**Submitted CIF proposal**

**Amount: $500,000**

**Project period: Q3 2018 – Dec 2019**

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| **Title** | Palestinian Resilience and Development Facility, enhancing tools and partnerships towards innovation | | | |
| **Purpose** | Despite the past 20 years of assistance, the protracted conflict, limited development progress, socio-economic deterioration, gender inequality, and continued political deadlock, has led to a growing fatigue amongst donors and the international community in providing support to Palestine. Decades of humanitarian and developmental aid have focused on providing services to citizens in Area C, Gaza and East Jerusalem, in an attempt fill the gap left by the government’s lack of capacity, which has in turn resulted in the ad-hoc implementation of projects and programs in the absence of an overarching governing and coordinating mechanism. Additionally, a future political solution remains absent from sight in light of the intensifying and increasing threats to Palestinian livelihoods, including but not limited to ongoing settlement building, the continued construction of the Separation wall, further annexation of Palestinian lands, and the debilitating blockade on Gaza. In such environment, there has been recognition that the current aid paradigm is not working and thus a renewed approach to aid delivery is deeply needed.  To respond to this need, UNDP/PAPP, in close cooperation with the Palestinian government and key stakeholders, is facilitating the establishment of a national coordination and governance platform, the Resilience and Development Facility (RDF),  to strengthen the delivery, accountability, impact, and gender mainstreaming of developmental assistance to vulnerable Palestinian communities. These vulnerable areas include Area C, Gaza and East Jerusalem, where the Palestinian government has limited sovereignty owing to the constraints of the occupation, yet are integral for the transition to and realization of the two-state solution.  To this regard, the establishment of the RDF provides a renewed structural and conceptual framework for development assistance for vulnerable communities, placing the Palestinian government and the related governmental strategies and institutions at the center of decision-making, coordination and management, with the support of key partners. In Palestine’s context, this approach can lead to impact larger than what the occupied territories has experienced in the last several decades. RDF aims to strengthen institutional arrangements and the enabling environment to enhance implementation of innovative strategies alongside intervention impacts, create a multi-partnership trust fund to pool funds into a common framework using technology for both transparency and coordination, and coordinate advocacy and documentation efforts towards protecting and pushing for development achievements, with civil society engagement through innovation labs, human catered design and behavioral insights.  The funds from the Country Investment Facility (CIF) support the technical capacity of the RDF, which will position UNDP/PAPP as a fully financially committed partner as well as a facilitator for strengthened multi-partner engagement.  Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment is a prerequisite for resilience and sustainable development and is thus at the core of the project. All project interventions are gender mainstreamed, meaning that gender analysis will inform the design and implementation of the project and emphasis will be placed on consultations and partnerships with women’s organizations. The RDF will serve as an important platform for showcasing the expertise and work of women’s organizations. It will also be used to highlight the importance of gender mainstreaming and ensuring that women’s needs and concerns are at the center of resilience and development coordination, planning, implementation, advocacy, and political leverage functions. The RDF will focus on the mobilization of funds for the development of resilience-based programming that is gender-sensitive and transformative; addressing the root causes of gender inequality (e.g. gender stereotypes, power dynamics, dominant/violent masculinities, and patriarchal norms).   The Facility will serve as an important instrument for increased funding to women’s organizations and will work to increase the funding for actors using innovative approaches to engage men and boys in the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment. | | | |
| **Alignment with CIF objectives** | ​​​​​​​​​The establishment of RDF aligns with both objectives of the CIF, where support from the CIF will lead to the realization of direct results and benefits for UNDP/PAPP.  In areas of growth and business development, UNDP/PAPP’s leading role in the mobilization of support for the RDF and primary driver of the transformative resilience conceptual framework in Palestine aims to strengthen UNDP/PAPP presence and relations with governmental institutions and international partners. Bringing together key stakeholders in developmental assistance, the RDF will result in the formulation of new types of partnerships with national government, existing donors, and civil society (with a particular focus on women’s organizations). Where traditional engagement of partners is largely bilateral, **the RDF includes establishing a multi-partner trust fund, which will also work towards strengthening collective engagement between donors, protecting interventions from Israeli restrictions as funds are pooled, and bolstering governmental engagement in development programming targeting the identified vulnerable areas**. As UNDP/PAPP’s main partners include **the EU donor bloc alongside the Arab and Islamic donors, where interest in the RDF has already been expressed by key partners in both, this platform will also result in uniting these traditionally separate blocs under a common framework**. While the RDF mechanism will be at the level of Prime Minster Office and heads of mission, **UNDP/PAPP will play a central role through providing the secretariat support for the coordination amongst actors, strengthening of governance apparatuses, and the integration of a gender perspective. In other words, the RDF can open several pathways for increasing UNDP/PAPP’s work and position for years to come.**  In areas of visionary interest and innovation, monitoring and evaluating the resilience and development interventions requires a new digital platform. This digital platform will include two functions, 1**) to track and map the progress of interventions under the RDF in line with governmental strategies, and 2) to document and archive restrictions that pose a threat to current and future developmental achievements**. Additionally, GIS mapping systems will be introduced into monitoring developmental interventions in Palestine, where the data collection and management will be centralized for the benefit of all partners for both development planning and advocacy efforts. The mapping and monitoring tools and system will also be utilized for archiving satellite/map imagery to enhance documentation of development activities. We will also aim to use alternative data sources, using innovative approaches such as behavioral insights​, and new and emerging data to enhance decision making. As an additional resource to evidence development interventions, such mapping and monitoring system will also serve to strengthen the accountability of partners. Additionally, where resilience practice in development initiatives in Palestine is relatively new, a set of monitoring and evaluation tools are necessary to be developed that are able to monitor and evaluate resilience changes alongside create a systemized framework for which development projects can be evaluated together towards achieving goals and targets as identified under the RDF. The set of tools will include other innovative methodologies including human-centered design and crowdsourcing. There will be emphasis on the need to be gender-sensitive and include guidance on how to collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data and measure impact related to gender equality. This will also enable all donor projects to be monitored and evaluated under a common framework, which will allow more efficient and effective reporting and cross project/program evaluation.  Bringing civil society as well as the private sector closer to the decision makers through their participation through innovative methodologies, to ensure no one is left behind, is key, and will be part of the offer. ​ | | | |
|  | ​​ ​​The RDF will compliment regional priorities trough the following: i) advancing regional dialogue on sensitive and emerging development issues that may be easier to address in a multi-country context, and where advocacy efforts and the exchange of experiences and perspectives can help raise awareness and support action at regional and ultimately country levels, such as with anti-corruption and integrity, and exclusionary practices targeting certain groups; promoting experimentation and innovation to help overcome institutional, financial and knowledge barriers that may be too high for an individual country to surmount; and generating and share development knowledge, experience and expertise, for instance **Alignment with regional priorities**, through South-South and triangular cooperation, so that countries can connect to, and benefit from, relevant experiences from across the region and beyond. | | | |
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|  | $500,000 | | | |
| **Amount requested** | | | | |
| **Expected Results** | | | | |
| **Financial benefits** | | | | |
| **Result 1** | ​  ​Expected $500million of funding to be channeled through the RDF over the next 5 years (of which 25 percent will be allocated for projects that are gender-sensitive and transformative, meaning projects with both outcomes and outputs addressing the root causes of gender inequality in Palestine) | | | |
| **Result 2** | ​UNDP/PAPP’s central role as in the mobilization of support for the RDF puts UNDP/PAPP in a fundamental position for additional resource mobilization for future programming  ​ | | | |
| **Technical benefits** | | | | |
| **Result 1** | Central monitoring and database system for the use of implementing agencies and partners | | | |
| **Result 2** | ​Accurate data on development interventions, progress and spending to limit duplication of work and strengthen cross-cutting actions​ | | | |
| **Result 3** | Gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools, resulting in sex-disaggregated data and increased capacity of implementing agencies and partners to capture the impact of development assistance  with regards to gender equality.​ | | | |
| **Other benefits** | | | | |
| **Result 1** | ​Other less tangible benefits include strengthened partnerships with government institutions, donors and civil society | | | |
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| **Indicators for success** | | | | |
|  | Indicator | Target | Source of Data | Timeline for target |
| **1** | Amount of funds contributed to the multi-partner trust fund | $20million | Financial reports from UNDP headquarters | Q4 2019 |
| **2** | Amount of funds raised for UNDP/PAPP programming as a result of UNDP/PAPP’s role in RDF | $100million | UNDP/PAPP financial reports | Q4 2019 |
| **3** | Database established and monitoring tools in place | Database is functioning and ready for use | Reporting | Q2 2019 |
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| Key activities, costs and timeline | | | | |
|  | Title | Description | Cost | Timeline |
| **1** | GIS mapping and monitoring system | ​This cost item includes the related skilled persons to implement the system and the related hardware and software, such as servers, networks, peripheral devices, GIS software, database software, network software, etc. | $150,000 | Q3 2018 – Q2 2019 |
| **2** | Establishment of resilience monitoring and evaluation tools and central database | ​​This will include a small team of experts to develop resilience M&E tools for the RDF to be able to track progress of results and outputs. The M&E tools will also entail inclusion of innovative approaches to monitor and track resilience results through the use of crowdsouring, behavioural insights and the innovative and emerging approaches to data. These tools will also feed into the data collected on project/program implementation in Palestine, which will be stored on a central database. This also includes establishing the database.​ | $200,000 | Q3 2018 – Q2 2019 |
| **3** | Capacity training of staff to use new technologies | ​Capacity training activities entails ensuring staff members are aware of how to utilize the new systems and have the skills to be able to assist others also. The training will also include a component on data security and privacy.​ | $20,000 | Q4 2018- Q3 2019 |
| **4** | Interactive tools developed to access data | ​This entails an interactive website or online platform where stakeholders can access the analyzed data in a clean and simple format.​ | $50,000 | Q4 2019 |
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| **Key partners** | ​  ​Key government partners are the Prime Minister’s Office, Area C Coordination Office, and the President’s Office Jerusalem Unit as leading actors in the establishment of the RDF. As the RDF aims to facilitate the access of the Palestinian government to provide services to these vulnerable areas via implementing partners and organizations, the aforementioned institutions will be an integral part of the undertaking of these activities, where the monitoring systems and databases will be housed in the Area C Coordination Office. | | | |
| **Risks** | ​​Risks associated with the project include limited cooperation by implementing agencies operating in Palestine to follow this framework by not disclosing project information, or updating information infrequently, for input in the central database. This would limit the ability of the RDF and partners to adequately track and monitor developmental interventions and progress in these identified vulnerable areas. However, as the government is a central figure in steering the decision-making of the RDF, as well as key donor partners, this will enable greater pressure on implementing partners to comply with the updated standards which the RDF will enact to strengthen the accountability of aid delivery. Additionally, as several donors expressed interest in this aspect, discussions with donors will also entail requiring such standards to be followed by their implementing partners that do not fall directly under the RDF umbrella. ​ | | | |
| **Date submitted** | 4/25/2018 | | | |