

Governance

Police Programme

Background and Objective

On behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH has been implementing a police programme with the Palestinian Civil Police for more than a decade. The programme supports police to carry out community policing, strengthen crime prevention and establish mobile and stationary police stations. The partnership is based on the principles of rule of law and international human rights.

During the programme's initial phase ten years ago, GIZ and Palestinian Police jointly developed a design for community police stations in the Palestinian Territories. With German support, four pilot police stations were built in the Jenin Governorate and a simulation station for training purposes at the Palestinian College for Police Sciences in Jericho.

Since then, the pilot design has become standard for the construction of police stations throughout the Westbank and has served as a model to other donors for the construction of 14 police stations in the Westbank.

In the following years GIZ supported the police in developing an organizational model to ensure the professional operation of district police stations and to advance the concept of community policing. The goal is to strengthen capacities of police officers to provide routine, citizen-oriented and standardized police services.



Student jumping out of Mobile Police Station following community policing awareness session, Beit Wazan, Nablus, 2018

Project name	Strengthening of Police Structures
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office (AA)
Project region	Westbank
Partners	Ministry of Interior (MoI) Palestinian Civil Police (PCP)
Duration	October 2018 – June 2021

During the third phase of the programme from 2016-2018, the community policing approach was expanded to include the establishment of mobile police stations. The intention was to increase police presence in marginalized, 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 mobile police station component to all eleven districts in the Westbank began at the end of 2017 and delivery of units was completed in 2019.

In the ongoing fourth programme since 2018 the community-oriented organizational model is being upscaled to city and district police stations. The police is also mainstreaming the mobile police station concept with standards for personnel, duties and workflows.



Police officer during outreach activity in a public park, Jenin, 2019

Our current approach

The programme's goal is to strengthen Palestinian Civil Police to carry out community-centered policing services to professional standards. To achieve that, the current programme phase builds on the successes of its previous phases. It focusses especially on organizational development and capacity building for police officers.

The concept of community policing is being strengthened at all hierarchical levels by trainings and targeted capacity development initiatives. This includes a newly developed Leadership Development Programme at the Police College in Jericho. The concept was co-developed and validated by the German Police University in Münster.

Trust between police and local communities is a major factor in ensuring safe communities. As part of the programme, cooperation mechanisms between the police and community groups are being established throughout the Westbank. These groups comprise of civil society organisations and representatives of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. The goal is to make their voices and security needs heard by police.

Moreover, the cooperation between the Palestinian Ministry of Interior and civil society organizations is encouraged by the programme, as a way of strengthening civilian oversight and accountability of the Palestinian Civil Police.

Covid 19 Response

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on Palestinian society and public security in the Palestinian Territories. In March 2020 a state of emergency and restrictions of movement were introduced by the Palestinian Authority. In ensuring public safety and adherence of lockdown measure the Palestinian Police played a major role.

Immediately the GIZ programme reacted and supported the Palestinian Civil Police with a rapid pandemic-response package. It included protective equipment such as masks, gloves, protective clothing and sanitizers for police officers. The goal was to enable Palestinian police officers to be adequately protected when serving their communities and implementing pandemic lockdown procedures.

Selected Achievements

- A total of eleven fully equipped mobile police stations were provided to Palestinian Civil Police. They are now operating in all 11 districts of the Westbank and focus on providing police services to marginalised communities.
- More than 1,250 police officer have been trained on community policing, communication, negotiation skills and outreach techniques.
- An organizational model for city and district police stations was developed. It covers district commander's offices and sixteen branches of police specialized departments.
- A Police Leadership Development Programme was developed and successfully piloted.
- Training and capacity development have become an integral part of the personnel strategy of Palestinian Civil Police.
- 3000 police outreach activities were conducted with children to increase their trust in police and educate them of their rights towards police.
- 77,000 masks, 4,700 sanitizer bottles, 44,000 surgical gloves, 60 non-contact thermometer and 60 sanitizing pumps have been provided to support police activities during the pandemic.
- A vehicle to support the Covid-19 Emergency Follow up Committee field operations was procured.



Police officer providing COVID-19 awareness material to citizen during Covid-19 lockdown, Ramallah, 2020.

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