



Spatial Development Strategic Framework for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (2030)

Summary



State of Palestine



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Executive Summary

March 2020



Disclaimer

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union under the framework of the project entitled: “Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C (2017 – 2020)”, which is managed by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The Ministry of Local Government, and the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate are considered the most important partners in preparing this document. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the author and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. Furthermore, the boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on the maps presented do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



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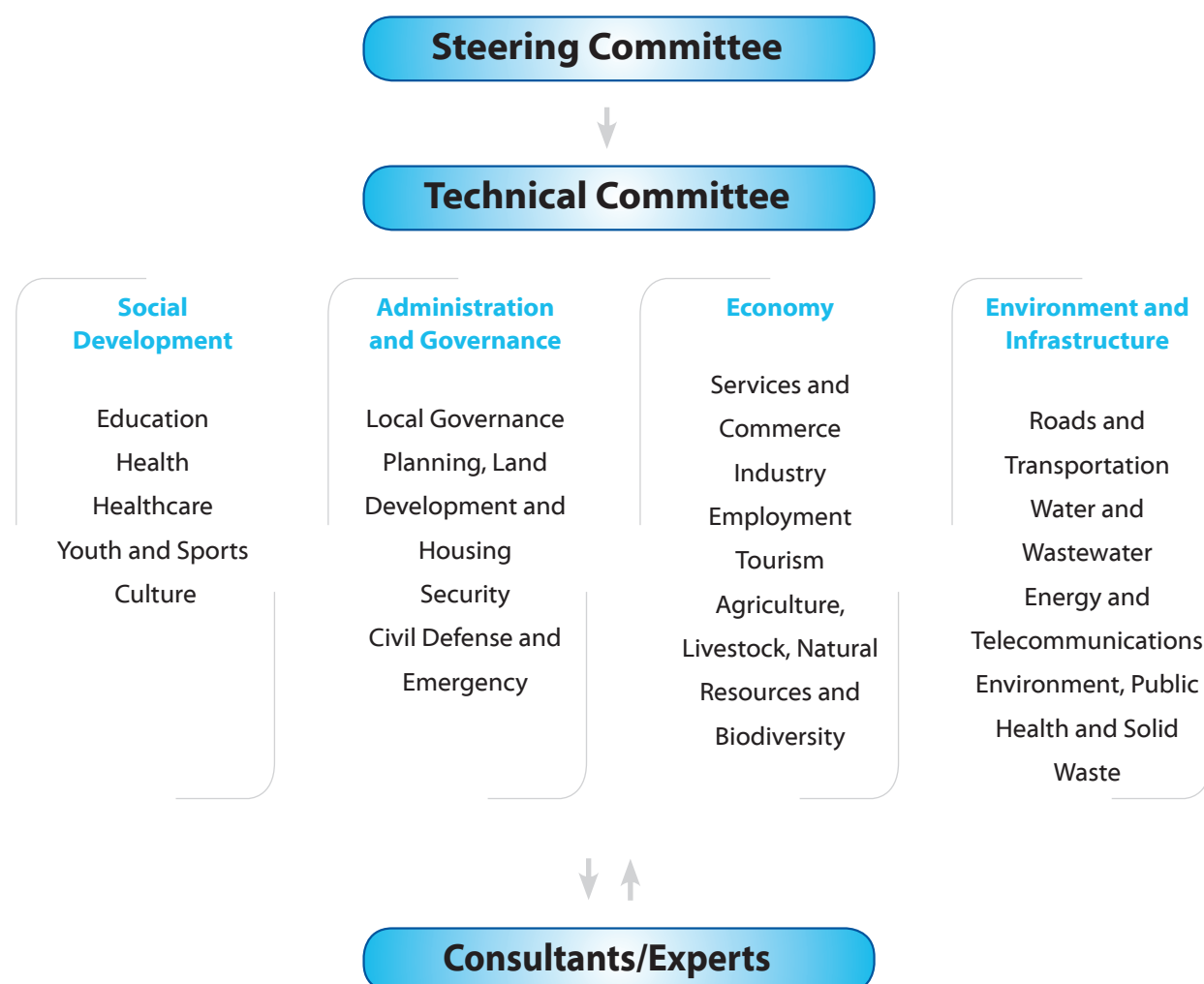


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Local government units in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate
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Community-based institutions

Private sector

Thanks are extended to Eng. Mohammad Abu Qaoud and Eng. Laila Abu Baker from UN-Habitat for their support.



Ministerial Foreword Hono. Minister of Local Government



In line with our vision and our policy in the local government sector, which is to work in all directions in a parallel manner, on the one hand, we have to work to meet urgent needs and enhance the role of local government units in providing services. At the same time, plan and work to build a modern local government sector capable of facing the present and the future challenges and providing infrastructure and an attractive environment for the investor sector. This vision is almost impossible in the face of the shocks and obstacles that the occupation put for us which creates daily emergency needs aiming to exhaust our energies and resources and our ability to see the future and immerse us in daily problems. However, the right vision itself creates the strong will and determination for the work, and we have the right to be proud of that.

In this context, I am pleased to present one of the creative successes and initiatives, which reflects our success in planning and building a modern and evolving local thought capable of leaving the traditional pattern of local work to enter a new phase characterized by extrapolating the future and defining its challenges. It also draws the resistance planning policy, which is based on the use of planning and its mechanisms to serve the Palestinian national project and to counteract the hostile planning system that aims to marginalize and end the physical presence of our people on their land.

The completion of this plan (Spatial Development Strategic Framework for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (2030)), is an expression of the correctness of our vision in the role of government institutions and local government units in addition to civil institutions, as well as considered a fundamental building block in our endeavor to build contemporary regional and local thought that responds to various scientific developments, reducing the time component in order to reach the ranks of developed countries.

The importance of this plan is trying to see the future and its challenges in terms of the current reality and its circumstances. It thus adheres to the subjective and objective factors affecting urban development in Palestine, and this is a methodology that the Ministry has worked on in all the northern governorates of the State of Palestine. What distinguishes this plan from the rest of the plans was the spatial dimension that was incorporated for all development priorities, especially as there are factors outside our will that results in random urban development, create social crises, affect the civil peace in our country, amplify all crises resulting from internal migration and overcrowding in cities, create imbalance in development, and create economic and social differences, all of which require creative thinking and creative planning policies represented by these realistic plan.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the teams that worked on the completion of this plan, especially mentioning the Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, members of the technical and steering committees and all technical and consultant teams, partners and stakeholders. Also, special thanks to the partners at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for their support to this project, as well as to the partners at the European Union for their generous funding of this plan.

Eng. Majdi Al-Saleh
Minister of Local Government

Foreword Hono. Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh



This plan was prepared in partnership with all relevant authorities and stakeholders in the governorate, including official, civil and community institutions, the private sector, and local government units. The purpose is to unify the development efforts made by various institutions, for what is in the interest of the governorate in general, and achieving our ambitions for development and prosperity that we seek to achieve in harmony with the vision of the President and the government to enhance the withstand of our people and ensure a decent life at various levels of cultural, social, economic, health, environmental and service, that is through a plan consistent with the National Policy Agenda that guarantees providing the maximum requirements and needs according to the available capabilities and deviating from the prevailing pattern in development, and planning to reach all parts of the governorate. The plan recommends the provision of development centers and services that are spread geographically to ease access to the citizens on the one hand and improve the quality of services on the other hand, so as to provide better opportunities for communities in the so-called Area C, under the framework of the project entitled: "Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Intervention in Area C, West Bank".

We at the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate consider that this vision, which we all collaborated to put in place in the various sectors of concern to the citizen, needs concerted efforts to implement it and ensure that it is best accomplished.

Here we invite and call our partners from the private sector, non-governmental institutions, community institutions, businessmen and local and municipal councils to cooperate with the official institution to embody this plan and actually implement it in accordance with the proposed timetable to serve our people and support our relentless endeavors for freedom and independence and the establishment of our independent state with its capital Jerusalem, led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

In conclusion, I do not miss to thank all those who contributed to the implementation of this vital project from various ministries and governmental institutions, foremost among which are the Ministry of Local Government and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the European Union, the consultant team, private and non-governmental institutions, the private sector, trade unions, the Chamber of Commerce and municipal and local councils.

I hope that this plan will contribute to developing our governorate and achieving our vision of prosperity and development.

Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governor
Dr. Laila Ghannam



Introduction

The Preparation of the Spatial Development Strategic Framework (**SDSF**) for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (City-region plan for Ramallah and Al-Bireh) is part of the project “Fostering Tenure Security and Resilience of Palestinian Communities through Spatial-Economic Planning Interventions in Area C (2017-2020)”, funded by the European Union and managed by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. The consultants provided technical support and advisory assistance to the local committees throughout the different stages of preparation of the city-region plan.

This document presents a summary of the **SDSF** for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate for the next 11 years. It presents an analytical summary of the reality of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, as well as the shared development vision agreed based on a multi-stakeholder approach. The document identifies priority development issues, and the development programs and interventions in an action plan format, along with a designated monitoring and evaluation plan.

Main Objectives

The purpose of this document is to present a summary of the **SDSF** for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, which has the following objectives:

1. Diagnose the current status of the various development areas (including administration and local government, infrastructure and public services, social aspects, economic and economic development) in the governorate.
2. Identify the available opportunities for the development process in the governorate and the obstacles facing it, and its geopolitical situation. Formulate a comprehensive development vision within a time frame of 2030.
3. Develop integrated spatial development objectives, focusing on the infrastructure, education and health sectors.
4. Identify priority projects and development programs and locate them spatially in the governorate.
5. Develop an integrated implementation plan within a time frame and the associated financial estimates.
6. Develop a methodology to monitor the implementation mechanisms of the plan and develop measure of its progress.
7. Link the **SDSF** document to national, local, sectorial and cross-sectorial development policies and plans.
8. Develop the Spatial Framework Plan for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate.
9. Identify the options available to meet the development challenges in the so-called Area C.



Methodology

The **SDSF** adopted the participatory approach of working in partnership with citizens, civil society organizations, local councils, government institutions, and several other relevant parties in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. This was also guided by the work mechanisms and planning included in the “Strategic Planning Manual for the Governorates” and was also guided by the “Urban Planning Manual: Procedures and Tools for Preparing Master Plans in the West Bank and Gaza Strip”, in particular with regard to the preparation of the **SDSF** in the governorate.

The methodology of preparing this plan for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate has basically been based on implementing three basic phases, each containing several steps, as shown in Figure (1).



Figure 1: Steps for Preparing the **SDSF** for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate

Overview of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate

Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate is located in the central part of the West Bank (see Map 1) and covers an area of 855,588 dunums.

The governorate overlooks the Mediterranean coast from the west, as it is about 45 km away from it, surrounded by mountains from the east and south, and the governorate rises 830-880m above Mean Sea Level. As the height of the governorate helps to soften the moisture coming from the sea due to the proximity of the sea. To the west, it is about 33 km away from the Jordan River. Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate's climate is distinguished by the temperate, as the governorate is exposed to rainy and harsh south-western winds, and at other times it is exposed to dry and cold north-eastern winds. As for the rains, its annual precipitation rate is about 500 mm, where the governorate temperature reaches in winter to zero ° C, and in summer season sometimes reaches 35 ° C.

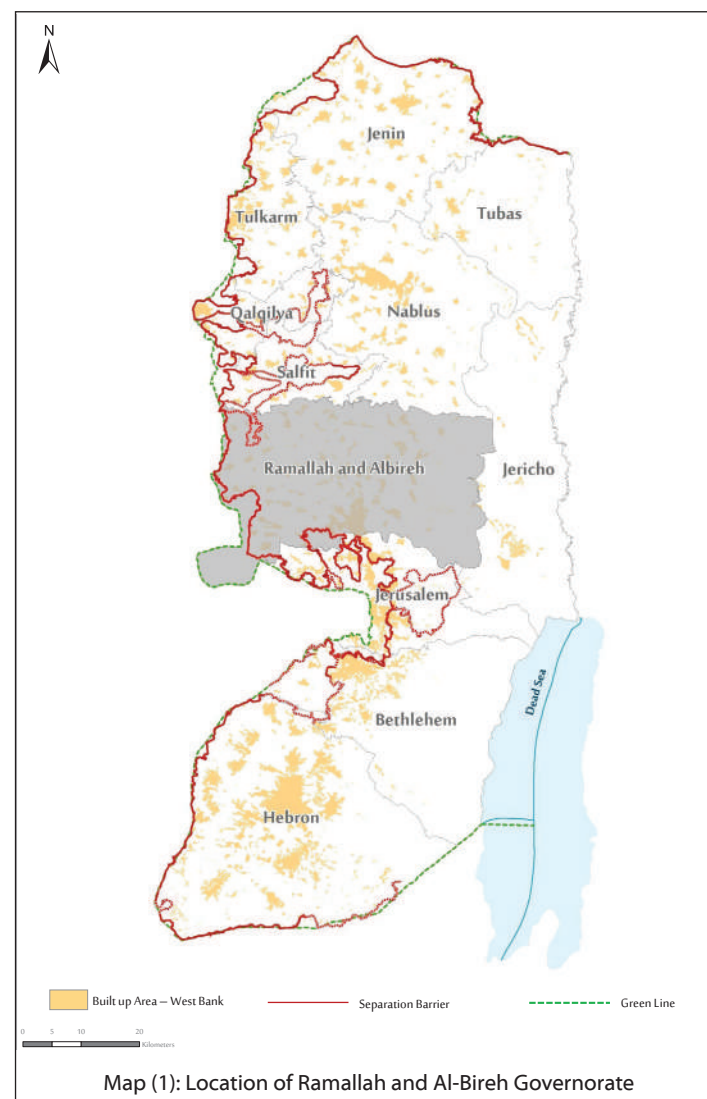
According to the 2017 census, total population of the governorate is 326,861 (currently, according to the estimates of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for mid-2019, the population of the governorate is about 340,475 people) with a ratio of 102 males per 100 females. Males constitute 50.6% and females account for 49.4% of the governorate's population.

The current geopolitical situation represents the most important challenge facing the strategic development aspirations of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. This is characterized by spatial fragmentation and contraction of the governorate's space, which is the potential space for urban expansion operations and for exploiting that in the development of various economic and social sectors. The process of continuously dividing the governorate's territory for building and expanding Israeli settlements, bypass roads, the separation wall, the identification of natural areas, military camps, and checkpoints poses a major challenge to any development orientation of the people of the governorate. In order to face this, a great deal of effort is required by the responsible authorities and in cooperation with the relevant international institutions.

Israel has carried out a series of measures on the ground to tighten its control over the governorate and to put restrictions in an effort to de-populate the governorate.

The geopolitical division is translated in terms of figures as follows: Area A (11.2% of total governorate area), Area B (24.5%), and Area C (64.3%). The current division, which defines the land of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (A, B) by about 36%, makes the process of development fragmented and not even sufficient for urban expansion in the near future.

The decision to develop a **SDFS** for Ramallah and A-Bireh Governorate, with a spatial dimension including the lands in Area C, was timely and important.



The Governorate's Development Vision

Vision is a picture of the future and a set of perceptions and orientations that the governorate aspires to reach within a specified period of time. It is expressed in a text that is co-drafted and agreed upon by the representatives of all sectors of the local community in the governorate.

Strategic Planning Framework

Based on the priority development issues identified for each development sector, the strategic objectives have been identified to contribute and resolve these issues. In order to achieve the strategic objectives, a set of indicators have been formulated and a number of programs and projects were selected up to year 2030, which if implemented can achieve the identified objectives.

Table (1) presents a matrix of priority issues, goals, indicators and development programs and projects for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. Table (2) represents the implementation plan, while Table (3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation plan.

The total cost of implementing the plan is US\$(590.619) million distributed over eleven years. Figure (2) shows the estimated costs for each development sector, Figure (3.a) indicates the estimated annual costs for all sectors, and Figure (3.b) shows the cost distribution of the plan between males & females.

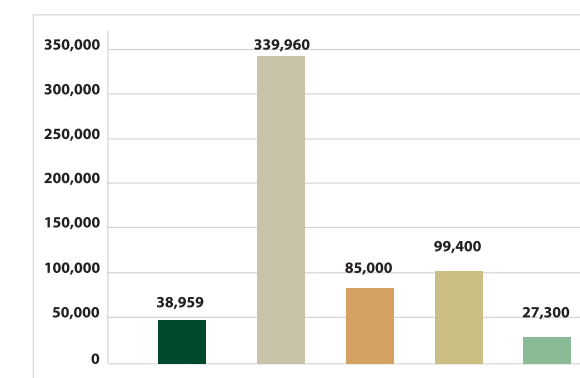


Figure (2): Estimated costs for each development sector (in 1,000 US\$)

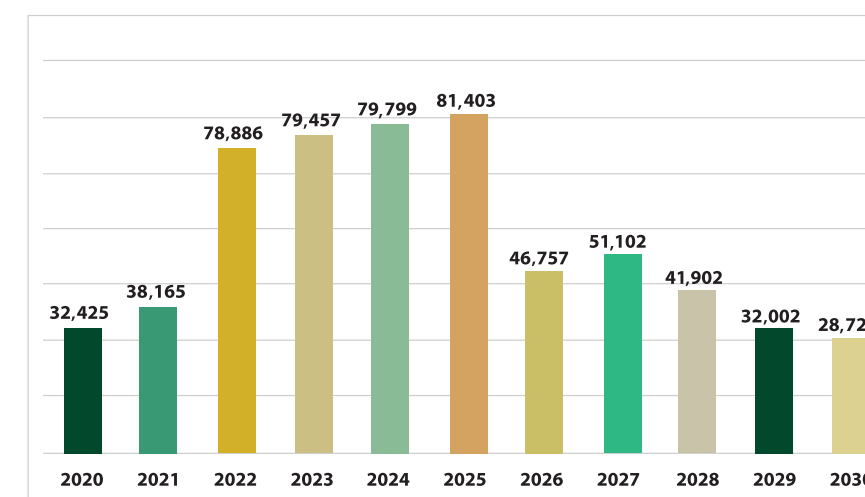


Figure (3.a): Estimated annual costs for all development sectors (in 1,000 US\$)

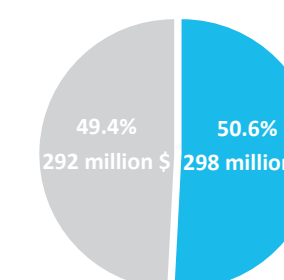


Figure (3.b): Distribution the cost of the plan by gender (in US\$)



Table (1): Matrix of priority issues, goals, indicators, and development programs & projects for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate in relation to the National Policy Agenda (2017-2022) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2030)

Priority Development Issue	Objectives	Indicators			Proposed Programs / Projects	National Policy Agenda (2017-2022)	Sustainable Development Goals (2030)
Administration and Good Governance - Local Governance				Administration and Good Governance - Local Governance			
Weak Institutional Building and Potentials in Local Government Units (LGUs)	Development and Improvement of Institutional Building and Raise the Financial Capacity of LGUs	Number of LGUs which New Structures have been Developed (Number)			Program of Strengthening Institutional Capacities in LGUs	7. Responsive Local Government	SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (11.3) SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16.1)
		Number of Municipalities that have Prepared Local SDIPs (Number)					
		Number of Village Councils Which Annual Capital Plans have been Updated ACIP (Number)					
		Number of LGUs that have Fixed Asset Records (Number)					
		Number of LGUs which a unified financial and administrative system has been applied (Number)					
		Number of Municipalities which the Operation and Maintenance System has been Implemented (Number)					
	Raising the Level of Coordination and Planning among the Local Government Units (LGUs)	Number of Completed joint Planning Projects (Number)			Program of Strengthening Follow-up Units, joint Planning and Joint Services	7. Responsive Local Government	SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (11.3) SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16.1)
		Number of Completed Master Plans for Localities (Number)					
		Number of Completed Land Registration Projects (Number)					
Administration and Good Governance – Security & Civil Defense and Emergency				Administration and Good Governance – Security & Civil Defense and Emergency			
					Program of the Development and Operation of Civil Defense Centers and Police Stations to Achieve Comprehensive Geography Coverage in the Governorate	26. Ensuring Community and National Security, Public Safety, and Rule of Law 27. Meeting the Basic Needs of Our Communities	SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16.1)

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