

## Sustainable economic development, employment and labour market

# More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth – Short-Term Courses (STC)

### Background and Objective

In the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, youth represent about one-third of the population. In 2021, the unemployment rate in Gaza Strip was 50.2% compared with 14.7% in the West Bank. The highest unemployment rate is around 40% among youth aged 20-24 years. While the unemployment problem in the Palestinian Territories is a consequence of the overall unstable economic and political situation, private sector companies also face the problem of being unable to find sufficiently and appropriately qualified skilled workers.

*“Through this approach, we are able to link the outputs of vocational training with the requirements of the labour market, therefore, providing more job opportunities for the most marginalized young people and fulfilling the needs of local market.”*

Majdi Qaud, Director of TVET Unit, Hebron Chamber of Commerce

Project name	More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth – Short-Term Courses (STC)
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Marginalized areas; Westbank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, Refugee Camps and Area C
Partners	Ministry of Labour, Private Sector Organizations and Community Based Organisations
Duration	May 2016 - March 2023

To match vocational training and education to the demands of the labour market, GIZ is currently implementing on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) the programme “More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth” (MJO). One of its components is the innovatively designed “Short-Term Courses” (STC), which aims at offering a new chance to underprivileged and unemployed youth to reintegrate them efficiently back into the labour market.

The STC component comprises two measures: the “short-term courses” and the “community-based projects”. Both measures are tailored to target beneficiaries aged



*Female beneficiary attending Modern Auto Mechatronics short-term courses in Tulkarem Vocational Training Centre*



*Carpentry Painting short-term course targets youth in marginalized areas in the West Bank*

between 16 to 39 years. They prioritize the primary interests of the economic sector as well as the needs of communities with marginalized youth, including refugees in Area C, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the STC component introduces sustainable interventions for socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged persons with disabilities (PWD).

The first measure, “short-term courses”, is implemented through Private Sector Organizations (PSOs). The implementation is preceded by a corresponding tendering procedure. The PSOs organize the planning and implementation of courses with the support of GIZ on their own responsibility in the framework of grant agreements or local subsidies. In exceptional cases, when the capacities of the implementing partners are not yet sufficient, GIZ carries out projects itself. The second measure of STC is the “community-based projects” which is implemented through the Community Based Organisations (CBOs). This measure aims at economically integrating marginalized young adults in remote areas. This is achieved by implementing supported income-generating projects that are identified based on the communities’ actual needs and priorities. The role of the CBOs is to facilitate the decision on the income-generating projects and follow-up the implementation of the projects to ensure transparency and accountability within the community. The STC approach

also takes the personal interests and talents of the students into account. It provides individualised instruction and tutoring schemes in order to strengthen their self-esteem and self-confidence which is often low due to previous school failures and dropouts. The STC measures are being aligned, in close consultation with the private sector companies, to the needed specializations in the labour market. By bridging the gap between the vocational training and education content and the actual requirements of the private sector, the STC works on ensuring a steady inclusion of underprivileged Palestinian youth to have long-term employment and better living standards.

## Achievements

- The programme supports 31 Private Sector Organizations (PSOs) and 10 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in the West Bank and Gaza.
- 2574 trainees, of which 44% were female, have successfully completed labour-market oriented STCs.
- 34% of the traced graduates of the STCs got employed within 6 months after graduation.

---

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
  
Dr. Steffen Entenmann, Head of MJO Programme  
Programme House (1) for Development Cooperation  
Al Bireh, Palestine  
T +972 2 241 4064/5  
steffen.entenmann@giz.de  
www.giz.de/en/worldwide

As of October 2021

Photo credits GIZ PS/MJO Programme

Text GIZ PS/MJO Programme

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)