

Progress Report (21)

1. Report Summary

- (1) **Title of the project:** Promote peace building through cross boundary wastewater Management in the opt
- (2) **Project No.:** PAL10 00063105. Award No. 00050897
- (3) **Date of the approval:** 16th March 2009
- (4) **Total Project budget:** USD 6,267,555.82 (USD 5,787,321,000 contributed by the Japan)
- (5) **Scheme of the Project:** Peace Building Grant Aid
- (6) **Period covered by the report:** 1st Apr to 30 Jun , 2014 (Progress Report No. 21)
- (7) **Names of UNDP Officer in charge, and Project Manager with their contact address:**

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- (8) **Name of PA counterpart, title, belonging, and contact address**

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2. Contents

- (1) Summary of the project

The project “Promote peace building through cross boundary wastewater management in the occupied Palestinian territories” is a UNDP/PAPP initiative that contributes to peace building and to strengthen the dialogue between the Palestinian and Israeli local authorities through addressing common interests. In this particular project, peace building will be promoted through joint management of cross boundary wastewater in order to safeguard the shared environment and protect the water resources.

This will be achieved through the construction of three wastewater collection systems in the targeted communities” Habla, Baqa El-Sharqieh and Barta`a” in the occupied Palestinian territory; the collected wastewater will be treated in Israeli based upon agreed mechanism and tariff between both parties. The Palestinian Water Authority is interested to develop protocol of cooperation in order to regulate wastewater flows across the borders. The project will support developing such framework of agreement.

The above mentioned protocol of cooperation will be based on the interim agreement that Israel and the Palestinian Authority signed in September 1995 (Oslo 2) which includes the most updated understanding on water issues that has been reached in the peace process framework in addition to the signed MOU on 2003 that sets the Guidelines and Technical Criteria for Sewage Projects. There are at least 10 sites where wastewater across the borders (1949 armistice line) between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. In some of these locations Israel is downstream and receives untreated wastewater from the occupied Palestinian territory.. On the other locations oPt is downstream and untreated or poorly wastewater runoff from the Israeli settlements on the hilltops ends up in Palestinian streams.

Untreated wastewater presents a pollution that not only destroys the rivers and the connected eco-systems, but also seeps into the groundwater, harming drinking water sources. Furthermore, it leads to mosquito infestations, allowing possible spread of waterborne diseases.

The project intend to:

1. Contribute to peace building and strengthen the dialogue between the Palestinian authorities and the Israeli Authorities through addressing common interests and maximizing benefits on both sides.
2. Promote trans-boundary wastewater management in order to safeguard the shared environment and protect the water resources.
3. Build the capacities of the service providers and the PWA regarding wastewater management issue including technical, financial and institutional aspects.
4. Enhance the quality of life and improve the wellbeing of the targeted population.

Target Community Situation

The project targets three border communities in Jenin, Tulkarem and Qalqilia Governorates with a total of 16,500 residents of Baqa Al Sharqieh (Tulkarem Governorate), Habla (Qalqilia Governorate) and Barta Al-Sharqieh (Jenin Governorate). Women comprise almost 49.8% of the total beneficiaries and men comprise 50.2 % (around 8,219 are women and 8,280 are men).

It is worth mentioning that, although this project targets the overall population and all the beneficiaries will be positively affected by its activities, women in these communities will be the ones who will benefit the most, as the project aims to enhancing their living standards and improving their quality of life. Traditionally, women in the targeted communities are responsible for management of water supplies at the household level. During time of shortage, women have to store water, ensure water's quality and monitor hygiene practices within the household.

Access to wastewater collection systems will improve the environmental living conditions of the targeted population and will enhance the cleanliness level within these towns. Ultimately the project will contribute to reducing the incidents of diseases associated with wastewater pollution and contamination and improve the public health status of the population. It will also relieve women from the tasks and responsibilities to take care of the sick and the infirm within the family and provide them with more free time to develop their skills and the freedom to engage in other activities.

(2) Project Budget and Components

Component	Budget as presented in the project doc	Original budget contributed by Japan/USD	Project site
a. Project staff & Operations	805,209.80	805,209	Jerusalem and West Bank
b. Construction of Wastewater Systems	4,498,800.00	4,138,007	Baqa Al Sharqieh, Habla and Baqa Al Gharbiyeh
c. Dialogue promotion, Capacity building, Public awareness	553,520.00	465,495	Baqa Al Sharqieh, Habla and Barta
d. Total Programmable Amount	5,857,528.80	5,408,711	
e. UNDP/GMS (7%)	410,027.02	378,609.8	
Grand Total	6,267,555.82	5,787,321	

	Construction of wastewater networks in Baqa Al-Sharqiya											Completed in December 2011	Installation of sewage network completed	The planning for the trunk line at the Israeli side is complete. The implementation will be finalized by June 2013	1%*	The Mei Yeron Corporation from the Israeli side has started the bid for installation of the trunk line that will connect Baqa East and Baqa West including the 150 meters that are close to the Israeli Boundaries. It is expected that the connection will be in place by the end of this year.
Output 2: Dialogue Promotion, Capacity building, and Public Awareness	Developing MOU between PWA and the Israeli Water Commission										On-going	General framework agreement prepared and submitted officially to PWA.	UNDP has worked with PWA on identifying the gaps between the	UNDP together with RoJ continue following up with both IWA and PWA in		

Project Evaluation									X	completed in September 2013	The consultant submitted the final report in September 2013			
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(3) Project timeframe, schedule status, progress of activities, and tasks & measures

Project Completion Date: 31 December, 2014

The Agreed Minutes on Procedural Details between the Government of Japan and UNDP/PAPP were signed on March 16th, 2009. The execution stage of the project started on June 1st, 2009 and it was scheduled to be completed by June 1st, 2012. However there was significant delay in the mobilization phase of the project. Request for extending the project timeframe up to end of December 2012 was approved by RoJ on 8, Nov, 2012. Another request for extension and budget reallocation of the project until 30, June, 2013 was addressed to RoJ in the project annual review meeting dated on 10, Dec, 2012 and was approved. However, and in order to give IWA more time to review the Protocol and agree with PWA on the site specific agreements, official request for another six months extension of the timeframe was submitted and approval was received. Finally, and base on the review meeting that was conducted with RoJ on 21, Nov, 2013 it was agreed to extend the project again until end of Dec, 2014 to allow for proper follow up on the Protocol with the Israeli side.

Financial report

Budget items (according to the proposal)	A. Original budget USD (according to the proposal)	B. Original budget as Approved by Japan US\$	C. Approved Revised budget in December 16, 2013	D. Disbursement US\$	E. Balance (C-D)	F. Rate of disbursement (%) (D/C*100)
Project staff and operations	805,209	805,209	962,884	941,916	20,968	97.8%
Construction	4,528,700	4,138,007	3,966,601	3,806,940	159,661	96%
Dialogue promotion, capacity Building, Public awareness	523,432	465,495	479,226	443,713	35,513	92.6%
GMS (7%)	410,013.9 0	378,609.8 0	378,609	363,480	15,130	96%
GAIN/LOSS				-5659	5659	
Total	6,267,355	5,787,321	5,787,320	5,550,390	236,930	96%

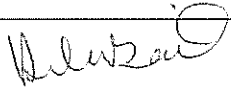
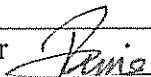
*It is important to highlight that the financial figures in this report are temporary figures, and may be corrected at a later stage due to exchange rate fluctuations, realized gain/loss or any other possible corrections. UNDP/PAPP's financial system operates in such a manner that the financial system closes in early December of each year and that final expenditure reports reflecting the disbursements and GMS of the previous year are only published in March of the following year.

(4) Any special notes or remarks

Following the meeting that was conducted with the head of PWA and UNDP on 19, March, a letter was sent by Dr. Shaddad, the head of PWA, on 29, April to head of Israeli Water Authority to urge him to consider the Protocol again and start following up to achieve the required progress. However, no feedback was received.

The Mei Yeron Corporation from the Israeli side has started the bid for installation of the trunk line that will connect Baqa East and Baqa West including the 150 meters that are close to the Israeli Boundaries. It is expected that the connection will be in place by the end of this year.

Report authorization by UNDP/PAPP

Reporting person, title and belongings: Taghreed Najjar, Project Manager
Reviewed and cleared : Husam Tubail, Programme Analyst 
Date of submission: 30 Jun 2014
Supervisor's name and her signature: Rima Abu Middain, Team Leader  2/7/2014