



**Council of Ministers
General Secretariat**

**Performance Report
The First Hundred Days of the Nineteenth Government**

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1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

His Excellency, the President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, has entrusted Dr. Mohammad Mustafa with the formation of the nineteenth Palestinian government, granting it confidence and full authority to carry out its duties in accordance with the law. This mandate is to be executed within a framework of governance, transparency, and accountability, while also ensuring the dignity of citizens and strengthening their steadfastness. Upon receiving the assignment letter, the government began fulfilling its duties and responsibilities in line with established laws and procedures, focusing on immediately applicable priority areas based on medium and long-term plans. Foremost among these responsibilities is alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip, by providing comprehensive support and relief, preparing for economic revitalization and reconstruction, and intensifying efforts to achieve reform and institutional building across different sectors.

The government has identified a set of priorities, including leading, maximizing, and coordinating the relief efforts in the Gaza Strip, as well as developing plans and implementation mechanisms to reunify Palestinian institutions across all governorates. These priorities also encompass continuing the comprehensive reform process within all institutional, security, economic, administrative, and public finance sectors. Additionally, the government is committed to advancing the building of state institutions and providing full support to empower the judiciary system. Moreover, the government seeks to bolster the Palestinian national economy and investment, while fostering robust political, economic, and cultural ties and relations with brotherly Arab countries and friendly nations. The government is also dedicated to fortifying the resilience of the Palestinian people and protecting their rights, including unwavering commitment to safeguarding Jerusalem and its holy sites. A key focus is also on cultivating a culture of dialogue, transparency, inclusiveness, and active participation in decision-making processes for all members of Palestinian society. Furthermore, the government maintains a steadfast commitment to upholding public freedoms, including freedom of the press and media, based on established laws and regulations.

The nineteenth government reiterates its full commitment to the political reference of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as to the provisions of the Basic Law. This commitment is a national obligation and a responsibility that the government has undertaken with utmost seriousness, especially given the extremely challenging and difficult conditions facing the Palestinian Question.

As the Israeli war on our people in Gaza extends into its tenth month, the brutal and barbaric aggression by the Israeli war machine continues to destroy all facets of life in the Gaza Strip. This aggression has resulted in tens of thousands of martyrs, injuries, and disappearances, with approximately 80% of homes and infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, universities, mosques, churches, and roads, wrecked.

The majority of Palestinian residents have been forcibly displaced from their homes. Beyond this aggression, there are continuous crimes of killing, destruction, repeated incursions, settler terrorism, and ongoing arrests in the West Bank, as well as the relentless targeting of the steadfast Palestinian people in Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Palestine.

Amid ongoing indiscriminate killing, mass destruction, and the inhumane blocking of essential humanitarian aid by Israel, the occupying power imposes a severe financial and economic siege on Palestine through systematic piracy of Palestinian tax revenues, which account for about 65% of public financial revenues. This loss of over two-thirds of the government's revenues significantly hampers reform and institutional building efforts. Additionally, the worsening economic situation has led to a sharp decline in domestic revenues, with approximately half a million workers losing their jobs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past nine months.

Despite the challenging conditions, the Palestinian leadership and government remain committed to international political and diplomatic efforts to end the war and aggression against the Palestinian people and secure global recognition of the State of Palestine. Currently, 149 out of 193 countries have officially recognized Palestine as an independent state, with ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at stopping the war and gaining further recognition.

Under the leadership of His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, the government will continue working with all relevant parties and international institutions to put an end to the Israeli aggression and war of genocide, counter attempts to undermine the rights of the Palestinian people, provide emergency relief to those affected, and undertake comprehensive reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, and ultimately working towards the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

This report highlights the key interventions undertaken by the Nineteenth Government during its first hundred days in office, spanning from April 1, 2024, to July 10, 2024.

1.2 Summary of Key Interventions

Over the past hundred days, the government has faced unprecedented political, security, and economic challenges. These include the escalating arrogance of the Israeli occupation, the ongoing genocidal war on Gaza, the aggression against the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, and limited international support. In addition to the worsening financial crisis, primarily caused and exacerbated by the piracy of Palestinian tax revenues (clearance funds) by the Israeli occupation. Despite these obstacles, the government has maintained strong performance, adhering to its mandates and action plan. It has focused on relief for Gaza, institutional reform, improving citizen services, and addressing the financial crisis, while continuing to operate within available resources.

The government took immediate action by implementing an emergency plan in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The main focus was on providing financial aid and in-kind assistance to those in need in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, the government coordinated with international organizations to ensure that displaced Palestinians received the necessary assistance and had access to emergency medical care. To support Gaza students affected by the war, the government established online e-schools to help them regain their lost education and uphold their right to education that was disrupted by the war. Furthermore, the government set up the first temporary school and arranged for high school exams for displaced Palestinian students in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Despite the illegal Israeli occupation's withholding and deductions from Palestinian clearance revenues specifically allocated for the southern governorates, the government continues to pay government employees in these regions the same salary and at the same rate as those in the northern governorates.

In the northern governorates, the government has worked to restore electricity, water, and sewage networks damaged by repeated incursions by Israeli occupation forces and settler attacks. It has also supported Palestinian families in Jerusalem affected by Israeli policies to enhance their resilience.

To reinforce the core principles of governance, transparency, and accountability, the government has implemented necessary measures aimed at achieving institutional reform, improving service delivery, and fostering collaboration with civil society. A committee has been formed to review contract employees and assess financial and administrative procedures in government institutions. Additionally, the government is evaluating the roles of operational funds and compensation institutions to localize job opportunities and ensure sustainability. By upholding these core principles, the government remains committed to providing services and strengthening the resilience of the Palestinian people in the face of occupation.

To enhance the quality of public sector services, the government formed a committee to review and assess the necessity of all contracted state employees in each government institution. Additionally, a thorough review of financial and administrative procedures in select government institutions was conducted, focusing on improving governance within these entities. Relevant authorities have been tasked with evaluating the roles of various employment, lending, and compensation institutions and funds to promote local job opportunities and ensure sustainability. The government is also working on improving the governance of medical referrals and developing a new referral system, with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance overseeing its preparation.

To enhance the performance of the justice sector, the government prioritized supporting the High Judicial Council's efforts and strengthening the judicial system. This involved appointing 13 judges and

endorsing a judicial shift system to increase the efficiency of interventions in lawsuits. Additionally, the Ministry of Justice launched and piloted an electronic consultation platform to enable citizens to participate in legal discussions and provide feedback on draft laws.

The government also implemented measures to improve governance, transparency, and combat corruption. This included activating complaint and suggestion units within government departments and making the general budget and Cabinet decisions public. To promote partnership and an inclusive decision-making culture, the government held meetings with development partners and civil society organizations to discuss ways to strengthen the rule of law and improve access to justice. Additionally, the government provided updates to CSOs on the reform measures undertaken since assuming office.

Given the difficult economic conditions, limited resources, and the piracy of Palestinian clearance revenues by the Israeli occupation, the government endorsed a set of financial and administrative reforms to rationalize spending. These measures included halting the use of government vehicles for those below the rank of ministers and department heads, regulating vehicle use, and installing electronic fuel monitoring devices.

The government also decided to suspend the purchase of office buildings for 2024 and 2025, limit the renting of new buildings, and rationalize spending on publications, advertisements, and stationery. The purchase of new vehicles was ceased, promoting the optimal use and redistribution of existing vehicles within departments. New appointments for 2024 were suspended, except in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and newly established ministries. The government reaffirmed its commitment to strictly enforcing retirement age for civil and military employees, ending service extensions beyond retirement age. Retired government employees will no longer be contracted unless absolutely necessary, with a two-year cooling-off period before reemployment can be considered. These reforms aim to improve procedures, optimize resource consumption, and achieve financial stability.

To address unemployment among workers who have lost their jobs within the Green Line territories, the government, in partnership with the Palestinian Monetary Authority, launched the "Bader" program with a portfolio valued at NIS 70 million. Eligible workers will receive interest-and-fee-free loans of up to NIS 60,000, with a flexible repayment period of four years and a six-month grace period.

The government has made significant efforts to ensure the sustainability of essential services and the implementation of programs and projects across various sectors. This includes the successful completion of road network and city entrance rehabilitation, as well as the ongoing construction of agricultural roads. The government has approved the disbursement of local governments' dues from road transport fees and allocated NIS 175 million for infrastructure projects in different areas. It has also completed school construction and maintenance with support from Norway and opened five new branch offices of the Ministry of Justice in different governorates to enhance access to justice.

Additionally, the government has launched an emergency project to provide financial support to municipalities in the West Bank, with an initial amount of USD 33 million funded by the World Bank and the French government. The government has rehabilitated the water and sewage networks in the Tulkarm and Jenin refugee camps at a total cost of NIS 2 million. Furthermore, it has launched a funding program with a total of USD 45 million provided by the World Bank and other international organizations to strengthen the Palestinian health system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

To enhance relationships with brotherly Arab countries and friendly nations, the government has signed numerous agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields with several countries, including the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Netherlands, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Additionally, the government has applied for full membership for the State of Palestine in the United Nations and has witnessed recognition of the State of Palestine by numerous countries.

The government has dedicated substantial efforts to achieving financial stability to fulfill its responsibilities. This has been pursued through two main approaches: short-term measures and long-term stability. Short-term measures include implementing various actions and reforms to reduce the gap between government revenues and expenditures and seeking emergency budget support from donors. On the other hand, Long-term stability focuses on achieving financial stability by diversifying the national economy and redefining the economic relationship with the occupying power, which is fundamental for financial and economic stability and gaining greater control over the state's financial resources. The government is also seeking active contributions from Arab and friendly countries, as well as international institutions, which is necessary for the state's treasury and its developmental programs.

In line with its vision to build, strengthen, and develop the institutions of the independent State of Palestine, the government is actively enhancing services for citizens, strengthening their resilience, and launching several initiatives to enable economic recovery and revitalization while creating a supportive environment for development. These initiatives primarily target several key areas, which include:

- **Energy Security Initiative:** aimed at enhancing reliance on alternative energy sources.
- **Localization of Healthcare Services Initiative:** aimed at improving the quality of health care, and service delivery in the health sector and reduce costs.
- **Digital Transformation Initiative:** aimed at Accelerating Digital Transformation and Enabling the Digital Economy.
- **Social Protection System Development Initiative:** Aimed at achieving social justice and establishing a robust social safety net.
- **Economic Empowerment and Diversification Initiative:** Aimed at strengthening the economy and creating new job opportunities.

1.3 Repercussions of War and Occupation Aggression

The unprecedented and brutal Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, ongoing since October 7, 2023, has had a devastating impact on all aspects of life. It has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis and caused immense harm to the population and infrastructure. Tragically, over 38,000 Palestinian citizens have lost their lives, with approximately 70% of them being women and children. Additionally, more than 10,000 people are still missing, presumed to be trapped under the rubble, while the number of injured has surpassed 88,000. In the West Bank, the aggression since October 7, 2023, has resulted in the martyrdom of 575 people, injuries to over 5,300, and the arrest of around 9,655 individuals. Sadly, the loss of human life is expected to continue rising due to the ongoing Israeli aggression and the deliberate and brutal targeting of civilians.

Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces continue to systematically destroy buildings, residential areas, infrastructure, public facilities, government offices, health centers, and public institutions in the Gaza Strip. It is particularly distressing that even government and UNRWA schools, repurposed as shelters for forcibly displaced Palestinians, have not been spared from this devastation. As a result of the relentless and indiscriminate bombardment by the Israeli war machine, an alarming 70% of homes and infrastructure have been destroyed.

In the northern governorates (West Bank), the frequency of attacks by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers has increased, particularly in the governorates of Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, and Tubas. During repeated incursions into cities, villages, and refugee camps, the Israeli occupation forces employ destructive tactics such as bulldozing infrastructure, destroying both private and public facilities, isolating areas and turning them into large open-air prisons, imposing severe restrictions on movement between governorates, seizing land, and obstructing the delivery of essential health and humanitarian aid. Additionally, there has been a rise in settler violence and attacks on Palestinian areas.

The indiscriminate bombardment by the Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip has forced the displacement of two million people, which is equivalent to 90% of Gaza's population, from their original places of residence. They have been forcibly transferred to new locations in highly populated areas. This massive forced displacement has led to severe health impacts and made it difficult for families to meet their basic human needs. Consequently, poverty rates and food insecurity have increased among the displaced population.

The war has had wide-ranging social impacts on the residents of the Gaza Strip, leading to the dismantling and destruction of social and service structures, including schools, hospitals, and cultural centers. As a result, the social fabric has been severely affected, leaving the population with deep psychological scars. The war has caused increased anxiety and trauma, strained social relationships due to forced displacement and migration, and turned many residents into refugees. This upheaval has also led to changes in identities and social conditions, depriving many individuals of their right to education and learning opportunities. Consequently, all 2.2 million residents of the Gaza Strip now face extreme poverty and severe food insecurity, with poverty levels also rising in the West Bank.

Since the start of the Israeli aggression, the Israeli occupation has deliberately targeted the education sector and its institutions, aiming to eradicate education in Palestine. Currently, the remaining schools in the Gaza Strip are being used as shelters for forcibly displaced Palestinians uprooted from their homes and regions. This situation makes it challenging for the schools to fulfill their educational role. Restoring education to its previous level is a daunting task that requires substantial resources for rebuilding schools and finding alternative accommodations for the displaced individuals currently sheltering in them. The Israeli war has completely disrupted education in Gaza, affecting approximately 620,000 students, with nearly 90,000 children unable to attend kindergarten and around 35,000 high school students deprived of the opportunity to sit for their final exams.

The local government sector is facing numerous challenges due to the ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and the consistent targeting of infrastructure, municipal facilities, and resources by the Israeli occupation forces. Consequently, the ability of local governments to deliver essential services to citizens has been severely hampered. The disruption of most water and sewage systems has forced operations into relief mode, with the primary focus on providing the minimum amount of water necessary for survival.

The electricity infrastructure in the Gaza Strip has also been deliberately targeted by the Israeli occupation forces. As a result, most of the distribution and transmission networks have been destroyed. At the onset of the aggression, the Israeli government ordered the disconnection of all main power lines that supplied Gaza from the Israeli Electric Company. These ten main lines had a total capacity of 120 megawatts. Additionally, the delivery and transfer of fuel to the Strip were completely blocked, leading to a complete shutdown of the Gaza power plant. Consequently, there was a 100% power capacity shortfall, plunging Gaza into total darkness and isolation and causing power outages for citizens and critical facilities such as water wells, wastewater treatment plants, water desalination plants, water pumping stations, hospitals, and primary care clinics, etc.

Similarly, the Israeli occupation forces have targeted photovoltaic solar energy projects in the Gaza Strip, funded by donors. These projects were implemented in hospitals, health clinics, schools, universities, desalination facilities, and treatment plants. They also targeted photovoltaic solar energy projects on residential rooftops and commercial buildings, carried out through the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) and donor countries, as well as through revolving fund and self-funded projects.

During military incursions into cities and refugee camps in the West Bank, the Israeli occupation forces deliberately targeted electricity distribution companies and infrastructure, including transformers and power grids. Consequently, the financial and technical requirements for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the energy sector have been further exacerbated. This poses significant challenges to ensuring the safe provision of this essential service to residential, industrial, service, and agricultural sectors.

The ongoing Israeli war on Gaza and its impact on the West Bank have caused immense and large-scale damage to the Palestinian economy, creating the greatest shock in its history. The Israeli aggression on Gaza has led to the destruction of most factors of production, disrupted economic activity, and resulted in massive losses for the Palestinian banking sector. Additionally, economic activity in the West Bank has witnessed significant recession due to closures between different governorates, the continued illegal withholding of Palestinian tax revenues (clearance funds) by Israel, and restrictions imposed on most Palestinian workers, preventing them from returning to their workplaces inside the Green Line. These workers used to contribute approximately USD 3 billion annually to the Palestinian economy, equivalent to 15% of the Gross National Income. Consequently, thousands of West Bank workers have lost their jobs, and shoppers from the 1948 territories and East Jerusalem, who typically spent around USD 1.5 billion annually in West Bank markets, can no longer shop there. These developments have had severe economic consequences, eroding the main components of the Palestinian economy and striking at its core.

The Palestinian economy has clearly contracted and slowed down. This, coupled with financial constraints on public finances, has impacted the effectiveness of social protection programs. As a result, poverty levels in the Palestinian territories have increased. Additionally, the rising rates of poverty and lack of job opportunities have disrupted social balance and put economic pressure on families. The consequences of the Israeli war and aggression have been devastating, posing significant challenges for the Palestinian people and requiring both local and international efforts and urgent intervention to prevent the rapid collapse of all aspects of life.

2.0 Interventions Related to Priority (1): Relief, Reconstruction, Economic Revival, and Social Protection System

2.1 Immediate Relief for Gaza

The Palestinian government is following with grave concern the consequences of the Israeli aggression on Gaza while actively addressing the resulting humanitarian devastation within the limits of available resources and capabilities, as well as coordinating and providing emergency relief assistance. Given the involvement of multiple international and regional parties providing humanitarian support, the government is working to establish a unified coordination mechanism to organize and maximize efforts. This involves focusing on central coordination for all these parties and aid to ensure swift entry, equitable distribution, and effectiveness, following sound and transparent governance practices in collaboration with all relevant parties. This includes Palestinian, Arab, international, and UN relief organizations, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which should be supported by all means to ensure its mandate is implemented as effectively as possible. The agency must continue its critical and vital role for the Palestinian people, and all attempts to undermine or jeopardize its work should be firmly rejected.

Key Interventions:

The Palestinian government has made significant efforts to **organize and enhance humanitarian support for the Gaza Strip**. It has been coordinating closely with international relief organizations daily to ensure that aid is distributed swiftly and efficiently to displaced Palestinians. To improve the humanitarian response to the crises in Gaza, the government has implemented several measures. Firstly, it increased the number of humanitarian aid trucks entering Gaza through the Rafah border crossing before its reoccupation and subsequent total closure. Additionally, the Ministry of Social Development has expanded the number of aid distribution warehouses, established emergency committees throughout Gaza to ensure efficient coordination and facilitation of aid distribution, and restructured their coordinators to work with donors across all Gaza governorates. To further support these efforts, young graduates, both male and female, have been recruited as volunteers to assist in family data collection and updates at the Ministry of Social Development's distribution centers.

The Ministry of Social Development expanded its database of poor and vulnerable families and provided both financial and in-kind assistance to Gaza's residents. This included:

- Cash aid of NIS 750 for 172,000 families.
- 46,000 orphan sponsorships totaling NIS 65 million.
- Food aid for approximately 450,000 citizens, including 14,163 food parcels.
- 945 non-food parcels distributed by the Ministry's staff in North Gaza.
- 1,500 cubic meters of drinking water distributed to shelters and neighborhoods in West and North Gaza.

- ✖ Providing cash assistance of NIS 750 to 172,000 families.
- ✖ Offering 46,000 sponsorships for orphans totaling NIS 65 million;
- ✖ Distributing food aid to 450,000 citizens.
- ✖ Establishing the first makeshift shelter for approximately 80 displaced families by the Ministry of Social Development.

Additionally, the Ministry has established the first reunion shelter for displaced Palestinians to reunite families, restore social cohesion, and meet their basic needs. This shelter, located in the al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis, is the first of potentially more shelters, to be set up as needed based on ground developments. The Ministry, in cooperation with partners and donors, also provided psychological and social support services to children, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly affected by the Israeli war on Gaza.

The Ministry of Labour has provided NIS 13 million in cash assistance to 3,672 workers from Gaza, with additional payments being processed. Furthermore, assistance has been extended to 25 cooperative associations, and 123 job opportunities have been created for workers from Gaza who lost their jobs in areas within the Green Line and were unable to return to Gaza. The ministry has also documented the violations committed by the Israeli occupation against Palestinian workers and establishments, presenting and discussing these issues during a special session at the 112th International Labour Conference in Geneva.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has provided financial assistance of NIS 898,750 for humanitarian cases.

The Ministry of Health has been closely monitoring the health situation in the Gaza Strip. It has provided emergency medical supplies, including medicines, medical equipment, laboratory materials, and vaccines, totaling USD 6 million, funded by the World Bank, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization, to address the needs throughout 2024. To further support the healthcare system, the ministry has increased the number of mobile clinics and field hospitals.

- ✖ Providing emergency medical needs for 2024 valued at USD 6 million.
- ✖ Operating Palestine Hospital in Cairo to receive wounded Palestinians.
- ✖ Establishing online e-schools to provide schooling for Gaza students by teachers in West Bank schools.
- ✖ Providing education to 20,000 higher education Gaza students in West Bank universities.

Additionally, the Palestine Hospital in Cairo has been prepared to receive a significant number of injured Palestinians resulting from the Israeli aggression on Gaza. This effort involved deploying over 45 Palestinian doctors who were forcibly displaced to Egypt. Despite the challenges, 6,645 patients were successfully referred for treatment outside the Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing before it was reoccupied and completely closed. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding has been signed to establish two field hospitals in Gaza: one in the al-Mawasi area west of Khan Younis with 62 beds, and another in the Deir al-Balah area near al-Aqsa Hospital with 50 beds, in cooperation with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF).

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has established online e-schools to provide education to students in the Gaza Strip, involving 1,800 teachers from West Bank schools. Additionally, the ministry has activated the first temporary school in Gaza. To support and restore education disrupted by the Israeli war, the ministry has mobilized EUR 2 million provided by Belgium to set up temporary schools in the Gaza Strip. A detailed plan has been developed and adopted, outlining specific work axes and pathways for the emergency situation and the resumption of the educational process in the southern governorates. This plan includes post-war recovery and reconstruction pathways for the higher education system and its institutions. Furthermore, efforts are underway to facilitate the General

Secondary Education Certificate Examination (Tawjihi) for displaced students from Gaza to the Arab Republic of Egypt and other countries, in coordination with Palestinian embassies and missions in the Arab Republic of Egypt and other countries.

Regarding higher education, a comprehensive plan has been developed and approved to address the emergency response and the resumption of higher education in the southern governorates. This includes strategies for the recovery and reconstruction of the higher education system. The ministry has provided education to 20,000 Gaza students in West Bank universities and has completed the registration of 57,000 students from Gaza on the electronic platform for the current summer semester in West Bank universities.

The ministry is also closely monitoring the situation of Gaza students who have pursued studies abroad due to the Israeli war. An agreement with the Ministry of Higher Education in the Arab Republic of Egypt has been reached to facilitate the enrollment of final-year students in practical majors as visiting students. Additionally, the ministry has provided more than 3,000 scholarships for the upcoming academic year, especially for students from Gaza. Administrative, technical, and substantive mechanisms have been developed for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to accredit and authenticate documents issued by higher education institutions in the Gaza Strip free of charge.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs has developed a relief plan for Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, with a particular focus on addressing the unique needs of women. As part of this effort, the ministry has prepared a special report examining the social and economic impacts of the Israeli aggression on women in Gaza, drawing on both national and international references. In cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the ministry has identified key areas for technical support, including studying and assessing the effects of the Israeli genocidal war and developing a recovery plan based on a gender equality perspective.

To enhance coordination and action, a dialogue meeting titled "Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Action in Gaza" was organized in New York. This meeting brought together representatives from the United Nations, its agencies, and member states of the Global Coalition on Women, Peace, and Security. Additionally, several cultural projects in Gaza have received financial support totaling USD 122,000. This includes the implementation of the Open Studio Project, supported by the Palestinian Cultural Fund. Another significant step has been the creation of a database to document the ongoing cultural genocide in Gaza, as well as the formation of specialized committees to address this issue.

The Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy has implemented urgent relief interventions during the aggression on the southern governorates. It has provided workspaces equipped with internet in Gaza to enable remote workers in the telecommunications and IT sectors to continue their work. Additionally, the ministry launched the "Free Bundles Initiative" in partnership with Palestinian cellular companies, offering free calling minutes to the people of Gaza. Toll-free numbers managed by the Ministry of Social Development have also been made available for inquiries from Gaza's citizens. To identify areas in Gaza with the greatest need for internet access, the ministry, in partnership with the International Quartet, has established an electronic platform called the Telecom Dashboard. Furthermore, two shipments of telecommunications equipment have been delivered to restore communication services in Gaza. To support government institutions and relief agencies, a platform has

been launched to collect data on telecommunications infrastructure in Palestine, with a focus on Gaza. The ministry has also secured a decision from the International Telecommunication Union to rebuild the telecommunications sector and establish an international fund to support infrastructure development projects in Gaza.

The Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) has reconnected some electricity networks in Gaza using available resources while considering the existing conditions. As part of this effort, PENRA has developed a contingency intervention plan, which includes the installation of solar energy systems valued at USD 6.5 million. Additionally, the authority has procured essential equipment for the rehabilitation of the electricity system, including 282 kilometers of medium voltage cables, 700 electrical poles and towers, and 1 megawatt of solar panels. These solar panels consist of 1,940 panels and 291 inverters, all currently stored at PENRA's warehouses in Jericho. Furthermore, PENRA has made arrangements to receive additional quantities of equipment funded through the World Bank's ASPIRE project.

The Ministry of Local Government has intensified efforts through the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) to support and empower Gaza's municipalities in dealing with the aftermath of the war. It has allocated EUR 23.6 million for Gaza's municipalities under the Municipal Development Program. However, these funds are currently frozen until conditions permit intervention following the establishment of a ceasefire.

2.2 Assessing Damages in the Gaza Strip

Given the ongoing Israeli war and aggression on the Gaza Strip, government departments are continuously assessing and updating the damages incurred across various sectors. These preliminary data will be further refined and updated once the aggression ceases.

2.3 Reconstruction of Areas Subjected to Invasion and Attacks by the Israeli occupation in the West Bank

The Israeli occupation's invasions and attacks on the northern governorates have been relentless, resulting in the systematic destruction of infrastructure and the deliberate demolition of various private and public structures in the West Bank. Cities, villages, and refugee camps have been isolated and turned into open-air prisons, with tightened and crippling sieges imposed on various West Bank areas. These measures include restricting movement between governorates, confiscating land, and obstructing the delivery of health and humanitarian aid. In response, the Palestinian government is making significant efforts to rebuild and repair the damaged infrastructure and properties in the northern governorates affected by the Israeli occupation forces.

 Key Interventions:

The government is tirelessly implementing a series of interventions to enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid and urgent health and social services to areas subjected to invasions by the Israeli occupation forces. These interventions include rehabilitating destroyed roads and networks, repairing and reconstructing damaged private buildings and public facilities, and providing emergency housing for citizens affected by these attacks, particularly for those whose homes have become uninhabitable.

Priority is given to the most affected areas, including refugee camps in Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, and Tubas.

In this context, relevant ministries are actively involved in removing debris caused by the destruction and bulldozing of infrastructure following each invasion by the Israeli occupation army. They focus on repairing buildings and public spaces, as well as reconnecting water, sewage, and electricity networks in areas targeted by Israeli army and settler attacks. These efforts are particularly concentrated in the most affected areas, such as Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, Tubas, and Hebron's Masafer Yatta, with coordination from the Refugee Affairs Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) regarding refugee camps. Additionally, the government has provided compensation to as many citizens as possible who have been affected by attacks from Israeli settlers and occupation forces in villages like al-Mughayir, Qusra, Duma, and the refugee camps of Jenin and Nur Shams, with support from Arab funds and donor organizations.

- ✘ Removing debris caused by the destruction and bulldozing of infrastructure.
- ✘ Reconnecting water, sewage, and electricity networks in areas targeted by Israeli invasions.
- ✘ Providing compensation to as many citizens as possible affected by attacks from Israeli occupation forces and settlers.

In this context, a database has been created to monitor housing damage in the northern governorates. This database is integrated with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to generate computerized reports. Additionally, a comprehensive list of roads that have been completely destroyed due to Israeli occupation practices and attacks has been compiled and is regularly updated. Technical committees responsible for monitoring damage from invasions by Israeli occupation forces and attacks by settlers in each governorate have been reconstituted and reactivated.

The Palestinian Water Authority has allocated around NIS 2 million to rehabilitate water and sewage networks in Tulkarm and Jenin refugee camps, addressing the impact of repeated incursions by Israeli occupation forces. The authority has also purchased generators and equipment worth approximately USD 1.5 million to support the emergency response of the West Bank Water Department. Additionally, the Energy Authority has supplied electrical equipment for installation in cities and refugee camps affected by Israeli attacks. This support includes 30 transformers, 87 poles and towers, 20 kilometers of medium-voltage cables, and 7 kilometers of low-voltage cables, specifically targeting Jenin, Jenin Refugee Camp, Tulkarm, Tulkarm Refugee Camp, and Nur Shams Refugee Camp.

2.4 Essential Services

The Palestinian government is committed to providing essential services to citizens across all geographic areas, including social, health, educational, security, and economic services. These services encompass a wide range of areas such as water and electricity supply, social protection, agricultural services (including vaccines and veterinary immunizations), education (from kindergartens to universities), consumer protection and market monitoring, public safety, public order, judicial services, and other essential services. Particular emphasis is placed on healthcare services, which are vital for citizens. This includes primary healthcare, hospital services, and child vaccinations.

Key Interventions:

In the midst of a complex political situation and a worsening financial crisis, the government faces significant challenges in maintaining and providing essential services. Despite these obstacles, each government department is making substantial efforts to ensure that services remain accessible to all citizens throughout Palestine.

The Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA) has undertaken several key initiatives to address electricity issues in the Hebron area. These include expanding the Beit Ula substation, establishing a connection between the substation and the city of Hebron, and extending distribution networks within Hebron. Valued at USD 7 million, these projects aim to provide the city with 40 MW of power from the Beit Ula substation.

In addition to these efforts, PENRA has launched several other important projects. The installation of 800 solar energy systems, costing USD 2.5 million, is part of a revolving fund project designed to assist poor and low-income families. Another project involves installing solar energy systems on the rooftops of 16 government and health facilities, also at a cost of

USD 2.5 million. Furthermore, PENRA is connecting the industrial area east of Nablus to the Sarra substation, with expansion efforts costing USD 4.5 million, to provide an additional 45 MW of power. Additionally, a contract has been signed to supply 35,000 smart electricity meters to distribution companies in the West Bank at a cost of USD 3.6 million. The plans and designs for a power transformer substation intended for interconnection with Jordan at 132KV have been reviewed, and efforts are underway to secure the necessary funding. Final approvals are pending for signing the purchase agreement between both parties.

- ✧ Launching a set of projects to connect the industrial area east of Nablus to the Sarra substation and expand it at a cost of USD 4.5 million.
- ✧ Addressing electricity issues in Hebron and increasing capacity by 40 MW.
- ✧ Adding 4 Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services to the Hukumati – E-Services platform.
- ✧ Adding 3 Government-to-Government (G2G) services to the Hukumati – E-Services platform.

The Palestinian Water Authority is undertaking several significant projects to enhance the availability of drinking water and reduce losses. These initiatives, which total approximately USD 24 million, are being carried out in Yatta, Jaba, the Jenin Industrial Free Zone, al-Rashid neighborhood, and Kafr Sur. Additionally, a well is being drilled in Janzur, Jenin, to further support water supply efforts.

The Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy has recently expanded the range of services available on the Hukumati – E-Services platform. Four new Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services have been added, including: cancelling health insurance, inquiring about permit status, issuing a replacement ID appendix for damaged or lost ID cards, and issuing a second birth certificate in Arabic for births after 1982. The Ministry has also introduced three new Government-to-Government (G2G) services: inquiring about kinship, checking civil registry with a personal photo included, and verifying marital status. In addition, the Ministry has made significant strides in connecting various institutions. The Istiqlal Bank for Investment and Development has been linked to the National Data Carrier (UXP), and the Palestinian Electricity Transmission Ltd has been connected to the Security Information & Event

Management (SIEM) in the government's Security Operations Center. The Ministry has also developed websites for three institutions: the Palestinian Security Forces, the National Commission for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (TVET), and the Ministry of Agriculture.

To facilitate electronic data exchange, the Ministry has signed three memorandums of understanding (MoUs). The first MoU was signed between the Ministry of Economy and the Istiqlal Bank for Investment and Development, the second between the Ministry of Interior and the Supreme Judge Department, and an additional MoU addendum between the Ministry of Interior and the Palestinian Pension Agency.

To ensure the sustainability of services provided by the **Ministry of Public Works and Housing**, the ministry is responsible for planning, designing, managing, and maintaining public buildings, facilities, and public road networks outside local government municipal boundaries. This includes main roads and maintaining a comprehensive database for the road network.

Currently, the ministry is overseeing 52 projects, with 36 focused on the road sector and 16 on building and public facilities. Fourteen road projects have been completed, and the Monument Project, which involves two phases (metal structures and finishing), is 60% complete. The ministry is also managing projects funded by the public treasury and Arab funds across various governorates. Additionally, studies are underway for strategically important road projects, such as an alternative route to Wadi al-Nar, a parallel road to Qalandiya, and a housing project for young people.

With respect to **the local government sector**, efforts are underway to enhance decentralization, empower local governments, and expand their authority. A national dialogue has been initiated to review the "Local Council Elections Law," and studies have been completed, in cooperation with the World Bank, to address the needs of the solid waste sector, which is valued at USD 17 million in the West Bank. The Ministry of Local Government has approved the commencement of 59 projects worth USD 10.4 million, funded by the Arab Monetary Fund and managed by the Islamic Development Bank. Additionally, the implementation of the Cabinet's decision to disburse road transport fees to local governments for 2023 is ongoing, with priority given to infrastructure projects totaling NIS 175 million.

The Ministry of Local Government, in collaboration with the Municipal Development and Lending Fund, is committed to supporting and empowering local governments to improve service delivery. As part of the Municipal Development Program, Phase Four, EUR 22.6 million has been allocated to 134 municipalities in the West Bank, with projects worth approximately EUR 6 million already initiated. Furthermore, a contract has been signed to purchase five waste collection vehicles for the Joint Service Councils for Solid Waste Management in Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus, Tubas, and Jerusalem, at a total cost of EUR 565,000.

In addition, an emergency support agreement funded by the World Bank and the French government, totaling USD 33 million, has been signed. This funding is allocated for municipalities in the West Bank and Gaza, benefiting a total of 163 local governments. The primary objective of this support is to empower these authorities in delivering essential services and creating temporary job opportunities.

The Ministry of Transport has undertaken several measures to improve service quality and accessibility for citizens. Among these initiatives is the establishment and operation of the Directorate

of Transport and Communications in Halhul. Additionally, the ministry has decided to replace and renew driving licenses for Gaza Strip residents with those issued in the northern governorates (West Bank). This initiative aims to alleviate the hardships faced by Gaza residents due to the ongoing Israeli aggression. To date, 7,229 licenses have been replaced.

Moreover, the ministry has launched a computerized platform allowing Gaza residents to report damages, with approximately 7,345 applications submitted since its inception. To safeguard citizens' property, the ministry has relocated vehicles owned by Gaza residents and importers from ports and high-risk areas to safer locations in Ramallah. The ministry has also issued 1,974 import permits for new and used vehicles and granted permission for the importation of around 6,000 tons of vehicle spare parts and traffic products. To ensure technical and legal safety, the ministry has inspected approximately 30,000 vehicles on the roads and conducted inspections of about 300 transport facilities, including vehicle showrooms, maintenance centers, spare parts shops, and taxi offices. Additionally, the ministry oversees the implementation of financial and administrative reform plans, regulates the use of government vehicles, and is working on developing the executive framework for public transportation.

As part of its efforts to enhance public services, **the Ministry of Interior** has undertaken several initiatives. The Palestine College for Police Sciences buildings have been renovated, and clinics within the reform and rehabilitation centers in Ramallah, Tulkarem, and al-Dhahiriya have been equipped as part of an initial phase. Additionally, the Ministry is actively monitoring the progress of seven donor-funded projects and reviewing the engineering designs for nine security apparatus building projects. The Palestinian embassy in Jordan has also established a biometric collection point to facilitate its operations.

To ensure public safety, the Ministry has completed the handover process for a Civil Defense station at the Jericho Gate. The Palestinian Civil Defense Service has conducted multiple inspections to evaluate public safety procedures. Furthermore, the Ministry is advancing the implementation of Cabinet Decision No. (7) of 2023, which involves the creation of the Unified Emergency Response Center (911), with a budget of USD 2.9 million allocated for this purpose.

Regarding education, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has made significant progress in several areas. The Ministry has received the new building for Qalqilya Secondary Vocational School and is in the process of preparing tender documents to equip the school. Additionally, it has acquired the shell construction of Biddya Vocational School from Biddya Municipality, with plans to secure funding to complete, furnish, and equip the building as per the agreement between the Ministry and the municipality.

Furthermore, the Ministry has received eight government pre-school classrooms located in seven government primary schools within the Yatta and North Hebron directorates. It has successfully furnished sixty classrooms, providing school furniture for 9,100 students and teachers. Schools have also been equipped with public safety tools, including sports equipment, agricultural tools, and

- ✘ Receiving the new building for Qalqilya Secondary Vocational School.
- ✘ Approving loans totaling JOD 7.347 million from the Student Loan Fund for Palestinian university students.
- ✘ Continuing the construction of Umm Hassan Hospital in Majdal Bani Fadel, Nablus Governorate.
- ✘ Receiving medicines worth 16 NIS million shekels and 1.4 million.

seedlings. Electronic devices and software have been supplied to support the e-learning platform, and all requirements for the 2024 General Secondary Education Examination (first session) have been met.

Ongoing efforts are focused on enhancing the capacity of education staff, offering school health services, organizing extracurricular activities, and participating in various competitions. Collaborative planning with UNICEF has been undertaken to establish and run 600 summer camps aimed at addressing educational loss and setbacks. Additionally, construction and maintenance of schools, with a total value of USD 13 million, are underway. This project, funded by Norway and executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is progressing as planned.

In higher education, several significant developments have been achieved. For the second (spring) semester of the 2023/2024 academic year, loans totaling JOD 7.347 million have been approved for students through the Student Loan Fund. Scholarships have been announced, applications processed, and nominations handled according to established procedures. The Ministry has also provided services for the authentication and equivalency of certificates, processing approximately 200 requests for non-Palestinian certificates and issuing around 12,800 documents. The first phase of implementing specialized competency tests for university students, overseen by the National Commission for Accreditation, Quality, and Standards of Higher Education Institutions, has been completed. A concept paper has been developed to enhance the comprehensive practical exam in technical colleges, aiming to improve efficiency in terms of time, effort, and cost while ensuring greater fairness and transparency. Additionally, academic plans tailored to specific engineering majors have been created based on labor market needs.

Significant progress has also been made in advancing graduate programs in renewable energy and solar energy. Notable achievements include the completion of the draft National Qualifications Framework, finalization of the National Research Priorities Guide, and the announcement and awarding of prizes for the legal research competition held in collaboration with the Official Gazette. A call for research project proposals as part of the Al-Maqdisi Research Grant has been issued in collaboration with the French government. Furthermore, the research and academic cooperation agreement with the Sultanate of Oman has been successfully renewed.

The Ministry of Health is dedicated to ensuring the continuous operation of clinics and primary healthcare centers, providing necessary services to patients, and delivering diagnostic and therapeutic care in government hospitals. Significant progress has been made in improving hospital infrastructure, including the completion and opening of Umm Hassan Hospital in Majdal Bani Fadel, Nablus Governorate, with preparations underway for its first phase of operation. The Orthopedic Department has been constructed and equipped, and the Surgery Department, with a capacity of 12 beds, has been inaugurated. Additionally, the Pediatrics Department at Dura Hospital has been expanded to include 8 more beds. At Halhul Hospital, equipment and devices from Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) have been received, and the labor and delivery department is now operational. Construction has also been completed on the ground floor and post-surgery recovery ward.

At Yatta Government Hospital, the Pediatric Department handover has been completed, with the ministry's engineers taking over. An oxygen station covering 40 square meters, funded by the local community, has been built. The new outpatient and internal medicine departments have also been

completed. The breast cancer unit and the physical therapy and rehabilitation service center at the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah have been inaugurated.

Jericho Hospital has renovated its intensive care rooms and established a closed sterilization room in the surgery department. A portable ambulance infant incubator, surgical equipment for the obstetrics department, and a respirator, all donated by the Jericho and Jordan Valley Governorate, have been received. At Tubas Hospital, a meeting hall of 100 square meters and a prayer room of 70 square meters have been constructed with support from the local community. An RO device for the hemodialysis department and an ultrasound machine for the obstetrics and gynecology department have also been donated by the local community. Cardiac CT imaging has commenced at Beit Jala Hospital, and Hugo Chavez Hospital has started providing diagnostic services for keratoconus.

In addition, specialized medical equipment and devices have been distributed to hospitals in Rafidia, Tubas, Dura, Jericho, Beit Jala, and Hugo Chavez. With funding from the World Bank, a mobile blood bank has also been acquired. New facilities include an emergency center for the western countryside in Battir, a new Marah Ma'ala Clinic building in Bethlehem, and a new Qabalan Clinic. The government has received medicines valued at NIS 16 million and approximately USD 1.4 million, along with vaccines worth USD 18,000 and gases valued at NIS 37,000. Tenders for medicines in 2024, including cancer medications and those for referrals, have been announced and are in preparation for technical evaluation, awarding, and referral.

The government has launched the **"Localization of Health Services"** initiative to enhance service quality and reduce the financial burden of procuring services from external sources. This initiative aims to reform and strengthen the national healthcare sector, promote local service delivery, support local companies, and stimulate investment in healthcare industry. By fostering inclusivity and enhancing healthcare standards, the initiative seeks to decrease reliance on external medical referrals and bolster the capabilities of hospitals and healthcare providers.

The initiative includes several reform measures, such as digitizing the healthcare sector—covering hospitals, referrals, and public services—and improving healthcare management to rationalize expenses. It also focuses on strengthening partnerships among public, private, and civil stakeholders in the health sector. Key goals include curbing cancer through the national cancer strategy, ensuring a safe environment for newborns, and reducing complications related to chronic diseases. Additionally, the initiative involves a comprehensive review of the health insurance system and its legislation to enhance its effectiveness and inclusiveness.

An additional funding program has been launched to enhance the capacities and efficiency of the Palestinian health system in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This initiative, with approximately USD 45 million multilateral funding from the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, The Pandemic Fund, and the Kingdom of Norway, focuses on improving epidemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The project aims to provide a range of specialized medical services to boost the efficiency of the Palestinian health sector and reduce the need for medical referrals abroad. Key services include specialized healthcare for around 20,000 patients, mental health and psychosocial support for approximately 250,000 individuals in Gaza, radiological imaging services

for about 20,000 women, and the provision of diverse medical equipment to 25 hospitals to enhance their capacity.

In parallel, **the Ministry of Culture** has organized a total of 18 events and activities, including seminars and workshops on literature, heritage, and art. The ministry has also arranged three theatrical performances specifically for children, five art and photography exhibitions, and curated film screenings. Additionally, in collaboration with the Tamer Institute for Community Education, Qalqilya Municipality Library, the Directorate of Culture, Palestinian Police, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Qalqilya, the ministry has successfully conducted activities for National Reading Week. Furthermore, the ministry hosted the "Nakba" Film Week and launched the book "Tale of a Place" at the Bethlehem office. It has also organized training sessions on enhancing and digitizing the Palestinian narrative at the Arab American University and Birzeit University.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs has made significant strides in strengthening partnerships and aligning priorities through meetings with various stakeholders committed to achieving equality and justice. These stakeholders include governmental partners, national committees, civil society organizations, the General Union of Palestinian Women, Al Muntada (a Palestinian NGO focused on combating domestic violence against women), national actors, and women's organizations. Additionally, the ministry has reached an agreement with the Ministry of Justice on legislative priorities, such as laws addressing human trafficking, legal aid, and restrictions on marriage under the age of 18. Furthermore, the ministry has completed and submitted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +30) report to ESCWA. It has also developed a unified procedures manual that outlines the roles and workflows of the ministry's departments and divisions.

The Ministry of National Economy has achieved several significant milestones. It successfully registered 450 new companies with a combined capital of USD 81.8 million, and licensed 12 new factories totaling USD 11.4 million in capital investment. Additionally, the ministry issued 779 import licenses, registered 845 trademarks, and added 352 new traders to the commercial register. In terms of services, the ministry provided 8,975 decentralized services through various directorates. Lastly, the Consumer Protection Directorate conducted 840 inspection tours.

The Ministry of Agriculture is focused on restoring and rehabilitating 570 dunums (1 dunum equals 1,000 square meters) of agricultural land, constructing and rehabilitating 11 km of agricultural roads. The ministry is also distributing 6,500 tons of animal feed and providing urgent vaccines to combat livestock diseases. Additionally, it is supplying irrigation networks, units, transport lines, and water tanks. Preparations are underway to launch various investment grants and incubators for small and medium-sized projects targeting people with disabilities, women, and youth. The ministry has introduced a reserve storage for agricultural production inputs and prepared an urgent relief and early recovery plan for the Gaza Strip. Efforts are ongoing with local and international partners to secure agricultural production inputs, particularly animal feed.

- ✖ Restoration and rehabilitation of 570 dunums of agricultural land.
- ✖ Construction and rehabilitation of 11 km of agricultural roads.
- ✖ Registration of 450 new companies with a capital of USD 81.8 million.

The Ministry of Labour has employed dozens of job seekers through the Palestinian Employment Fund and hundreds of individuals in public services through three agreements with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), funded by Norway and international organizations. It enabled 11,234 workers to obtain an unemployment certificate for health insurance purposes. The ministry graduated 62 students from vocational training centers, authenticated 435 certificates issued by private vocational training centers, licensed or renewed 19 private centers, and supplied materials to nine vocational training centers. Additionally, the ministry conducted visits to 763 establishments to raise awareness about labor laws and educate workers, benefiting a total of 13,874 individuals. The ministry has also played an active role in investigating 82 workplace injuries and following up on 116 consultations. Lastly, it launched the "Hand in Hand" initiative, which aims to enhance worker conditions in the Gaza Strip.

In the field of **tourism and antiquities**, urgent work is underway to prepare a nomination proposal for the inclusion of the Saint Hilarion Monastery (Tell Umm Amer site) in Gaza on the World Heritage List. This proposal will be submitted to UNESCO for consideration. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has completed all necessary financial and administrative procedures to begin implementing a series of new projects. These projects include the development of the Ottoman Tunnel (Bal'a Breakthrough) railway site, the enhancement of Jabal Al-'Urma in Beita, Nablus, and the restoration of historical buildings in Al-Jab'a, Bethlehem. Additionally, the ministry has conducted inspection tours of tourist sites in the governorates of Jerusalem, Jericho, Nablus, and Hebron. Efforts are being expedited to officially register Tell Umm Amer/Gaza on the World Heritage List.

Regarding religious endowments and affairs, the government has overseen all aspects of the 2024 Hajj season. **The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs** provided approximately NIS 900,000 in cash aid to the southern governorates and distributed around 8,000 Udhiyah (sacrificial animals) to the northern governorates.

The Palestinian Land Authority has successfully completed the process of receiving 78 cadastral maps submitted by the Palestinian Land and Water Settlement Commission. It conducted technical audits on areas and boundaries, opened records for new cadastral maps, processed 197 registration applications, provided 850 site plans and 40 judicial decisions and rectification orders, and completed a total of 10,671 registrations.

2.5 Economic Revitalization

The government is developing a plan to review and improve policies, prioritizing those that can directly stimulate the economy. This will involve initiatives in infrastructure, various industrial sectors, and the empowerment of youth and women. The plan highlights the importance of collaboration and open dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector.

Key Interventions

The government is actively working on enhancing partnership programs between the public and private sectors and securing financing from donor countries to support the development and expansion of the private sector. Key initiatives include the renewal of a French grant of EUR 5 million, the launch of the Green Economy Project with support from Germany worth USD 7 million, and the implementation of

the second phase of the Innovative Private Sector Development Project with USD 14.5 million with funding from the World Bank. Furthermore, the Energy Authority has introduced the Renewable Energy Platform in Palestine (GIS Solar Mapping) to facilitate and promote investment in renewable energy projects.

In an effort to address unemployment among workers who have lost their jobs within the territories of the Green Line, the government, in partnership with the Palestinian Monetary Authority, launched the "Bader" program with a portfolio valued at NIS 70 million. Under the program, eligible workers will receive interest-and-fee-free loans of up to NIS 60,000, with a flexible repayment period of 4 years and a grace period of 6 months.

The Ministry of Culture has approved eight cultural projects for non-profit organizations funded by international donors in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy. Two workshops on traditional industries were conducted, along with the successful Second Incubator Exhibition in Jenin, which aimed to promote products from small entrepreneurial startups. Additionally, a foundation for an incubator in the fields of cinematic arts, visual arts, and music has been established. Two short films, "Gaza Bride" and "Recovery Deferred," have also been successfully completed.

✧ The government has launched a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening the steadfastness of citizens, supporting economic recovery and revitalization efforts, and creating a conducive environment for economic development. These initiatives also aim to promote economic independence.

The government has introduced a range of initiatives aimed at strengthening the resilience of citizens and supporting economic recovery and revitalization efforts. These initiatives are designed to create an environment conducive to economic development, promote economic independence, increase reliance on national resources, and ensure stability in public finances. By implementing these initiatives, the government aims to address various structural challenges that impede economic and social development in Palestine. The initiatives include:

- ✧ **Energy Security Initiative:** This initiative focuses on utilizing alternative energy sources and reducing dependence on energy imports, thereby reducing the cost of energy services. The government seeks to achieve energy independence and security in Palestine by promoting self-sufficiency in electricity generation through the use of renewable energy, specifically solar energy. It also aims to meet the growing demand for electricity, reduce dependence on energy imports from Israel (which currently exceeds 90%), and address the electricity deficit. Additionally, the initiative seeks to provide electricity to marginalized areas and alleviate the financial burden caused by repeated deductions from Palestinian clearance funds by Israel to cover the debts of electricity distribution companies and local councils.

To implement this initiative, a clear policy for the energy mix will be established, with a focus on renewable energy sources. Legislation will be updated to accelerate the development of these sources, and infrastructure improvements will be made to develop electricity transmission lines and enhance regional connectivity. Additionally, the electricity purchasing system will undergo an overarching reform to ensure the sustainability of services for distribution companies. A

national fund will be established to finance renewable energy projects and increase energy efficiency, as well as to empower the private sector to increase investment through direct offers and competitive tenders. Moreover, an enabling environment will be created to attract private sector investments in large-scale natural gas power generation projects.

The second phase of the Palestinian Solar Initiative will be launched to cover homes and institutions, and the scope of solar energy applications will be expanded for small and medium-sized enterprises, households, schools, and key sectors.

- ✧ **The Economic Empowerment and Diversification Initiative:** This initiative plays a crucial role in revitalizing the economy and creating job opportunities in the upcoming phase. This initiative primarily aims to strengthen the national economy's resilience by implementing a range of reformative and developmental measures, following international best practices. Its ultimate goal is to improve the business environment and promote the growth of the private sector within estimated timeframes. The focus will be on regulatory areas and key amendments that can deliver immediate and tangible outcomes, directly affecting the economic situation and private sector activities. Among the reform measures adopted by the government to promote economic empowerment and diversification are the enhancement of the regulatory environment and legal framework. This involves making legal amendments to facilitate market entry, investment, and market exit for companies; while reviewing current laws in a way that better serve the needs of a developing economy, as well as undertaking a set of actions to reform the "goods quota" system. This includes the reconstitution of the licensing committee and the development of a new electronic platform for applications.

Furthermore, there are additional reform measures aimed at establishing new mechanisms for financing infrastructure and private sector projects. This includes the creation of investment funds that target infrastructure development in sectors like energy, water, telecommunications, and transportation. The initiative also aims to enhance the effectiveness and promptness of specialized courts in resolving commercial disputes, providing judges with the necessary training, and establishing a specialized commercial court. It also seeks to activate economic partnerships with neighboring countries and the region, particularly with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

- ✧ **The Digital Transformation and National Economy Development Initiative:** This initiative aims to support and develop the information technology sector and promote digital transformation to establish a comprehensive and sustainable digital economy. The objectives include enhancing the use of technology in government services, developing the digital economy sector to boost investment, industry, and trade, and ensuring security and protection in the field of technology. Additionally, the initiative seeks to facilitate the digitization of the traditional economy, foster startup growth, offer incentives for the digitization of small and medium-sized enterprises, and develop e-commerce platforms.

The Ministry of National Economy has drafted an Economic Revitalization Plan, which will serve as a fundamental reference for the Standing Ministerial Committee on Economic

Development. This plan aims to achieve comprehensive development for all partners in the economic sector. In parallel, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) program, dedicated to empowering Palestinian industries through sustainable energy solutions, has concluded its implementation phase. This program contributed to strengthening the policy and regulatory environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency in the industrial sector in Palestine.

The preparatory phase for the (EU 4Business) project, funded by the European Union with EUR 15 million, has commenced to enhance trade, investment, and quality. Additionally, the Turkish government has approved an increase in the customs exemption quota for Palestinian dates in the Turkish market from 3,000 tons to 5,000 tons per annum. Furthermore, 34 national companies have benefited from financial incentives for exporters to other countries as part of the Export Program funded by the British Consulate. The Ministry of Labour has implemented 54 entrepreneurial projects to support entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. It has also facilitated procedures for obtaining zero-interest loans for women and persons with disabilities, granting 36 interest-free loans with a maximum limit of USD 10,000.

2.6 Social Welfare

The government has prioritized the review and evaluation of social welfare and protection systems. This effort includes studying the social protection system, providing support for poor and vulnerable families, assessing the experience with the Social Security Law, and examining the health insurance system. The aim is to improve these systems and advance the level of social protection, which is seen as a critical component of the government's reform and development framework.

Key Interventions

The Ministry of Social Development has disbursed a total of NIS 862,500 in three cash payments of NIS 1,250 to each family affected by the Israeli occupation in Jenin, Nablus, Tubas, and Halhul. This funding, provided by the Save the Children organization, included support for families with children with disabilities. Additionally, emergency assistance amounting to NIS 299,500 has been provided to 151 beneficiaries in the West Bank. Furthermore, food aid with a total value of NIS 21 million has been distributed to approximately 140,000 individuals.

The European Union has committed to covering 100% of the cash transfers for the next six cycles, from June 2024 to June 2025, amounting to a total of EUR 67.4 million for the West Bank. Additionally, 1,229 new health insurance cards have been issued to poor families. In terms of income-generating economic empowerment projects for these families and marginalized groups, 10 projects have been granted under the "Seed Project," which is implemented by the Palestinian National Economic Empowerment Institution. Furthermore, 78 solar cell

- ✕ Disbursing three cash payments totaling NIS 862,500 shekels to families affected by the Israeli occupation.
- ✕ Providing emergency assistance totaling NIS 299,500 to 151 beneficiaries in the West Bank.
- ✕ Providing food aid to 140,000 individuals with a total value of NIS 21 million.

projects have been transferred from the revolving fund grant, funded by the World Bank in partnership with the Energy Authority, for credit and financial assessment.

The Ministry of Social Development has continued to support persons with disabilities by granting customs exemptions to 488 individuals. Additionally, 817 individuals with disabilities received service purchases from civil society organizations. Vocational rehabilitation centers for persons with disabilities served 94 beneficiaries. The ministry also provided protection to 205 children exposed to violence, abuse, and exploitation, based on reports from partner institutions. It followed up on 415 juvenile cases in the prosecution and courts and managed the issuance of official documents for 21 children, including those of unknown parentage, children born out of wedlock, and children in foster care. Furthermore, 52 daycare centers were either licensed or had their licenses renewed. A total of 201 women who were victims of gender-based violence benefited from protection, care, and support services. The ministry also provided a range of services to the elderly, either directly or through partners, benefiting 1,219 seniors. These services included housing in elderly nursing homes and other service-purchasing institutions and centers. To meet the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, services were procured from 41 different associations. Additionally, approximately 200 inmates in correctional and rehabilitation centers received psychological and social support, and their personal supplies and needs were addressed.

In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of Health supported a program against gender-based violence at Jericho Hospital. The UNFPA provided funding to procure three advanced blood pressure devices for family counseling rooms in Ministry of Health centers, which are dedicated to victims of violence. Moreover, in cooperation with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the ministry launched the "Raising Awareness" initiative to address the stigma surrounding mental health.

To provide and enhance a social safety net for vulnerable groups at risk of poverty and marginalization, the government has launched an initiative to develop the social protection, social insurance, and social security systems. This initiative specifically focuses on social protection for the poor, needy, and unemployed, and is a fundamental pillar for achieving sustainable development and social justice. It includes direct financial assistance, educational support, and basic healthcare for children, women, and the elderly. The initiative also encompasses programs aimed at enhancing economic opportunities for vulnerable families, improving their living conditions, and promoting social stability and inclusivity.

This initiative involves implementing a range of reform measures to address essential and life-saving needs in Palestine. It aims to deliver both food and non-food assistance to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and provide emergency cash support to 300,000 families in the Gaza Strip. Financial assistance will extend to families affected by the Israeli occupation and settlers in the West Bank, covering food assistance, housing rental, and home rehabilitation. Additionally, the initiative seeks to establish shelters for marginalized groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and orphans, and to provide social services and psychological first aid, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, the initiative aims to support persons with disabilities by providing urgent assistive devices to approximately 30,000 individuals. It includes a protection and relief program for orphaned children in the Gaza Strip, legal guardianship services, and psychological support for children from Gaza

separated from their families. The overall goal is to complete the social protection system and ensure effective and cohesive management of the situation, alongside various other social programs. A computerized system will also be established to ensure the fair and transparent distribution of aid.

In the education sector, **the Ministry of Education and Higher Education** has ensured that students with disabilities could take the general secondary examination by providing special accommodations. A total of 250 students with various disabilities received support tailored to their individual needs. Assistive devices and tools were distributed to support their integration and education in public schools. This initiative was made possible with the support of the Save the Children organization and the Belgian project. This included 137 tablets for students with partial visual impairments, 45 laptops equipped with screen-reading software for students with complete visual impairments, 46 wheelchairs, and 27 electric chairs for students with mobility impairments.

2.7 Strengthening Presence on the Global Stage

The government is tirelessly working to foster international cooperation and enhance its global presence, in alignment with the national interests of the Palestinian people. The focus is on political, media, economic, social, and institutional engagement, aiming to strengthen relationships with global pro-Palestine solidarity movements that support the just Palestinian cause with principled and consistent positions. Additionally, the government is committed to ensuring continuous and effective coordination with international and humanitarian organizations, as well as with supportive and donor entities.

Key Interventions

On the international and diplomatic level, the Prime Minister and several ministers engaged in a series of efforts, including visits, meetings, and communications with various countries, organizations, and international institutions. These efforts aim to explain the Palestinian stance, which calls for an end to the Israeli war and aggression on Gaza, present the government's work program and plans, and seek international support for the implementation of relief, developmental, and reform agendas. Palestinian diplomacy, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Expatriates and its missions worldwide, continues its international activities as part of the political movement led by President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership. This movement seeks to gain more recognition for the State of Palestine, strengthen its status at the United Nations, promote its full membership, and expose the policies of Israeli occupation and its ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people. Additionally, these efforts include monitoring the conditions of Palestinians in countries where they reside, particularly those displaced from the Gaza Strip to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

In this context, nine countries have officially recognized the State of Palestine: Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, Norway, Ireland, the Bahamas, Armenia, and Slovenia. Furthermore, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a resolution supporting the State of Palestine's right to full membership and enhancing its status within the UN system. The government has also recently submitted a renewed request for full membership in the United Nations.

The Republic of Colombia has ratified an agreement to waive visa requirements for holders of Palestinian diplomatic passports. Additionally, the government has actively participated in several international events, including the 55th session of the Human Rights Council, the third session of the Arab Economic and Cooperation Forum, and the 19th ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), among others. These engagements aim to strengthen relationships with various international organizations and to enhance solidarity and advocacy for the Palestinian cause.

- ✧ Nine countries have officially recognized the State of Palestine, namely: Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, Norway, Ireland, the Bahamas, Armenia, and Slovenia.

In terms of **networking and communication** with Arab and foreign countries, a total of 14 agreements were signed with the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the meeting of the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint High Committee. These agreements aim to simplify trade procedures and facilitate the flow of goods between the two countries. They include measures such as easing direct transport of goods, adopting a "door-to-door" system, and utilizing containers. The agreements also cover other areas of cooperation, such as completing the cement conveyor belt project and establishing a container collection area within the Aqaba Special Economic Zone to streamline the import of goods into Palestinian markets. Additionally, four cooperation agreements were signed with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, an agreement was made to establish a Business Council with the Republic of Tajikistan, a joint declaration was agreed upon with Barbados, an agreement to establish diplomatic relations was signed with Antigua and Barbuda, and a memorandum of understanding for agricultural cooperation was concluded with Mexico.

In the industrial sector, a cooperation agreement with Morocco was signed to facilitate the access of industrial products to Arab markets, enhance industrial cooperation, and recognize quality, conformity, and halal certificates. Moreover, the partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been activated.

To boost international cooperation frameworks and improve the efficiency of the security sector, two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with the Dutch Ministry of Defense and the Republic of South Korea. These agreements aim to support and modernize the resources and transportation capabilities of the Ministry of Interior and the police force, including the provision of 10 vehicles for this purpose.

- ✧ EUR 9 million agreement between the Ministry of Health and France.
- ✧ USD 10 million agreement between the Ministry of Health and Norway.

In terms of mobilizing developmental support, the Ministry of Health has signed an agreement worth EUR 9 million with France, channeled through UNICEF. This agreement focuses on restoring and enhancing reproductive health, nutrition, and maternal, newborn, and child health services in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Additionally, a Norwegian support agreement amounting to USD 10 million

has been signed for the health sector. This funding will be used to purchase medicines and medical supplies and to support the treatment of patients referred to hospitals in Jerusalem.

In efforts to strengthen relations with organizations and global pro-Palestine solidarity movements supporting the Palestinian cause, relevant authorities participated in the meetings of the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the World Health Assembly held in Geneva. These engagements led to significant international resolutions supporting the Palestinian health sector in the West Bank and Gaza and expanded Palestine's representation rights in the World Health Organization's Assembly. Additionally, coordination was established with Médecins du Monde Switzerland (Doctors of the World) to conduct research on psychological trauma with mental health specialists in mental health centers. Collaboration with the American Arab Medical Association was also initiated to address mental health responses to the crisis in Gaza, with weekly meetings held to develop appropriate psychological materials.

The Ministry of Culture participated in Morocco's Rabat International Book Fair and renewed cultural partnership and exchange agreements with the Sultanate of Oman. The Al-Raya Folk Art Troupe performed at the Venezuelan National Celebration in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, showcasing artistic performances that reflect the experiences of the Palestinian people, including themes of killing, displacement, and forced expulsion. Additionally, the feature film "Fidak" was jointly produced by the State of Palestine and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The ministry also followed up on the submission of the Palestinian Cultural Heritage Digital Archive project to UNESCO under the IFCD fund. A meeting was held with the HWPL Korean Foundation to explore prospects for cultural cooperation and outline the framework for collaboration. Preparations were also made for cultural content related to Palestine's participation in Expo Osaka Japan 2025. Moreover, the Ministry of National Economy participated in the preparatory meeting of the Economic and Social Council for the Arab Summit, held in Bahrain. This included discussions on economic relations with Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Jordan.

2.8 Community Engagement and Field Visits

In an effort to implement regular communication mechanisms and foster community dialogue on various public issues, and in light of the challenging political, security, economic, and social conditions faced by the Palestinian people, and under the guidance of President Mahmoud Abbas, the Prime Minister and cabinet members have conducted several visits to Palestinian governorates, especially amidst the continuous Israeli settler attacks and the relentless, brutal aggression and repeated incursions of the Israeli occupation forces on Palestinian cities, camps, and villages.

Under the guidance of President Mahmoud Abbas, these visits have included numerous meetings and dialogue sessions with various members and institutions of Palestinian society. The goal was to inform the public about the government's priorities and to promote a culture of dialogue, transparency, and participation in decision-making. Some of these consultations have continued at the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister also visited different sectoral institutions to gain firsthand understanding of their operations, the challenges they face, and opportunities for development and empowerment to enhance their roles and services for citizens.

3.0 Interventions Related to Priority (2): Financial Sustainability and Economic Stability

3.1 Public Finance Reform

At a time when the government urgently needs external support to address the immense humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, facilitate its reconstruction, ensure financial stability in the West Bank, and fund reform programs, the ultimate long-term goal is to establish a robust, sustainable, dynamic, and diversified national economy. This economy should be driven by innovation and guide Palestine towards self-sufficiency. To achieve this, the government is focusing on **stabilizing the financial situation and its impact on economic stability** by developing and implementing a comprehensive public finance reform plan. This plan encompasses key elements such as rationalization, financial responsibility, budget transparency, expenditure management, debt management, and ensuring alignment with economic recovery policies.

Key Interventions:

Achieving financial and economic stability is a top priority for the government due to its critical role in ensuring effective governance. This stability is essential for meeting financial obligations, including public sector salaries, private sector dues, bank facilities, emergency humanitarian and relief aid for the Palestinian people in Gaza, and social assistance programs. Additionally, it is crucial for driving national economic growth across the State of Palestine. Under a tight and crippling financial siege, the government has approved an emergency budget for the fiscal year 2024. This budget aims to maintain the operational budget at a minimum while refraining from allocating new funds for long-term capital expenditures, except for the completion of vital ongoing projects or priority projects that have entered the tender stage.

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While working to bridge the financial gap and achieve short-term financial stability, the government has introduced several initiatives aimed at cross-cutting socioeconomic development. These initiatives focus on improving the business and investment environment for the private sector, effectively implementing the new Companies Law, automating government services, enhancing transparency and governance, and restructuring the quota system through the development of a platform for the private sector. Additionally, the government is working to strengthen trade relations with various countries and give priority to Palestinian companies in relief and humanitarian aid tenders.

The government is pursuing financial stability through two primary approaches. The first approach involves implementing a broad range of short-term measures and reforms to narrow the gap between government revenues and expenditures, and to secure emergency budget support from donors. The second approach focuses on achieving long-term financial stability by diversifying the national economy's structure and redefining the economic relationship with the occupation authorities. This strategy is crucial for gaining greater control over the state's financial resources. Additionally, the government seeks active contributions from Arab and friendly countries, as well as international institutions, to support the state treasury and its development programs.

Despite the challenges and Israeli impediments, the government is addressing factors impacting financial stability and working diligently with all relevant parties to ensure a steady flow of financial resources. The goal is to cover the government's operational expenses and maintain uninterrupted economic activity.

The Cabinet has already made several decisions to implement reform measures aimed at financial sustainability and economic stability. These measures include:

- **Suspension of Government Vehicle Use:** Effective immediately, government vehicles will be restricted to ministers, heads of government departments, and officials of equivalent status, including governors, deputy governors, deputy ministers, and officials of similar rank. Employees below this level will no longer have access to government vehicles.
- **Mandatory Installation of Electronic Tracking Devices:** All government departments are required to install electronic tracking devices in every government vehicle to monitor fuel consumption and mileage through an official electronic log. Additionally, the purchase of new vehicles will be halted, focusing instead on optimizing the use of existing government vehicles through reassignment and the sale of unused or outdated vehicles. Workshops for government vehicle maintenance will also be established.
- **Complete Suspension of Building Purchases:** There will be a total halt on the procurement of office buildings for government use in 2024-2025, with significant restrictions on renting new government buildings.
- **Restrictions on Furniture Procurement:** Furniture purchases will be limited to extreme necessities and require approval from the Prime Minister. Expenditures on printed materials, advertisements, and stationery will be rationalized. Any allowances or discretionary financial funds not specified by laws and regulations for both civilian and security sectors will be immediately ceased. Additionally, expenditures on mobile phones for public employees will be regulated.
- **Suspension of New Appointments:** New appointments will be halted for the year 2024, except for positions in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and newly established ministries. Government representation at conferences and international forums will be restricted to the head of the department or authorized representatives, with a maximum of two individuals per assignment.
- **Enhancement of Financial System for Diplomatic Missions:** The financial system for Palestinian embassies and diplomatic missions abroad will be improved.
- **Presentation of Proposed Financial Reform:** The Minister of Finance will be responsible for presenting the proposed financial reform plan. Additionally, the Ministers of Finance and Public Works and Housing will submit a report on state-owned and rented buildings to the Standing Ministerial Committee on Reform.

3.2 Improving Public Treasury Revenues

The core pillars of the government's action plan involve devising a comprehensive strategy for public finance reform. This strategy includes enhancing treasury revenues through expenditure rationalization, reducing financial leakage, implementing necessary reforms to the income tax law, and strengthening electronic payment mechanisms. Additionally, the plan aims to empower local governance bodies, improve transparency in public finances, and rationalize and regulate the water and electricity service sectors.

Key Interventions

As part of efforts to enhance public revenue, the **Ministry of Transport** sold 96 government vehicles through a sealed-bid auction, generating NIS 2.7 million. The sale of confiscated illegal vehicles, motorcycles, and chassis by the police force brought in NIS 2.2 million, while the sale of premium license plates yielded NIS 0.9 million. Since May, the ministry has imposed fees on eight of its services, generating approximately NIS 180,000 by the end of July. Additionally, fuel expenses for government vehicles have decreased by 30%. The ministry has also been developing a system for fee collection through all Palestinian embassies and consulates, gradually transitioning towards electronic payment methods in coordination with the Ministry of Finance.

The government is also implementing several interventions to improve the public treasury's revenues. Key measures include:

- **Enhancing State Treasury Revenues:** This involves controlling tax evasion and combating customs evasion to preserve state financial resources and promote social justice.
- **Financing Programs:** Providing necessary funding to ensure the continued operation of private sector institutions, facilitating their transition into a phase of recovery and growth, thereby enhancing the economic cycle.
- **Removing Restrictions:** Increasing efforts to remove restrictions on the free movement of people and goods, allowing the Palestinian national economy to operate at its full potential and productive capacity.

3.3 Spending Priorities and Public Debt Repayment

The government is prioritizing expenditures and payments based on available financial resources, with a primary focus on the rights of public sector employees and private sector suppliers to ensure the continuity of essential services. It is also mobilizing funds to support and finance various approved initiatives, including addressing humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, meeting medium-term recovery requirements, facilitating reconstruction efforts, stimulating the economic and financial situation, and enabling reform programs. A strategic plan has been developed to implement these initiatives.

In light of tight liquidity, driven by a sharp decline in grants and foreign aid, as well as ongoing deductions from Palestinian clearance funds by the Israeli occupation authorities, public debt has emerged as a significant challenge for the government. Consequently, it is working diligently to find fundamental solutions to the long-standing financial crisis. The government is also making significant efforts and applying substantial pressure, with international support, to secure the full release of clearance funds withheld by Israel. Additionally, it seeks to secure adequate donor budget support, as this is vital for achieving financial stability and reducing the accumulated public debt.

- ✘ Settling/scheduling MoPWH's outstanding debts to contractors and suppliers from previous years, totaling NIS 2.6 million.
- ✘ Continuing to rationalize government expenditures to the maximum extent by improving the efficiency of public institutions, reducing arrears on energy bills and net lending, and managing medical referrals.

In this context, the government is implementing several key interventions to enhance public debt management and contribute to its reduction. These include:

- Taking practical steps to improve the overall financial situation in light of the ongoing Israeli war, advance priority reforms to increase revenues, enhance debt management, and improve financial sustainability.
- Continuing to rationalize government expenditures to the maximum extent by improving the efficiency of public institutions, reducing arrears on energy bills and net lending, and managing medical referrals.
- Mobilizing additional funding and support resources, as well as emergency aid programs from Arab and friendly countries, donors, and international institutions.

On another note, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing has made significant progress in settling and scheduling its outstanding debts to contractors and suppliers from previous years, totaling NIS 2,616,312. Additionally, it has addressed and scheduled its projected operational and capital expenses for 2024, amounting to NIS 1,089,346.

4.0 Interventions Related to Priority (3): Institutionalization, Governance, and Reform

4.1 Institutional Reform

Developing a comprehensive institutional reform plan in collaboration with all stakeholders is a paramount national interest and a key pillar of the government's action program. The objective is to create this plan through a partnership involving government sectors, civil society organizations, the private sector, local governance bodies, and academic institutions, addressing all fields including economic, security, judicial, financial, public administration, health, and education. The plan will emphasize performance standards, transparency, and accountability to build robust state institutions capable of effective governance and achieving sustainable development goals SDGs. To facilitate this, the government has formed a ministerial task force to lead and coordinate the reform process. Additionally, an Executive Office for Institutional Reform has been established, reporting directly to the Prime Minister, responsible for formulating and implementing reform plans in accordance with international standards and best practices. The Cabinet has also approved the mandates and tasks of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

Key Interventions:

The Cabinet has enacted a series of reform decisions and measures across various sensitive sectors. Key reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency and capabilities of the public sector include: strictly enforcing the retirement age for civil and military employees, with no contracts for retired public employees unless absolutely necessary, and a mandatory cooling-off period of two years before reemployment; establishing clear criteria for hiring deputy ministers and defining job descriptions within government departments; reviewing the criteria for allocating state lands and leasing endowment lands; conducting comprehensive reviews of financial and administrative procedures in specific ministerial institutions and their governance; and reviewing the legal status of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency “PICA”, including the appointment of a new Board of Directors. Additionally, committees will be

formed to review and evaluate cleaning contracts in government departments, and the necessity of all contracted state employees in each institution will be assessed.

Moreover, job rotation will be aligned with the manning table (job tables for governmental institutions) and operational needs. New appointments will be suspended for 2024, with exceptions only for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and newly established ministries. Relevant authorities have been tasked with reviewing and evaluating employment, lending, and compensation institutions and funds to promote local job opportunities and ensure sustainability. Other authorities are responsible for creating and reviewing employment initiatives and developing supporting policies. The Standing Ministerial Committee on Reform has been assigned the task of preparing a detailed report on institutional governance.

The Cabinet has also made several decisions to implement a number of key reforms aimed at enhancing the quality of healthcare and education services. In the health sector, these reforms include: developing a new medical referral system, with the suspension of exceptions until the system is officially approved; assigning the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance to oversee the development of this new system; localizing healthcare services through the reform of healthcare infrastructure; regulating agreements for procuring high-quality healthcare services; launching a project to reform and develop the health insurance system with support from the European Union and implementation by the World Health Organization; reviewing the cost of procured medicines from the private sector to ensure adherence to governance and transparency standards; and conducting feasibility studies for establishing specialized departments in government hospitals.

- ✕ A new medical referral system.
- ✕ A project to reform and develop the health insurance system.
- ✕ A reform matrix focusing on higher education and scientific research.

The decisions related to enhancing the quality of services in the education sector include:

- Developing educational curricula to incorporate principles of freedom of expression, human rights, and democracy.
- Enhancing the basic education curriculum with modern natural sciences.
- Creating an initial reform matrix specifically for higher education and scientific research.

An initial reform plan has also been developed to support the justice sector, in coordination with the Supreme Judicial Council and other justice sector institutions. Additionally, a plan for reforming the local governance sector has been established, with a clear vision to promote decentralization, empower local governments, and expand their competencies. Efforts are also underway to restructure the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, as well as the Palestinian embassies abroad, to enable them to perform their duties more effectively.

4.2 Updating Legislations and reunifying State’s Institutions

The Palestinian government's vision is based on a comprehensive national reform process. This process aims to update and unify the legal and legislative systems across both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The ultimate goal is to build citizen trust and strengthen democracy at both local and national levels.

Key Interventions:

Relevant government departments have reviewed, updated, and developed various pieces of legislation. This includes:

- Draft laws concerning the responsibilities of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.
- The separation of the Ministry of National Economy from the Ministry of Industry.
- Amendments to the Press and Publications Law.
- The transfer of responsibilities from the Ministry of Information to the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy.

✕ The Electronic Commerce Law has been completed and is now at its second reading, awaiting approval from the Cabinet. Additionally, work is continuing on the development of the precious metals system.

The Civil Defense Law has been finalized, the Electronic Commerce Law is currently at its second reading, and the draft Civil Service Law has been referred to government department heads for feedback. A committee has been formed to study draft Law No. (43) of 2021 regarding State Property Management, and efforts are underway to develop the precious metals system. Additionally, draft laws by decree related to the Boards of Directors for the Land Authority and the Land and Water Settlement Commission have been reviewed. The Ministry of Local Government has amended the Building and Organization Regulations to reflect developments in construction and planning, and continues to update the transaction process guide for the Geomolg systems.

The Cabinet is also working on developing a comprehensive framework to reunify and restructure institutions across both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The goal is to enhance the unity of Palestinian land, people, and institutions, and to ensure the provision of integrated basic services to citizens, regardless of their location. This initiative will be implemented when conditions permit. Additionally, the government is devising conceptual plans to facilitate the reunification of state institutions between the northern and southern governorates. These plans are based on principles of geographical, political, national, and institutional unity. This includes assuming responsibility for ministries and government institutions in the southern governorates and preparing for the integration of staff and institutions. Efforts are also underway to develop plans for unifying laws as part of the preparation for the reunification of the State of Palestine.

4.3 Enhancing Service Levels and Digital Transformation

The Palestinian government aims to enhance digital transformation to boost productivity, reduce costs, and improve the quality and accessibility of government and public services through digitization. This effort includes advancing the transition to and expansion of electronic government services to make them predominantly digital. Additionally, the government is committed to reviewing and updating relevant laws and regulations to ensure they remain aligned with advancements in digital transformation.

Key Interventions:

The Palestinian government has launched a digital transformation initiative to expand the use of technology in delivering government services. This initiative focuses on developing the digital economy sector to boost investment, industry, and trade, and aims to create a knowledge-based digital society by raising awareness of digital technologies and ensuring equal access to them. Additionally, the government is committed to advancing the transition of government services to a predominantly digital format.

- ✧ The government launched the Digital Transformation Initiative.
- ✧ Added 4 new government services G2C (Government to Citizen) and 3 new G2G (Government to Government) services to the Hukumati – E-Services platform.
- ✧ Launched a visa card electronic payment system in the Ministry of Transport's directorates.

In this context, the specific responsibilities of the **Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy** have been defined and provided to the committee studying the legal frameworks and

governance of newly established ministries. Measures have been taken to integrate digital transformation into both the productive and service sectors. This includes reviewing the draft law on electronic transactions and trust services, which has been submitted to the President for issuance, and assigning relevant authorities to study the cybersecurity paper. All purchasing entities are now required to use the unified electronic portal for public procurement. Additionally, authorities have been tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of regulations governing the telecommunications and digital economy sectors. Additionally, several significant advancements have also been made in various sectors:

- The Solar Mapping website, designed for solar energy systems in Palestine, has been successfully launched.
- The Ministry of Transport has introduced a visa-based electronic payment system in its directorates and successfully archived approximately 80,000 files related to vehicles, drivers, transportation professions, and other records electronically.
- The communication and interaction system within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, as well as between the ministry, embassies, and staff, has been developed based on electronic connectivity.

Furthermore, the feasibility of establishing specialized medical departments in government hospitals is currently being studied. The Hukumati E-Services platform has expanded its range of services, offering new options for citizens. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has begun implementing an electronic platform program for receiving licensing and construction applications, as well as electronic archiving, across all its directorates. In terms of digital archiving, the Ministry has launched electronic platforms and produced a series of promotional tourism films, which have been shared on various social media platforms. The implementation of the computerized Family Health File system on the DHIS2 platform has been completed in the health directorates of Tubas, Salfit, Bethlehem, and Jericho. Additionally, the computerized Human Resources system has been updated to the latest version to ensure optimal performance.

Four new Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services and three new Government-to-Government (G2G) services have been added to the Hukumati E-Services platform. Additionally, memorandums of understanding have been signed between various governmental and non-governmental institutions to

facilitate electronic data exchange. To enhance efficiency, reliable technological solutions have been implemented for registering and verifying Palestinian citizens' identities using facial recognition, eliminating the need for verification centers.

Several projects have been completed, including the establishment of electronic connectivity between the Ministry of Culture's central office and its branches across Palestine. The Supreme Judge Department and the Ministry of Interior have integrated their systems to electronically record marriage and divorce data through an intragovernmental linkage system. Automation has also been introduced for the licensing, industrial inspection, and National Product Certificate issuance processes.

Moreover, specifications for the electronic state property management system have been prepared, and the registration of immovable property records has been automated using barcodes. Data exchange between the Land Authority, local government, and municipalities has been integrated. The Ministry of Local Government has developed and enhanced the production of digital maps using Geomolg electronic systems, including auditing, updating, and entering new data. Updated satellite images of the Gaza Strip have been provided and uploaded to the Geomolg system. Additionally, two new local governments have been established: the Al-Malih Village Council and the Umm Qussa Village Council.

4.4 Transparency, Accountability, Anti-Corruption, and Equal Opportunities

The government is fully committed to combating corruption, as outlined in its action plan. This commitment is a fundamental pillar of the government's foundation and is crucial for its overall success, enhancing institutional efficiency, and restoring public trust. Currently, a study is being conducted to evaluate the performance of public institutions with the aim of developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to eradicate corruption through appropriate procedures. Efforts are also underway to empower, strengthen, and develop the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission and the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau. This includes allocating sufficient budgets and enhancing human capacities to support their efforts and ensure adherence to international governance and transparency standards. Additionally, the government is actively promoting principles of competition and equal opportunities for senior positions within public institutions.

Key Interventions:

The government has recently announced the intention to fill 12 vacant deputy minister positions, a first in the history of the Palestinian National Authority. These vacancies are offered under the principles of competition, transparency, and equal opportunity, in line with the government's commitment to fairness and transparency. This initiative is part of a broader reform plan aimed at improving governance, enhancing institutional building, and promoting overall reform.

The government places great emphasis on competition for senior positions, including deputy ministers. Regular consultative meetings have been held, and the government has worked closely with relevant institutions, civil society organizations, unions, and national actors, adhering to the principles of

consultation and participation. This collaborative approach aims to combat corruption, enhance governance, and ensure accountability.

Furthermore, several decisions have been made to reinforce the principles of governance, transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption. These measures include the publication of Cabinet decisions and the monthly release of reports on public revenues and expenditures by the Ministry of Finance. Complaint and suggestion units have been activated within government departments, and a fair and competitive appointment process for all positions, including senior roles, has been implemented. This approach allows public employees to compete for important positions within the state.

The government is also diligently enforcing Cabinet decisions regarding the use of government vehicles in both the civil and security sectors. The general budget is now made public, and heads of government departments are tasked with reviewing reports from both governmental and non-governmental audit and control institutions concerning the performance of government institutions. This feedback is incorporated into their work plans to ensure continuous improvement and accountability.

- ✘ Announcing competitions for 12 vacant deputy minister positions.
- ✘ Publishing the general budget on the Ministry of Finance's website.
- ✘ Publishing Cabinet decisions.
- ✘ Republishing monthly reports on public revenues and expenditures by the Ministry of Finance.
- ✘ Launching and piloting an electronic consultation platform by the Ministry of Justice.

Various government departments have implemented a range of reform measures and achieved significant progress. For instance, the Ministry of Justice has launched and piloted an electronic consultation platform, enabling citizens to engage in legal discussions and provide feedback on draft laws. Notably, amendments have been prepared for the Arbitration Law and the Translation Law. Additionally, a new Law on Mediation has been introduced, and efforts are underway to enact the Law on Expertise.

5.0 Interventions Related to Priority (4): Enhancing Security, Safety, and Rule of Law

5.1 Enhancing Security and Safety for Citizens

The government places utmost importance on enhancing security and safety, ensuring the protection of all citizens and their properties, and adopting necessary measures to prevent crime, apprehend criminals, and bring them to justice. This is achieved by working closely with security apparatus to identify required reforms and strengthen their human and financial resources according to the priorities they set, in accordance with the reform plans. These efforts contribute to maintaining public order, internal security, and law enforcement.

Key Interventions:

As part of efforts to ensure public security, the police force continues to maintain order, enforce the rule of law, and address illegal vehicles by issuing traffic tickets. The Jericho Police Station has been inaugurated, and the Customs Intelligence Department has been reactivated, addressing several cases related to tobacco and steel. Additionally, several courses have been conducted in rapid response operations for the Palestinian Police, National Security Forces, and the General Military Training

Commission. Specialized training courses have been provided for 80 trainees from various security apparatuses.

In efforts to enhance civil peace and meet the service needs of citizens, the Minister of Interior has conducted several visits to the governorates of Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, and Tubas. These visits aimed to ensure the proper provision of services to citizens, implement necessary safety measures to protect them, and emphasize the importance of achieving civil peace and preserving the social fabric, especially under the current extremely difficult conditions.

5.2 Enhancing Integrity in the Justice Sector and Judicial System

The government aims to enhance the integrity, effectiveness, and institution-building of justice sector institutions, ensuring equitable access to justice services for all citizens and their comprehensive delivery. It seeks to ensure the efficient and effective execution of judicial rulings, safeguard public freedoms—particularly freedom of expression—and reinforce the social contract based on inclusiveness, dialogue, and partnership among all involved parties.

 Key Interventions:

The Ministry of Justice has been working diligently to ensure the continued delivery of essential services. As part of these efforts, it has issued Non-Conviction Certificates and handled judicial attestations for official documents, with 9,910 Non-Conviction Certificates issued and 9,583 official documents authenticated. The ministry has also licensed and accredited 32 arbitrators and 32 translators for various languages, issued 145 judicial warning notices, and prepared five judicial explanatory notes. Additionally, it has compiled seven judicial recovery files and eight legal aid files, while providing forensic medicine services to support technical evidence presented to the judiciary.

In its commitment to legislative development, the Ministry of Justice has actively contributed to drafting, unifying, developing, and updating legislation. It has provided legal comments on three draft legislations, offered 13 legal consultations and memos on various topics at the request of concerned ministries, and prepared and reviewed two contracts. Furthermore, the ministry has signed a cooperation agreement with the Jordanian Ministry of Interior regarding forensic medicine services, this agreement is part of a joint collaboration aimed at enhancing the judicial services provided by the Ministry of Justice and improving service delivery for the public interest.

To promote community participation in the legislative and policy-making process, the ministry has launched an electronic public consultation platform. This platform involves citizens, civil society organizations, and both the public and private sectors in policy-making, law, regulation, and rule formulation, fostering a collaborative approach to governance and ensuring that diverse voices are heard.

6.0 Interventions Related to Priority (5): Strengthening Steadfastness in Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, and Marginalized Areas

6.1 Strengthening Steadfastness in Jerusalem

The Palestinian government is steadfastly committed to strengthening and supporting the city of Jerusalem and its people. This commitment involves ongoing efforts to safeguard the city's holy sites,

both Christian and Islamic, and developing strategies to reconnect Jerusalem with the broader Palestinian community. The government is dedicated to supporting citizens by all means possible in response to the systematic threats targeting the city's people and its holy sites. This support includes addressing the economic and social challenges and restrictions imposed on the city and its people, as well as countering Israeli occupation policies aimed at separating and isolating Jerusalem from its Palestinian surroundings. Through these efforts, the government seeks to ensure the resilience and unity of Jerusalem and its people, preserving its cultural and religious heritage and promoting its integral connection to the wider Palestinian community.

 Key Interventions:

Based on its strategic plan, work program, and financial system, **the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs** has continued to provide services to citizens in the Jerusalem Governorate. The ministry has effectively handled legal matters, resolving several pending issues. Furthermore, it has held important meetings with ambassadors, consuls, and representatives of diplomatic missions, briefing them on the situation in the holy city and presenting the priorities for developmental intervention in key sectors, particularly housing, education, and health.

Additionally, the ministry has actively engaged with the local community through field visits and established partnerships with civil society organizations, local bodies, and neighborhood committees in Jerusalem. These efforts aim to ensure that the ministry remains responsive to the needs of the community while fostering collaboration with various stakeholders to address the challenges faced by the residents of Jerusalem.

Furthermore, the ministry conducted meetings with various institutions actively engaged in developmental fields and sectors. One such meeting was held with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Additionally, the ministry engaged with several Jerusalem-based organizations, including the Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood Committee, the Silwan Land Defense Committee, the Union of Charitable Societies, and the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Jerusalem. These meetings aimed to discuss the evolving situation in the city, evaluate the provision of essential services, and explore mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of Jerusalem's residents. The ministry also held numerous meetings with the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network and the Directorate of Education in Jerusalem and its suburbs, as well as conducted several visits to assess the needs of the citizens. Through these efforts, the ministry seeks to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges faced by the community and enhancing support for the people of Jerusalem.

✖ Eight projects funded by COMCEC, have been signed with a total funding of USD 426,000 for non-governmental organizations in Jerusalem across various sectors to support the steadfastness of Jerusalem's residents.

Continuing its unwavering support for the resilience of Jerusalem's residents, the **Ministry of National Economy** has signed eight projects funded by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC). These projects, which received a

total of USD 426,000 in funding, are centered on the tourism sector and intersect with other areas such as youth empowerment, e-commerce, and artificial intelligence.

6.2 Strengthening Steadfastness in the Jordan Valley, Marginalized Areas, and Area C

One of the government's key priorities is to strengthen the resilience of the Palestinian people, particularly in the most targeted and marginalized areas, such as the Palestinian Jordan Valley and regions classified as "Area C." The government is collaborating with all relevant parties—including local and civil society organizations, unions, and international partners—to support the Palestinian people's steadfastness on their land. This involves addressing humanitarian and economic damages and mitigating their impacts as much as possible.

 Key Interventions:

To advance this effort, the **Municipal Development and Lending Fund** is spearheading infrastructure and essential services projects in the Jordan Valley, marginalized areas, and "Area C." A total of 19 projects targeting 18 communities have been funded, with EUR 4.89 million from the European Union and Denmark, and EUR 1.57 million from the French Development Agency through the European Union. Additionally, 13 projects worth EUR 6.29 million have been approved for 13 communities. These projects include the construction of schools, roads, water distribution networks, water reservoirs, and sewage and electricity networks across various governorates, with work expected to commence by the end of 2024.

In this context, diagnostic reports are being prepared to develop structural plans for 30 residential communities distributed across five tenders in "Area C." Furthermore, a final draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has been prepared, with plans to sign it at the beginning of July. This agreement aims to enhance legal support in threatened areas.

Work has also commenced on preparing the spatial and investment plan for the southwestern area of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, which encompasses nine local governments: Ras Karkar, Al-Janiya, Bil'in, Kafr Ni'ma, Deir Ibzi', Saffa, Beit 'Ur al-Tahta, Beit 'Ur al-Fauqa, and al-Tireh. An institutional assessment of these local governments is being carried out to improve their capacity to deliver better services to citizens. Additionally, efforts are underway to identify functional areas for development and facilitate joint planning for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the goal of promoting regional integration in development and services.

7.0 Challenges

The nineteenth Palestinian government began its tenure under exceptionally challenging political conditions. The situation was marked by heightened aggression from the Israeli occupation, including its ongoing and relentless genocidal war on Gaza, brutal attacks throughout the West Bank, and a financial siege that significantly strained the government's resources. This financial siege involved a reduction in funding sources and foreign aid, compounded by the Israeli government's piracy and withholding of Palestinian clearance revenues from November 2023 to June 2024. Additionally, Israel imposed escalating deductions from Palestinian tax funds and ceased all transfers during the government's first three months. These severe conditions created significant obstacles and hindered the government's ability to maintain and develop essential services. **The main challenges impacting the government's work program and its performance during the initial hundred days in office include:**

- ✧ **The ongoing Israeli war on the Palestinian people:** The Israeli genocidal war, specifically targeting the Gaza Strip, has persisted for over nine months, resulting in the martyrdom, injury, or disappearance of tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom are feared to be trapped under the rubble. The war has wrought extensive destruction across Gaza, including residential areas, infrastructure, public facilities, government offices, and health centers. This conflict has also repeatedly displaced most of Gaza's residents from their homes to areas of high density populated areas.

The war's economic impacts have been devastating, crippling all economic activities and production factors in Gaza. Socially, it has led to the disintegration of social structures and service institutions, profoundly affecting the social fabric and structure of Gaza. The conflict has altered familial relationships due to forced displacement, transforming many people into refugees and internally displaced persons, significantly changing their identities and social conditions.

Educational opportunities have been lost, with both general and higher education in Gaza severely disrupted. The residents are enduring extreme poverty and severe food insecurity. Since October 7, 2023, the ongoing Israeli genocidal war has inflicted devastating impacts on Gaza and the West Bank, presenting significant challenges to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian government and leadership have been making intense efforts, in collaboration with international entities and the global community, to end the Israeli occupation and aggression and to provide urgent relief to the Palestinian people. However, the continuation of the conflict continues to pose substantial challenges for addressing its long-lasting effects. The Palestinian government and leadership have made, and continue to make, relentless efforts in collaboration with international entities and the global community to end the Israeli occupation and aggression and to provide urgent relief to the Palestinian people. Despite these efforts, the ongoing nature of the conflict presents significant challenges for the government in addressing its long-lasting effects.

- ✧ **Obstruction of Relief and Humanitarian Efforts:** The Israeli occupation has imposed a severe and crippling blockade on the Gaza Strip, preventing the entry of humanitarian aid and cutting off basic services to its residents. This blockade has exacerbated the already dire

conditions, leading to long-term harm and increased suffering for the Palestinian people. Despite the government's efforts to organize, amplify, and coordinate humanitarian assistance in collaboration with international relief organizations, these efforts have been obstructed. The reoccupation and complete closure of the Rafah crossing, coupled with significant restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation, have severely hindered the delivery of life-saving aid and worsened the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

- ✘ **The Deepening Financial Crisis:** The financial sanctions imposed by Israel have significantly worsened the economic situation in Palestine. Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation authorities have deducted approximately NIS 270 million from Palestinian clearance revenues, which represents Gaza's allocated share of the general budget that the Palestinian government transfers monthly to the Gaza Strip. These deductions are in addition to a series of reductions that have been occurring over several years. From November 2023 to June 2024, the Palestinian government did not receive the full clearance revenues from the Israeli authorities, which are the largest source of financial income for the government. As a result, the escalating financial crisis has severely impaired the Palestinian government's ability to fulfill its obligations. This crisis has had widespread repercussions, including impacts on public sector employees, increased debt to the private sector, and reduced overall economic activity. It has led to a decline in purchasing power, the loss of hundreds of thousands of job opportunities, and a significant drop in government revenues. Consequently, the number of vulnerable social groups has increased, and poverty rates have risen.
- ✘ **Slowdown of the Palestinian Economy:** The Palestinian economy has faced immense damage, resulting in the gravest shock to date. The Israeli genocidal war on Gaza devastated all economic activities in the region, leading to a sharp decline in economic activity in the West Bank as well. In the first quarter of 2024, Gaza's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dropped by 86% compared to the same period the previous year, while the West Bank experienced a 24% decrease. Overall, Palestine's GDP dropped by 35% in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.
- ✘ **Rise in Unemployment Rates:** The economic downturn has led to massive job losses, with over 90% of Palestinians working in Israel and Israeli settlements being laid off, along with the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In Gaza, the unemployment rate surged to around 80% by the end of the first quarter of 2024, a dramatic increase from 45.9% in the same period of 2023. Consequently, the overall unemployment rate in Palestine reached approximately 57% at the end of the first quarter of 2024, a sharp rise from 25.2% in the first quarter of the previous year.
- ✘ **The Near Complete Halt of Palestinians Working in Occupied Territories:** The near complete ban imposed on Palestinian workers to access their workplaces in the occupied territories has led to a significant decrease in the injection of approximately NIS 1.2 billion per month into the local market. The agricultural and industrial sectors have struggled to provide employment opportunities for these workers. In the first quarter of 2024, the agricultural sector's contribution to the GDP was a mere 5.3%, while the industrial sector only accounted for 11.2%.
- ✘ **Maintaining the Continuity and Development of Essential Services:** The complex political and financial situation has posed significant challenges for the government, making it difficult

to maintain the continuity and quality of essential services. Despite these obstacles, the government has been working diligently to ensure that essential services continue to be provided at the required level and quality. For instance:

- The educational process has been disrupted and inconsistent due to several factors: the ongoing Israeli war on Gaza, partial attendance of teachers in the West Bank caused by partial salary payments, and frequent Israeli incursions and closures in various areas of the West Bank. This situation has led to a significant educational loss.
- The health sector is currently experiencing a critical situation due to a lack of medicines and medical supplies. This shortage results from suppliers being unable to continue providing these essential items due to the government's mounting debt. Additionally, there have been delays in the implementation of developmental projects and a shortage of human resources due to a reduction in new hires.
- **The capacity of local governments to deliver services has greatly diminished** as a result of reduced local revenue, the Ministry of Finance's inability to fulfill its financial obligations to these authorities, and the overall financial crisis. This financial strain has compelled many local governments to utilize electricity and water revenues to fulfill their commitments and pay staff salaries. Consequently, the quality of services they provide has noticeably deteriorated, impacting several areas, such as nighttime street lighting, infrastructure maintenance, and waste collection and transportation. These problems pose a serious risk of health and environmental disasters in populated areas.

- ✘ **Drinking Water Crisis:** The water sector in Gaza is facing an extremely dire situation. The inability to operate desalination plants and the shutdown of municipal wells due to power blackouts and fuel shortages have caused a serious disaster. Currently, the available water supply is estimated to be only 20-25% of what was available before the Israeli offensive. However, even this limited quantity is dependent on the availability of fuel.

In the West Bank, the water sector is directly targeted by the Israeli occupation, leading to the destruction of water lines and networks, which cuts off water supplies to various communities. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation government has imposed sanctions, including a reduction in water supplies by the Israeli company Mekorot. Consequently, a drinking water crisis has emerged, particularly in Hebron and other Palestinian governorates. Residents are now forced to rely on water tankers, which only adds to their financial burden.

- ✘ **Obstruction of Reconstruction Efforts in West Bank Areas Targeted by Israeli Attacks and Incursions:** The government is making every possible effort to address the impacts of Israeli occupation military incursions into the West Bank, particularly in refugee camps. These incursions cause significant damage to infrastructure and disrupt essential services such as water, electricity, and sewage. Systematic and repeated attacks, including deliberate destruction and bulldozing, have hindered and delayed the government's reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. Consequently, costs have increased significantly, and the efforts have become more complicated.



State of Palestine

Council of Ministers

General Secretariat

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The full report can be accessed through the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers' website at palestinecabinet.gov.ps. For inquiries and further information, please contact us at: Tel: 02-2969770, Fax: 02-2950979, or via email at Diwan@pmo.gov.ps.

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