

# STATE OF PALESTINE: COMPANY PERSPECTIVES

AN ITC SERIES ON  
NON-TARIFF MEASURES





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## Abstract for trade information services

ID=43130

2015

C-44 275 STA

International Trade Centre (ITC)

**State of Palestine: Company Perspectives: An ITC Series on Non-Tariff Measures.**

Geneva: ITC, 2015, xxii, 75 pages.

Doc. No. MAR-14-261.E

The report on the State of Palestine, part of a series of publications assessing the impact of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) on the business sector, aims to increase transparency and help better understand the trade impediments faced by the Palestinian business sector - analyses survey findings and compares them to other sources on NTMs to identify regulatory, procedural and infrastructural obstacles in the State of Palestine; sectors covered include agro-business, leather and footwear, textiles and clothing, stone and marble, handicrafts, wood, furniture and paper, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, manufacture of plastics, and metal and engineering. Includes bibliographical references (p.74).

Descriptors: **State of Palestine, Non-Tariff Measures, SMEs, Trade Policy.**

For further information on this technical paper, contact Ms. Ursula Hermelink ([ntm@intracen.org](mailto:ntm@intracen.org)).

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English

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ITC, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland ([www.intracen.org](http://www.intracen.org))

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## Foreword

For the State of Palestine, trade is an important tool for achieving greater economic resilience, development and poverty reduction. In 2011, the International Trade Centre (ITC) joined forces with national partners and stakeholders to actively support the State of Palestine's trade development.

Comprehensive needs assessments have served to identify existing trade obstacles and inform a National Export Strategy setting out how to realize untapped trade and development potential. These assessments include a large-scale business survey on non-tariff measures (NTMs), which in a world of relatively low tariffs have emerged as a major source of trade-related costs.

The report, "State of Palestine: Company perspectives", is the latest in ITC's series of publications on NTMs. It documents business experiences with regulatory and procedural trade obstacles, based on the more than 230 Palestinian exporters surveyed. The report will complement the State of Palestine's National Export Strategy, a roadmap for sustained growth that identifies key potential export sectors and points to specific reforms and institution-building to overcome constraints on export competitiveness.

Palestinian companies encounter manifold challenges in their international business operations. The NTM survey results find that institutional inefficiencies and infrastructural deficits have a significant impact on Palestinian exporters, implying that the State of Palestine has significant scope to facilitate trade for Palestinian businesses independently of the wider political and economic context, which also merits action.

This publication puts the private sector perspective at its centre. It highlights the concerns of Palestinian micro and small enterprises in particular. As a by-product of the survey, the report contains valuable information on the characteristics of Palestinian exporters, for example with respect to ownership by women, turnover or share of exports in total sales.

As such, the report and its recommendations, by adding the private sector voice, should contribute to the design of feasible trade solutions for the State of Palestine as well as to the much wider global discussion on trade facilitation. Going forward, ITC stands ready to accompany the State of Palestine on its way towards "Trade-led prosperity, made in Palestine".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arancha González'.

Arancha González  
ITC Executive Director



## Acknowledgements

The International Trade Centre (ITC) would like to express its appreciation to the representatives of enterprises in the State of Palestine who agreed to be interviewed and shared their experiences on non-tariff measures (NTMs) and related trade obstacles.

This report was written by Ursula Hermelink and Samer Al-Taher.

Interviews with companies were carried out by PalTrade under the guidance of Hanan Taha and Shawqi Makhtoub. We thank the PalTrade staff members, in particular Shadi Shaheen, Mohammed Al Ram'ah and Suha Waary for their contributions to the NTM Survey process and this report.

On the side of ITC, Abdellatif Benzakri prepared the statistics and analytical outputs underlying the graphs and tables in this report. Samidh Shrestha provided substantial support to data-quality control. Carolin Averbeck is to thank for project initiation and survey design. Contributions from Madina Kukenova and Shaimaa Medhat to data analysis and additional research are gratefully acknowledged.

We thank the ITC Office for Arab States, especially Eman Beseiso, for the continuous and indefatigable support in coordination and project management. We are grateful to the ITC National Export Strategy team, particularly Charles Roberge and Rahul Bhatnagar, for their close cooperation to ensure synergies between the NTM Survey and the State of Palestine's national export strategy. We also thank the various ITC colleagues who have provided feedback and comments on the report.

Special thanks to Dianna Rienstra for editing support and to the ITC publications team, notably Natalie Domeisen and Jennifer Freedman, for production management and quality control.

The financial contributions of the Canadian government and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) are gratefully acknowledged.

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