On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been supporting the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) with infrastructure measures and in institutional restructuring since 2010. The programme has the objective of improving the PCP’s capacity to carry out community policing to professional standards and actively contribute to crime prevention and criminal prosecution, based on the rule of law and international human rights standards.

During the programme’s initial phase (2010–2012), PCP and GIZ jointly developed a standardized building design for community police stations, which was applied to the construction of four stations in Jenin Governorate and a simulation station for training purposes at the Palestinian College for Police Sciences in Jericho. The standardized building design has so far served as a model to other donors for the construction of 14 additional police stations in the West Bank.

In the second phase (2013–2015), GIZ supported the PCP in developing an organizational model complementary to the engineering design to ensure the professional operation of all stations and to advance the concept of community policing. The model which comprises job descriptions, standard operating procedures and tools for community outreach improves the capacities of the officers to provide routine, citizen-oriented and standardized police work in their areas of responsibility.

During the third phase (2016–2018), the community policing approach initiated at the stations was expanded to include the establishment of mobile police stations (MPS) intended to increase the police presence in remote communities, especially in areas where Palestinian security control is restricted. After a successful pilot in Tulkarem Governorate and the procurement of special vehicles, the roll-out of the MPS concept to all districts in the West Bank began at the end of 2017.

The ongoing fourth programme phase will see the community policing approach consolidated and standardised at all levels of and throughout the West Bank.

Background and Objective

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Bank. The community-oriented organizational model will therefore be upscaled to the city and district police stations as well, and the PCP will be supported to mainstream the MPS concept with consistent standards for personnel, duties and workflows.

Conceptual and personnel skills in the area of community policing will also be strengthened at all hierarchical levels, primarily by means of training initiatives and the establishment of a leadership programme at the Police College in Jericho. The concept, co-developed with the PCP, was validated by the German Police University (DHPol) in Münster to be in line with international educational standards. In this regard, a cooperation agreement was signed with DHPol in October 2018 on providing technical support to the PCP leadership scheme.

In order to boost public confidence in the security forces, cooperation mechanisms between local police forces and community groups will be institutionalised throughout the West Bank. Particular emphasis will be placed on the involvement of civil society organisations and measures for addressing vulnerable groups, in particular women and violent-prone youth. Moreover, the cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior (MoI) and civil society organizations will be enhanced as a way of strengthening civilian oversight and accountability.

Achievements

- Building and equipping of 12 community police stations based on a new standardized design in the north and south of the West Bank, as well as of a simulation center for training purposes at the Police College in Jericho;
- Developing of a standard training curriculum on operating community police stations;
- Training of more than 1,200 police and coordination officers on community policing relevant capacities, such as awareness, communication and outreach techniques;
- Providing six mobile police stations (MPS) which operate in remote areas of the West Bank; ongoing process to expand to another five until 2020;
- Concluding a project-based cooperation agreement between the PCP and the German Police University Münster in order to provide technical support for leadership development; and
- Developing a standard cooperation mechanism between local police forces and community groups.

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