



Status Report on the **Achievement of Goal 11** in Palestine

“Sustainable Cities and Communities”



Status Report on the Achievement of Goal 11 in Palestine

“Make cities and human settlements
inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable”

October 2021

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Foreword



As part of the State of Palestine’s continuous commitment to the Agenda for Sustainable Development and guided by our National Development Plan 2021-2023, the Economic Cluster Plans for the governorates and the sector strategies, the Ministry of Local Government continues to formulate national and sector-related policies and is committed to work on issues related to spatial planning, local governance and urban management, with emphasis on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

The situation in Palestine and its manifestation vis-à-vis Goal 11 is unique; the continuous Israeli occupation and, inter-alia, the illegal settlement expansion is a direct and vivid reality that stand against our efforts to make our cities and communities more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. In addition to these protracted challenges, the Palestinian government, as is the case globally, had to rearrange its priorities so as to confront the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic had, and is still having, a direct impact on our urban and rural population in addition to impacting socio-economic development. It is still putting at risk public welfare, employment and livelihoods, food security, social cohesion, financial and fiscal stability, and institutions, especially in light of the increasingly accelerated urbanization rates in Palestine, where more than 77 per cent of the population are living in

urban centres in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

Despite these challenges, we remain focused and committed to improve the lives of our people; and we, along with our national and international partners, strive to improve the conditions of our cities and towns to achieve harmonious urbanization.

Pursuant to the previous submission of the 2018 Voluntary National Review which documented the efforts made by the Palestinian government on achieving the SDGs, this report is the first voluntary report documenting the status of Goal 11 in Palestine. In so doing, we are proud of our strategic partnerships with local and international organisations, including UN-Habitat that played a central role in supporting the government and local government units alike.

Eng. Majdi Al Saleh
Minister of Local Government

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines.

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Acronyms

ARIJ	Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)	NDP	National Development Plan	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
BCP	Business Continuity Plan	NDRMC	National Disaster Risk Management Center	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NDRMP	National Disaster Risk Management Platform	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	NSP	National Spatial Plan	UNHCR	United Nations Human Rights Commissioner
DRR	Disaster Risk Management	NUP	National Urban Policy	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory	WHO	World Health Organization
JSC	Joint Services Council	PA	Palestinian Authority		
LGU	Local Government Unit	PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics		
LWSC	Land and Water Settlement Commission	PMO	Prime Ministers' Office		
MDLF	Municipal Development and Lending Fund	PwD	Persons with Disabilities		
MSNA	Mutli-Sectoral Needs Assessment	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government	SWM	Solid Waste Management		



Introduction

In 2015, the State of Palestine committed to the attainment of the Agenda for Sustainable Development by the year 2030 – a blueprint for achieving sustainable development through working towards the attainment of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an urgent call for action that recognizes that the ending of poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve the environment. The purpose of this Goal 11 Status Report is to report on progress towards Palestine’s achievement of Goal 11, which aims to “Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable”.

The Goal 11 Status Report covers the period from 2015 until June 2021, changing variably depending on the available data for each target and/or indicator. It also captures the policy priorities of the Palestinian government and the impact of COVID-19 on

The various protracted and latest political, health and socio-economic challenges caused an unprecedented fiscal crisis and simultaneously imperilled progress on Goal 11 and the other goals. This has made their achievement more urgent and necessary to transit from the humanitarian trap towards sustainable development while making sure to leave no one and no place behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that cities are at the forefront in the fight against the pandemic in addition to their importance in mitigating any future threats by building long-term societal, economic and environmental resilience against recurring natural and manmade catastrophes. Additionally, the Israeli escalations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have further devastated the economy and reversed efforts that were made towards establishing a more sustainable urban environment in Palestine. It is estimated that the economic cost of violence as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Palestine reached

tegrated national and sub-national spatial policies in addition to supporting the local government sector to improve citizens’ engagement and representation.

The Palestinian government’s National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2023 and its priorities are directedly aligned with Goal 11. The NDP’s priorities are also reflected in the Palestinian governments’ sector strategies for local government, housing and public works, transportation, environment, land, culture, youth and gender equality.

The Goal 11 Status Report was prepared in participation of various government, municipal, and national and international non-governmental organisations. Report preparation and all meetings and consultations conducted were supervised by the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG).

The report covers 10 targets and 15 related indicators which fall under Goal 11; the majority of which were

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