

occupied Palestinian territory 2016

Appealing Agency	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
Project Title	Protected and safe access to schools as an emergency response for vulnerable communities in the State of Palestine
Project Code	OPT-16/E/86996
Sector/Cluster	Education
Refugee project	No
Objectives	To provide protective presence, and accompaniment to ensure safe access to education for vulnerable school children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem (SO2, Act 2)
Beneficiaries	Total: 4,100 school children and teachers Children (under 18): 3,900 Adult (18-59): 200
Implementing Partners	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)
Project Duration	Jan 2016 - Dec 2016
Current Funds Requested	\$1,683,612
Location	Projects covering just West Bank
Priority / Category	Top
Gender Marker Code	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
Contact Details	Anne Claire Dufay, adufay@unicef.org, 02 584 0400
Cash based Intervention	<p>Is any part of this project cash based intervention (including vouchers)? No</p> <p>Conditionality:</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <p>Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: 0</p>

Needs

Children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, face severe and chronic protection challenges getting to and from school every day. They cross Israeli military check points and go through closed military zones where they can experience harassment and even violence. On their daily commute, they pass by Israeli settlements which can also be a source of abuse, harassment and violence. In remote communities, students often must walk distances of up to 7-10km to reach their schools each day. Schools located in Area C are also the most frequently attacked, with students exposed to regularized military activity and settler presence around their schools. Impeded access to education, as a result of checkpoints and the Barrier, means exposure to conflict-related violence and delays, which in turn can lead to higher school dropout rates for the children living in East Jerusalem communities located on the far side of the Barrier. Children walk for long distances on dangerous and busy roads. The lack of safe access to education has significant and negative consequences for their schooling and results in a decrease in school hours, an increased drop out rate of children and displacement or separation of families as they seek solutions to get their children to school elsewhere. In the most severe cases, these problems combine, dramatically increasing the risks for the affected children. Girls, in particular, drop out when they have to travel to a school outside of their immediate community, as is often the case for secondary education. According to a mapping exercise undertaken by the Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) on “access to education”, the reasons cited for girls dropping-out, include the presence of IDF soldiers at checkpoints, travel by public transport, and co-ed travel, all of which raise security and socio-cultural concerns felt by both girl-students themselves as well as their parents.

The priority list of schools being monitored includes vulnerable communities (those facing high protection risks) in both Areas B and C in the West Bank, Seam Zone and Bedouin communities. EAPPI and CPT will focus on serious protection issues affecting children and teachers on their way to school, thus necessitating protective presence and accompaniment on the way to school in order to ensure adequate access to education.

More than 55% of the children currently monitored cross through military checkpoints to reach their schools every day. Harassment by IDF soldiers at the checkpoints is especially mentioned as one of the reasons for drop out of girls. Girls mostly drop out when they have to travel to a school outside of their immediate community, which is often the case with secondary education. Even though boys are often treated more violently than girls and are more often subject to detention and arrest, the fear experienced by girls during their commute is markedly higher for girls than for boys. Delays within checkpoints, sometimes within enclosed spaces with male soldiers, frequent bag checking and occasional physical searches has prompted a considerable number of girls to drop out of school altogether. Types of harassment most prominent include: unnecessary delays, verbal abuse and provocation, bag searches and physical harassment. Moreover settler violence further encourages school drop out; it consists mainly of verbal harassment, spitting, provocation inciting graffiti and damage to school properties, physical assaults and rock throwing.

As part of the worsening political turmoil during 2015, an increase in the number of cases of harassment by soldiers and settlers towards school children and teachers has been recorded through MRM, by EAs as well as Protective Presence Partners. Recent reports provided by EAPPI (April 2015), indicate that the most vulnerable areas continue to experience serious issues, such as checkpoints 55 and 56 in Hebron.

Activities or outputs

In view of this, and in line with increasing requests from schools, communities and Protective Presence Partners, have requested the continuation of protective presence, increasing the frequency, and where necessary scope, of providing protective presence in the following locations:

Beit Yattir (South Hebron Hills), Checkpoint 55 & 56 and Mutanabi School (Hebron), Tuqu schools, Al Miniya School and An Nu'man checkpoint (Bethlehem), Dar Al Aytam School, Al Jib, Zaytoun and Shu'fat checkpoints (Jerusalem), Khibet Jubara and Nazlat 'Isa gates (Tulkarm), Habla gate and Azzun Atma 2 checkpoint (Jayyus), Al Sawiya School and Urif School (Yanoun) Qitoun (Hebron), and Salaymeh(Hebron). These locations are reflected in the Education Cluster and CPWG "Protective Presence Matrix" and have been verified by the MOE as well as through UNICEF's field visits to schools, and conversations with the school staff and parents .

1. Training incoming accompaniers on protective presence principals (cultural and country specific background, including gender sensitivity and equality issues, monitoring, reporting, intervening, awareness raising);
 2. Accompanying approximately children (50% boys and 50% girls) on their way to schools in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. This activity will also provide protection for teachers especially female teachers.
 3. Sending accompaniers / observers to additional checkpoints and schools on an ad hoc basis, as a form of rapid response, in cases of a reported increase in harassment, violence and intimidation towards boys and girls;
 4. Intervening directly in cases of harassment at the different checkpoints and schools to prevent and/or de-escalate the situation in order to facilitate better access to education;
 5. Recording cases of intimidation, harassment and excessive violence that are sex disaggregated in special incident reports and checkpoint monitoring forms;
 6. Conducting action appeals, advocacy work and awareness raising activities nationally and internationally based on the above mentioned incident reports and electronic documentation;
 7. Referring cases of severe stress through facilitating contact between victims (both male and female) and organizations working on psychosocial support and legal aid, based on the above mentioned incident reports.
- Activities will be conducted in coordination with the MoEHE , Child Protection Working Group and local communities.

Indicators and targets

- 3,900 children (50% girls / 50% boys) and 200 teachers (50% female) in vulnerable areas access schools timely and safely through protective presence in the field;
- Boys and girls and teachers (both male and female) in vulnerable areas feel safe and more secure on their commute to schools and in crossing checkpoints;
- Cases of harassment of boys and girls decrease in targeted areas and checkpoints decrease by 30% from the previous year. .

Monitoring:

EAPPI, CPT and UNICEF will conduct assurance activities through periodic reviews, on site spot checks and programmatic monitoring on a monthly basis in accordance with EAPPI , CPT and UNICEF standards and guidelines. EAPPI and CPT will ensure that all targeted schools and communities are aware of their activities, exact role and goals. In addition EAPPI and CPT will inform the community and UNICEF on all contextual changes. UNICEF staff will conduct assurance activities through periodic reviews, on-site spot checks of financial records, and programmatic monitoring of activities in accordance with standards and guidelines of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT).

United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Mobilisation, training and debriefing for volunteers on protective presence principles	66,000
Provide Protective Presence and Coordination in 16 locations in the West Bank	1,320,000
Reasearch, advocacy and communication costs	55,000
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	117,900
Recovery costs (8%)	124,712
Total	1,683,612

United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF)	
Current BUDGET items	\$
Mobilisation, training and debriefing for volunteers on protective presence principles	66,000
Provide Protective Presence and Coordination in 16 locations in the West Bank	1,320,000
Reasearch, advocacy and communication costs	55,000
Technical support, monitoring, evaluation and reporting	117,900
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