

Governance

German-Palestinian Police Partnership

Background and Objective

Since 2010, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office has been implementing a police programme with the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP). The programme's vision is a professional Palestinian Police operating based on the principles of rule of law and respecting international human rights. A force that protects its citizens, prevents crimes, and engages in its work with a community-policing approach.

Project name	German-Palestinian Police Partnership Programme
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Project region	West Bank
Partners	Ministry of Interior (MoI) Palestinian Civil Police (PCP)
Duration	01 April 2021 – 30 April 2024

For more than a decade, GIZ has been supporting the PCP through the programme *Strengthening of Police Structures in the Palestinian Territories*. Throughout the programme, Police capacities were developed, and community policing structures put in place. Important results have been achieved over four phases.

Phase I (2010 – 2013): Joint development with the Palestinian Civil Police of a design for rural police stations in the Westbank.

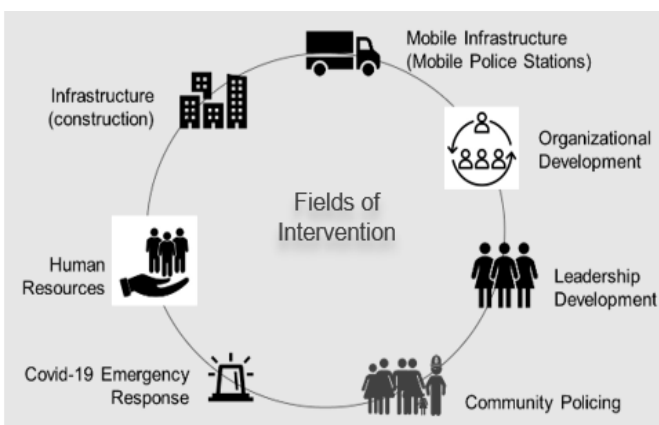
Phase II (2013 – 2016): Development of an organizational model to further institutionalize the district police stations and advance the concept of community policing.

Phase III (2016 – 2018): Expansion of community policing approach with the introduction of mobile police stations, to serve marginalized, remote communities, where police stations are restricted.

Phase IV (2018 – 2021): Upscaling of community outreach policing activities, developing an organizational model for city and district police stations, introduction of Covid-19 support.

One of the programme's biggest successes over the past four programme phases is the introduction of the community policing approach. The goal is to strengthen capacities of police officers to provide routine, citizen-oriented, and standardized police services. The approach has been introduced at all levels of the hierarchy within the Palestinian Civil Police, and gradually consolidated. In addition, a leadership development course on community policing for middle-ranking police officers was piloted at the Jericho Police Training School in cooperation with the Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei (German Police University, DHPol).

After the completion of the fourth phase, a new programme, the *German Palestinian Partnership Programme (GPPP)* was created to build on the successes of the previous programme phases.



GIZ support to the Palestinian Civil Police, fields of interventions over the past 10 years



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

The German-Palestinian Police Partnership Programme

Under the new programme (April 2021 - April 2024), the activities continue to focus on strengthening the Palestinian Civil Police to carry out citizen-oriented-police services to professional standards. To achieve that, the new programme builds on the successes of the four-phased previous programmes. After 10 years of successful project work by the GIZ and the two German police institutions, the programme now focuses on a closer coordination and integration of the GIZ programme activities with the Federal Police and the Federal Criminal Police Office fields of action in Palestine. The aim is to enable an independent development of the established cooperation as well as professional networks and relations of the German-Palestinian cooperation in the police area.

The programme consists of four key components:

- I. Strengthening capacities to implement a citizen-centered policing approach
- II. Strengthening capacities of the police in leadership and human resource management
- III. Improving the investigative capacity of the police in the areas of crime scene work and forensics
- IV. Strengthening the German-Palestinian police partnership to ensure sustainability

Leadership development

As part of the new programme, GIZ has supported the Palestinian Civil Police in rolling-out a three-level leadership programme for police officers. The aim is to train Palestinian police officers on best practices in police leadership and human resource management. The training content is jointly developed with the Palestinian Police and is designed in a gender-sensitive way and includes a human rights-based approach.

Over 40 police officers from three cohorts of Palestinian police officers, ranking from Major and Lieutenant Colonels, have graduated from the programme. A fourth round of the programme is currently being implemented and is targeting senior police officers in the ranks of Brigadiers and Colonels.

Selected Achievements:

- More than 774 police officers have been trained on community policing, crime scene investigation communication, negotiation skills and outreach techniques.
- A three-level police leadership development programme was developed. The mid-level programme was

successfully piloted and implemented - so far, 41 police officers have graduated. The senior-level programme, targeting eleven district commanders and their deputies, has been rolled out and is currently being implemented.

- 3.000 police outreach activities were conducted with children to increase their trust in the police and educate them of their rights towards the police.
- A total of eleven fully equipped mobile police stations were provided to the Palestinian Civil Police. They are now operating in all eleven districts of the West Bank providing police services to marginalised communities.
- An organizational model for city and district police stations was developed. It covers district commander's offices and 16 branches of police specialized departments.
- Furniture, equipment, and five vehicles were provided to build the capacity of the Criminal Evidence Department.
- The training facility for the leadership development programme at the Palestinian College for Police Science (PCPS) has been remodeled, equipped and furnished.



Police officers attending a training on leadership in the simulation lab at the Police training school in Jericho, Jericho, 2022.

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