

Business Case Intervention Summary

Title: Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons and Persons/Communities Affected By Displacement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

What support will the UK provide?

A total of £3 million between January 2011 to April 2013 to provide information, counselling and legal assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs)/communities and persons/communities at risk of or affected by displacement.

Why is UK support required?

The 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza started an ongoing cycle of forced displacement within the OPTs. Palestinians in Area C, East Jerusalem (EJ) and Gaza have been most affected. Israeli policy is the main cause for displacement. In Area C (60% of the West Bank) and EJ, most displacement results from house demolitions. Around 90% of demolitions are ordered because home owners lack the required permit to build (in EJ 28% of all homes have been built without a permit). In Area C, Palestinian construction is prohibited on 70% of available land (44% of the West Bank). When applications to build are made, most are rejected - between 2000 and 2007 over 94% of applications for building permits by Palestinians in Area C were refused. Many Palestinians end up building without a permit. In EJ, only 13% of land has been zoned for Palestinian construction.

In Gaza, Operation Cast Lead caused widespread damage and the total destruction of 3,400 homes. The resulting displacement of 20,000 people lead to the overcrowding of homes and, coupled with high levels of unemployment and poverty, caused a significant increase in domestic violence. UNIFEM reported the highest perceived rise in domestic violence against women since the conflict has been within households displaced as a result of it.

In Area C and EJ, we support Palestinians to challenge demolition, the route of the Barrier (where constructed outside the Green Line), access to land, and evictions within the Israeli legal system.

In Gaza, we support people to access reconstruction grants (provided by NGOs, UN), and support vulnerable women affected by violence.

Our main implementing partner is the Norwegian Refugee Council who work closely with both Palestinian and Israeli NGOs

What are the expected results?

The expected result is the prevention/ reduction of displacement. We will achieve this through:

Output 1: In Area C and EJ, refugees, IDPs and persons at risk of displacement receive immediate, good quality legal assistance, information and/or representation. UK will support 220 new legal cases in the courts or administrative bodies; and 303 new sessions of legal advice and counselling.

Output 2: Increased Protection of refugees, IDPs and persons/communities at risk of displacement through a longer term preventative legal response. UK will support 6 public interest cases through the Israeli Supreme Court, training to an average of 20 lawyers in the West Bank and EJ and 30 in Gaza on 12 key legal issues to improve their litigation skills, and awareness-raising to 140 community members in the West Bank and EJ, and for 850 community members in Gaza.

Output 3: Increased Protection of refugees, IDPs, and persons/communities at risk of displacement or affected by displacement through advocacy, information, research and international networking. UK will support 6 new research reports/documents on pertinent legal issues, to support relevant legal work.

Output 4: Increased Protection of refugees, IDPs and person/communities at risk of displacement or affected by displacement through the provision of legal assistance. UK will support 900 persons with legal counselling on how to obtain required legal HLP documentation to apply for reconstruction grants for destroyed or damaged houses in Gaza, and 611 vulnerable women with legal counselling and/or legal representation on family law issues