

UK FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE PALESTINIANS

Headline figure

In December 2007 the UK pledged up to **£243 million** to the Occupied Palestinian Territories over three years.

Emergency aid to Gaza 2009

The UK response to the conflict in Gaza is nearly **£47 million**, some of which was allocated to emergency aid and some of which is for recovery. Some examples of where UK money has made an impact:

- **Oxfam:** distributed more than 43 million litres of drinking water to more than 63,000 people. Repaired the water network, improving sanitation for more than 100,000 people.
- **World Food Programme:** distributed two-month rations to over 365,000 people.
- **UNRWA:** helped up to 1 million people with food assistance. 164 counsellors in schools provide psychosocial support to children.
- **ICRC:** delivered basic relief packages to 10,000 families.
- **Mines Advisory Group:** cleared unexploded ordnance (UXO) from all UNRWA schools, allowing 220,000 children to return to school.
- **Handicap International** is supporting 7 mobile teams, which provide home visits to the injured and disabled, and has opened three new treatment centres in Gaza.
- **The Welfare Association** has completed more than 1,000 medical home visits and 2,000 home physiotherapy sessions to support the rehabilitation of nearly 1000 people.
- **Islamic Relief** provided hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets, emergency gas lighting, and baby kits to 500 families. They have given psychological support to 1200 children.

Long-term financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority

Over the last year we have provided over **£50m** to the Palestinian Authority to help stabilise its finances, pay salaries for up to 77,000 Palestinian Authority workers and deliver essential services such as healthcare and education.

Support for Palestinian refugees

- We have committed to give **£100 million** to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East over 5 years.

Action against illegal Israeli settlements and the demolition of Palestinian homes

- We believe that continued construction of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territories constitutes a major obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinians. We will continue to support organisations which monitor construction activity in illegal settlements and outposts, and this year we will provide **£100,000** for a project to produce reliable information about the situation on the ground.
- The UK is providing **£450,000** over 4 years to support projects in East Jerusalem and the West Bank that help Palestinians better understand and effectively use the Israeli planning laws, in order to gain planning permission - both retrospectively for existing homes and prospectively for new homes on their side of the Green Line. Gaining retrospective planning permission legalises homes and so protects them from demolition. Over the past two years this has saved over 300 homes from demolition.

Support for the Palestinian security forces

- Over a 3 year period from 2008/09 to 2010/11 the UK plans to give approximately **£6.5m** to help build capacity within the Palestinian Security Forces. We are continuing our support for the British Support Team, who work closely with the US Security Co-ordinator. Based in Ramallah, the BST supports the development of a Palestinian National Security force and plays a key role in helping to improve security.
- Our support is part of a wider effort aimed at restructuring the Palestinian security sector, the results of which have so far been impressive. In June 2007 14.6% of people in Jenin and 17.6% of people in Nablus said they felt safe; by September 2008 this had risen to 61.2% in Jenin and 42.2% in Nablus [Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research].

Support for the Palestinian economy

On 15 December 2008 the Prime Minister said that “establishing a viable Palestinian state with a stable economy and a flourishing private sector is a crucial part of the Peace Process.” The UK is working hard to bolster the Palestinian economy. Some examples of UK activity:

- In December 2008 the UK hosted the **London Business Forum on Trade and Investment with Palestine**, bringing together 60 Palestinian and over 100 UK business delegates. Several commercial announcements were made: the establishment of the Palestinian-British Business Council to help promote trade between the UK and the OPTs; a franchise agreement worth \$25 million to build a new hotel in Ramallah; a \$50 million Enterprise Revitalisation Fund for Palestinian businesses which will help 5-10 underperforming Palestinian businesses each year. Following the forum, Google has visited the West Bank to explore the potential for IT development and trade missions from the construction, tourism and supermarket sector are planned.
- The UK and the World Bank launched the **Facility for New Market Development (FNMD)** on July 2008 to help Palestinian businesses diversify and gain access to new markets. It now has 187 clients, including 28 in Gaza. It has enabled 4 businesses to export for the first time, opened 15 new markets to Palestinian products, and created 37 new jobs. The plans of 31 businesses supported by FNMD have resulted in incremental sales of over USD 1 million (USD 747,400 sales in international markets and USD 351,619 in local markets).

Support for Palestinian human rights and quality of life

- This year we will continue to support *Breaking the Silence*, an organisation which aims to raise awareness amongst Israeli society about the reality of the impact of the Israeli occupation, for their work in Hebron and surrounding areas.
- We fund many smaller projects across the OPTs, designed to improve educational opportunities for Palestinian children, improve town centres, improve medical facilities and promote human rights. For example: a 2008 summer camp in the Amary Refugee Camp, designed to increase the self-confidence of about 100 children.