

Another year, another budget

As it appears on our website and in this Newsletter, the Mission's mandate has been extended for another year. With the new mandate comes a fresh budget, funded by the tax payers of the EU Member States. A share of this budget is allocated to what we refer to as Quick Impact Projects (QIP).

With a cap of € 20,000, each project aims to address our counterparts' short and medium term needs, and deliver fast and pragmatic solutions. They can cover activities such as training, workshops and seminars, study visits, printing and purchase of equipment. However, they cannot cover works or maintenance, such as office or vehicle refurbishment.

Each QIP is planned and coordinated in close collaboration with our counterparts including the Palestinian Civil Police, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, High Judicial Council, Attorney General's Office, Palestinian Judicial Institute and the Palestinian Bar Association.

The QIPs contribute to achieving the Mission's strategic objectives and tasks, which again aim to support the national strategies of the Palestinian Authority in the field of security and justice.

We have just launched 35 QIPs with a value of over half a million euros. We are confident that each of these QIPs will contribute to our counterparts' efforts, assisting the Palestinian Authority in building and strengthening its institutions – in the interest of the Palestinian people.



Working together to clean up the West Bank

Soon, tougher times await environmental offenders in the West Bank. As the Palestinian Civil Police, the Environmental Quality Authority and prosecutors from the Attorney General's Office beef up their capacity to fight environmental crimes and prosecute perpetrators, the Mission has launched a series of supportive actions to assist the Palestinian Authority in managing the increasing environmental burden on the Palestinian society.

It is obvious to everyone that there is an environmental problem in the West Bank. As one passes through the outskirts of Ramallah, scattered rubbish, hundreds of thousands of used plastic bags and empty bottles, car wrecks, worn out car tires, and truck-load after truck-load of construction waste meet the eye.

The solid waste problem is very visual and the ugly impact on the breath-taking Palestinian nature is devastating. The less visual pollution, such as used lubricants, oil, chemicals, wastewater as well as hazardous waste trafficking, poses a considerably higher risk to human health.

The environmental consequences are indisputable and they will cause increasing economic damage to the state, due to the rapidly growing backlog of visible and invisible pollution throughout the Palestinian society. The problem harms the state and its citizens in parallel. Something must be done – and perhaps this something will soon materialize.

The very first steps

For the past three months, the Mission's Environmental Expert, Rocco Ots, has been engaging with the Palestinian Civil Police to work on mapping the





Truck-load after truck-load of construction waste is dumped randomly along highways and byways leading to and from urban areas.

environmental crimes situation in the West Bank.

“I have read existing documentation and reports and conducted numerous interviews with the Mission’s Palestinian counterparts to establish and understand the scope of the problem and what has been done so far. It turns out that the police are taking their very first steps in fighting environmental crimes. At this stage, the assigned police officers lack specialist skills as well as human, material and technical resources to enable a sustainable effort”, tells Rocco Ots.

A long-term effort is needed

The responsibility for environmental crimes investigation lies with the Tourism and Antiquities Police Department of the Palestinian Civilian Police. The investigative unit was created on 22 July of last year and currently consists of 11 police officers – one in each of the Police Districts in the West Bank – and three officers in the Police Headquarters, in total 14 police officers.

“We have the ambition to make a longer term advisory and mentoring capacity available for our counterparts. A long-term and more consistent effort is needed to build capacity within the respective institutions. In the meantime we have launched a Quick Impact Project to conduct a specialized training for the investigators here and now, as well as providing them with an Environmental Investigator’s Kit containing items necessary to conduct crime scene investigations. This includes oil-proof

footwear, gloves, containers and packages for samples and evidence, cameras, laptops and portable printers. It is a very small first step and more is needed”, explains Rocco Ots.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE WEST BANK

- Large number of random waste dumps in all Police Districts;
- Solid waste such as written-off vehicles, tires and damaged vehicle parts;
- Wastewater leakage or random discharge into public or private facilities;
- Non-scientific use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture;
- Dead animals and waste from abattoirs and slaughterhouses;
- Waste from poultry farms, livestock and industrial facilities affecting groundwater quality;
- Quarries harm the landscape and stone saws cause dust and noise pollution;
- Smuggling and trafficking of hazardous materials for illegal dumping in Palestine.

A strategy to protect the environment

In addition to the Palestinian Civilian Police, the Mission has worked with prosecutors from the Attorney General’s Office and members of the ➔

Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority to establish a coherent team capable of addressing a 'matrix', developed by the Palestinian Authority, outlining environmental priorities, policies and interventions for the years 2017-2022. It includes protection of the environment as a priority within the Palestinian Sustainable Development Strategy and constitutes the fundamental pillar to build a cross-sectorial strategy relating to environment protection.

CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE WEST BANK

- Lack of awareness of the risks and disadvantages to public health and safety caused by environmental misconduct;
- Lack of adequate means of transportation or proper alternatives for disposal of certain types of solid waste and waste causing unpleasant odours;
- Neglect by some municipalities to move solid waste to designated landfills, in the hunt for short term budgetary savings;
- Poor infrastructure to facilitate discharge of effluents (wastewater) especially in rural areas or too high reliance on domestic cesspits;
- Excessive trade and random disposal of used vehicle spare parts and tires;
- Urban expansion and extension;
- Lack of sustainable environmental solutions due to political or planning reasons.

Rocco Ots has been supporting the Mission as 'Visiting Expert' within the field of Environmental Investigations. It is the first time EUPOL COPPS has engaged an Environmental Expert. Rocco Ots is from Estonia, where he serves as Head of the Investigation Department of the Estonian Environmental Inspectorate. Before this post, he has worked in several positions within the Estonian Police.



On 8 July 2019, the Mission organized a mini-workshop for officers responsible for environmental crimes from the Palestinian Civilian Police, the Attorney General's Office and the Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority. The purpose was to present the status of the Mission's initial findings and discuss the way ahead. Rocco Ots (fourth from left, in uniform) also briefed the participants on how the Estonian Environmental Inspectorate works within the field for environmental crimes investigation.

Moving towards equality in Palestinian courtrooms



Nisreen Zienah Rishmawi is Chief Prosecutor at the Cybercrime and IT Unit of the Attorney General's Office and one of the almost 20% female Palestinian prosecutors.

Over the past decade, the Palestinian justice sector has seen a significant rise in the number of women working in the courtrooms, doubling the number of female judges, prosecutors and registered lawyers. More than 18% of the judges, some 20% of the prosecutors and, the highest percentage, 26% of the registered lawyers, are women.

The progress is very positive and an important step for the empowerment of women in the Palestinian society. A fundamental reason for the increase is access to higher education. Already in 2005, Palestinian women constituted the majority of university students and today some 60% are women. As a result, more women hold a degree, making them eligible for work within the sector.

Female participation on the rise

In general, female participation in the workforce is on the rise in Palestine with 21% of Palestinian women participating (17% in 2011). Among women with a higher education, the participation is almost 50% (43% in 2011). Factors such as social status, job security and the desire to serve the public may be contributing factors to the rising proportion of younger women in the justice sector . ➔

WOMEN IN THE PALESTINIAN JUSTICE SECTOR

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the participation of Palestinian women in 2018 amounted to:

- Judges18.3%
- Prosecutors.....19.5%
- Registered lawyers 26.5%
- Police Officers
(Palestinian Civil Police)..... 3.4%

The figures include the West Bank and Gaza. The figures do not include administrative positions.



Deputy Head of the Mission's Rule of Law Section, Märit Bergendahl is from Sweden where she works as a judge. She joined the Mission in November 2018 and has previously worked in development projects for the Swedish Courts, mainly in Russia, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Compared to the relatively low number of female Police Officers, the share of female judges, prosecutors and registered lawyers suggests that women recognise the justice sector as an attractive career option.

International focus helps

Many international actors working in Palestine with strategic agendas of gender integration devote much effort to the public sector. As a result, the majority of Palestinian public institutions have established Gender Units or similar structures to promote gender equality. The Mission has long supported these structures within its counterpart institutions.

The potential to create social changes

"Today, female lawyers have the professional skills and knowledge to hold influential positions. They have a respected status within the society, which enables them to take an active role in enhancing their own positions as well as to create social changes that influence the entire society", says Märit Bergendahl, Deputy Head of the Rule of Law Section.

Still some way to go

"Despite many positive developments, there are still some challenges. One being that the proportion of women in the sector decreases as seniority increases.

There are fewer women serving in the higher courts than in the lower courts, where judges typically start their careers. In the Supreme Court, the Appeal Courts and in the Sharia Courts (managing family-related cases such as divorce, inheritance and custody of children), female judges constitute less than 10%. Women are also extremely underrepresented in the functions of Court President and Vice-president", concludes Märit Bergendahl. ➔

GENDER IS A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF OUR WORK

- Gender issues are fundamental aspects of the Mission's daily work.
- The Mission's **Gender Strategy** is implemented through a **Gender Action Plan** which governs the Mission's internal and external work.
- The Mission's Gender Advisor supervises the process and maintains a network of Gender Focal Points in all sections and units of the Mission.
- All the Mission's Advisers and its Senior Management also receive regular training in gender mainstreaming.
- Gender aspects also form an integrated component of the Mission's regular reporting.

Working constantly to empower

Promoting women's participation and empowering women to participate in decision making bodies, are important aspects of the work we do here", tells Märit Bergendahl and continues: "Recently, we arranged a study visit to Copenhagen, Denmark for five female Palestinian lawyers to introduce them to best practices in relation to

the role of female lawyers in the criminal justice system as well as to international standards for handling domestic violence cases. In June, we organized a three-day training course for 25 female lawyers to enhance their leadership skills and build confidence in their decision making. Both initiatives were very well received."



The group of female Palestinian lawyers during their study trip to Copenhagen, Denmark in the spring.

The study trip included a visit to the "Countess Danner House" in Copenhagen. The house is named after Countess Danner (1815-1874), who was born as Louise Christine Rasmussen, the daughter of a poor, unmarried servant girl. She rose to the status of Countess and married the Danish King Frederik in 1850.

The Countess never forgot her roots and remained interested in servants' conditions. She established orphanages and left her fortune to the Danner House "for poor women of the working class".

The Mission's Mandate has been extended

On 28 June 2019, the Council of the European Union extended the Mandate of the EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS), as well as the Mandate of the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah), until 30 June 2020.

Both Missions form part of the wider EU efforts in support of Palestinian state building in the context of working towards a comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on a 2-state solution

EUPOL COPPS will continue to assist the Palestinian Authority in building the institutions of a future state of Palestine in the areas of policing and criminal jus-

tice based on its experience and cooperation with the Palestinian Authority since January 2006. Through its contribution to security and justice sector reform, the Mission supports efforts to increase the security of the Palestinian population and to reinforce the Rule of Law. € 12.43 million have been allocated for the Mission's activities between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

Canadians in Palestine

In April, Canadian Armed Forces Brigadier General Marc Gagné decorated the Mission's Canadian Police Adviser, Superintendent Barbara Kelly with the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and the Silver Clasp to her Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long Service Medal. On the same occasion she was awarded the Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal by the EU Civilian Operations Commander Vincenzo Coppola (right).



All 28 European Union Member States can contribute personnel to the Mission. In addition, it has been agreed between the EU and Canada, Norway and Turkey, that these nations are also invited to contribute personnel. Currently personnel from 21 of the 28 EU Member States and Canada are supporting EUPOL COPPS in carrying out its mandate.

Canada is a longstanding contributor of police officers to the Mission with 17 Canadians serving with EUPOL COPPS in Ramallah since 2008.

Currently, three officers are assigned to the Mission Headquarters in Ramallah, deployed through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police International Peace Support Operations Program.

They learn from us

“Canadians bring different perspectives, skills and knowledge to the theatre. Our European police colleagues and the Mission’s counterparts within the Palestinian Civil Police are benefitting from various



aspects of best North American police practices and methods. In this way, we supplement the consistent work of the Mission’s many qualified European experts”, tells Superintendent Barbara Kelly, who is the senior Canadian police officer and leading the Canadian contingent to the Mission.

We learn from them

“On the other hand, the prospect for any Canadian police officer to

serve in an international mission like EUPOL COPPS, within the framework of the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), is highly motivating. Working with European colleagues – police officers and civilians – is professionally, culturally and personally enriching. In addition to this comes the experience and insights we acquire through the daily work with the Mission’s Palestinian counterparts. The knowledge and practice we take with us from a regular 12 months tour of duty has shown to be beneficial to how we then conduct our duties, once we return to Canada”, explains Barbara Kelly. ➔



“The nature of my work brings me close to the Human Resource challenges that the Palestinian Civil Police are facing on the short, medium and long term. The tools I bring with me from Canada have been shared and implemented at various levels and the Mission has seen positive progress in the way human resources systems have facilitated competency-based management, including performance evaluation, merit-based promotions, retention and recruitment.”

Name: Barbara Kelly

Rank: Superintendent

Work area: Institutional Development and Human Resources



“I provide expertise and support to the Palestinian Civil Police in the area of accountability structures. I work closely with them to provide advice on international best practices and lessons learned within multiple accountability streams. My previous experience allows me to propose options in an effort to support and strengthen the accountability mechanisms of the Palestinian Civil Police while working closely with local and international partners.”

Name: Grant Lohrenz

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Work area: Police Accountability



“My job is to advise and support the Family Protection and Juvenile Department of the Palestinian Civil Police on family violence and juvenile justice issues. I provide knowledge and expertise that assists the development of best practices, policies and procedures as well as training needs, while promoting gender equality and ensuring the rights of women and children are considered and respected.”

Name: Sally MacKinnon

Rank: Corporal

Work area: Family Violence and Juvenile Protection

CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

- Currently, Canada is seconding personnel to three civilian missions – this Mission, the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Ukraine and the EU Advisory Mission in Iraq – as well as providing financial contributions to the military EU Training Mission in Mali.
- In November 2005, the European Union and Canada concluded an agreement establishing a framework for Canada's participation in EU crisis management operations. Since then, Canada has been one of the most consistent contributors to the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations. To date, Canada has participated in 11 such EU missions/operations.

New position as Medical Adviser

In line with revised practices in EU missions and operations, Medical Adviser positions are being created as part of their Duty of Care responsibility. This also applies to EUPOL COPPS, where, since May, a Swedish 'Visiting Expert' has been filling the post temporarily, until a permanently employed Mission Member takes over. Sweden has also provided the medical equipment and materials needed to facilitate implementation of the new post.

The Medical Adviser's main tasks are to develop, organize and monitor the provision of primary care and first aid. Due to the lower vaccination rate in the region and the relatively higher presence of multi-drug-resistance infections, monitoring of the epidemical and overall medical situation in the Mission Area is an additional task.

Assessments of medical facilities in the Mission Area will continue in order to advise Mission Members in need of medical treatment or consultations. Also, the Adviser will act as focal point for 'Critical Mission Incident' staff assistance and psycho-social difficulties.
































Finally, the refinement and maintenance of the Mission's Medical Evacuation Plans rests with the Medical Adviser as a member of the Security and Duty of Care Department.

Facts and figures on

Mission manning

The Mission's authorized strength is composed of 72 internationals and 39 nationals – in total 111. On 10 July 2019, the actual strength was 57 internationals and 39 nationals – in total 96. The current international strength, representing 21 Member States and Canada, accounts for 79% of the authorized strength. All EU Member States as well as Canada, Norway and Turkey can contribute personnel to the Mission.

Nations' contribution to EUPOL COPPS as of 10 July 2019

		Brussels	Ramallah	Male	Female	Total
Austria		-	-	-	-	-
Belgium		-	2	1	1	2
Bulgaria		-	1	1	-	1
Croatia		-	-	-	-	-
Cyprus		-	-	-	-	-
Czech Republic		-	1	1	-	1
Denmark		1	5	5	1	6
Estonia		-	1	1	-	1
Finland		-	7	6	1	7
France		-	1	1	-	1
Germany		-	3	-	3	3
Greece		-	1	1	-	1
Hungary		-	2	2	-	2
Ireland		-	1	1	-	1
Italy		-	8	6	2	8
Latvia		-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania		-	1	-	1	1
Luxembourg		-	-	-	-	-
Malta		-	1	1	-	1
Netherlands		-	2	1	1	2
Poland		-	-	-	-	-
Portugal		-	1	1	-	1
Romania		-	2	2	-	2
Slovakia		-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia		-	1	1	-	1
Spain		-	1	1	-	1
Sweden		-	10	4	6	10
United Kingdom		-	1	1	-	1
Canada		-	3	1	2	3
Norway		-	-	-	-	-
Turkey		-	-	-	-	-
Current Strength		1	56	39	18	57
Authorized Strength						72