

PALESTINE

AMAL
HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

PROJECT DOCUMENT

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B. ACRONYMS

AICS	ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
AC	ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGO	ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
CBO	COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION
CEDAW	CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
CSO	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION
DGCS	GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
EU	EUROPEAN UNION
EU JP	EUROPEAN UNION JOINT PROGRAMMING
EU MS	EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATE
GBV	GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
HR	HUMAN RIGHTS
ILO	INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
ISTAT	ITALIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS
MoEHE	MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION
MoU	MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
MoJ	MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
MoSD	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MoWA	MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS
MOFP	MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NIS	NEW ISRAELI SHEKEL
NPA	NATIONAL POLICY AGENDA 2017 - 2022
PA	PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
PCBS	PALESTINIAN CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

PLC	PALESTINIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PLO	PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANISATION
ROF	RESULT ORIENTED FRAMEWORK
SDG	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL
SO	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE
TA	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNSCR	UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
WEE	WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. IDENTIFICATION DATA OF THE INITIATIVE				
Country	Palestine			
Title	AMAL - Human Rights and Gender Equality			
Channel	INGOs through "Affidato" (as per art. 26/3 Law 125/2014), and budget support as per art. 7 Law 125/2014 and bilateral local funds managed by AICS			
Type	Grant			
Promoting party	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation-Jerusalem Office (AICS)			
Implementing parties	1. <u>Palestinian Authorities</u> : Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP), Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Attorney General's Office (AGO) 2. <u>Italian Government</u> : INGOs, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation-Jerusalem (AICS), the Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT)			
Executive party	-			
Duration	36 months			
Estimated total budget	Euro	4,000,000	%	100
Financial participation requested	Euro	4,000,000	%	100
Budget Components:				
▪ <i>Budget Support:</i>	Euro	1,210,000	%	30
▪ <i>"Affidato":</i>	Euro	1,366,000	%	34
▪ <i>Local Fund:</i>	Euro	1,274,000	%	32
▪ <i>AICS-ISTAT:</i>	Euro	150,000	%	4
TOTAL	Euro	4.000.000	%	100

2. PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE

2.1 Summary of contents

The proposed initiative is part of the AICS programme in Palestine selected for fast track approval for 2018.

The **General Objective** of the intervention is *to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and human rights in Palestine*. The initiative intends to support local institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of interventions that encourage a culture of gender equity and equality and respect of human rights.

The **Specific Objective 1** is to *promote gender equality and to foster women's economic empowerment and their working opportunities within the Palestinian labour market*.

The aim of the intervention is to promote women's economic empowerment and societal change towards a more gender equal society through support to women entrepreneurs to ensure sustainability of businesses as well as more gender sensitive enterprises, with a considerable component of innovation and positive discrimination. Gender equality thinking will be fostered through the creation of artistic events which will involve young and female artists in creative productions with various media as opportunities to promote their work. This will also constitute a channel of communication to communities and to the wider public about gender equality values to contribute to behavioral change. The implementation of activities SO 1 will be given to an INGO that will be selected through the specific modality of "Affidato" according to the Italian law 125/2014 that regulates this implementation modality and will constitute Lot 1.

The **Specific Objective 2** is to *promote women's active participation to the public sphere*.

The aim of the intervention is supporting the feminist discourse in Palestine through a project implemented by International and Local organizations. The intervention will promote feminist organizations and related CSOs in the creation of a stronger networking space and opportunities for dialogue, exchange of views and growth with institutions and the community at large, at national and international level. The intervention will also enhance access to quality information on key women's issues, as well as creating venues for informal exchange of experiences and views on gender equality and gender consciousness. Marginalized areas and highly vulnerable women will be reached through capillary peer-to-peer mechanisms and creation of innovative context relevant hubs with the active involvement of men and women. The socio-political participation of women will be promoted through identifying *positive deviance* examples for replication and capacity building of key actors in various Governorates. The implementation of activities SO 2 will be given to an INGO that will be selected through the specific modality of "Affidato" according to the Italian law 125/2014 that regulates this implementation modality and will constitute Lot 2.

The **Specific Objective 3** is to *promote and contribute to the consolidation of a culture of protection, respect and fulfilment of gender equality and human rights for the implementation of the rule of law in Palestine*.

The programme component related to the Specific Objective 1 aims to promote and consolidate a culture of gender equality and human rights mainly through the support of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in strengthening its capacity to prevent and contrast all forms of violence and discrimination towards women and minors. The initiative will involve some of the most relevant actors in the national education system; the MoEHE, some Directorates of Education, Secondary Schools, and Universities. The action will also respond to the need for accountability to Palestinian citizens in relation to the commitments defined in the government's own national strategies and towards the international

conventions that Palestine has adopted. This will also have a positive influence on raising male students' educational performance (whose performance is often lower than their female counterparts) and reducing the dropout rate, as it will increase their active participation in the school environment. The intervention comprises of budget support and technical assistance to the MoEHE. In parallel and in coordination with MoEHE, the Juvenile Justice department at AGO will contribute to increasing minors' awareness on the existing mechanisms provided by the law to protect them, train selected students and school counsellors, in order to improve schools' capacities to monitor and report cases where children's safety is at risk, and improve the competences of AGO key partners in the juvenile justice sector.

For **Specific Objective 1**, the following results are expected to be achieved through the relevant activity groups which will be implemented by selected INGO/s:

Result 1.1 *Improving access and long-term participation of women in the Palestinian labor market for income generation and promotion of gender equality in the society. (Lot 1 Affidato)*

Activity 1.1.1: Multiplication of successful women's economic empowerment approaches in Palestine, with a focus on the involvement of Palestinian women entrepreneurs for more gender sensitive businesses with stronger long-term sustainability.

Activity 1.1.2 Support to civil society to enhance participation of female youth and women in artistic sectors for income generation and/or promotion of gender equality in the society.

Activity 1.1.3 Supervision and Technical Assistance of the *Affidato* activities (Lot 1) implemented through International and local NGOs.

For **Specific Objective 2**, the following results are expected to be achieved through the relevant activity groups which will be implemented by selected INGO/s:

Result 2.1 *Palestinian civil society demonstrates a greater awareness of the importance of gender equality values and takes a more active role in the affirmation of the gender agenda at the national level and women involvement in political and social activities has increased. (Lot 2 Affidato)*

Activity 2.1.1 Support to CSOs aimed at revitalizing the feminist discourse in Palestine, through the creation of concrete opportunities of growth and dialogue with the institutions and within the communities on women's rights and feminist values for the promotion of gender equality.

Activity 2.1.2 Support to CSOs and CBOs for the promotion of women's political involvement.

Activity 2.1.3 Technical Assistance to PBCS in partnership with ISTAT for the monitoring of the SDGs, with specific attention to gender mainstreaming to enable monitoring and accountability processes to be carried out by the civil society.

Activity 2.1.4 Supervision and Technical Assistance of the *Affidato* activities (Lot 2) implemented through International and local NGOs.

For **Specific Objective 3**, the following results are expected to be achieved through the relevant activity groups:

Result 3.1: *Competences in gender equality and human rights of the school staff, students, and their families are increased.*

Activity 3.1.1: Support to the budget of MoEHE to develop the first draft of the manual to train teachers on gender equality and human rights.

Activity 3.1.2: Support to the budget of MoEHE and technical assistance to develop a training programme for teachers on gender equality and human rights.

Activity 3.1.3: Support to the budget of MoEHE and technical assistance to test the programme for validation of the methodology and the teachers' manual in schools, with a gender sensitive approach.

Activity 3.1.4: Support to the budget of MoEHE to define the methodology, publication of the manual on gender equality and human rights and training of trainers of MoEHE staff.

Activity 3.1.5: Support to the budget of MoEHE to involve Palestinian Universities and specialized institutions to strengthen the respect of gender equality and human rights among university professors and students.

Activity 3.1.6: Technical assistance and capacity building to MoEHE and universities.

Result 3.2: *Minors' competences on children rights and preventive behaviours are improved.*

Activity 3.2.1: Support to the budget of the Attorney General's Office to create mechanisms to enhance children's protection within the education system.

Activity 3.2.2: Support to the budget of the Attorney General's Office to strengthen the children protection system within the AGO.

Activity 3.2.3: Technical assistance and capacity building to AGO.

The direct beneficiaries of the initiative will be:

- Approximately 150 women entrepreneurs who will benefit of capacity building and/or grants
- Approximately 50 organizations (universities, CBOs, cultural and art centres, etc) that will benefit from networking
- Approximately 70 female youth and women that will be supported for the implementation of their youth initiatives and projects
- Approximately 3,000 people that will participate to youth initiatives
- The wide public that will be exposed to the messaging of the youth initiatives (approximately 300,000)
- Approximately 50 CSOs and CBOs that work on gender issues that will benefit from support, networking, events and capacity building
- 50% of the female population of 12 localities in 3 governorates of West Bank and Gaza (approximately 25,000)
- 30 Staff of PBCS will benefit from TA and capacity building
- The institutions and the population of Palestine that will benefit from the monitoring of SDGs which will increase PA's accountability towards its sectorial strategies
- Palestine CSOs that will benefit for reliable data on PA's performance in SDGs commitments
- 50 women that will benefit from capacity building and networking to boost their political participation
- Approximately 450 teachers, professors and school staff who will increase their capacities towards gender equality and human rights benefitting from the adoption of a manual created for the purpose
- Approximately 35,000 students of secondary schools who will benefit from a safer educational environment and increase their attitudes and skills towards gender equality and human rights
- Approximately 500 university students who will benefit from a safer educational environment and increase their attitudes and skills towards gender equality and human rights
- MoEHE staff working in counselling services in the educational system and MoEHE Gender Unit (in total around 50 people) who will be equipped to transfer the methodology and scale up trainings and the adoption of the manuals on gender equality and human rights

- Around 5,000 persons, 50% minors, involved in raising awareness activities and campaigns for the promotion of gender equality and human rights
- Around 20 AGO staff and AGO's partners in the juvenile justice sector that will benefit from capacity building.

The project is within the priorities identified in the National Palestinian Agenda 2017-2022. In particular, Pillar 3 "Sustainable Development", which includes national priorities: 18 - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

The proposal is also in line with sectoral strategies such as the Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy 2017-2022 and the National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women 2011-2019 and Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2022.

The initiative aligns with the principles and actions of the EU Join Strategy (2017-2020) and the Joint Final Declaration of the Joint Ministerial Committee Italy - Palestine (signed on 09 November 2017) and is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Human Rights signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Cooperation, the Italian Ministry of Justice and the Palestinian Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on 29 June 2015- which promotes cooperation between the two countries in the field of the prevention of gender based violence and the protection of human rights.

The proposed intervention will have a duration of 36 months.

AICS is the lending and implementing body and the main partners of the initiative are: the International NGOs and local CSOs (through the specific modality of "Affidato" according to the Italian law 125/2014), the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), the Attorney General's Office (AGO), and the Italian National Institute for Statistics (ISTAT), who will all participate in the definition of the Operational Plan and the activities and share the execution of the action in constant co-ordination with AICS.

2.2 Financial plan and cost overview

N.	Budget item	Estimate cost (Euro)		% Grand Total
		Budget support	Direct management AICS	
		Italian grant funds		
1.1.1 - 1.1.2	Affidato – (Lot 1) on WEE implemented through International and local NGOs		770,000	19.3
1.1.3	Supervision and Technical Assistance of the "Affidato" activities (Lot1)		100,000	2.5
2.1.1 - 2.1.2	Affidato – Lot 2 on the revitalising the feminist discourse in Palestine and the promotion of women's political involvement implemented through International and local NGOs		500,000	12.5
2.1.3	ISTAT's Technical Assistance to PBCS for the monitoring of the SDGs		150,000	3.8
2.1.4	Supervision and Technical Assistance of the "Affidato" activities (Lot 2)		100,000	2.5

3.1.1 – 3.1.4	MoEHE – Creation and use of a Manual for Training of Secondary School teachers on gender equality and human rights	871,000		21.7
3.1.5	MOEHE - Support to Palestinian Universities and specialized institutions to strengthen the respect of gender equality and human rights	189,000		4.7
3.1.6	Technical Assistance and capacity building to MoEHE		100,000	2.5
3.2.1 – 3.2.2	AGO - Creation of mechanisms to enhance children's protection within the AGO and the education system	150,000		3.7
3.2.3	Technical Assistance and capacity building to AGO		120,000	3
4.1.1	Management Costs		671,500	16.8
	Overheads		278,500	7
	Total by component	1,210,000	2,790,000	
	% by component	30%	70%	
	Grand Total	4,000,000		100

Year	Budget Support (in EUR)			Direct Management AICS (in EUR)						
				Affidato	Local Fund			AICS - ISTAT		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Yearly Budget	247,000	434,000	529,000	1,366,000	487,000	566,000	221,000	80,000	70,000	0
Total Budget per Budget Component	1,210,000			2,640,000				150,000		
% per Budget Component	30%			70%						
Total				4,000,000						

3. CONTEXT OF THE INITIATIVE

3.1 Reference framework

The proposed three-year intervention represents a continuation of the activities so far implemented by AICS to foster gender equality and the respect and fulfillment of human rights in Palestine. The programme will contribute to strengthening a culture of respect and protection of human rights and gender equality within the Palestinian society, through the technical and operational improvement of the gender mainstreaming mechanism of the PA.

A culture of gender equality and respect of human rights will be promoted among young people through capacity building and technical assistance to MoEHE for the development and adoption of relevant and *ad hoc* teaching and educative tools and methodologies. In coordination with MoEHE and the Juvenile Justice department at AGO, the intervention will contribute to increasing minors' awareness of human rights and in particular their rights as children. It will also improve prevention from protection risks. Women's economic empowerment and socio-political participation will be fostered through support to women and youth entrepreneurs and through the revitalisation of the feminist

discourse in Palestine, while contributing to the improvement of societal perception towards gender equality and gender stereotypes.

The initiative responds to the national priorities that the PA has indicated in the **National Policy Agenda (NPA) 2017-2022**, which is the Palestinian national policy paper for the next five years. In particular, it contributes to pillar 2 "Governance Reform - Effective Government" through the support to the development and management of gender mainstreaming within institutions; to pillar 3 "Sustainable Development - Social Justice, Gender Equality, Citizenship Rights" through interventions aimed at the promotion of human rights (in particular women's rights), the enhancement of women empowerment and participation in the public and economic life of the Country; and their access to resources which also is a contributing factor to the elimination of gender based violence.

The activities of Specific Objective 1 and 2 are part of the priorities of Pillar 3, in particular the National Priority 7- Social Justice and Rule of Law, which includes policies for "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" (National Policy 18), implementation of interventions for "Eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls" (p.39) and "Our Youth; Our Future" (National Policy 19) to ensure that youth is provided with opportunities for a successful future (p.23). These form the basis of policies for a state consistent with international human rights treaties and prepared to "Safeguard citizens' rights and promote respect for pluralism, equality and freedom from discrimination" (National policy 4, p.24).

Activities envisaged in Specific Objective 3 are among the priorities of pillars 2 and 3 of the NPA, in particular National Priority 7 - "Social Justice and Rule of Law" and National priority 8 - "Quality Education for All". These priorities include policies to promote a State "consistent with international human rights Treaties" and to "Safeguard citizens' rights and promote respect for pluralism, equality and freedom from discrimination" (National policy 4, p. 24), as well as policies aiming at "Improving Primary and Secondary Education (National policy 22)" through "continuing training programmes for teachers and support staff [and] Expand extracurricular activities" (p.41).

In line with the five year Palestinian **Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2022**, the activities and results included in the Specific Objective 1 of the proposed action will contribute to promoting a "safe and violence free educational environment for students and teachers" and "to achieve inclusion and equality at all educational levels (Sector Goal 1, p. 38), as well as implement "policies tackling gender and cases of persons with special needs, as well as promoting standards and systems which ensure security and non-violence at schools" (Sector Goal 2, p.113). Activities have been identified to contribute to an environment free of gender-based stereotypes (Sector Goal 3, p. 116). In addition, the initiative is in line with the strategies described in the "Education development strategic plan 2014-2019" aimed at the diffusion of a nonviolent culture among youngsters, "ensuring that the non-violence policy is integrated in teacher training standards (strategy 9; p. 73). The proposed programme is also consistent with the gender sensitive review of the education strategy and policies, conducted by the MoHE, that recommends promoting a culture of human rights, through the direct involvement of teachers, families and civil society and through *ad hoc* training for school staff (p.79).

According to the strategy and work plans of MoEHE, which are based on results of the several studies and analyses developed by the Ministry itself, the initiative contributes to the promotion students' intellectual growth that leads to improving their learning outcomes and enhance girls and boys' sense of belonging to their school, through promoting well-being, improving school's social and learning environment and enhancing public participation and parental involvement.

This proposal is also in line with the current gender mainstreaming strategies of the NPA, such as the **Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy 2017-2022** and the **National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women 2011-2019**, responding to the objectives: (1) Increased participation of women in employment; (2) Fighting gender based violence; (4) Access to basic services; (5) Gender mainstreaming. The initiative also aims to promoting gender equality and foster a culture of respect for human rights contributing towards meeting the standards and principles enshrined in the International Conventions adopted by Palestine.

In the context of coordinated interventions between the various donors of the European Union in Palestine, the initiative is in line with the principles and actions contained in the ***EU Joint Strategy in Support of Palestine, 2017-2020***, which sees Italy as lead donor in gender equality in Palestine.

The EU Joint Strategy is the joint and shared results framework of all member states and "represent[s] the confluence of European and Palestinian priorities" (p.33). The document outlines that "equitable participation of women, youth and vulnerable communities in development is a policy priority shared by all EU Member States, which is mainstreamed in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their activities. Policy and decision-making processes should be based on gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches, improving inclusiveness, ending discrimination and ensuring full participation "(p.12). This initiative is in line with the priorities and policies included in the Pillars: (1) Governance Reform, Fiscal Consolidation and Policy, and (2) Rule of Law, Citizens Safety and Human Rights and (5) Sustainable Economic Development.

Specifically, the activities envisaged in Objectives 2 and 3 aim to "Strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights of all Palestinians, including the most vulnerable groups", focusing on "gender equality and women's rights" (Pillar 2, Priority iii, pp. 35- 36), especially to improve participation of women in the economy (Pillar 5, SO 5.2.1.3, p. 125).

Specific Objective 1 provides for a transversal approach based on the protection, respect and fulfillment of human rights, including women rights and gender equality, in line with pillars and policies of the abovementioned strategy, which aims at the "promotion of human rights of all Palestinians, including the most vulnerable groups" (Pillar 2; Priority iii; pp. 35-36) and raising the level of awareness among society of human rights" (Pillar 2; OS 2.2.1.2.; pp. 80-82). The engagement of the education system is consistent with the "Rationale of the first European Joint Strategy" that calls for the progressive adoption of a rights based approach, of which "the use of the Manual for Human Rights Education" is an essential part (pp. 26 e 27).

More generally, the whole "European Joint Strategy is enshrined in the European and internationally subscribed values of protecting human rights" (p.10).

In addition, the initiative contributes to the strategic outcomes of the ***Gender Action Plan II-Joint Staff Working Document Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2016-2020***. In particular the program responds to the three pillars (1) Ensuring Girls 'and Women's Physical and Psychological Integrity, (2) Promoting Economic and Social Rights and Empowerment of Girls and Women, (3) Strengthening Girls' and Women's Voice and participation.

The initiative is also grounded on EU polices to Rights, Equality and Citizenship for the period 2014-2020, a programme that aims to prohibit gender-based discrimination, promote equality between women and men and gender mainstreaming, as well as prevent and combat all forms of violence, particularly against minors, women and minorities.

In line with the sectorial focus of AICS programme in Palestine, the initiative contributes to the gender sector through a multi-track approach that includes both direct interventions for the promotion of gender equality and human rights, as well as activities to support economic development.

The initiative is also in line with the ***Joint Final Declaration of the Joint Ministerial Committee Italy - Palestine*** (latest signed in November 2017) and is in compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Human Rights signed on 29 June 2015 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign and AICS, the Italian Ministry of Justice and the Palestinian Ministry of Justice (MoJ), promoting co-operation between the two countries in the prevention of gender based violence within the consolidation of a culture for the protection of human rights.

The action is also in line with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (*Leaving no one behind*) particularly goals 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender Equality) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), the ***Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW)*** and the United Nations Security Council Resolution - ***UNSCR 1325***, specifically in relation to the efforts of enhancing the participation of Palestinian women in local and international decision-making processes while supporting their economic empowerment.

3.2 Localization of the initiative, needs analysis and interventions needs

The initiative is implemented in Palestine, in a critical geo-political context due to the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the disruption caused by fifty years of occupation and the progressive fragmentation of its territory at political, geographic, administrative, legal, social and family level.

In this context of administrative fragmentation, AICS Jerusalem office has long been involved in strengthening the Palestinian institutions operating in gender and human rights, key actors for the development and practice of good governance policies. Investing in building the Palestinian system and all those instruments that protect civil, political, economic and social rights remains crucial to strengthening the rule of law and the implementation of the principles contained in the major international conventions which Palestine ratified in 2014¹.

Based on a gender and human rights analysis, each activity has been identified on the basis of the needs and potentials expressed by Palestinian women, Palestinian women's organisations and by Palestinian institutions.

Areas and priorities of intervention have been identified through various academic and field activities, carried out during past and ongoing programs funded by AICS and other donors in Palestine. Gaps were identified in terms of promotion of a gender equality and the respect of human rights among youngsters² and equal access to the labor market³ and women socio-political participation in the society⁴. Intervention also reflects the international commitments made by Palestine when ratifying numerous international treaties and conventions on human rights and gender equality⁵.

National gender strategies and the accession to the CEDAW and to the main international human rights treaties have yet to comprehensively engender significant progress in combating discrimination, gender inequalities and promoting greater respect for human rights in Palestine.

The protracted crisis in Palestine has had devastating consequences on the Palestinian population with differentiated impact on women, men, girls and boys. The situation has considerably worsened in recent years due to deterioration of the political environment. There has been an increase in military attacks and restrictions (including demolitions and evictions in the West Bank including East Jerusalem), an increase of access restrictions, search and arrest operations, land confiscation, expansion of settlements, thus considerably limiting Palestinians' rights to freedom of movement. Women and children are suffering the most from the economic slowdown in the aftermath of the recent escalations and are direct survivors of the violence related to the ongoing conflict.

In particular, women are subject to gender discrimination at all levels of public and social life. Root causes range from factors related to the reluctance, typical of all patriarchal societies, to adequately recognizing the importance of women's contribution to the processes of social, economic and political development and on the particularly complex political situation that characterizes the Country.

For children, freedom of movement is a precondition for the exercise of several other human rights and access restrictions continue to have a negative impact on the rights to education, health and family life. All Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza are exposed to some form of violence that increases psychological stress. Children often suffer from psychosomatic symptoms that result in withdrawing from friends and family, rebelling or becoming aggressive themselves. Violence affects the development of children, and is often perpetuated through

¹ Palestine ratified in 2014 (among others): The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in armed conflict; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2015), Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Final Report, Ramallah, Palestine: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; UNICEF (2014), Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children.

³ Un-locking the labour market for Palestinian Women, Al Shabaka, 2015.

⁴ Palestinian Women's Political Participation, Oqab Jabali, ACTA ASIATICA, VARSOVIENSIA No. 22, 2009.

⁵ *ibid.*

intergenerational cycles. Many children don't realize that violence is an infringement of their rights, especially when it comes from teachers or relatives. Girls are often victims of violence since their childhood and gender-based violence in schools undermines the right to education and represents a major challenge to the achievement of gender equality in education adversely affecting female participation and permanence in school.⁶

The problems and needs to which the initiative seeks to respond are divided into three main areas, all in line with local development policies and identified with institutional stakeholders and local civil society, as well as through the analysis of the latest national and international statistics.

The first area of focus will be addressing the fragility of women's economic initiatives and the lack of social spaces for expression and socio-political empowerment.

Economically, lack of growth combined with the Israeli closure policy, restrictions of movement, heavy reliance on the Israeli labour market and lack of viable alternatives, have considerably weakened the Palestinian labour market. According to PCBS latest data on the first quarter of 2017, a major factor influencing poverty in Palestine is unemployment (27.0% among labour force participants, 41.1% in Gaza Strip compared with 18.8% in the West Bank).

Palestinian women continue to experience higher rates of unemployment than men at the national level. The labour force participation rate in the West Bank is 45.8% and 45.7% in Gaza Strip, with a very big gap in the participation rate between males and females in Palestine, reaching 71.6% for males compared with 19.4% for females and an unemployment rate of 21.9% for males compared with 46.6% for females. Palestinian women's limited access to decent work opportunities is a manifestation of the discrimination they face in labour markets. Research has also shown that deficiencies in skills training of educated and uneducated women hinder their access to decent jobs, creating a mismatch between the skills available and labour market requirements. There is also a pay gap between males and females, where the latter have an average daily rate of 83.3 NIS compared to 114.1 NIS for males. This gap widens with the absence of effective law reinforcement mechanisms by the government particularly through inspection of workplace conditions, policies against violence and sexual harassments in the work place and mechanisms for holding employers accountable towards ensuring safe and decent working conditions for women in all economic sectors.

At the same time participation of women in the Palestinian society remains strongly limited to the family domain and extremely limited in public life, particularly in political roles. Despite Article (4) of the Law on Public Legislative Elections of 2005 guarantees the representation of women in electoral lists and Article (17) of the Palestinian Law on Local Council Elections guarantees that women hold 20% of the seats in local bodies women's political participation is still extremely limited in Palestine. There are only three women ministers out of 24 seats in the current Palestinian cabinet. In the legislative elections of 2006, women won 12.9% of the seats on the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), 12% of the seats in the West Bank and 15% of the seats in Gaza. The percentage of female candidates was 11.2% (4.3% among local candidates, and 16.9% among candidates running on national political lists). Forty-six per cent of voters were women. In 2004-05 local council elections, 30% of candidates were women, and they won only 18% of the seats. In the local elections of 2012, which were held in the West Bank only, women won 20.6% of the seats. Despite that a woman has risen in the ranks to head a Palestinian political party for the first time, female representation in party leadership remains low. On average, women make up an average of 16.25% of the top leadership in the political factions of Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and FIDA. Women hold 8% of the seats in the Palestinian National Council, 10 women are members of the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and one woman sits on its Executive Committee⁷.

It is therefore important to support the promotion and implementation of strategies and programmes to ensure access to equal opportunities, decent work conditions and active participation to the political arena.

⁶ "Education for All 2015 National Review Report: Palestine".

⁷ Report on Review of the Cross-Sectoral National Gender Strategy, Institute of Women Studies/ Birzeit University and UN Women Palestine, 2014

The second area of focus addresses the frustration of feminist organizations facing the stagnation of the feminist agenda and the recent further closure of the Palestinian society towards women's emancipation.

Palestinian women's activism began as a result of the national struggle. Though politically active since beginning of the process of creation of Israel, it was after the founding of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964, in particular, that a great number of organizations flourished. Palestinian women were extremely active during the First Intifada, to the extent that many were imprisoned and harassed. After the signature of the Oslo Accords, however, the role of the women almost disappeared and many of the successful women's grassroots organizations were transformed into NGOs, mostly connected to Western donors and pursuing liberal-oriented agendas⁸. Within these NGOs, staff members and target groups virtually did not participate in decision or policy-making nor did they have the capacity to mobilize the masses. Having been predominantly secular until the emergence of Hamas as a convincing political opponent to Fatah, the women's movement suffered from the absence of women in the political leadership. Thus, when the Second Intifada started in 2000, most women were not able to contribute substantially. In 2004, in an effort to grant women more decision-making power in the PA, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was established. But by then the secular side of the political spectrum was already losing ground to religious movements and also women have been drawn to religious radicalization. Women participating in the Second Intifada and in the years that followed were mostly were affiliated to religious organizations, demonstrating the capacity of these movements to incorporate women in the armed struggle. Slowly, a re-Islamization of several sectors of the Palestinian society started to appear more evident. Specifically in Gaza, the imposition of more conservative cultural and moral codes, such as veiling, gender division of labor or female restrictions in public life, has become the most visible aspect of Hamas' government⁹. This has certainly created a high level of frustration in the oldest and more established feminist organizations in Palestine while also hindering the opening of new spaces for the feminist discourse to flourish¹⁰.

The first area of concern is the high incidence of violence among young people and the urgent need to create a safer environment for both girls and boys, free from gender-based stereotypes.

Minors in Palestine are more than the 50% of the population and they have the rights to live in a society where gender equality and human rights are principles that are universally shared and accepted.

Unfortunately, the culture of violence and intolerance is still extremely rooted in the local culture, exacerbated by the difficult geopolitical situation and the conflict. Violent behaviors are commonly experienced by Palestinians since childhood as evidenced by the high rates of juvenile violence and the high number of women and girls who are survivors of various forms of violence¹¹ (physical, psychological, economic, sexual, social). Domestic violence is widespread and remains the main reported form of violence experienced by Palestinian women. According to most recent UNFPA data on domestic violence a total of 7,399 GBV cases were reported by the GBV Sub-cluster partners in the first half of 2017 alone. A survey carried out in 2014 by PCBS in collaboration with Ministry of Health found that 92% of children (age 1-14 years) had been subjected to at least one form of psychological or physical punishment by household members. About 74% of children had experienced physical punishment and 23% severe physical punishment (hitting the child on the head, ears or face or hitting the child hard and repeatedly), which was more common for boys (27%) than girls (19%). Only 6% of children had experienced only non-violent forms of discipline.¹²

According to the MOEHE the percentage of students exposed to all types of violence (physical, verbal, etc.) range from 70.4% in basic education to 75.4% for students in secondary education. The patterns of violence which students were exposed to were classified as follows: verbal (68.7%), physical (50.8%), sexual (13.9%). Among the main challenges that the education system must face there are, in fact, the increased violence rates between students and

⁸ "The NGOization of the Arab Women's Movements" Islah Jad, Review of Women Studies, 42-56. Dec. 19, 2013

⁹ "The Public Services under Hamas in Gaza: Islamic Revolution or Crisis Management?" Are Hovdenak, Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) Report. Dec. 15, 2013

¹⁰ "Hamas and the Women's Movement: Islamism and Feminism Under Occupation", Filipa Pestan, Lund University-Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, 2016

¹¹ <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps>

¹² Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2015), Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014, Final Report, Ramallah, Palestine: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

teachers and among students themselves, as well as the difficulty to promote a sustainable change and to enhance a culture based on rights.¹³ In addition, there is the need of supporting male students increase their educational performance and reduce the dropout rate enhancing their perception as skillful active members in schooling processes. According to the MoEHE, the lack of pedagogical instruments relevant to human rights and gender equality and specifically adapted to the Palestinian context, paired with poor pertinent skills of teachers, are the main obstacles in achieving a free of violence and inclusive environment in schools¹⁴. Some initiatives have been implemented to increase teachers and families' awareness in the past. Nevertheless, there is still significant room for improvement. The proposed intervention will provide the MoEHE with capacity building and technical assistance to elaborate, test and validate pedagogical and training tools and manuals on gender equality and human rights for school staff, universities and students. Palestinian Universities and CSOs will also be engaged. Raising awareness campaigns and activities will be implemented together with the active involvement of the national education system and the Juvenile Justice department at the Attorney General's Office.

The proposed initiative is therefore designed with a multi-faceted approach to meet a diverse range of needs: (a) to foster women's economic empowerment in non-traditional sectors; (b) to strengthen the feminist discourse in Palestine and to raise public awareness for societal change; (c) to support civil society actions to promote women's empowerment and participation in the society; (d) to enhance the absorption and promotion of human rights and gender values in the education system; (3) and finally to enhance children protection systems; .

Two main drivers shaped the content of the proposal. Firstly, the urgency of addressing the above-mentioned needs. Available statistics and studies conducted by local national institutions and national and international civil society organizations highlight a widespread exposure of girls and boys since their childhood to several forms of violence, also based on gender stereotypes, especially in schools. It is therefore urgent to invest in the implementation of national policies for the promotion of gender equality, equity and human rights. Secondly, requests highlighted by long term local partners (ministries, PCBS, Public Persecution, and CSOs) during past and ongoing collaboration, as well as specific consultations, have shaped the initiative on concrete needs identified on the ground, in alignment with local and national sectoral strategic plans.

The harmony between the intervention and the local development plans of partners is corroborated by the close collaboration with institutional partners and civil society in the formulation of this proposal, thus the initiative is the result of a joint programme design between AICS and local counterparts, in particular MoEHE AGO, PCBS and the civil society, and is perfectly in line with the Palestinian National Agenda 2017-2022, as previously mentioned.

The initiative is within the priorities of intervention of AICS Jerusalem office, as also stated in the EU Joint Strategy, as Lead Donor in the gender sector and Active Donor in the human rights sector, thus constituting a key sectoral reference entity in the local landscape. The presence of AICS in the sectorial coordination mechanisms has allowed to structure the action in strong synergy and complementarity with the interventions in all national development programs, avoiding overlapping with other initiatives implemented by other local and international actors.

The proposal also positions itself in continuity with past and ongoing programmes funded by AICS Jerusalem in the areas of gender and human rights.

The proposed intervention strengthens and expands the efforts of WELOD programmes (started in 2009 and currently ongoing in its 3rd phase WELOD 3- AID 10119) and IRADA - AID 10880 programme started in 2017. The former offers TA to MoWA, MoSD and the eleven Governorates of the West Bank for the development of policies and actions aimed at protecting women's rights, combating gender violence, promoting reintegration into the society of women survivors of violence and promoting women's socio-economic empowerment. The latter promotes policies on women's decent work and the elimination of gender-based violence, including by supporting gender statistics. Related activities in the

¹³ MOEHE, Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017-2022

¹⁴ MOEHE, Education development strategic plan 2014-2019

governorates and with CSOs are mainly coordinated through the Tawasol centers. In fact, the proposal is built on the experience gained in the previous interventions in terms of prevention and response to gender based violence and women's economic empowerment, highlighting the best practices and acquiring them as institutional orientation for new actions.

In particular, this proposal completes the recently approved programme SI-GEWE (Support to the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in the NPA 2017-2022)– AID 11279, starting in 2018 and focusing on support to national institutions for gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment and combating violence against women. While SI-GEWE intervenes offering institutional support and working at National level partnering mainly with Ministries and public institutions for the promotion of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, this intervention aims to support the direct engagement of the civil society, the private sector and counts on the new generations.

In parallel, the proposed initiative also completes the approach of the multilateral project signed with UNWomen and ILO Promoting Women's Equal Access to Economic Opportunities and Decent Work in Palestine-AID 11234, which has a focus on the institutional engagement for the promotion of women equal access to economic opportunities and decent work in Palestine, and protection of their labour rights through reinforcement of equitable laws, legislations, policies and active labour market programmes, while engaging public, private and community actors.

The initiative is also in continuity with the TA provided by AICS for the establishment of a Unit for Human Rights in the Ministry of Justice -AID 92000 and Karama - AID 10807, implemented in partnership with MoJ, universities and the AGO, aimed at harmonizing Palestinian legislation with the standards enshrined in international human rights conventions and strengthen inter-ministerial networking skills for greater rationalization of resources and a more efficient distribution of roles and responsibilities.

In addition, the initiative will benefit from the significative presence of Italian CSOs in Palestine that are committed to the promotion of development and collective participation in the context of Palestinian communities, in partnership with relevant local stakeholders, including local CBOs, public institutions and private sector. This commitment has been translated into a series of concrete initiatives past and ongoing (also funded by AICS Development and Emergency programmes) and experiences in various fields, including women empowerment and the strengthening of local organizations.

The historical presence of a high number of specialized Italian CSOs in Palestine, their demonstrable capacity of cooperating with local organizations, as well as their commitment in gender issues, guarantee the presence on the ground of organizations with the financial and technical characteristics required to support the local civil society.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

4.1 Subject of the initiative, Strategy of intervention and Methodology of approach

The general purpose of the initiative is to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and human rights in Palestine.

The project aims to:

- Promote women's economic empowerment and societal change towards a more gender equal society through support to women entrepreneurs to ensure sustainability of businesses as well as more gender sensitive enterprises, with a considerable component of innovation and positive discrimination; foster gender equality thinking through the creation of artistic events which will involve young and female artists in creative productions with various media as opportunities to promote their work also constituting a channel of communication to communities and to the wider public about gender equality values to contribute to behavioral change (all activities implemented through the modality of "Affidato" Lot 1).
- Promote the feminist discourse in Palestine through the support of feminist organizations and related CSOs for the creation of a stronger networking space and opportunities for dialogue, exchange of views and growth with institutions and the community at large, at national and international level; enhance access to quality information on key women's issues, as well as create venues for informal exchange of experiences and views on gender equality and gender consciousness reaching marginalized areas and highly vulnerable women through a capillary peer-to-peer mechanisms and creation of innovative context relevant hubs with the active involvement of men and women; promoted women's socio-political participation through identifying *positive deviance* examples for replication and capacity building of key actors in various Governorates (all activities implemented through the modality of "Affidato" Lot 2).
- Promote a culture of gender equality and human rights through capacity building and technical assistance to the MoEHE, with the participation of the main Palestinian universities, to adopt tailored trainings and pedagogical tools and methodologies to increase school staff, professors and students' skills to prevent all form of violence and enhance non-violent and non-discriminatory behaviors, in line with the human rights standards enshrined in the legal national and international framework; involve civil societies organizations and Palestinian institutions to channel key messages to relevant actors (families, young peoples, community leaders, among others); the Juvenile Justice department at AGO will contribute to increasing minors' awareness on the existing mechanisms provided by the law to protect them, train selected students and school counselors in order to improve schools capacities to monitor and report cases where children's safety is at risk; improve the competences of AGO key partners in the juvenile justice sector.

In line with the principles of the rights-based approach developed by the European Commission (SWD (2014) 152 final), the initiative builds on international instruments for the promotion and dissemination of human rights, in particular on the conventions and treaties that Palestine has ratified and that enshrine the PA's obligations and citizens' rights that must be exercised, protected and promoted. Reference is made to promotion and respect of gender equality and human rights: CEDAW (Art.10), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Art. 2, 7), International Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 29).

The definition of the proposed activities has been fully developed with local counterparts, thus guaranteeing the future ownership and sustainability of the interventions.

The methodology adopted is that of a development intervention based on the human rights approach, which presupposes a high level of information sharing and is characterized by strong participation, realized through the active and constant involvement of direct and indirect beneficiaries.

With regard to intervention levels, the strategy consists of both *bottom-up* and *top-down* approaches for the implementation of the activities, supporting and engaging with duty-bearers as much as with rights-holders, through budget support modality as well as through the entrusting the implantation of INGOs (Affidato) and local CSOs. This choice is justified by the presence of a long-term successful experience and work of Italian NGOs in the Palestine. These NGOs have proven and extensive knowledge of the territory and several intervention sectors, including the gender sector, supporting effectively local CSOs in the implementation of projects considerably contributing in the increase for the resilience of urban and rural communities.

Non-governmental bodies play an essential role in this respect for their ability to operate at Community level and to intervene in support of the most vulnerable population residing in urban and rural areas. The rooting on the territory of these actors contributes on the one hand to ensuring the correct identification of the needs of specific communities and their economic systems, thanks also to the validation of the strategies identified by the data collected on the ground; on the other hand, this rooting makes it possible to quickly start implementation, since the CSOs can already rely on logistic structures and on expert personnel present in the territory. In addition, the use of CSOs (including INGOs) implementation is an approach largely followed by numerous donors and cooperation partners in Palestine, who entrust non-governmental organizations with the role of implementing partners in various development programs. Specific sub-activities and indicators have been included to ensure participation, access to information and empowerment of rights holders (Palestinian women and youngsters, including the most vulnerable) and to develop skills of direct and moral duty bearers (Public Ministries, Public Prosecution, institutional and school staff, etc.).

Regarding the economic empowerment of women, the strategy is two-fold: from one side the initiative builds on the assessment of best practices of WEE projects in Palestine, that will be carried out under the programme SI-GEWE and the related economic empowerment component, with the specific aim to fine tune the approach through a participatory approach with stakeholders and beneficiaries via a wide consultation process. At the same time AMAL differentiates its approach by targeting women entrepreneurs whose businesses can constitute themselves an opportunity for employment and decent work for other women of the community, while also putting an accent on supporting their long-term sustainability. On the other hand, while encouraging the access of women to non-traditional sectors for income generation purposes, specifically the artistic sector, the initiative intends to communicate gender equality values that challenges traditional gender stereotypes to the wide public through exposure of tailored artistic production, thus banking on the somehow condoning attitude of the community towards the artistic field. The focus and active engagement of youth is once again crucial to open the space for new ideas that challenge traditional gender roles and introduce a strong innovative component, paired with higher openness to changes and social revolutions, together with longevity of impact.

With respect to the component focusing on the revitalisation of feminism, a multi-track approach is adopted: on one hand the strategy concentrates on supporting feminist and civil society organizations by providing opportunities for dialogue and exchange of views to reignite the feminist debate in Palestine. This will be done at different level, from well-established national CSOs to small local CBOs, thus allowing for the nurturing of a capillary network that will promote feminist values encouraging women's empowerment and men's commitment as well as convey much needed quality information on women's issues, also reaching marginalized communities. On the other hand, provision and access of quality data on national performance regarding SDGs indicators will allow the civil society, particularly those engaged in the promotion of women's rights, to demand stronger accountability for the achievement of results set in the national gender sector strategy and against the promises made by the PA. This will guarantee that the CSOs can better perform their role of "watchdog" in front of national authorities. Furthermore, the approach envisages the support of women to access more effectively the political arena, thus contributing more efficiently to the promotion of the feminist agenda for a more equal and enjoyable society, meeting women's need on the ground and introducing women's perspective in male dominated politics.

Overall the strategy introduces the concept of "*adaptive leadership*", which constitutes a view of a new form of leadership in a highly complex and increasingly devolved world, where the citizen is expected to contribute more to their own wellbeing and that of the community, both in their individual life-styles and in supporting others, and where top-down, technical change approaches are not appropriate or often problematic¹⁵. This approach is more and more adopted in the development set and includes radical service or business innovation, new cross cutting propositions, and transforming culture. Thus, the overall methodology will take into consideration and try to replicate "*positive deviance*" examples that constitutes local breakthroughs, where members or groups within the community are already adopting successful coping strategies and behaviors that can be replicated and promoted to

¹⁵ Adaptive Leadership and Positive Deviance Building "communities of capability" and systems leadership, West Sussex University, 2012.

guarantee success, deepen ownership and sustainability for the action. Positive deviance is a versatile technique that facilitates community behavioural change on the base of the identification of different solutions for different stakeholders, generated naturally by and within their communities thus building “communities of capability”.

Regarding the component focusing on the promotion of a culture of gender equality and human rights in the education system, the initiative focuses on increasing the capacities and attitudes of the main actors involved in the education system and responsible for youngsters’ safe development, namely the MoEHE, target Secondary Schools, target Directorates of Education, the main Palestinian universities, involved families, CSOs and the Judicial system. On the one hand, the initiative will concentrate on developing the capacities of school and university staff in order to create an environment respectful of gender equality and human rights in secondary schools and universities. This will also promote students’ intellectual growth and enhance boys’ sense of belonging to their school. It will be the result of a comprehensive set of capacity building and technical assistance activities that will involve pedagogy, gender and human rights experts, enhancing public participation and parental involvement, along with school and university staff and representative of the Palestinian education sector. On the other hand, the proposal includes direct actions that aim to increase minors’ knowledge of their rights and how to prevent situations of protection risks. Improving the education system and thus youngsters’ knowledge and attitudes is tantamount to the consolidation of a culture of respect of gender equality and human rights: young people, as a vector for cultural change, play an essential role and act as key agents in promoting sustainable social development and building a society where the respect of gender equality and human rights are solid principles. The methodology proposed, based on a progressive work on different levels, from ministry staff to students, including parents and teachers, ensures the full participation, ownership and empowerment of the local actors involved.

4.2 General objective

General Objective (GO): *Contribute to the promotion of gender equality and human rights in Palestine.*

The initiative intends to support local institutions and civil society organizations in the implementation of interventions that encourage a culture of gender equity and equality and human rights.

4.3 Specific objectives

Specific Objectives (SO):

S.O. 1: *Promote gender equality and to foster women’s economic empowerment and their working opportunities within the Palestinian labour market.*

The aim of the intervention is to promote women’s economic empowerment and societal change towards a more gender equal society through support to women entrepreneurs to ensure sustainability of businesses as well as more gender sensitive enterprises, with a considerable component of innovation and positive discrimination. Gender equality thinking will be fostered through the creation of artistic events which will involve young and female artists in creative productions with various media as opportunities to promote their work. This will also constitute a channel of communication to communities and to the wider public about gender equality values to contribute to behavioral change. The implementation of activities SO 1 will be given to an INGO that will be selected through the specific modality of “*Affidato*” according to the Italian law 125/2014 that regulates this implementation modality and will constitute Lot 1.

S.O. 2: *Promote women’s active participation to the public sphere.*

The aim of the intervention is supporting the feminist discourse in Palestine through a project implemented by International and Local organizations. The intervention will promote feminist organizations and related CSOs in the creation of a stronger networking space and opportunities for dialogue, exchange of views and growth with institutions and the community at large, at national and international level. The intervention will also enhance access to quality information on key women's issues, as well as creating venues for informal exchange of experiences and views on gender equality and gender consciousness. Marginalized areas and highly vulnerable women will be reached through a capillary peer-to-peer mechanisms and creation of innovative context relevant hubs with the active involvement of men and women. The socio-political participation of women will be promoted through identifying *positive deviance* examples for replication and capacity building of key actors in various Governorates. The implementation of activities SO 2 will be given to an INGO that will be selected through the specific modality of "Affidato" according to the Italian law 125/2014 that regulates this implementation modality and will constitute Lot 2.

S.O. 3: *Promote and contribute to the consolidation of a culture of protection, respect and fulfilment of gender equality and human rights for the implementation of the rule of law in Palestine.*

The program intends to consolidate a culture of gender equality and human rights through the support the PA in strengthening its capacity to prevent and contrast all forms of violence and discrimination towards women and minors in schools, involving the most relevant actors in the national education system. This will respond also to the need for accountability to Palestinian citizens in relation to the commitments defined in the Government's own national strategies and towards the international conventions that Palestine has adopted. The intervention comprises of budget support and technical assistance to MoEHE. In parallel and in coordination with MoEHE, the Juvenile Justice department at AGO will contribute to increasing minors' awareness on the existing mechanisms provided by the law to protect them, train selected students and school counsellors, in order to improve schools' capacities to monitor and report cases where children's safety is at risk, and improve the competences of AGO key partners in the juvenile justice sector.

4.4 Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the intervention will be:

- Approximately 150 women entrepreneurs who will benefit of capacity building and/or grants
- Approximately 50 organizations (universities, CBOs, cultural and art centres, etc) that will benefit from networking
- Approximately 70 female youth and women that will be supported for the implementation of their youth initiatives and projects
- Approximately 3,000 people that will participate to youth initiatives
- The wide public that will be exposed to the messaging of the youth initiatives (approximately 300,000)
- Approximately 50 CSOs and CBOs that work on gender issues that will benefit from support, networking, events and capacity building
- 50% of the female population of 12 localities in 3 governorates of West Bank and Gaza (approximately 25,000)
- 30 Staff of PBCS will benefit from TA and capacity building
- The institutions and the population of Palestine that will benefit from the monitoring of SDGs which will increase PA's accountability towards its sectorial strategies
- Palestine CSOs that will benefit for reliable data on PA's performance in SDGs commitments
- 50 women that will benefit from capacity building and networking to boost their political participation

- Approximately 450 teachers, professors and school staff who will increase their capacities towards gender equality and human rights benefitting from the adoption of a manual created for the purpose
- Approximately 35,000 students of secondary schools who will benefit from a safer educational environment and increase their attitudes and skills towards gender equality and human rights
- Approximately 500 university students who will benefit from a safer educational environment and increase their attitudes and skills towards gender equality and human rights
- MoEHE staff working in counselling services in the educational system and MoEHE Gender Unit (in total around 50 people) who will be equipped to transfer the methodology and scale up trainings and the adoption of the manuals on gender equality and human rights
- Around 5,000 persons, 50% minors, involved in raising awareness activities and campaigns for the promotion of gender equality and human rights
- Around 20 AGO staff and AGO's partners in the juvenile justice sector that will benefit from capacity building.

The indirect beneficiaries of the intervention are population of Palestine in the catchment of the project (4.8 million people, of which 50.8% males and 49.2% females), with the possibility of spill over at regional level in regard to regional networking and awareness raising campaign with a consequent considerable increase in the number of indirect beneficiaries.

4.5 Expected Results and Indicators

Expected results	Indicators
Specific Objective 1: Promote gender equality and to foster women's economic empowerment and their working opportunities within the Palestinian labour market	
Result 1.1 Improving access and long-term participation of women in the Palestinian labour market for income generation and promotion of gender equality in the society	Availability of a set of recommendation of WEE programmes validated through wide consultation
	80% of women entrepreneurs that participate to the capacity building improve the gender sensitiveness of their business plan
	Number of women that improve the sustainability of their businesses
	Quality information on best practices of the economic viability of women artistic production in Palestine are available to public institutions and agencies promoting WEE
	At least 10 events focussing on gender through various artistic media are implemented
	At least 300,000 people that will constitute the public audience reached through the women youth initiatives conveying key messages on gender issues
	70% of the feedback received from the public audience reached shows a positive change towards gender equality values
	90% of business plans of grant awarded businesses have a strong component focussing

	on youth, innovation, gender sensitiveness and promotion of decent work for women
	70% of the women-youth artist involved have increased their income opportunities
	50% of respondents to the surveys from targeted communities have increased their awareness in relation to women issues
Specific Objective 2: Promote women's active participation to the public sphere	
Result 2.1 Palestinian civil society demonstrates a greater awareness of the importance of gender equality values and takes a more active role in the affirmation of the gender agenda at the national level and women involvement in political and social activities had increased	At least 50 CSOs have engaged in the revitalisation of the feminist discourse in Palestine
	CSO organization are vocal in requirement accountability from the government on women's rights in at least 6 events
	40% of women involved in capacity building report improvement in their socio-political engagement
	60% of respondents to the surveys from targeted communities have increased their awareness in relation to women issues
	Monitoring framework with specific monitoring tools on SDGs is in place within PCBS
Specific Objective 3: Promote and contribute to the consolidation of a culture of protection, respect and fulfilment of gender equality and human rights for the implementation of the rule of law in Palestine	
Result 3.1 Competences in human rights and gender equality of the school staff, students, and their families are increased	80% of participating school staff increased their competences on the use of innovative pedagogical tools on promoting non-violent and non-discriminatory behaviours, with a gender sensitive approach
	Two manuals on gender and human rights education are tested and adopted by MoEHE in Secondary Schools and Universities
	70% of respondents to the surveys from targeted communities have increased their awareness in relation to non-violent education based on gender equality and human rights principles
	30% increase in university students of human and women rights courses
Result 3.2 Minors' competences on children rights and prevention behaviours are improved	Number of students and school staff reached through the campaign and raising awareness activities
	Number of copies of code of conduct distributed to schools and students (by age and gender)
	60% of participating students, school staff increase their competences about minors' rights and how to prevent protection risks

4.6 Activities

The activities described below are consistent with the expected results and aggregated accordingly.

Result 1.1 *Improving access and long-term participation of women in the Palestinian labor market for income generation and promotion of gender equality in the society.* (Lot 1 Affidato)

Activity 1.1.1: Multiplication of successful women's economic empowerment approaches in Palestine, with a focus on the involvement of Palestinian women entrepreneurs for more gender sensitive businesses with stronger long-term sustainability.

Sub-Activities

1.1.1.1 Set of conferences on WEE best practices: A set of conferences will be organised on the results of the assessment carried out under the programme SI-GEWE, regarding the identification of best-practices in Palestine for WEE programmes and projects. The aim of this activity is the validation of the recommendations and the formulation of priority interventions in the field of women's economic empowerment, through the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and interlocutors to increase the spectrum of analysis. The conferences will take place both in the West Bank and Gaza and the outputs will be made available online.

1.1.1.2 Provision of grants and capacity building for women entrepreneurs: Grants and capacity building for women entrepreneurs will be provided. A special focus will be given to engagement of youth and innovative approaches, as well as gender sensitive enterprises and promotion of decent work for women according to the priority interventions identified through the consultation included in sub activity 2.1.1.1.

Activity 1.1.2 Support to civil society to enhance participation of female youth and women in artistic sectors for income generation and/or promotion of gender equality in the society.

Sub-Activities

1.1.2.1 Assessment of key partners and market research on artistic production as source of income and expression of gender equality values: an assessment will be carried out that will include a mapping of key stakeholders, their needs and the market space for artistic production in Palestine. This will allow to identify the appropriate approach and methodology for sub-activity 3.2.2, in order to support the creation of artistic events offering income generating opportunities for women as well as the possibility to use artistic productions as means to convey gender values to the general public and to promote related behavioural change.

1.1.2.2 Promotion of youth and gender oriented initiatives focusing on artistic media: Support of key actors for the implementation of the recommendations of the assessment conducted under sub-activity 1.1.2.1 and the promotion of youth and gender oriented events utilizing various artistic media and targeting the wide public. The involvement of youth and female artists in creative productions will represent an opportunity to promote their work and role in the society. This will be done at national level, including urban realities as well as smaller communities, in the effort to link different communities and ensure a wide reach out of messages on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Activity 1.1.3 Supervision and Technical Assistance of the *Affidato* activities (Lot 1) implemented through International and local NGOs

1.1.3.1: WEE Technical Assistance: The overall coordination and implementation of the activities under Result 1.1 will be entrusted to an International NGO/s through the specific procedural method of the so-called "*Affidato*". The selected NGO/s will be responsible for the engagement, coordination and direct monitoring of local NOGs in all areas to implement the activities of Lot 1 (1.1.2 and 1.1.2). Technical assistance and supervision will be provided by AICS Jerusalem office to design and launch the action, and to monitor its effective implementation.

Result 2.1 *Palestinian civil society demonstrates a greater awareness of the importance of gender equality values and takes a more active role in the affirmation of the gender agenda at the national level and women involvement in political and social activities has increased.* (Lot 2 Affidato)

Activity 2.1.1 Support to CSOs aimed at revitalizing the feminist discourse in Palestine, through the creation of concrete opportunities of growth and dialogue with the institutions and within the communities on women's rights and feminist values for the promotion of gender equality.

Sub-Activities

2.1.1.1 Mapping of feminist organizations and related CSOs in Palestine and assessment of their needs: Existing feminist organization in Palestine as well as CSOs and CBOs that target women, will be mapped and their needs assessed through a participatory approach that will provide for a comprehensive overview to design the action to be implemented under sub-activity 3.1.1.3.

2.1.1.2 Activities aiming to revitalize the feminist discourse in Palestine and enhance access to quality information on key women's issues: Based on the outcome of the mapping exercise, a set of actions will be developed with the specific aim of building the capacity of CSOs while creating opportunities and space for an open dialogue on feminist issues with the community as well as national and local institutions. This will include public events and festivals on feminist topics that will constitute an important opportunity for growth and networking for the feminist discourse in Palestine. In parallel, capillary peer-to-peer mechanisms and the creation of innovative context relevant hubs (i.e. beauty salons, hairdressers, barber shops, coffee shops) will be supported in order to enhance the access of quality information on women's issues (from women's right to availability of services, etc.) and to create venues for exchanges of experiences and views. This component will also reach highly vulnerable women in marginalized communities engaging at least 12 localities in 3 Governorates of West Bank and Gaza.

Activity 2.1.2 Support to CSOs and CBOs for the promotion of women's political involvement.

Sub-Activities

2.1.2.1 Assessment of women's active political participation in Palestine: An assessment will be carried out on the obstacles pertaining to women's participation in the political arena as well as the identification of examples of positive deviance in Palestine. The latter will be used as models for replication and as influencers of their communities.

2.1.2.2 Capacity building of selected women to foster their socio-political involvement: a capacity building programme as well as other type of support will be provided to a group of women with the aim of setting an example in their community as inspirational role models and promote the replication of their experience thought networking activities at local, national and international level.

Activity 2.1.3 Technical Assistance to PBCS in partnership with ISTAT for the monitoring of the SDGs, with specific attention to gender mainstreaming to enable monitoring and accountability processes to be carried out by the civil society.

Sub-Activities

2.1.3.1 Specialized technical assistance and coordination for PCBS capacity building on SDGs indicator monitoring: Through the partnership with ISTAT, specialized technical assistance will be provided to relevant PCBS staff for the accurate monitoring and dissemination of SDGs indicators based of PCBS national data collection.

Activity 2.1.4 Supervision and Technical Assistance of the *Affidato* activities (Lot 2) implemented through International and local NGOs.

2.1.4.1: Gender Equality Technical Assistance: The overall coordination and implementation of the activities under Result 2.1 will be entrusted to an International NGO/s through the specific procedural method of the so-called "*Affidato*". The selected NGO/s will be responsible for the engagement, coordination and direct monitoring of local NOGs in all areas to implement the activities of Lot 2 (2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3). Technical assistance and supervision

will be provided by AICS Jerusalem office to design and launch the action, and to monitor its effective implementation.

Result 3.1: *Competences in gender equality and human rights of the school staff, students, and their families are increased.*

Activity 3.1.1: Support to the budget of MoEHE to develop the first draft of the manual to train teachers on gender equality and human rights.

Sub-Activities

3.1.1.1 Specialized technical assistance for manual development and implementation of activities: Consultants will assure the coherence and quality of the activities developed by the MoEHE. They will provide technical assistance in the activities that will be developed in all the schools as well as logistic support in the implementation of trainings and raising awareness activities, with the involvement of parents and communities. Ad hoc consultancy on content and methodological issues is also included.

3.1.1.2 Assessment of teachers and students' knowledge of gender equality and human rights and its correlation with school violence: Develop a study to analyze the main problems related to the assessment of teachers and students' competences on gender equality and human rights and its correlation to the incidence of violence in school. The study also aims at building key and easily replicable indicators to baseline the intervention. It will be an input to the development of the project activities and an instrument to promote future interventions.

3.1.1.3 Development and first draft internal validation of the manual "Gender and human rights education" for teachers: Create a working group with the participation of MoEHE officials, MoEHE Gender Unit and relevant actors involved in the protection and promotion of human rights to analyze good practices on Human rights education, with the technical support of national and international experts. Capacity building and technical assistance through ad hoc consultancies will be provided to the working group in order to evaluate the existing experiences in the field and develop teaching strategies, innovative educational tools and methodologies (planned learning) to be included in the manual. The first draft of the manual "Gender and human rights education" for teachers will be developed and published as internal work document.

Activity 3.1.2: Support to the budget of MoEHE and technical assistance to develop a training programme for teachers on gender equality and human rights.

Sub-Activities

3.1.2.1 Implementation of the teachers' training programme: Tailored trainings to teachers from a sample of schools from all the Palestine governorates, with the involvement of national and international experts, will focus on three main areas: i) gender equality and human rights culture and standards, ii) pedagogical tools and innovative methodologies, iii) analysis and evaluation of the draft manual.

3.1.2.2 Teachers' review of the manual for teachers: Development and implementation of evaluation instruments (questionnaire, focus groups, interviews) and workshops with trained teachers to evaluate the manual draft, collect teachers' perceptions and suggestions to adapt the manual.

Activity 3.1.3: Support to the budget of MoEHE and technical assistance to test the programme for validation of the methodology and the teachers' manual in schools, with a gender sensitive approach.

3.1.3.1 Supporting material development: Elaboration of the supporting materials to facilitate the implementation of the pilot programme to test the developed methodology and the manual “Gender and human rights education”.

3.1.3.2 Implementation of pilot programme: A pilot programme will be testing the developed methodology through technical support and professional counseling to teachers for one semester. A sample of schools from all the governorates will be involved. The pilot will include practical sessions for students and the use of different pedagogical tools and channels (video, Moot court, etc.).

3.1.3.3 Raising awareness activities on gender equality and human rights: Implementation of events and workshops in schools to enhance public participation and parental involvement in order to improve school’s social and learning environment.

3.1.3.4 Evaluation of the pilot programme: The pilot programme will be monitored through the elaboration and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan that will involve particularly teachers and students through the use of monitoring tools (questionnaire, focus group, interviews) to assess the impact, quality and replicability of the manual.

Activity 3.1.4: Support to the budget of MoEHE to define the methodology, publication of the manual on gender equality and human rights and training of trainers of MoEHE staff.

Sub-Activities

3.1.4.1 Support to the MoEHE to define the methodology and the manual on gender equality and human rights: The final manual will be finalized through meetings and workshops of the working group mentioned above in sub-activity 1.1.1.3, with the technical assistance of national and international experts. All the information, opinions and suggestions collected during the testing programme will be used.

3.1.4.2 Training of trainers (ToT): Capacity building to MoEHE trainers through trainings and workshop to fully transfer the methodology developed to ease replicability and dissemination.

3.1.4.3 Dissemination of the manual: Development and dissemination of informative materials (i.e. leaflets, brochures) elaborated with the participation of all the groups involved in the activities, to both promote the process and inform a wider public. After the publication of the final Manual a set of conferences in each geographical area and a final event will be organized to present the manual with the participation of all relevant actors and stakeholders.

Activity 3.1.5: Support to the budget of MoEHE to involve Palestinian Universities and specialized institutions to strengthen the respect of gender equality and human rights among university professors and students.

Sub-Activities

3.1.5.1 Trainings and technical assistance to university staff: Implementation of ad hoc trainings for professors and staff of the faculty of law of the Palestinian Universities in West Bank on innovative pedagogical tools to foster human rights and gender equality as mainstreaming contents in their courses. It includes the collaboration of lecturers to complement classes on gender and human rights.

3.1.5.2 Implementation of university courses on women’s rights: Elaboration and implementation of university courses in the faculty of law of Palestinian Universities. Seminars will also be organized with the participation of professors, students and experts.

3.1.5.3 Development of a manual on gender equality and human rights for university staff: Creation of an interuniversity working group to draft a methodological manual for universities on human rights and gender equality with the participation and technical assistance of national and international experts. It includes the internal distribution and the evaluation of the draft and the publication of the final version.

3.1.5.4 Set of conferences on gender and human rights in universities: Organization of conferences to celebrate in each target university the human rights and women rights days. Implementation of seminars to present the manual on gender equality and human rights with the participation of national and international experts, representatives of the education system, local and international civil society organizations, Palestinian authorities.

Activity 3.1.6: Technical assistance and capacity building to MoEHE and universities.

3.1.6.1: Human rights and gender Technical Assistance: An expert in human rights and gender of AICS Jerusalem will assure technical assistance to the MoEHE and target universities through constant follow up, regular communication and capacity building activities.

Result 3.2: *Minors' competences on children rights and preventive behaviours are improved.*

Activity 3.2.1: Support to the budget of the Attorney General's Office to create mechanisms to enhance children's protection within the education system.

Sub-Activities

3.2.1.1 Raising awareness activities and trainings on children's rights in schools: in coordination with MoEHE, the Juvenile Justice department of AGO will conduct a series of events and activities in schools to inform children about their rights and duties, as well as on the existing mechanisms provided by the law to protect them. The activity includes the production of informative material and the elaboration of a booklet highlighting the procedures to access counselling and to avoid misbehaviors generating protection risks for students made by a group of selected and trained students.

Activity 3.2.2: Support to the budget of the Attorney General's Office to strengthen the children protection system within the AGO.

3.2.2.1 Capacity building and assistance to AGO's partners in the juvenile justice sector: Implementation of tailored trainings and seminars to strengthen the capacities of AGO's partners in the children protection system – Civil Society Organizations, social workers, local authorities. The activity will be implemented in the different governorates of Palestine and will also focus on the implementation of procedures, roles and responsibilities of the parties stated by the Juvenile law.

Activity 3.2.3: Technical assistance and capacity building to AGO.

3.2.3.1: Human rights and legal Technical Assistance: A human rights and legal expert of AICS Jerusalem will assure technical assistance to the AGO through constant follow up, regular communication and capacity building activities.

5. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES

5.1 Financing Partners and Financing Modalities

The initiative will be funded by AICS for a total amount of 4,000,000 Euro which includes a component of funds that will be spent by AICS, for a total amount of € 2,790,000 and a component of budget support to the MoEHE and the AGO, for a total amount of € 1,201,000, according to the art. 7 paragraph 2 of Law 125/2014, to ensure the full ownership of the Palestinian institutions.

Main local partners are:

- the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) that is the institution responsible for developing and implementing the component within the education system. The MoEHE is already involved in activities related to the promotion of the human rights education and the review of school curricula under a gender sensitive perspective. The cooperation among MoEHE and AICS is the result of several technical meetings, field visits and formal high-level meetings occurred over the last year. MoEHE will receive a budget support of € 1,060,000, related to Result 3.1, activities 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5.
- the Palestinian Public Prosecution, supported by Italy since 2014 is an institution that acts on behalf of the society in the proper application of the provisions of the law and has the power to investigate, make accusations, and litigate representing public right or the government before the competent courts. In particular, financial support will be channeled to the Attorney General's Office for the Juvenile Justice Department that recently concluded an agreement with MoEHE to create mechanism to assure children protection and the creation of a safer environment at school. AGO will receive a budget support of € 150,000, related to Result 3.2, Activity 3.2.1 and 3.2.2.

Of the total amount of € 2,790,000 managed by AICS, AICS Jerusalem Office will manage a total of € 2,640,000. A total amount of € 1,366,000 will allow the implementation of two projects (lots) entrusted each to an INGO or a consortium of several INGOs, on the basis of the rules of assignment (Affidato) defined by Resolution No. 8 "Terms and conditions for the entrusting development cooperation initiatives to CSOs and non-profit entities registered in the list referred to in art. 26, paragraph 3, of the 125/2014 law ". The Lot n. 1 will be of a total an amount of € 770,000 for the activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and Lot No. 2 will be of a total amount of € 500,000 for the implementation of the activities 2.1.1, and 2.1.2. A total amount of € 96,000 will cover the administrative costs of the INGOs implementing the projects, under sub-activity 4.1.1.3.

The remaining amount will be used for overall monitoring and supervision of the implementation of activities: under Result 1.1, activity 1.1.3; under Result 1.2, activity 2.1.4; under Result 3.1 activity 3.1.6; under Result 3.2, activity 3.2.3 and part of activity 4.1.1.

A total amount of € 150,000 will be paid by AICS to the Italian Institute for Statistics ISTAT to provide specialised technical assistance and coordination for PCBS capacity building on SDGs indicator monitoring.

5.2 Executive responsibility

The executive responsibility of the initiative for the implementation of activities under SO1 and 2 will be entrusted to CSOs and non-profit entities (“Affidato”) in accordance with the provisions of Law no. 125/2014 to the art. 26, paragraph 4, registered in the list referred to in paragraph 3 of the same article and on the basis of the rules defined by Resolution No. 8, approved by the Joint Committee on 20.02.2017. For the justification of the choices relating to executive responsibility, reference is made to the considerations set out in the section concerning the intervention strategy (4.1) and the role that the Italian CSOs play in Palestine in terms of impact and recognition of Italian support.

AICS Jerusalem has the responsibility for the component directly managed by AICS for local expenditures. The Palestinian counterpart has the executive responsibility for the component of the budget support that will be managed according to the modalities established in the Technical Agreement in coordination and with the assistance of the AICS personnel of the Jerusalem office.

AICS will also be in charge of ISTAT’s technical assistance to PCBS within the framework of the Agreement signed between ISTAT and AICS.

5.3 Methodology and procedures of management and execution

For SO 1 and SO2 the methodology of the “Affidato” will be used for the implementation of the activities, which entails entrusting of the initiatives to the CSOs through the publication of a call for applications to the organizations registered in the list referred to in art. 26, paragraph 3, of Law 125/2014. The call for proposals consists of two projects (lots) for which the CSOs will be called to present their own dossier and technical-economic executive proposals; the selection of the implementing bodies of each of the two lots will take place on the basis of this documentation and in the light of criteria that will be explained in the call for proposals. The CSOs will be asked to present their own specific proposals which, on the basis of the objectives and expected results indicated in the announcement, will contain all the technical and economic elements to be compared according to fixed parameters and which, together other factors relating to presence in the territory, operational capacity and other evaluation elements will allow the selection of the most suitable executor to carry out each lot.

The total amount established is equal to € 1,366,000, divided into two lots for a total amount of € 770,000 for Lot 1 and € 500,000 for Lot 2, to be granted to the individual NGO or consortium or NGOs in addition to a total of € 96,000 for the administrative costs of the implementers.

The announcement will include the priority for the partnerships between CSOs listed in the 125/2015 law as well as operational partnerships with other subjects such as national CSOs, international agencies, local public institutions, and the private profit sector as the implementing entity. The maximum duration of each project is 36 months.

For what concern the budget support component, this project has the same methodological approach followed by the projects WELOD, IRADA and SI-GEWE. The project will be regulated by a Technical Agreement signed by the MOFP, representing the PA, and the General Directorate for Development Cooperation (DGCS), representing the Italian Government. The Technical Agreement and Annexes will define the objectives, beneficiaries, results and the allocation of total funding between funds directly managed by AICS and budget support managed by MoEHE and AGO under the umbrella of MOFP.

To supervise the implementation of the activities and support the planning and monitoring exercise, an Advisory Committee (AC) will be established, gathering representatives from the MOFP, MoEHE, AGO and AICS. The AC will meet at least annually. As for the budget support funds, they will be transferred following the procedures adopted for previous programmes and known by the institutions:

- Upon the signature of the Technical Agreement, MoEHE and AGO will prepare the Annual Operational Plan, with the AICS technical assistance.
- The Annual Operational Plan will be approved by the AC.
- The MOFP will ask AICS for the disbursement of the first instalment of the budget support.
- AICS will disburse the funds to the “single treasury account” opened by MOFP.
- MoEHE, and AGO will prepare the respective Annual Work Plans, where the activities and related costs are detailed.
- After the approval of the Annual Work Plans by AICS, MoEHE and AGO will request MOFP to disburse the biannual funds.
- The MOFP proceeds with disbursing the related funds to MoEHE and AGO’s “special accounts”.

For the disbursement of the second instalment MoEHE and AGO will present to AICS exhaustive narrative and financial report on the activities carried out and the MoFP will present an audited financial report. At the end of the programme MoEHE and AGO will present a final narrative and financial report. The report will also evaluate the impact of the program against the expected results and indicators. Finally, the MOFP will present an audited financial report to AICS on the use of the second instalment of the budget support funds.

As regards ISTAT’s Technical Assistance to PCBS, it will be regulated by a dedicated Agreement between ISTAT and AICS. This Agreement with the related Annexes will define the objectives, beneficiaries, and results of this activity.

5.4 Implementation modalities

The three financial mechanisms, Affidato, Budget Support to PA and direct management of local funds by AICS Jerusalem, will allow the agile and timely implementation of the activities.

As previously explained the implementation of activities under Results 1.1 (Lot 1) 1.2 activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and Result 1.2 (Lot 2) activities 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3. will be given to an international NGO through the specific modality of “Affidato” according to the Italian law 125/2014 that regulates this implementation modality. NGOs entrusted with the interventions, selected according to the procedures described in the previous paragraph, will have to follow the administrative rules of public accounting in their implementation and use of funds, similarly to what currently happens with the assignments of emergency initiatives. Local partners, identified in the original proposals submitted for the selection procedure, may be involved through partnership agreements. The presence of partners will have to be justified and bring added value to the initiative, in view of the consolidation of the local civil society.

The budget support component will be directly implemented by those institutions receiving budget support, thus MoEHE and AGO will be in charge to carry out activities according to national procedures, including for hiring of personnel, purchase of materials, bidding for TA, etc) with the assistance of Italian experts. The ISTAT-AICS agreement will be the framework of reference for the technical assistance to PCBS.

With local funds, it is planned, with the assistance of Italian experts, to provide overall supervision to the action and specialised technical assistance to implementing partners, in order to contribute to the achievement of the expected results. Local funds also ensure the smooth implementation through internal monitoring and evaluation of the programme by Italian experts.

Two mid-term reviews as well as a final evaluation of the initiative will be conducted by an external evaluator.

The expenditures will be carried out following due procedures, as stated in the Technical Agreements.

5.5 Conditions for starting

The implementation of the activities of the program with funds to be spent locally will take place after the signature of the Technical Agreement and the transfer of the local funds, upon submission of the yearly General Operational

Plan to the DGCS. The procedure for the “Affidato” will also be launched as soon as the funds will be received by AICS Jerusalem.

Regarding the budget support component, the funds will be transferred from Italy directly to the MOFP, and then transferred by MOFP to the MoEHE and AGO according to the procedures described in point 5.3 above.

5.6 Starting phase

Following the signature of the Technical Agreement, AICS and the Palestinian counterparts (MoEHE and AGO), in order to proceed to disbursement of funds and start-up of the activities, will be required to prepare:

- The Annual Operational Plan for the disbursement of local funds;
- The Annual Operational Plan for the disbursement of budget support;
- Request to AICS the disbursement of the relevant funds.

AICS will also prepare the announcement for the call for proposals for the “Affidato” and will also sign the agreement with ISTAT and prepare an Operational Plan for the technical assistance to PCBS.

6. FINANCIAL PLAN AND COSTS OF THE PROGRAM

6.1 Financial plan and costs of the program: synthesis

Refer to the following table.

<p style="text-align: center;">AMAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY IN PALESTINE Financial Plan (in Euro)</p>								
Code	Description	Total	2018	2019	2020	Budget Support	AICS Jlem	AICS - ISTAT
Result 1.1								
<i>Improving access and long-term participation of women in the Palestinian labor market for income generation and promotion of gender equality in the society (Lot 1 Affidato)</i>								
1.1.1	Multiplication of successful women's economic empowerment approaches in Palestine							
1.1.1.1	Set of conferences on WEE best practices	20,000.00	20,000.00				20,000.00	
1.1.1.2	Provision of grants and capacity building for women entrepreneurs	400,000.00	400,000.00				400,000.00	
	Sub-Total 1.1.1	420,000.00	420,000.00	-	-	-	420,000.00	-
1.1.2	Support to civil society to enhance participation of female youth and women in artistic sectors for income generation and/or promotion of gender equality in the society							
1.1.2.1	Assessment of key partners and market research on artistic productions	20,000.00	20,000.00				20,000.00	
1.1.2.2	Promotion of youth and gender oriented initiatives focusing on artistic media	330,000.00	330,000.00				330,000.00	
	Sub-Total 1.1.2	350,000.00	350,000.00	-	-	-	350,000.00	-
1.1.3	Supervision and Technical Assistance of the "Affidato" activities (Lot1) implemented through International and local NGOs							
1.1.3.1	WEE Technical Assistance	100,000.00	25,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00		100,000.00	
	Sub-Total 1.1.3	100,000.00	25,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	-	100,000.00	-
	Total Result 1.1	870,000.00	795,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	-	870,000.00	-
Result 2.1								
<i>Palestinian civil society demonstrates a greater awareness of the importance of gender equality values and takes a more active role in the affirmation of the gender agenda at the national level and women involvement in political and social activities had increased (Lot 2 Affidato)</i>								
2.1.1	Support to CSOs aimed at revitalising the feminist discourse and arena in Palestine							
2.1.1.1	Mapping of feminist organizations and related CSOs in Palestine and assessment of their needs	20,000.00	20,000.00				20,000.00	
2.1.1.2	Activities aiming to revitalise the feminist discourse in Palestine and to enhance access to quality information on key women's issues	375,000.00	375,000.00				375,000.00	
	Sub-Total 2.1.1	395,000.00	395,000.00	-	-	-	395,000.00	-
2.1.2	Support to CSO and CBOs for the promotion of women's political involvement							
2.1.2.1	Assessment of women's active political participation in Palestine	20,000.00	20,000.00				20,000.00	
2.1.2.2	Capacity building of selected women to foster their socio-political involvement	85,000.00	85,000.00				85,000.00	
	Sub-Total 2.1.2	105,000.00	105,000.00	-	-	-	105,000.00	-
2.1.3	ISTAT's Technical Assistance to PBCS for the monitoring of the SDGs, with specific attention to gender mainstreaming							
2.1.3.1	Specialised technical assistance and coordination for PCBS capacity building on SDGs indicator monitoring	150,000.00	80,000.00	70,000.00				150,000.00
	Sub-Total 2.1.3	150,000.00	80,000.00	70,000.00	-	-	-	150,000.00
2.1.4	Supervision and Technical Assistance of the "Affidato" activities (Lot 2) implemented through International and local NGOs							
2.1.4.1	Gender Equality Technical Assistance	100,000.00	25,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00		100,000.00	
	Sub-Total 2.1.4	100,000.00	25,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	-	100,000.00	-
	Total Result 2.1	750,000.00	605,000.00	107,500.00	37,500.00	-	600,000.00	150,000.00
Result 3.1								
<i>Competences in gender equality and human rights of the school staff, students, and their families are increased</i>								
3.1.1	MoEHE - Draft Manual for Training teachers on gender equality and human rights							
3.1.1.1	Specialised technical assistance for manual development and implementation of activities	237,000.00	79,000.00	79,000.00	79,000.00	237,000.00		
3.1.1.2	Assessment of teachers' and students' knowledge of gender equality and human rights	25,000.00	25,000.00			25,000.00		
3.1.1.3	Development and first draft internal validation of the manual for teachers	126,000.00	16,000.00	25,000.00	85,000.00	126,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.1.1	388,000.00	120,000.00	104,000.00	164,000.00	388,000.00	-	-
3.1.2	MOEHE - Training programme for teachers on gender equality and human rights							
3.1.2.1	Implementation of the teachers' training programme	100,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00		100,000.00		
3.1.2.2	Teachers' review of the manual for teachers	20,000.00		20,000.00		20,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.1.2	120,000.00	50,000.00	70,000.00	-	120,000.00	-	-

3.1.3	MOEHE - Testing and validation of the methodology and the teachers' manual							
3.1.3.1	Supporting material development	50,000.00		50,000.00		50,000.00		
3.1.3.2	Implementation of pilot programme	150,000.00		90,000.00	60,000.00	150,000.00		
3.1.3.3	Raising awareness activities	43,000.00		10,000.00	33,000.00	43,000.00		
3.1.3.4	Evaluation of the pilot programme	20,000.00			20,000.00	20,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.1.3	263,000.00	-	150,000.00	113,000.00	263,000.00	-	-
3.1.4	MOEHE - Methodology, publication of the manual and MoEHE personnel's ToT							
3.1.4.1	Final definition of the methodology of the manual on gender equality and human rights	10,000.00			10,000.00	10,000.00		
3.1.4.2	Training of Trainers	20,000.00			20,000.00	20,000.00		
3.1.4.3	Dissemination of the manual	70,000.00			70,000.00	70,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.1.4	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	-
3.1.5	MOEHE - Support to Palestinian Universities and specialized institutions to strengthen the respect of gender equality and human rights							
3.1.5.1	Trainings and technical assistance to university staff	19,000.00	19,000.00			19,000.00		
3.1.5.2	Implementation of university courses on women's rights	62,000.00		30,000.00	32,000.00	62,000.00		
3.1.5.3	Development of a manual on gender equality and human rights for university staff	36,000.00		12,000.00	24,000.00	36,000.00		
3.1.5.4	Set of conferences on gender and human rights in universities	72,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	36,000.00	72,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.1.5	189,000.00	37,000.00	60,000.00	92,000.00	189,000.00	-	-
3.1.6	Technical Assistance and capacity building to MoEHE							
3.1.6.1	Human Rights and Gender Technical Assistance to MOEHE and universities	100,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00	25,000.00		100,000.00	
	Sub-Total 3.1.6	100,000.00	25,000.00	50,000.00	25,000.00	-	100,000.00	-
	Total Result 3.1	1,160,000.00	232,000.00	434,000.00	494,000.00	1,060,000.00	100,000.00	-
Result 3.2								
Minors' competences on children's rights and preventive behaviours are improved								
3.2.1	AGO - Creation of mechanisms to enhance children's protection within the education system							
3.2.1.1	Raising awareness activities and trainings on children's rights in schools	120,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	50,000.00	120,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.2.1	120,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	50,000.00	120,000.00	-	-
3.2.2	AGO - Support to strengthen the children protection system within the AGO							
3.2.2.1	Capacity building and assistance to AGO's partners in the juvenile justice sector	30,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00		
	Sub-Total 3.2.2	30,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	30,000.00	-	-
3.2.3	Technical Assistance and capacity building to AGO							
3.2.3.1	Human Rights and legal Technical Assistance to AGO	120,000.00	30,000.00	60,000.00	30,000.00		120,000.00	
	Sub-Total 3.2.3	120,000.00	30,000.00	60,000.00	30,000.00	-	120,000.00	-
	Total Result 3.2	270,000.00	70,000.00	110,000.00	90,000.00	150,000.00	120,000.00	-
4.1 Overall Expenditures								
4.1.1	Management Costs							
4.1.1.1	Programme Management	520,000.00	210,000.00	285,000.00	25,000.00		520,000.00	
4.1.1.2	Monitoring and Evaluation	55,500.00	17,500.00	22,000.00	16,000.00		55,500.00	
4.1.1.3	Administrative Costs "Affidato"	96,000.00	96,000.00	-	-		96,000.00	
	Sub-Total 4.1.1	671,500.00	323,500.00	307,000.00	41,000.00	-	671,500.00	-
	Total 4.1	671,500.00	323,500.00	307,000.00	41,000.00	-	671,500.00	-
	TOTAL	3,721,500.00	2,025,500.00	996,000.00	700,000.00	1,210,000.00	2,361,500.00	150,000.00
	Overheads	278,500.00	154,500.00	74,000.00	50,000.00		278,500.00	
	GRAND TOTAL	4,000,000.00	2,180,000.00	1,070,000.00	750,000.00	1,210,000.00	2,640,000.00	150,000.00

	gender equality and human rights among university professors and students																		
	3.1.6 Technical assistance and capacity building to MoEHE and universities																		
Result 3.2: Minors' competences on children rights and prevention behaviours are improved	3.2.1 Support to the budget of the Attorney General's Office to create mechanisms to enhance children's protection within the education system																		
	3.2.2 Direct actions and support to Palestinian Universities and specialized institutions to strengthen the respect of gender equality and human rights among university professors and students																		
	3.2.3 Technical assistance and capacity building to AGO																		

8. SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT

The project is aimed at supporting policies and strategies of the Palestinian ministries and national institutions (namely MoEHE, and AGO), in accordance with the NPA 2017-2022 and related sectorial strategies. The use of the budget support mechanism – accounting for 26% of the total budget of this initiative – is consistent with the principle of local ownership of development strategies while, at the same time, it ensures sustainability of the initiative in terms of institutional commitment.

Economic and financial sustainability is also ensured as: all services that will be enhanced or introduced through this initiative are already included in the current ministerial plans; it is sufficiently guaranteed by core budgets of the Ministries and PCBS; and it can be consolidated by the civil society organizations and local institutions contribution to the program. Local partners are also able to establish effective cooperative relationships with the donor community and with other actors in development, with possibility of complementary and future funding of initiatives.

Working with the national education system, involving students and teachers and through the creation of an *ad hoc* group of trainers guarantees the replicability and sustainability of the action beyond the lifecycle of the initiative. Families and civil society will be also involved in order to strengthen the whole educative community which will have a long-term impact. All capacity development activities with MoEHE and AGO have the principal aim of creating knowledge and building skills with the local counterparts and community, an approach which is central to the very concept of sustainability.

Regarding the TA provided to PCBS, considering that the program will strengthen existing services, data collection and monitoring of SDGs will be fully taken over by PCBS and the PA already in the implementation phase, ensuring sustainability and continuity.

All capacity development activities (with women's entrepreneurs, feminist organizations, CSOs, CBOs and women participating in politics) respond to training needs and requests of the beneficiaries, thus the knowledge and the skills acquired remain within the local counterparts and the community, therefore sustainable.

For the part of funds that will be managed directly by AICS and spent locally, activities will be implemented by the local civil society with specific outputs, the value of which is not time-bound, and their use can be replicated in the future in other geographical areas.

Awareness raising campaigns and activities have an inter-generational impact thus preserving the level of societal change produced at least in the medium-term.

As a general approach of the intervention, activities are based on accurate assessments and studies (as described in section 4.6 Activities) of the situation, in order to tailor interventions which are sustainable and context relevant. The focus on adaptive leadership and positive deviance approach acts as a catalyst for community generated solutions which also constitute the best guarantee for a long-term sustainability of the impact produced.

The initiative, given that the project does not envisage activities that may have some impact on the territory, are not expected to have any adverse effects on the environment. However, attention will be paid to the aspects of preservation and care of the environment, especially in the context of initiatives for the economic empowerment of women proposed, including the agricultural enterprise and other forms of sustainable enterprise. A specific attention to the environmental impact of those activities will be included in the mid-term and final external evaluations.

The program is classified with the G2 Gender Marker (Principal), so Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities are the main objective and are therefore reflected in all the activities carried out.

9. RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The biggest risks are related to the precariousness of the political situation and the continuing occupation with the possibility of escalating violence. The resulting instability, coupled with the prolonged economic recession, would undermine the progress of the PA in the implementation of the NPA and national strategies. However, PA's default seems to be a relatively remote perspective, so as to be a "medium" risk.

On the other hand, institutional strengthening and improved governance processes, aims of the budget support component of this initiative constitute by themselves a mitigating measure. Further economic recession also represents a risk for economic development activities especially when related to women's economic empowerment.

As EU lead donor in the gender sector, Italy is playing an increasingly important role in coordinating the different initiatives in the framework of the EU Joint Programming that is aligned with the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022 and to sectoral strategies. This framework of strengthened support by Italy and Europe in Palestine can mitigate the risks inherent in the unstable political and economic situation in the field.

On the security front, outbreaks of violence and clashes may lead to interruptions or slowdowns of activities due to the resulting restrictions on movements; in these cases, it will be necessary to change the program's expected timetable. Local counterparts are well accustomed to such disruptions and in many years of conflict and political uncertainty have developed considerable resilience and coping strategies.

Risks related to the long-term impact of the capacity building component of the programme are connected with possible turn-over of staff in Ministries and government institutions. Such turn-over, despite being frequent, most of the time happens within and between institutions, which considering the nature of the intervention means that knowledge will remain in relevant contexts, thus it is to be considered as a "low" risk.

10. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

It is planned to conduct a continuous monitoring of the progress in implementing the initiative both in terms of activities and in terms of management of the budget support, according to the procedures mentioned above in Chapter 5.3 (annual workplans, financial and narrative reports and audits). In this regard, it is planned to use appropriate indicators for monitoring program's performance (as summarized in the Matrix of the Logical Framework), which will be used by Italian experts for the monitoring of the entire programme and will be complemented by regular field monitoring visits. Two mid-term reviews as well as a final evaluation of the initiative will be conducted by an external evaluator. This monitoring and evaluation process will contribute to the reporting and evaluation of impact according to the ROF of the gender mainstreaming within the EU Join Strategy in Palestine.

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