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PROJECT CONCEPT

Implementing/Executing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP)
Submitted to:	Representative Office of Norway
Project Title:	Right to Education in East Jerusalem- Provision of classrooms and school facilities
Objective:	Empowered and strengthened Palestinian national institutions to increase enrollment and deliver quality education in East Jerusalem
Sector(s):	Infrastructure/ Education Sector
Beneficiaries:	Jerusalem students, local community and education system at large
Partners:	Jerusalem Directorate of Education (JDoE)/ Ministry of Education (MoE)
Estimated Project Duration:	16 Months
Location:	East Jerusalem
Total Project Budget:	USD 3,698,562.00

Situation Analysis¹:

Currently, East Jerusalem has 83,445 students and 185 schools. The provision of Education in East Jerusalem is fragmented across five different providers: Awqaf (Jerusalem Directorate of Education – JDoE/ MoE), private sector, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality and the contractors.²

Schools managed by the private sector represent the largest share (69 schools) and serve approximately 24,110 students. 52 schools are managed by the Municipality and serve over 38,827 students, which is the largest proportion of students. UNRWA offers education services to refugees and supervises a total of 2,442 students in 8 schools. The Palestinian Ministry of Education has 39 schools (out of which 22 are rented), managed by the Jerusalem

(Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children).

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of the human Rights

¹ Data provided by Jerusalem Directorate of Education, DG. Mr. Sameer Jibreel, 2013

² Contractor schools are a specific type of "recognized unofficial" schools and are considered "for profit" schools. The schools are recognized and financed by the Israeli Ministry of Education. The schools have been established as a response to the scarcity of resources and are perceived to be profit-oriented.



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Directorate of Education/ Awqaf Department and serve approximately 12,400 students. The contractors are managing 17 schools serving 5,666 students, funded by the Israeli Authority.

The education system in East Jerusalem is severely hampered by several conditions, mainly affected by the Israeli occupation of the city and the imposed procedures, policies and measures, resulting in limited access of children to quality education and a protective environment, lack of facilitating permits for expansion and upgrading of school facilities, access constraints for students crossing checkpoints and teachers holding West Bank ID, hence limiting the provision of a better quality of education. Several studies highlighted the challenges facing education in East Jerusalem and the provision of quality education. Fast facts may be summarized as follows:³

Weak Infrastructure for Education

The educational system suffers from a severe deficit in classrooms. According to 2013 reports, this deficit was estimated at about **2,200 classrooms**. Only **150 classrooms** were built over the past 5 Years. The number of shortage of classrooms is projected to grow over the years as the population simultaneously grows at an anticipated rate of 3-4% annually. 2012 reports highlighted that **720 new classrooms** were required to replace existing classrooms located in sub-standard structures, in addition to approximately **400 new classrooms** needed to serve thousands of children currently forced to turn to alternative institutions, or who remain without a formal education.

Sub-standard and Overcrowded Classrooms

There is severe overcrowding within the educational system, far beyond what exists in the western part of the city. Within official elementary schools in East Jerusalem, there is an average of 32 students per classroom, compared to an average of 25 students per classroom in the western part of the city. In East Jerusalem high schools, there is an average of 32 students per classroom, compared to 24 students in the western part of the city. It is obvious that learning in overcrowded conditions has a direct impact on the quality of education—specifically, teachers' ability to provide adequate attention to each student and students' ability to concentrate on classroom activities. Hundred of classrooms in East Jerusalem have been determined to be of sub-standard calibre. The overcrowding of classrooms has resulted from the inadequate and insufficient infrastructure available in existing schools (area available for every student in most cases is 0.5 square meters, less than the international standards that recommend at least 1.25 square meters).

Other challenges:

- School buildings lack necessary equipment, specialized laboratories, appropriate sanitation facilities, playgrounds, and facilities for students with special needs
- Poor quality of education due to access restrictions imposed upon West Bank teachers who represent 70 % of teachers in East Jerusalem

³The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, East Jerusalem's Failing Educational System, Aug 2012



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- New Israeli measures affecting and trying to impose an Israeli-based education curriculum on the Palestinian curriculum, traditionally taught in East Jerusalem.

As a result of the aforementioned, the dropout rate reached 13% last September 2012, where according to the studies, 10% of Palestinian children in the 8th or 9th grade school age were not enrolled in any educational institution. For 10th graders, this figure doubled to 20% and by 11th grade, 30% of the students did not attend school. The cumulative dropout rate resulted in 36% of children in East Jerusalem failing to complete a full 12 years of school. Moreover, the shortage of classrooms forced families to enrol their children in fee-paying private schools, although, according to both international law and Israeli legislation, education should be available for free. This has imposed huge burdens on Palestinian families, where **poverty rates have reached 79%**.⁴

Intervention:

In line with the Government of State of Palestine strategy (Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013), the Ministry of Education (MoE) 2013 Action Plan and the Government endeavours and commitments in providing developmental interventions in Area "C" and East Jerusalem especially in education, UNDP/PAPP in joint collaboration with JDoE proceeded to identify the most urgent tangible needs in the Education sector in East Jerusalem and explored alternative solutions to contribute in overcoming the existing obstacles and strengthening the JDoE capacities to deliver quality education services. This intervention will support the Palestinian people in East Jerusalem through increasing access to a better quality of social services, notably, education through provision of new classrooms.

Programme Outcome & Objectives:

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of the JDoE and promote basic quality education for all children, particularly for those most vulnerable to exclusion from education.

The programme aims to respond to two main goals of the MoE namely:

- 1) Increased access of school-aged children and students of all education levels by improving the ability of the education system to retain them; and
- 2) Improved quality of teaching and learning.

Expected Outputs:

1. 10 new classrooms (1-10) provided
2. 1 new primary boys school (1-10) established and managed by JDoE
3. JDoE empowered and strengthened to plan and deliver essential public and social services in East Jerusalem.
4. Quality of education enhanced.

⁴The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, East Jerusalem's Failing Educational System, Sep 2013



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5. Increased community awareness on the importance of the Palestinian education providers in East Jerusalem.

Activities/:

For achieving the project objectives, outcomes, and outputs, the project will focus on alternative mechanisms for the provision of new classrooms, through the procurement of one of the suitable residential buildings in East Jerusalem and converting the structure into a school building to accommodate primary boys school as a priority, and as defined by JDoE/ MoE. The project will concentrate on the full upgrading of the building. Specific activities are:

1. Procuring a residential building in close coordination with JDoE and Awqaf;
2. Remodeling the building to meet the purpose;
3. Upgrading works to accommodate primary boys school including civil, electro-mechanical and external works ;
4. Provision of Audio-Visual installations and energy efficient fixtures– Light, sound and video networks;
5. Provision of Safety and Security elements ;
6. Provision of new furniture and equipment.

In exploring this opportunity, 3 pre-assessed building structures were proposed by JDoE as follows:

1. Khawshki building in Wadi Al Joz
2. Elayyan Building in Sharafat
3. Iskandar Al Najjar building in Wadi Al Joz

In this respect, a joint technical committee between JDoE/MoE and UNDP/PAPP - composed of the Director General of JDoE/MoE, Programme Manager of the JDoE/MoE, Chief Engineer of JDoE/MoE, Programme and Engineer Analysts of UNDP/PAPP – conducted several joint technical visits to assess and define the potential and a most appropriate building space in East Jerusalem to accommodate the intended school, thus fulfilling the MoE goal in increasing enrollment and enhancing quality of education in line with the strategic plans. The rationale and technical criteria were adopted for this purpose, where the results revealed that the most appropriate building is **the Khawshki in Wadi Al Joz.**



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Rationale:

#	Description	Rating* High, Medium, Low		Remarks		Rating High, Medium, Low		Remarks	
		Khawashki building in Wadi Al Joz		Elayyan Building in Sharafat		Iskandar Al Najjar builing in Wadi Al Joz			
1	JDoE urgent plans for providing governmental primary boys schools to serve the old city and its neighbourhood (Most of the available schools are run by private or Jerusalem Municipality (8 schools) with the exception of 2 schools (Al Omaryiah and Nahda). These schools are serving the Old City, Silwan, Ras Al Amoud, Mount of Olives, Wadi Al Joz, Issawiyya, Sheikh Jarrah, Palestinians living in French Hill, and other close localities. To effectively reduce the overcrowding in city center school facilities	High	Meets the urgent JDoE action plans	Low	Does not meet the urgent plans of JDoE due to lack of availability of funds	High	Meets the urgent JDoE action plans		
2	Community needs in line with the urban growth projection of East Jerusalem and, specifically the targeted neighbourhood	High	Urgent need	High	Urgent need due to the expansion of the area and several new housing projects. This area becomes a priority for JDoE once funds are available	High	Urgent need		
3	Closeness to the Old City and its neighbourhoods	High	Very close	Low	Far	High	Very close		
4	Vicinity with other already existing school facilities managed by the JDoE/MoE	High	There are 2 schools in the area	High	There are 2 schools in the area	High	There are 4 schools in the area		
5	Pressure on the housing sector in East Jerusalem. Number of families affected by the change of the building's destination (From housing to education).	Low	The owners will be moving to the USA	Medium	The families will relocate	High	3 families will leave the building		



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6	Availability of affordable transportation	High	Public transportation is available	Medium	Will serve only the Sharafat neighbourhood. This will be difficult and costly for students from the Old City and its neighbourhoods to travel on a daily basis	High	Public transportation is available
7	Legal documents and ownership	High	Available	Medium	Available, with some issues related to the ownership and division among family members of the land	Medium	Available, but should be verified
8	Legal constraints	Low	The first screening showed no legal constraints, however, legal advisor will be consulted	Medium	Yes, 40% of the land is allocated for municipal use	High	2 protected families by law are living in the building. The landlord cannot sell the property without an agreement with all concerned family members. Certain risks apply in this case
9	Sufficient area to accommodate the school (1-10)	High	Yes	High	Yes	High	Yes
10	Physical condition of the building and cost-effectiveness	High	Excellent	High	Very good	Low	Very old
11	Cost-effectiveness	High	Reasonable	High	Reasonable	Low	Requires huge investments for rehabilitation and upgrading works
12	Capital Investment	Low	Reasonable	Low	Reasonable	High	Requires huge investments for rehabilitation and upgrading works
13	Overall recommendation	High	Meets the requirements	Medium	Does not meet the requirements	Low	Does not meet the requirements

*. Rating refers to how fit each of these sites were the selection criteria.



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The Khawashki building in Wadi Al Joz is composed of 3 floors with a total area of 660 sq.m, 220 sq.m covering each floor and has an external yard. The building is close to the main road and located in a safe place. The roof floor will be upgraded to accommodate extra education activities, such as playground, etc. The area is not congested and offers a good environment for education.

Implementation & Management Arrangements:

UNDP will work in partnership with the JDoE and Awqaf in close coordination with the MoE during the different project stages (initiation, running and closing). The project will be implemented by the Engineering & Infrastructure Unit of the UNDP/PAPP. The expected project duration is 16 months.

The following points highlight the key arrangements:

- UNDP/PAPP will establish a joint technical team to be composed of JDoE, Awqaf, UNDP/PAPP to directly carry out the negotiations with the landlord;
- Following the completion of negotiation process with the landlord, JDoE will sign the agreement with Landlord and engage Awqaf in registering the property;
- Once the property is registered under Awqaf assets, UNDP/PAPP will authorize transfer of the installment(s) to the landlord
- For the upgrading and other works, UNDP/PAPP will carry out the activities under the arrangements of Direct Implementation.

Sustainability & Continuation:

The provision of the new classrooms achieved by the project will assist JDoE/ MoE and reinforce their capacity for increasing enrollment, in an attempt to help meet the natural demand, reduce dropout rates and enhance the quality of education in East Jerusalem. Sustainability is ensured by:

- The school will be managed by JDoE/ MoE under the Awqaf legal status
- JDoE/MoE will secure the needed capacities of management, teachers and other essential personnel to run the education process, where rotation of teachers will take place to reduce transportation cost
- JDoE/MoE will cover the cost of operation including running costs
- JDoE/MoE will embark on rotation of students and awareness campaign among the community to ensure full enrollment and reduce transportation cost for the students
- JDoE/ MoE will encourage the community residents for utilizing the new school services, that will drastically reduce the fees of enrollment in other available systems, especially private
- JDoE/ MoE will carry out communication plan to promote the quality of education provided by the MoE- affiliated schools



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- The upgrading works of the building will adopt sustainable infrastructure activities to reduce the cost of operations
- Exploring possibilities for using the school after class hours for community engagements and activities

Budget:

Item	Activity includes the Implementation Support Services	Unit	Cost Est.	QTY	Total Cost Est.
			USD		USD
1	Purchasing the building structure and land * the cost estimate based on the primary assessment carried out by Awqaf/JDoE committee, the actual figure will be accepted by the joint committee comprising Awqaf, JDoE and UNDP after carrying out the negotiation processes with the landlord	LS	2,450,000.00	1	2,450,000.00
2	Upgrading works including civil, arch, electro-mechanical and external	LS	550,000.00	1	550,000.00
3	Safety and security	LS	80,000.00	1	80,000.00
4	Provision of labs, library, resource room, furniture and equipments	LS	150,000.00	1	150,000.00
5	Design and supervision	LS	60,000.00	1	60,000.00
6	UNDP Quality Assurance				
6.1	Programme Analyst (20%)	Month	7,500.00	16	24,000.00
6.2	Engineer Analyst (40%)	Month	7,500.00	16	48,000.00
6.3	Project Assistant (20%)	Month	3,000.00	16	9,600.00
7	Miscellaneous	LS	35,000.00	1	35,000.00
8	Audit, M&E	LS	30,000.00	1	30,000.00
9	Communication and Visibility	LS	20,000.00	1	20,000.00
10	Total Cost of Project Activities				3,456,600.00
11	UNDP General Management Cost (7%)				241,962.00
12	Total Project Cost				3,698,562.00