khan Younis	26,000,000												
Solar Energy for Education Sector	5,000,000												
Solar Energy for Health Sector in Gaza Strip	5,000,000												
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>58,437,759</b>												

**Figure 21:** UNDP projects implementation schedule for 2020-2022



## Conclusion

ACMSP continues to be highly relevant to the Gaza context and effective in allowing the continuation of development initiatives that serve the Palestinian population.

ACMSP during 2019 and up to April 2020 through the Access Coordination Support Project directly supported 1.5 million people and contributed to the recovery of the Palestinian economy by generating approximately 9.5 million labour days in the construction industry.

As part of its 2020-2022 programme, UNDP is committed to implement vital infrastructure projects in the Gaza Strip valued at approximately US\$ 58.4 million. This commitment includes critical interventions and projects in the Gaza Strip that target the education, health, environment, and WASH sectors and are essential for economic recovery and growth. These commitments will require the coordination of materials to enable essential upgrading of services for the Palestinian community and contribute to economic growth.

## Annexes:

### Photos of completed projects:



## Summary of Financial statement

**For the period from 01 September 2017 to 30 April 2020**

Activity	From Sept to Dec 2017		From Jan to Dec 2018		From Jan to August 2019		From Sept to Dec 2019		Totals from January to April 2020		Totals from Sept 2017 to April 2020	
	Proposed USD	Actual Expenses USD	Proposed USD	Actual Expenses USD	Proposed USD	Actual Expenses USD	Proposed USD	Actual Expenses USD	Total Proposed USD	Actual Total Expenses USD	Total Proposed USD	Actual Total Expenses USD
<b>Activity 1: Access Coordination</b>	289,012	329,943	891,827	816,715	610,424	575,022	213,101	159,099	<b>209,688</b>	<b>196,952</b>	<b>2,214,053</b>	<b>2,077,731</b>
<b>Activity 2: Warehousing Management</b>	69,660	69,563	269,525	221,314	168,415	127,471	67,630	64,413	<b>71,215</b>	<b>66,791</b>	<b>490,219</b>	<b>549,552</b>
<b>Activity 3: Security Support</b>	13,980	13,960	42,133	37,064	28,823	27,784	14,688	11,219	<b>34,171</b>	<b>13,168</b>	<b>99,624</b>	<b>103,196</b>