



**State of Palestine**  
**Prime Minister' Office**

**PALESTINIAN NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN 2020  
SUMMARY REPORT**

**September 2021**

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The PMO is grateful for the technical assistance provided by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator (UNSCO) in undertaking this review culminating in this report.

Sincere appreciation is also being extended to friendly States and national and international development partners for the support they provide to sustainable development programs in the State of Palestine, particularly those implemented in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Prime Minister's Office**

**Coordinator of the SDGs national team**

## 1. Background

The Palestinian government embraced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and it has committed to work with local and international partners to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with its national development priorities. As part of this commitment, Palestine submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals to the high-level political forum in 2018. This document presents a summary of a review of the progress made across all SDGs since 2015, giving particular attention to the progress made and challenges faced in 2020, and offers recommendations to the concerned authorities to enhance the process of progress towards achieving the goals. It is hoped that this will inform ongoing policy discussions among development partners on policy gaps and urgent implementation tools in order to accelerate progress during the Decade of Action.

UNSCO provided technical assistance to the Prime Minister's Office in undertaking this review. Following a collaborative approach with The National Team for SDGs - the national coordination body that facilitates policy discussions on SDGs, follow on and report on the progress of SDGs implementation, and ensure inter-sectoral coordination with interlocutors. A participatory methodology was used in undertaking the review, where the coordinating entities for each SDG were responsible for undertaking the review of the progress in their respective goals in consultation with all relevant stakeholders and producing a short progress report on the results of these consultations, using a standardized reporting format. The PMO, with technical assistance from UNSCO, reviewed produced reports in close collaboration with SGD coordinators, and assembled the overall progress report. The final report was presented to and shared with the Nation Team for the SDGs for comments and clearance.

The summary report presented in this document is structured in the same manner as that presented in the full report. Following this introduction, section 2 presents the results of the progress review for all SDGs centering on people, which include SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10. The third section presents progress against SDGs centring on the planet, that is SDGs 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15. The fourth section analyses progress made in SDGs focusing on economic development and prosperity, and these include SDGs 8 and 9. SDGs 11 and 16 focusing on peace and justice are discussed in the fifth section, while SDG 17 which is focused on arrangements for realization of the SDGs is discussed in the sixth section. Section seven presents a brief overview of the common challenges reported in advancing towards the SDGs, as well as the key suggestions addressing these challenges and moving forward. For details, please refer to the full report.

## 2. Progress in SDGs Focusing on People

Issues of poverty eradication (SDG 1), hunger and food security (SDG 2), and health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4) services development, and gender equality (SDG 5) have been key policy priorities for the Government of the State of Palestine as clearly reflected in the National Policy Agenda (2017-2022) and the 25 sector strategies constituting the National Development Plan 2017-2022. Key interventions implemented in 2020 to achieve government policy priorities in these priority areas, while also meeting SDG commitments are summarized in Table 1 below:

*Table 1: Summary of interventions undertaken to achieve the SDG targets centring on people and the status of their associated indicators*

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 1: No Poverty</b>		
1.1.	Scaling up the Cash-Transfer Programme (CTP), where 80% of all households living in deep poverty have been receiving cash assistance on a quarterly basis since 2019. In 2020, due to the financial crisis faced by the government, only 77% of eligible households received assistance through the programme (98000 households).	1.1.1.1. Data not available for 2020. 1.1.1.2. Data not available for 2020.
1.2.	The cash assistance provided within the framework of the CTP has gone a long way in meeting obligations towards this target. In addition, non-cash social assistance was also provided to poor households. Nearly 115000 poor households received cash assistance in 2020, representing an increase of 9000 households over 2019. Most of these households also received non-cash assistance in the form of food vouchers, rental subsidies, health insurance, and fee waivers.	1.2.1. Data not available for 2020. 1.2.2.1. Data not available for 2020 1.2.2.2. Data not available for 2020 1.2.2.3. Data not available for 2020 1.2.3.4. Data not available for 2020
1.3.	A Social Protection Floor policy is under development to complement and bridge protection gaps in the CTP. The Ministry of Social Development has established protection floors for persons with disabilities and elderly, whereby persons belonging to this groups would receive US\$ 100 per month in addition to other forms of support, but implementation has not started yet. MoSD, nonetheless, has continued to provide protection-filling measures (cash, non-cash assistance, employment, waivers, and referrals) to PWDs, the forcibly displaced, women victims of violence, orphans, and other vulnerable groups.	1.3.1. Data not available for 2020
1.4.	A wide range of interventions were carried out by MoSD and social protection partners to enhance access to basic service. Key among these include supporting 200 income generating projects, supporting cash-based transfer in the form of food and non-food vouchers to some 170,000 people suffering from food insecurity.	1.4.1. Data not available for 2020
1.5.	developing the first quick response plan for the social protection sector, and the activation of local emergency committees to support Covid-19 response. Moreover, 32,115 households that were negatively impacted by Covid-19 received one-time cash assistance, and another 112,18 households received food and other in-kind assistance to help them mitigate the impact of Covid-19.	1.5.1.1. 0.0206 people in 2018. Updated data not available for 2020. 1.5.1.2. Zero in 2018. Updated data not available for 2020. 1.5.1.3. 6.28 in 2018. Updated data not available for 2020. 1.5.2. US \$28.678 million in 2019. Updated data not available for 2020. 1.5.3. Palestine has a disaster risk reduction and management strategy, and value of indicator is 1. 1.5.4. 68.8% in 2019. Updated data not available for 2020.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
1.a.	No stand-alone interventions towards this target.	1.a.1. Data not available. 1.a.2. 57.9% of all government expenditure was allocated to basic service delivery in 2019. Data is not available for 2020.
1.b.	Update of the Social Development Strategy 2017-2022, giving greater focus to addressing multidimensional poverty, strengthening social protection through social protection floors.	1.b.1. Data not available.
<b>SDG 2: Zero Hunger</b>		
2.1.	Provision of regular food assistance to food insecure households, where 28,143 households (51,000 individuals) received this assistance. An additional 14,855 households in the West Bank and 5555households in Gaza received food vouchers. Moreover, 300 households received support to establish or develop food production projects to improve their access to food (both physical and economic), while enhancing availability at the local level.	2.1.1. Data not available. 2.1.2. Updated data not available for 2020. In 2019, Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population was 26.3%, down from 29.9% in 2016. 2.1.3. Updated data not available for 2020. In 2019, Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the population was 9.5%, up from 4.4% in 2016.
2.2.	No specific interventions.	2.2.1. Updated data not available for 2020. Prevalence of stunting in 2019 was 8.7%, up from 7.4% in 2016. 2.2.2.1. Updated data not available for 2020. Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 was 1.3% in 2019, marginally higher than in 2016 when it was 1.2%. 2.2.2.2. Updated data not available for 2020. Prevalence of overweight among children under 5 was 8.6% in 2019, marginally higher than in 2016 when it was 8.2%. 2.2.3.1. Data not available. 2.2.3.2. Data not available. 2.2.3.3. Data not available.
2.3.	Projects to increase the use of treated wastewater for irrigation in seven agricultural clusters continued in 2020. Water desalination works in Gaza's central treatment plant were also completed. Moreover, a strategy for the development of nine agricultural clusters was developed and approved by the Cabinet, with a total budget of US\$ 133.92 million. Strategic objectives of these strategies include increasing: cultivated areas by 43,000 dunums, water for irrigation by 18 cubic meters, and value added of agriculture by 7%, and employment in agriculture by 14,000 jobs.	2.3.1. Data not available. 2.3.2. Data not available.
2.4.	Rehabilitation and reclamation of 11400 dunums of agricultural lands, increasing the supply of water for irrigation from convention and unconventional sources, and opening of 436 kilometres of agricultural roads.	2.4.1. . Data not available.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
2.5.	No specific interventions.	2.5.1. Data not available. 2.5.2. Data not available.
2.a.	The National Investment Plan for Enhancing Food Security has been developed and approved by the Cabinet. The NI was integrated within the Agriculture Sector Strategy, with a total budget of US\$ 488 million.	2.a.1.1. Updated data is not available for 2020. The agriculture orientation index for government expenditure was 0.10835 in 2018. 2.a.1.2. Updated data is not available for 2020. Agriculture share of government expenditure was 0.97 in 2019. 2.a.1.3. Updated data is not available for 2020. However, agriculture value added share of GDP in 2019 was 7.3%. 2.a.2. Data not available.
2.b.	No specific interventions were carried out towards this target.	2.b.1. Data not available.
2.c.	No specific interventions were carried out towards this target.	2.c.1.1. Updated data is not available for 2020. However, the Consumer Food Price Index was 0.6 in 2019. 2.c.1.2. Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA) for Rice was -0.5 in 2020. 2.c.1.3. Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA) for Wheat was 0.46 in 2020. 2.c.1.4. Data not available. 2.c.1.5. Data not available. 2.c.1.6. Data not available.
<b>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being</b>		
3.1.	Numerous interventions were undertaken in 2020 towards this target. The main interventions included ensuring that budgetary resources are allocated and made available to delivery rooms in public hospital to deliver regular and emergency service, integrating the Robson Cesarean Classification into the unified electronic system of the Ministry of health to mitigate against the risks of birth complications, developing and implementing a response plan to ensure safe pregnancy and delivery for women and children infected with Covid-19, developing an action plan to address pregnancy and delivery-related mortality on the basis of a comprehensive study of these incidents in 2019, and maintaining and scaling up the use of the Maternal Near Miss program in public and private hospitals which has helped generate knowledge and experience sharing among practitioners of good practices in mother and child care.	3.1.1. Maternal mortality ratio was 28.5 per 100,000 live births in 2020. A total of 37 maternal mortalities was registered in 2020, of which 9 were associated with Covid-19. There was a marginal increase in this indicator in 2020, compared to previous years, and this largely attributed to Covid-19 complications among pregnant women. 3.1.2. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in 2020 was 100%, up from 99.7% in 2019.
3.2.	Implementation of numerous training programs for midwives and delivery room nurses and service providers on the National Protocol for the Care of Newborns, and monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Every Newborn Action Plan to ensure proper care and adequate registration and investigation of newborn mortalities. Undertaking	3.2.1.1. Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) dropped to 8.2 in 2020 from 12.1 in 2019. 3.2.1.2. Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) was 14.2 in 2019. Data on indicator is not available for 2020.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	PKU and TSH testing for 81,191 newborns. And launching of the Child Friendly Clinic Initiative, which aims at improving post-natal services to mother and children in public and private hospitals and primary health clinics.	3.2.1. Neonatal mortality rate (per 100,000 births) was 9.4 in 2019. Data on indicator is not available for 2020.
3.3.	Vaccination programs continued as usual despite the outbreak of Covid-19.	3.3.1. The Number of new HIV infections per 100,000 uninfected population in 2020 was 0.001, down from 0.017 in 2019. 3.3.2. Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population in 2020 was 0.33, down from 0.37 in 2019. 3.3.3. Malaria incidence per 100,000 population in 2020 was 0, similar to previous years. 3.3.4. Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population in 2020 was 0.37, up from 0.34 in 2019.
3.4.	Scaling up cancer screening services in collaboration with service providers across Palestine. Establishing 2 new diabetes clinics in the West Bank, bringing the total number of specialized diabetes clinics to 10 clinics. Beginning to fill prescriptions for self-administered Insulin pens through MoH pharmacies to reduce the financial and access burden of insulin injections on diabetes patients, especially for children. Moreover, thousands of counseling and public awareness hours have been implemented to enhance psycho-social wellbeing of the population, and raise awareness on	3.4.1.1. Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease was 20.1 per 10,000 population in 2020, compared to 19.6 in 2019. 3.4.1.2. The number of deaths attributed to non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease) was 2,019 in 2020. 3.4.2.1. The number of deaths attributed to suicide was 22 in 2020. 3.4.2.2. Suicide mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 population) was 0.8 in 2020.
3.5.	Several interventions were implemented during the course of 2020 to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse. These included the adoption of the international methadone treatment protocol for the treatment of addiction and drug abuse, the development of a national strategy for the prevention and treatment of addiction, the development and implementation of a national program to rationalize the use and prevent the illicit trade of dangerous and addictive drugs, launching of a program for the treatment of addiction among inmates, and scaling up the use of Sebutex and Naltraxon in the treatment of addiction and alcoholism.	3.5.1. Data not available. 3.5.2. Data not available.
3.6.	Implementation of numerous campaigns to in collaboration with local authorities to promote road safety, and publication and dissemination of a two first aid manuals, one oriented to the general public and another oriented to emergency staff.	3.6.1. Death rate (per 100,000 population) due to road traffic injuries in 2020 was 2.8, down from 3.9 the year before.
3.7.	Preparation and publication of: the Preconception National Guidelines to improve women's prenatal health; National Plan for Sexual and Reproductive	3.7.1. Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	<p>Health in Crisis, and Health Professionals Protocol for Covid-19 Infection and Pregnancy. Other interventions included training of health professionals on diagnosis of gender-based violence, and establishing a protocol for this purpose in public hospitals, as well as training 20 health professionals to provide counseling to women victims of violence, including through help lines. Moreover, implementation of more than 5500 public awareness sessions about healthy lifestyles, more than 3800 on communicable diseases, and 20,000 online sessions and activities (including interactive electronic games) to promote active and healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>need for family planning satisfied with modern methods was 61% in 2020.  3.7.2. Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years) per 1,000 women in that age group was 28.7 in 2020, down from 36.4 in 2019.  3.7.3. Adolescent birth rate (aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group was 42.8 in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available.</p>
3.8.	<p>Scores of projects have been implemented to increase capacities of public hospitals and clinics to ensure access to all people to universal healthcare, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines, and, more recently- to Covid-19 testing and care. The full list of these projects is included in the full report, but suffice here to highlight that these projects included building of new hospitals and clinics, upgrading laboratory services and facilities, and transforming three health directorates into family medicine directorates, including staff training and installing needed capacities.</p>	<p>3.8.1. Data on coverage of essential health services in not available.  3.8.2.1. Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (more than 10%.) was 9% in 2017. Updated data is not available.  3.8.2.2. Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (more than 25%) was 1.5% in 2017. Updated data is not available.</p>
3.9.	<p>Interventions to achieve target have largely focused on improving the management and safe disposal of medical waste (including through installing capacity within health facilities for this purpose), establishing three incinerators for medical waste and transferring them over to local authorities to manage; stepping-up monitoring of Cholera and Polio through surveillance and testing of wastewater treatment plants; and stepping-up monitoring of potable water resources, including through systemic and routine inspection of industrial facilities, support to local authorities to chlorinate piped water and for the distribution of sodium hydro chlorate for water disinfection in communities with no public water networks.</p>	<p>3.9.1. Data is not available to assess mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution.  3.9.2. Data not available to assess mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene.  3.9.3. Data not available to assess mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning.</p>
3.a.	<p>Covid-19 presented an opportunity to raise awareness about the dangers and long-term risks of smoking, where MoH implemented numerous awareness raising activities and campaigns in this regard. MoH is also spearheading efforts to develop a plan of action for supporting smokers to quit smoking.</p>	<p>3.a.1. Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older is 29.5% in 2020.</p>
3.b.	<p>A vaccine forecast was developed fro the years 2020-2022, which was used to secure needed vaccines in cooperation with UNICEF.</p>	<p>3.b.1.1. Percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received the third dose of DTP containing vaccine (DTP3) in a given</p>

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	<p>Coordination with Covax to secure Covid-19 vaccines, and allocating US\$ 10 million for purchase of vaccines; regulation of drug prices to ensure accessibility and affordability, with more than 3700 drugs having been price-regulated. Updating of the lists of medicines that could be sold over-the-counter and those that need prescriptions.</p>	<p>year was 94.6% in 2019. Data is not available for 2020.</p> <p>3.b.1.2. Percentage of children aged 12-23 months who received the third dose of Pneumococcal (Conjugate) vaccine (PCV3) in 2019 was 91.7%. Data not available for 2020.</p> <p>3.b.1.3. Percentage of children aged 24-35 months who received the second measles containing vaccine in 2019 was 93.9%. Data not available for 2020.</p> <p>3.b.2.1. Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors (gross disbursement) in 2019 was US\$ 120.5 million. Data not available for 2020.</p> <p>3.b.2.2. Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors (net disbursement) in 2019 was US\$ 104.1 million. Data not available for 2020.</p> <p>3.b.2.3. Data not available on Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis.</p>
3.c.	<p>Thousands of medical doctors and medical professionals have been training in 2020, including on safe diagnosis and care of Covid-19 patients. In additions, 797 physician trainees were in practical internships and training in 2020.</p>	<p>3.c.1.1. Physicians density in 2020 was 22.4 per 10,000 population in 2020.</p> <p>3.c.1.2. Dentists' density in 2020 was 8.1 per 10,000 population.</p> <p>3.c.1.3. Pharmacists' density in 2020 was 11.5 per 10,000 population.</p> <p>3.c.1.4. Health workers' density in 2020 was 27.8 per 10,000 population.</p> <p>3.c.1.5. Midwifery density in 2020 was 2.7 per 10,000 population.</p>
3.d.	<p>The MoH spearheaded efforts in 2020 to prevent, mitigate and manage the spread of Covid-19, and has been applauded by WHO for these efforts. This included putting in systems for early warning, risk reduction and management of Covid-19, including wide scale testing, securing quarantines, distribution of personal protective equipment, public awareness campaigns, and upgrading capacity of the health system to provide care for and treat those with Covid-19 and who require hospitalization.</p>	<p>Data not available to assess Indicators 3.d.1. and 3.d.2.</p>
<b>SDG 4: Quality Education<sup>1</sup></b>		
4.1.	<p>Leaner-centered approaches and strategies that take into account personal differences between learners are being used in public schools. Investments have</p>	<p>4.1.1. The proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower</p>

<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Education and UNESCO agreed on a different set of indicators to track progress against SDG 4. Progress against these indicator is covered in the full report.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	been made to make school safer and more inclusive.	secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading was 31.8% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 4.1.1.2. The proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics was 45.8% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 4.1.2. Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education) in 2020 was as follows: Primary: 99.2; lower secondary: 91.2; upper secondary: 63.3.
4.2.	In collaboration with higher education institutes, providing continuous learning for pre-school teachers. Developing a handbook manual for pre-school head teachers to support improvements in the quality of education at this level. Opening of 344 pre-school classes in remote and poor communities in 2020. Children enrolled in these classes represent 10.2% of total enrolment in pre-school.	4.2.1. The proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being was 83.9% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 4.2.2. the participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) was 72.3% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
4.3.	Introducing reforms to the educational assessment and evaluation system to make it more inclusive, market-oriented, and flexible. This included developing new educational pathways to attract students to vocational and scientific streams in higher education.	4.3.1. The participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months was 19.2% in 2020.
4.4.	Integration of life-skills education within curriculum at all levels of basic and secondary education. Revision of grade 12 curriculum to ensure relevance to market needs, coupled with the implementation of 769 career counseling activities to promote enrollment in vocation and technical education. Delivering in-service teacher training for 47 teachers annually. Supporting the introduction of reforms in school oversight and supervision in 22 schools. Developing the National Qualification Framework and Standards in accordance with international standards and frameworks.	4.4.1. The proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills was 70.9% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
4.5.	Supporting the integration of children with disabilities in formal education, and increasing enrollment of these children by 0.1% annually. Starting work to establish 2 new vocational schools, and 9 vocational training units in existing schools by 2022. Rolling out insurance against accidents for students in all public schools. Rolling out the implementation of the Vocational Apprenticeship Strategy in six schools, and integration of vocational education for grades 7-9 in 85 schools, and for grade 10 in 100 schools annually.	4.5.1.1 Adjusted net attendance ratio in basic stage was 96.9% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 4.5.1.2 Adjusted net attendance ratio in secondary stage was 74.5% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
4.6.	Promotion of informal education and life-long learning to youth and adults. Increasing absorption capacities for 76 literacy education classes and 32 parallel education classes, including through training of 300 teachers annually and introduction of new educational courses. Implementation of 80% of the planned interventions in the National Strategy for Adult Education in collaboration with communities.	4.6.1 Data to assess the proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills is not available.
4.7.	Revision of national curriculum to deepen learners' appreciation for their national identity, global issues and global citizenship, and gender equality and equity. This has included promoting and scaling up student-led community services and school initiatives, where some 233 such initiatives have been undertaken in 2020.	4.7.1.Data to assess the extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment is not available.
4.a.	Upgrading 310 classes annually to meet physical standards for classes in primary schools. Upgrading the physical school environment in 86 school building annually. Undertaking major maintenance and rehabilitation works in 25 schools annually.	4.a.1.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity was 100% in 2019. No data for 2020. 4.a.1.2 Proportion of schools with access to: (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes was 96.4% in 2019. 4.a.1.3. Proportion of schools with access to: (c) computers for pedagogical purposes was 94.6% in 2019. 4.a.1.4. Proportion of schools with access to: (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities was 68.4% in 2019. 4.a.1.5 Proportion of schools with access to: (e) basic drinking water was 98.9% in 2019. 4.a.1.6 Proportion of schools with access to:(f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities was 99.1% in 2019. 4.a.1.7 Proportion of schools with access to:(g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions) was 98.5% in 2019.
44.b.	No specific interventions against this target have been reported.	4.b.1 data on the volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study is not available for 2020. In 2018, this figure was US\$ 5.82 million, while it increased to US\$ 11.15 million in 2019.
4.c.	In-service teacher training and continuous education for teachers, school principals, and support staff are core elements of the Education Sector Strategy (ESS). Annually, some 4% of all teachers and principals in the primary level receive formal training as part of the ESS. Overall, some 15864 teachers on average participate in continuous	4 c.1. The proportion of teachers in primary; lower secondary; and upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level was 100% in 2019.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	education programs offered by or through the Ministry of Education.	The same figure for pre-school teachers is not available.
<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b>		
5.1	The Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) has been spearheading consultations and joint advocacy work with civil society and UN organizations to enhance gender equality and to end gender-based violence in Palestine. MoWA has also been delivering training, public awareness, and direct support to women empowerment. In 2020, efforts included preparing two reports to showcase gender gaps in the civil service and security sector, delivering training programs for the benefit of women in various syndicates and unions, and proposing changes to legislations (including, labor law, family protection law, and local elections law) to be more gender responsive and equitable. MoWA has also worked with the Ministry of Justice to introduce changes to the Legal Support Law, to make it more attuned to the needs of women victims of violence.	5.1.1 The indicator value in 2020 was 40%, which means that the legal frameworks in place only partially promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex. A study of these frameworks showed that the legal framework includes 26 positive aspects to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on sex, yet found that 16 required elements to be lacking.
5.2.	Institutionalization of a special hotline within the Palestinian Police emergency call center to receive emergency calls from women victims of violence. The hotline is being managed by the Family Protective Service at the Palestinian Police. With the public prosecutor’s office, establishing procedures to expedite access to justice for women during the pandemic. Undertaking a study with 6000 households to monitor violence against women during the pandemic, and undertaking a national survey to update information on violence against women. Undertaking more than 100 public awareness activities within the 16-Days Campaign. Intensifying media presence to raise awareness about gender-based violence and sensitize women to their rights and recourse avenues. Preparing a voluntary report on the implementation of SCR 1325 and submitting to the SG. .	5.2.1. 58.2% of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older were subject to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in 2019. In 2020, based on a survey of 6000 households, this percentage was 56%. 5.2.2. 3.7% of women and girls aged 15 years and older were subject to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in 2019.
5.3.	Intervening with the Chief Judge to minimize exceptions granted to marry girls who are less than 18 years of age. Establishing an inter-ministerial committee to formulate a policy and action plan to mitigate against early marriage.	5.3.1.1. Only 0.7% of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 in 2019. 5.3.1.2. 13.4% of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 in 2019.
5.4.	During Covid-19 restrictions, the Cabinet granted special permission for women employed in the public sector with children below 10 years to work from home.	5.4.1.1. The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic chores and care work was 17.8 for women and 2.98 for men in 2019. 5.4.1.2. The proportion of time spent on unpaid care work was 3.819% for women/girls and 0.625 for men/boys in 2019. 5.4.1.3. The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic chores was 13.958% for

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
		women/girls and 2.361% for men/boys in 2019.
5.5.	Integrating women in all local emergency committees established at the local level to lead local-level response to Covid-19. Establishing of five national thematic committees to mainstream gender in key sectors and policies, including a committee to work with the Ministry of Education to change the stereotypical image of women as being homemakers and subordinate to men, and a committee to strengthen referral systems for women victims of violence, and an emergency response committee to ensure that Covid-19 response plans are gender sensitive. Moreover, hundreds of awareness raising campaigns and activities on women's political, economic, social and cultural rights have been implemented in 2020, including advocacy work to promote women's representation in decision making positions.	5.5.1.1. The proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament is 11.8%> 5.5.1.2. The proportion of seats held by women in local governments in 2020 was 20%. 5.5.1.3. The proportion of elected seats held by women in deliberative bodies of local government was 21.2% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 5.5.2. The proportion of women in managerial positions was 22.2% in 2020.
5.6.	Prioritizing disinfection of public facilities mostly used and frequented by women to mitigate against spread of Covid-19 among women and girls in particular. Establishing a gender sensitive protocol for the testing and treatment of Covid-19 patients. Putting a place safety measure to maintain the operations of reproductive health clinics, risky pregnancy care centers, and mother and child clinics during the Pandemic, and facilitating access to these centers during lockdowns and Covid-19 movement restrictions. Implementing a women-facing public information campaign to raise women's awareness of Covid-19 and how to prevent infection, as well as how to deal with the additional psychological and reproductive burdens it is likely to bring. Scaling-up psycho-social support and counseling services to women during the pandemic. Participation in numerous online conferences and regional and international meetings on the impact of Covid-19 on gender equality.	5.6.1. Data to assess the proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care is not available.
5.a.	Intensifying efforts to monitor and enforce employers' adherence to the Labor Law during the pandemic. Prioritizing assistance within the CTP and other emergency assistance programs implemented by government and other social actors to women, women-headed households, and transitional unemployed women. Facilitating an agreement with employers to pay women at least 50% of their usual salaries and wages during the lockdown for a period of up to 3 months.	Data on indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. is not available.
5.b.	Efforts are underway to digitize public services and transition into electronic services. Hi-tech technology is being encouraged, including through coordinating with donors to support entrepreneurship for women.	5.b.1. 74.9% of individuals owned a mobile telephone in 2019; 79% among men and 70% among women.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 10: Reducing Inequalities</b>		
10.1.	Regular cash assistance through the CTP to some 115000 households living in deep poverty. These households received three quarterly transfers in 2020, with the total transfer value of ILS 408.5 million	10.1.1 The rate of household expenditure per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population was declining in 2017 (the data available), and was estimated at - 8.59%.
10.2.	47,649 women-headed households and 18,177 households that are wither headed by a person with a disability have received cash and other forms of social assistance in 2020 through the CTP. To support the integration of persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Development has delivered training, supported (266) income-generating projects, and provided tax and customs waivers for vehicle purchases for (479) persons with disabilities. Moreover, the Ministry of Public Works has been quite active in upgrading public facilities to be accessible for persons with dsibilities, and has undertaken –in collaboration with MoSD- several home remodification projects for the same purpose. The Ministry of Education has also adopted an Inclusive Education Policy and has taken numerous steps to integrate persons with disabilities in formal education, including through establishing resource rooms, teacher training, and community outreach activities. MoSD and MoE have also been collaborating to reintegrate children outside training, education, and employment and those who have dropped out into forma education. The Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection and the Ministry of Labor have also implemented numerous employment initiatives, specifically targeting women, youth, and persons with disabilities.	10.2.1. The proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income was 17.3% in 2017. Updated data is not available.
10.3.	Draft Law on Protecting Families from Violence has been prepared and ready for submission to Cabinet for review and endorsement. Legal framework for Juveniles Protection has been completed with the development of executive regulations and instructions, whose implementation is pending Cabinet endorsement. Moreover, a draft Law for Persons with Disabilities has been prepared in consultation with all key stakeholders. The Government continued to its affirmative action policy towards persons with disabilities, stipulating a 5% quota of all vacancies to be filled in the civil service to persons with disabilities.	10.3.1. The proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law was 10.5% in 2018. Updated data beyond 2018 is not available.
10.4.	The National Social Development Strategy for 2017-2022 was revised, focusing on addressing multidimensional poverty and exclusion. To ensure a more equitable distribution of income, the Ministry of Labor facilitated an agreement between employers and employees organizations to raise the	10.4.1. Data is not available to assess the labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers. 10.4.2. Similarly, data is not available to assess the redistributive impact of fiscal policy.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	minimum wage from ILS 1450 to 1880, starting in 2022.	
10.5.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	Data not available on associated indicator.
10.6.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	10.6.1. The State of Palestine has an Observer status in the UN GA and has full membership in UNESCO. However, it is not yet a member in any of the international organizations included in the indicator.
10.7	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	Data not available on associated indicators.
10.a.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	Data not available on associated indicators.
10.b.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	10.b.1. Total resource flows for development in Palestine amounted to US\$ 2,240.9 million in 2018. Updated data beyond 2018 is not available.
10.c.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	10.c.1. Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted was 6.09% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.

### 3. Progress in SDGs Focusing on the Planet

For the purposes of this report, and in line with the previous voluntary monitoring report (see background), SDGs classified as focusing on the planet are those related to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), climate (SDG 13), life below water (SDG 14), and life on land (SDG 15). Albeit to varying degrees, all of these issues have been identified as priorities in the National Development Plan, National Policy Agenda, and the sectoral strategies for 2017-2022, with numerous policy interventions and actions having been implemented to address them. The following table presents a summary of the key interventions undertaken in the State of Palestine with the view of making progress towards the SDG targets centering on the planet, along with a snapshot of the status of the indicators associated with these targets.

*Table 2: Summary of interventions undertaken to achieve the SDG targets centering on the planet and the status of their associated indicators*

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</b>		
6.1.	Construction, development and rehabilitation of water resources and water infrastructures across the West Bank and Gaza, including water wells, water reservoirs, water networks, and carrier lines. Regular monitoring of water quality from all water resources to ensure safety and adherence to quality standards	6.1.1. 39.5% of the population were using safely managed drinking water service in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
6.2.	Several projects have been completed or were underway during the drafting of this report to enhance sanitation infrastructure, services, and the relevant institutional framework. These included	6.2.1.1. 97.6% of the population was using safely managed sanitation services in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	the completion and operation of two large-scale wastewater treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, the development and rehabilitation of wastewater infrastructure and associated networks in 10 communities, rehabilitating water networks and rainwater drainage infrastructure in three West Bank communities to prevent cross contamination; securing fuel needs for all wastewater treatment exhibiting financial difficulties in recovering their cost of operation, upscaling routine monitoring and inspection of sewage tanks operations, and improving regulation of sewage tank operations and enforcement of regulations through establishing 28 points across the West Bank for sewage tanks to use to empty their loads.	6.2.1.2. 95.2% of the population was using a hand-washing facility with soap and water in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 6.2.1.3. Open defecation is not a common practice in Palestine, with 0% of the population practicing open defecation.
6.3.	Monitoring of the quality of water from available resources, with a coverage rate of 80% of all available resources in 2020. In addition to upgrading and operation of existing wastewater treatment plants previously reported under 6.2., construction and operation of new wastewater treatment plant in Tayaseer (Tubas), and upgrading the operation of two large scale treatment plants in the West Bank and Gaza through introducing operational efficiency gains by installation of solar panels.	6.3.1. The proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated was estimated around 12% in 2019, double what it was in 2018 and 3 times higher than in 2017. 6.3.2. Data is not available to assess the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality.
6.4.	Regualt monitoring of water consumption through artesian wells to ensure equitable distribution and manage supply. Undertaking a study for a large-scale water harvesting project (with community level harvesting systems being the core) in the southern West Bank. Undertaking infrastructure development works to increase capacity of the sea water desalination plant in Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip. Interventions related to water and sanitation development listed under the previous target also contribute to this target.	6.4.1. Data to assess change in water-use efficiency over time is not available. 6.4.2. Data to assess the level of water stress (freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources) is not available.
6.5.	Previously listed infrastructure development and rehabilitation interventions.	6.5.1. The degree of integrated water resources management implementation (on a scale of 0-100) was estimated to be 62 in 2020. 6.5.2. Data and method to assess the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation is not available.
6.6.	Development of national regulations for the conservation and protection of water resources	6.6.1. Data to assess change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time is not available.
6.a.	A large part of the above listed interventions have been implemented with the support of the donor community. A total of 56 infrastructure development projects in the water and sanitation sector were underway or completed in 2020, with a total value of US\$ 507 million. Moreover, several routine interventions have been carried out in 2020	6.a.1. The amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan was around US\$ 114.3 million in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available, but corresponding cell provides some

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	to build the capacities of water sector stakeholders, including providers. This included needs-based training programs, supporting the financial survival of service providers facing financial difficulties through direct support, subsidies and waivers, and providing technical support to service providers in putting in place and implementing emergency and crisis management plans during the pandemic.	indication of the total investment in ongoing and completed projects in the last four years.
6.b.	The Palestinian Water Authority championed several initiatives to strengthen the governance of the water and sanitation sector, while ensuring the active participation in the process of identifying and prioritizing sector development needs. Key achievements in this regard include the development of policies on community participation and cost-sharing in water infrastructure projects, establish a unified tariff system for water, putting in place plans with services providers to recover the cost of water provision, formulating a road map for the establishment of regional water utilities, developing unified systems for billing and water accounting, and support to the formation and registration of water users' associations.	Data is not available to assess the status of any of the four indicators associated with the target.
<b>SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</b>		
7.1.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	7.1.1. 100% of the population had access to electricity in 2020. 7.1.2. 98.9% of the population were primarily reliant on clean fuels and technology in 2020.
7.2.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	7.2.1. Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption was 11.7% in 2019. Data is not available for 2020.
7.3.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP was estimated to be 7.3.2. terajoule/million US\$ in 2018. Data is not available for 2020.
7.a.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	7.a.1. Data is not available to assess international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems.
7.b.	There has not been any reports of specific interventions that go toward achieving this target.	7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in Palestine was 16.1 watt per capita in 2019. Data for 202 is not available.
<b>SDG 12: Responsible Production and Consumption</b>		
12.1.	A National Action Plan for Sustainable Production and Consumption was launched in 2017 to promote sustainable consumption and production in the food and agriculture, construction and manufacturing, and tourism sectors, with water, energy, and environment and climate change being as cross-	12.1.1. The State of Palestine has a sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans, and sustainable production and consumption has been mainstreamed as a priority in the NPA, NDP and all relevant sectoral

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	cutting themes. The Action Plan has been integrated in the NPA and National Development Plan 2017-2022, and activities associated with it are being implemented in all productive and infrastructure sectors.	strategies (agriculture, economy, tourism, ICT, water, energy, and public works and housing).
12.2.	Regulatory oversight and monitoring of environmental risks and assessments of environmental risks are key routine activities that the Environmental Quality Authority undertakes, and these activities include inspection of emission levels in industrial enterprises, testing of water quality extracted from artesian wells and various other water resources, and examining environmental risks and ensuring that environmental impact management plans are in place as prerequisite for licensure and registration of industrial and commercial enterprises. The authority has issued numerous reports on the status of environment and environmental resources, including several reports that have been submitted to UN bodies.	12.2.1. Data to assess the material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP is not available. 12.2.2. Data to assess domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP is not available.
12.3.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	12.3.1.1. Data to assess food loss is not available. 12.3.1.2. Data to assess food waste is not available. 12.3.1.3. Data to assess food waste per capita is not available.
12.4.	National Plan for the Management of Medical Waste is currently under development. Developing a guidance manual on handling and management of dangerous waste in line with commitments under Basil Agreement. Routine inspection of solid waste disposal sites across the West Bank to ensure adherence to environmental standards. Issuance of regulations and associated instruction on the handling, transport, storage and use of dangerous chemical products, as well as the same for the management of dangerous waste.	12.4.1. The Number of international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals in which the State of Palestine is party to was 4 in 2020. 12.4.2.1 Hazardous waste generated per capita was estimated to be around 106,891 tons per year in 2015. Updated data beyond 2015 is not available, however.
12.5.	Implementation of public awareness campaigns and activities to promote environmental awareness, waste reduction and recycling and reuse, and responsible consumption. Training of more than 150 technicians and professionals in various training programs on solid waste management from an environmental perspective.	12.5.1. Data is not available to assess the national recycling rate.
12.6.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	12.6.1. Comprehensive Data in the number of companies publishing sustainability reports is not available.
12.7.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	12.7.1. Data is not available to enable the assessment of whether the State of Palestine is implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
12.8.	Environmental Education Strategy 2020-2030 is currently under review. Numerous environmental awareness activities –including through local television and radio stations- have been implemented, including to commemorate Environment Day. Publication of a report on Covid-19 and water. Establishment of environmental gardens and environmental clubs within public and private schools, through which scores of environmental actions were implemented at the community level.	12.8.1.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in national education policies: the index in 2020 was 0.875. 12.8.1.2 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in curricula: the index in 2020 was 0.708. 12.8.1.3 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in teacher education: the index in 2020 was 0.8. 12.8.1.4 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in student assessment: the index in 2020 was 0.833.
12.a.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	12.a.1. Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in the State of Palestine was 19.6 watts per capita in 2020.
12.b.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	12.b.1. Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability: indicator value was 4 in 2020.
12.c.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	12.c.1. Data is not available to assess the amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels.
<b>SDG 13: Climate Action</b>		
13.1.	Action plans to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters have been developed for the following sectors: health, water, solid waste, public transportation, and gender. A project to assess emissions is currently underway with funding from the Global Environmental Facility. Several proposed initiatives to strengthen disaster risk planning and management have been submitted for funding to various donors. Putting a place a plan to manage and mitigate against the risk of Covid-19. Policy under development to integrate private	13.1.1.1. The number of deaths attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was 0.0206 in 2018. Updated data is not available beyond 2018. 13.1.1.2. There has been no reports of missing persons attributed to disasters since 2018. 13.1.1.3. The number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was 6.283 in 2018. Updated data beyond 2018 is not available. 13.1.2. The State of Palestine has been adopting and implementing a national

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	sector in national efforts to address and adapt to climate change.	disaster risk reduction strategy in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 since 2015. 13.1.3. The proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies was 68.8% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
13.2.	Preparation of booklet to help track sectoral contributions to the reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and climate change adaption. Preparation of a scientific paper on the impact of the Separation Wall on the concentration of CO <sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.	13.2.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year was estimated to be around 4.527 million tons of CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2018. Estimates beyond 2018 are not available.
13.a.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	13.a.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
13.b.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	13.b.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
<b>SDG 14: Life Below Water</b>		
14.1.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.1.1.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 14.1.1.2. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.2.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.2.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.3.	Target not relevant to the State of Palestine, hence no interventions reported..	14.3.1. Indicator not relevant to the State of Palestine.
14.4.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.4.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.5.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.5.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.6.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.6.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.7.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.7.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.a.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.a.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.b.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.b.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
14.c.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	14.c.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
<b>SDG 15: Life on Land</b>		
15.1.	Developing a list of birds to be protected. Developing national standards for maintain the status of Battir on the list of world heritage sites. Campaign to collect seeds of wild plants with vegetable origins. Updating maps and finalizing boundaries of natural reserves.	15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area was 1.68% in 2020. 15.1.2.1. The proportion of important sites for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas was 4.27% in 2020.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
		15.1.2.2. The proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas was 20.93% in 2020.
15.2.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	15.2.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
15.3.	Preparation of a report on desertification in Palestine as an input to a pan-Arab report.	15.3.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
15.4.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	15.4.1. Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity was 19.96 in 2020. 15.4.2. Mountain Green Cover Index was 12.5% in 2016. Updated data is not available.
15.5.	Establishing of two trails in the cultural heritage sites of Battir and Husan. Developing a and biodiversity conservation plan for Wadi Al-Makhrour in Battir, and taking strides in the implementation of this plan. Oversight and monitoring visits of natural reserves and resolves land tenure disputes around them.	15.5.1. The Red List Index 0.89718% in 2021.
15.6.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	15.6.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
15.7.	Freeing wild animals and birds into the wild birds that have been captured illegally, and sensitizing the public to the importance of preserving wildlife.	15.7.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
15.8.	Preparation of the ToR for the development of the biological safety framework.	15.8.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
15.9.	Preparation of sixth report on biodiversity in Palestine, and launching the revision of the national biodiversity strategy.	15.9.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
15.a.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	15.a.1 the value of (a) official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments was US\$ 54.05 million in 2018. Update data beyond 2018 is not available.
15.b.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	15.b.1 the value of (a) official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments was US\$ 54.05 million in 2018. Update data beyond 2018 is not available.
15.c.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	15.c.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.

## 4. Progress in SDGs Focusing on the Economy

For the purposes of this report, SDGs classified as focusing on the economy are those related to decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9). The following table presents a summary of the key interventions undertaken in the State of Palestine with the view of making progress towards these SDGs targets centering on the planet, along with a snapshot of the status of the indicators associated with these targets.

*Table 3: Summary of interventions undertaken to achieve the SDG targets centering on the economy and the status of their associated indicators*

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic</b>		
8.1.	Revision of the Companies' Law to facilitate investment and private sector growth. Registration fee waivers and tax concessions for all newly established companies and companies operating out of industrial zones, as one of several Covid-19 response measures. Putting in place measures to enable the continuation of operation of enterprises during lockdowns, particularly in industrial parks.	8.1.1 Real GDP per capita in 2020 exhibited negative growth @ -13.7%.
8.2.	Implementation of several long-term campaigns to promote locally produced products, including local exhibitions. Launching Industrial and Agriculture Clusters Strategies with the vision of transforming the local economy from a service-oriented to a production-oriented economy. Developing national standards to enhance competitiveness and quality, with more than 4,400 standards currently in place,	8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person was -1.5% in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available.
8.3.	Reclassification of economic enterprises to facilitate formalization and support targeted policy making. Revision of the Companies' Law to facilitate and incentivize registration of small, informal enterprises. Reactivating social dialogue among social partners to promote decent work and productive employment. Provision of financial support to women-owned and women led enterprises through the Solidarity Fund established to support enterprises overcome the negative impact of the pandemic. Implementation of numerous capacity building and technical assistance activities to support enterprises in introducing efficiency gains, access export markets, and upgrade products and quality.	8.3.1.1. The proportion of informal employment in total employment was 62.1% in 2020. 8.3.1.2. The proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment was 59.8% in 2020. 8.3.1.3. The proportion of informal employment in agriculture employment was 96.1% in 2020.
8.4.	Launching "Mustdadma" and "Switch Med" Projects which aim to promote clean and sustainable energy and production practices in the industrial sector. Launching "Live Palestine", a project that aims to promote domestic tourism. Establishing numerous hike trails to support environmental and cultural tourism across the West Bank.	8.4.1. Data is not available to assess the material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP. 8.4.2. Data is not available to assess the domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
8.5.	Wage support to 54,000 unemployed workers affected by lockdowns during Covid-19. Provision of legal aid to workers to attain their labor rights and social security in Israel. Financial support to SMEs in the value of US\$ 4 million to circumvent the impact of Covid-19. Supporting self-employment opportunities through guaranteed minimum work schemes. Creation of short-term employment opportunities through cash for work programs in the Gaza Strip. Facilitating access to finance through partnerships between government and local banks to private sector enterprises, where more than 74 soft loans have been granted in 2020. Upscaling inspection activities to ensure enforcement of the Labor Law. Support to the registration and organizational reforms of trade unions and employers' organizations.	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees in 2020 was ILS 132.7. 8.5.2 Unemployment rate in 2020 was 25.9%.
8.6.	Upgrading TVET centres and registration of 1600 new trainees. Graduating 5,183 trainees from TVET centres. Developing TVET curriculum to make it more market oriented through supplementary educational and learning resources development and unification of training curriculum and teachings methods and resources across training centres.	8.6.1. The proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training was 34.5% in 2020.
8.7.	Upscaling inspection activities to ensure enforcement of the Labor Law. Regulation of employment of 170 juveniles and extracting 35 child laborers from the labor market.	8.7.1. The proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labor in 2020 was 1.9%.
8.8.	Implementation of the Decent Work Program with ILO. Upscaling inspection activities to ensure enforcement of the Labor Law, and strengthening of the Labor Inspectorate at the Ministry of Labor.	8.8.1. Data is not available to assess the frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status. 8.8.2. Data is not available to assess the level of national compliance of labor rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labor Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation.
8.9.	Launching a plan of action to support the revival tourism sector, including through putting a place mechanisms for the safe return of tourism and resumption of hotel operations. Launching of a mobile application to enable tourists to schedule and book times to visit the Nativity Church.	8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP was 2.9% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
8.a.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	8.a.1.1 Total official flows (commitments) for Aid for Trade was US\$ 129.7 million in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 8.a.1.2 Total official flows (disbursement) for Aid for Trade was US\$ 133.1 million in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
8.b.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	8.b.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
8.10.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	8.10.1.1. The number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults was 13 in 2020. 8.10.1.2. The number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults was 25 in 2020. 8.10.2. The proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider was 44% in 2020.
<b>SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b>		
SDG 9.1.	Launching the consultations with stakeholders to introduce a road law to facilitate a more comprehensive development of road networks. Rehabilitation and opening of more than 80km of roads, as well as emergency works in numerous roads, with numerous works for road rehabilitation being tendered.	9.1.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 9.1.2.1 Data is not available to assess this indicator. 9.1.2.2. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 9.1.2.3. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
9.2.	Completion the development of and starting operations in industrial parks in 5 governorates across the West Bank and Gaza, which now host 79 medium to large scale enterprises. Beginning implementation of the Industrial Cluster Plan activities in Nablus and Hebron.	9.2.1.1. Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP. 9.2.1.2. Manufacturing value added per capita was US\$ 322.2 in 2020. 9.2.1.3. Manufacturing value added (current United States dollars) as a proportion of GDP was 11.2% in 2020. 9.2.2. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment was 12.8% in 2020.
9.3.	Promotion of exports and efficient use of resources through the organization of information and awareness raising sessions on trade agreements and existing trade promotion facilities and services. Training to enterprises on quality standards and product labeling. Provision of financial support to women-owned and women led enterprises through the Solidarity Fund and other emergency support projects established to support enterprises overcome the negative impact of the pandemic. Implementation of a Canadian funded program (CA\$ 36 million) to support growth and development of women-owned and led enterprises. Survey of the needs of enterprises to recover from the impact of the pandemic.	9.3.1. The proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added was 22.6% in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 9.3.2. The proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit was 16% in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available.
9.4.	Support to the capacity upgrade of 65 enterprises, and the establishment of the national packaging and labeling center. Launching “Mustdadma” and “Switch Med” Projects which aim to promote clean and sustainable energy and production practices in the industrial sector. Routine inspection of	9.4.1. CO2 emission per unit of value added was 290 tons per US\$ million in 2018. Update data for 2020 is not available.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	enterprises to monitor adherence to quality, safety, and environmental standards,	
9.5.	Registration of seven patents in 2020. Strengthening the legal framework to protect intellectual property through revision and development of laws and regulations. Extending concessions and financial incentives to projects that invest in R&D in the ICT sector. Streamlining of company registration procedures and adoption of a unified one-stop-shop system to encourage registration of enterprises.	9.5.1. Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP was 0.6% in 2013. Updated data is not available beyond this. 9.5.2. Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants was US\$ 555.62 in 2013. Updated data is not available beyond this.
9.a.	No reports of specific interventions towards this target.	9.a.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
9.b.	Training of 5000 individuals on ICT and programming. Launching an initiative to train one million coders and programmers in Palestine, where 3200 students have been trained. Undertaking reforms in the telecom sector.	9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added was 6.2% in 2019. Updated data for 2020 is not available.
9.c.	Internet exchange point (PS-IX) was established and 16 local internet service providers connected to it. Undertaking the technical studies to identify frequencies needed to enable the transition from 2G and 3G mobile technologies to 5G technologies.	9.c.1. The proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology was as follows in 2020: 2G: 98% 3G: 55% 4G: 0%

## 5. Progress in SDGs Focusing on Peace and Justice

The following table presents a summary of the key interventions undertaken in the State of Palestine with the view of making progress towards these SDGs targets centering on the peace and justice, along with a snapshot of the status of the indicators associated with these targets. For the purposes of this report, these targets are associated with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

*Table 4: Summary of interventions undertaken to achieve the SDG targets centering on the peace and justice, and the status of their associated indicators*

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>		
11.1.	Establishment of a mechanism to assess the impact of planning regime in Area C on human rights. Housing Law under development. Provision of housing and shelter support to various households impacted by forced displacement and emergencies. Preparation of required assessments, studies and proposals for numerous housing projects. Housing Mortgage Law under development.	11.1.1. The proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing was 43.2% in 2018. Updated data is not available for 2020.
11.2.	Policy decisions taken by Cabinet to regulate and develop the public transportation system. Launching of a pilot project in Jenin to establish a unified public transportation company. Enhancing access to public transport in remote and under-	11.2.1. The proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport was 77.1% in 2020.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	served communities through the revision of travel routes to licensed public transport companies. Reactivation of the public transportation complaints hotline. Capacity building interventions in the Ministry of Transportation to improve planning, regulatory and licensing services.	
11.3.	A national spatial plan is being developed for the entire State of Palestine. Spatial plans have been developed for four governorates. A manual was developed to aid local government and planning stakeholders in spatial planning for public areas that are suitable to people's various needs. Support to local authorities in structural planning, where 274 structural plans have been approved by the end of 2020, including 123 plans for communities in Area C.	11.3.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 11.3.2. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
11.4.	Protection of cultural heritage and archaeological sites, where 95% of all such sites in areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority have been protected. Preservation and maintenance of numerous archeologically and cultural heritage sites.	11.4.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
11.5.	Disaster Management Law prepared and submitted to Cabinet for review and endorsement. A national disaster risk reduction and management strategy is being developed. Support to local authorities in delivering local-level disaster assessment, risk-reduction and manage plans in collaboration with local stakeholders. Capacity building interventions implemented to strengthen the organizational and institutional capacity of the National Center for Disaster Management.	11.5.1.1. The number of deaths attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was 0.0206 in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 11.5.1.2. The number of missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was zero in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 11.5.1.3. The number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population was 6.283 in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 11.5.2.1. Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters was US\$ 2,867,858 in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 11.5.2.2. The number of disruptions to basic services attributed to disaster was 915 in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 11.5.2.3. The number of disruptions to educational services attributed to disasters was 20 in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available. 11.5.2.4. The number of disruptions to health services attributed to disasters was one in 2013. Data beyond this is not available. 11.5.2.5. The number of disruptions to other basic services attributed to disasters

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
		was 895 in 2018. Updated data for 2020 is not available.
11.6.	National Plan for the Management of Medical Waste is currently under development. Developing a guidance manual on handling and management of dangerous waste in line with commitments under Basil Agreement. Routine inspection of solid waste disposal sites across the West Bank to ensure adherence to environmental standards. Issuance of regulations and associated instruction on the handling, transport, storage and use of dangerous chemical products, as well as the same for the management of dangerous waste. Action plans to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters have been developed for the following sectors: health, water, solid waste, public transportation, and gender. A project to assess emissions is currently underway with funding from the Global Environmental Facility. Several proposed initiatives to strengthen disaster risk planning and management have been submitted for funding to various donors. Putting a place a plan to manage and mitigate against the risk of Covid-19. Policy under development to integrate private sector in national efforts to address and adapt to climate change.	11.6.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 11.6.2. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
11.7.	Several initiatives to establish safe public spaces have been supported by the government, and this included the establishment of such spaces in 8 different communities. Moreover, government supported the undertaking of scoping studies to identify areas in which public spaces can be established in five main cities across Palestine.	11.7.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator. 11.7.2. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
11.a.	National Urban Planning Policy currently under development, along with the National Spatial Plan. Joint Service Councils are also being assessed by the Ministry of Local Government to identify ways through which they could be supported to be more effective and sustainable. Electricity subsidies are being provided to 1000 households in Area C and vulnerable communities.	11.a.1. Data is not available to assess this indicator.
11.b.	Same as interventions 11.a.	11.b.1. The State of Palestine adopts and implements national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, thereby meeting this target indicator. 11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies was 68.8% in 2020.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b>		
16.1	Monitoring of the human rights situation by the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights (PICHR), including in lieu of Covid-19. Implementation of a wide range of awareness raising programs and activities on human rights, and on mechanisms to report and redress human right violations. Training of a wide range of service providers and duty bearers on safeguarding issues from a human rights perspective. A referral system for women victims of violence has been put in place, and a plan of action adopted to strengthen this system. Gender training to judges.	16.1.1.1. Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population was 1.7 in 2020. 16.1.1.2. Number of victims of intentional homicide was 48 in 2020. 16.1.2. Data is not available to assess the Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population. 16.1.3.1. Proportion of population subjected to physical violence in the previous 12 months was 0.6% in 2020. 16.1.3.2. Proportion of population subjected to robbery in the previous 12 months was 3.2% in 2020. 16.1.4 .Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live was 92% in 2020.
16.2.	Protective services offered to 911 child laborers and victims of domestic violence. Public awareness campaigns implemented with various stakeholders. Reactivation of complaints mechanisms to address child right issues.	16.2.1. Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers was 90.1% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 16.2.2. Data is not available on the number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation. 16.2.3. Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 was 2.8% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
16.3.	PICHR undertakes regular monitoring of Palestinian detention centers and prisons from a human rights perspective, and this continued in 2020.	16.3.1. Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms was 52.4% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 16.3.2. Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population was 57.6% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available
16.4.	Stepping up police efforts to combat trading of arms, money laundry, and counterfeit operations. Strengthening the Palestinian Monetary Authority capacity to monitor and trace financial transfers and identify money laundering risks.	16.4.1. Data is not available to assess indicator. 16.4.2. Data is not available to assess indicator.
16.5.	The Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission launched its strategic plan and stepped up it investigation and public awareness efforts. The number of complaints it received nearly doubled in 2020 compared to 2019, and it filed 155 files for public prosecution. Transparency International-Palestine has also continued supporting public awareness within its overall program aiming to	16.5.1. The proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months was 2.1% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	bolster integrity and transparency in Palestine. TI-P has also maintained a separate complaints and corruption reporting system. A number of regulations and instructions have been issued by the Cabinet to strengthen the integrity system in Palestine, include on disclosure of conflict of interest, gifts, and protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers.	16.5.2. The proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months was 0.4% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available.
16.6.	114 monitoring reports on the conduct of public organizations were issues by the Audit and Administrative Control Bureau. Ministry of Interior developed its complaints units. Proposal for the revision of the Civil Service Law prepared to bolster the legal framework governing the appointment and conduct of civil servants from an intergirty and anti-corruption perspective. Developing job descriptions and performance assessment forms for more than 400 jobs in the civil service. Re—establishment of 166 interview committees in public institutions. Development of the National Training Strategy 2018-2020. Implementation of a number of studies to assess the integrity, transparency and anti-corruption architecture and processes in public institutions.	16.6.1. Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget was 25.5% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available. 16.6.2.1 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services healthcare services was 84.4% in 2018. Data for 202 is not available. 16.6.2.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services primary public schools was 89.4% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available. 16.6.2.3 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services secondary public schools was 90.2% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available. 6.6.2.4 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services administrative services was 94.2% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available.
16.7.	199 persons with disabilities were approved for appointment in the civil service in 2020. Policy of prioritizing appointment of people with disabilities continues to be in place.	16.7.1. Data is not available on this indicator. 16.7.2.1 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive was 31.2% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available. 16.7.2.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive was 41.6% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available.
16.8.	No specific interventions reported against SDG target.	16.8.1. The State of Palestine is not a member in any of the international organizations listed in the indicator.
16.9.	Ministry of Interior has a system in place that ensures that all deliveries at hospitals and by midwives are reported, thereby ensures that all births are registered.	16.9.1. The proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority was 99.2% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
16.a.	PICHR continued to work in 2020, stepping up its work during the pandemic.	16.a.1. An independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles exists in Palestine, and that is PICHR.
16.b.	No specific interventions reported against SDG target.	16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
		against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law was 10.5% in 2018. Data for 2020 is not available.
16.10.	SDG Target adopted in the National Corss-Sectoral Strategy for Integrity and Anti-Corruption 2020-2022.	6.10.1. There was no (0) verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months. 6.10.2. Data is not available to enable reporting on this indicator.

## 6. Progress in SDGs Focusing on Partnerships for Development

The following table presents a summary of the key interventions undertaken in the State of Palestine with the view of making progress towards SDG 17, which is considered here to be the only SDG focusing solely on partnerships for development.

*Table 5: Summary of interventions undertaken to achieve the SDG targets centering on partnerships for development, and the status of their associated indicators*

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
<b>SDG 17: Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>		
17.1.	Government took measures to increase tax revenues by broadening the tax base, improving tax collection and compliance, and prevent tax evasion. Efforts are also underway to improve and integrate medium-term planning and budgeting, and strengthening accountability for budget administration and results.	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP was 23.7% in 2019. Data is not available for 2020. 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes was 23.4% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
17.2.	No specific intervention reported.	17.2.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.3.	No specific intervention reported.	17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income was 449.2% in 2018. Data beyond 2018 is not available. 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP was 15.8% in 2019. Data for 2020 is not available.
17.4.	Government has been resorting to borrowing as a last option for financing deficit. Currently public debt is at its cap of 40% of GDP.	17.4.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.5.	No specific intervention reported.	17.5.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.6.	The Government has been active both at local and international levels to strengthen bilateral and trilateral cooperation, including south-south	17.6.1.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed was as follows in 2020: 256 kbit/s to less

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
	<p>cooperation, on issues related to ICT. The State of Palestine is actively present in nearly all international bodies concerned with ICT, including ESCWA. At the local level, the government has been taking steady steps towards transitioning to electronic services, improving capacities for internet exchange, and strengthening cyber security. Several initiatives to support entrepreneurship in ICT have been implemented over the years, including during the pandemic. In cooperation with IsDB, the State of Palestine has strengthened its development cooperation with Arab and Islamic countries, undertaking several technical assistance missions to countries in the south.</p>	<p>than 2 Mbit/s (0.001), 2 Mbit/s to less than 10 Mbit/s (3.11), Equal to or above 10 Mbit/s (4.54), ANYS (7.65). 17.6.1.2 Number of Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed was as follows in 2020: 256 kbit/s to less than 2 Mbit/s (54), 2 Mbit/s to less than 10 Mbit/s (151317), Equal to or above 10 Mbit/s (220799), ANYS (372177).</p>
17.7.	No specific intervention reported.	17.7.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.8.	No specific intervention reported.	17.8.1 The proportion of individuals using the Internet in 2019 was 70.6%. Data for 2020 is not available.
17.9.	<p>Strengthening Palestine's presence and leadership role in international fora concerned with the promotion of investment in development, including through: (1) sponsorship of a resolution by the Arab League's Social and Economic Committee on accelerating and following-up the implementation of SDGs in the Arab world; (2) supporting Palestinian organization's participation in the workshop organized by the International Trade Center, German Development Institute, and the International Federation of Investment Promotion Agencies through technical assistance. The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) participated in numerous bilateral and trilateral technical development assistance programs, and undertook a mapping to identify resource centers that can offer development solutions on behalf of the State of Palestine. Mobilizing donor funding for budget support and implementation of priority programs and projects.</p>	17.9.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.10.	All preparations for accession to WTO have been completed. Palestine expects an invitation to participate in the WTO meeting planned to for November 2021.	17.10.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.11.	<p>Several programs are being implemented to improve access to markets, particularly export markets, and increase direct imports. Key achievements in this regard include increasing export quotas for dates and easing export procedures to Turkey, appointing trade attaches in ten Palestinian embassies to facilitate trade linkages and exports, and following up the implementation of the decision of the 14<sup>th</sup> Islamic Countries Summit which granted customs and tax waivers to Palestinian exports to these countries.</p>	17.11.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.

Associated SDG Target	Key Interventions	Status of Associated Indicators in 2020
17.12.	Work under way to prepare Palestine for joining the Arab Agreement on the Trade of Service, which will improve access of Palestinian firms to service markets in the Arab world. Application submitted to join the Aghadeer Agreement.	17.12.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.13.	No specific interventions reported.	17.13.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.14.	No specific interventions reported.	17.14.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.15.	PMO continued efforts to coordinate aid through regular meetings and consultations with donors. PMO has also prepared a post-Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan and is mobilizing funds for its implementation.	17.15.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.16.	Numerous cooperation and budget support agreements discussed and signed with bilateral and multilateral donors. Restructuring of aid coordination and aid management architecture towards a more effective development aid. Participation in several conferences organized by UN organizations, including UNFPA and UN ECOSOC.	17.16.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.17.	More than 13 donor-financed projects being implemented to support private sector development and growth. Stepping up social dialogue, where government facilitates dialogue and brokers agreement between employers and workers, including through engaging the private sector and workers organizations in policy making processes.	17.17.1. Data is not available to report on indicator.
17.18.	The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics has taken major strides to strengthen its organizational and institutional capacities to plan, manage, implement, and disseminate statistics, all with the view of supporting policy making. PCBS has continued to develop its statistical capacities through 2020, including in undertaking online survey during Covid-19. PCBS has launched several interactive portals, including one on SDGs.	17.18.1. Data is not available to report on indicator. 17.18.2. The State of Palestine has a national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics 17.18.3. The State of Palestine has a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation
17.19.	No specific interventions have been reported.	17.19.1. Data is not available to report on indicator. 17.19.2.1. Palestine has conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 year, 17.19.2.2. Palestine has achieved 90 per cent birth registration. 17.19.2.3. Palestine have achieved 75 per cent death registration.

## 7. Challenges to Progress and the Way Forward

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip inflicts a heavy economic cost and denies the Palestinian people their human right to development. Since the onset of occupation in 1967, the Palestinian people have never enjoyed sovereign control of their economy, natural resources or territory. They have been denied access to their natural and economic resources, while their water, land, property and other assets have been subjected to confiscation and frequent destruction. Furthermore, the Palestinian people are denied the right to move freely within their homeland, and are deprived of the ability to produce and conduct normal trade and social transactions within their communities and with the rest of the world. Meanwhile, Israeli settlements continue to expand unabated, new settlements are built and the settler population continues to grow.

More than 61 per cent of West Bank land is under the control of Israel and inaccessible to Palestinian producers. In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians are denied access to half of the cultivable area and 85 per cent of their fishery resources.

Meanwhile, more than 2.5 million productive trees have been uprooted since 1967. The government and Palestinian farmers are prohibited from maintaining or constructing water wells, while the occupying Power has been extracting water above the level determined by article 40 of appendix I of the Oslo II Accord, signed on 28 September 1995, thus confiscating Palestinian groundwater. As such, occupation policies have deformed the structure of the Palestinian economy and set in motion a continuous process of de-agriculturalization and de-industrialization.

The repeated Israeli military operations in Gaza have not only resulted in loss of lives and livelihoods, but also caused large-scale damages and losses to the economy and infrastructure. The direct damage inflicted by Israel's military operations in Gaza, the least of which was in May 2021, is estimated as at least 3 times the size of annual production of Gaza's local economy. The total cost of destruction is much higher when taking into account the indirect costs that arise from the loss of human capital and the stream of future incomes from destroyed or damaged productive assets.

The COVID-19 pandemic which began as a health crisis, has become a monumental human and socio-economic crisis in Palestine as everywhere else in the world. The ongoing pandemic has dealt a serious blow to the Palestinian economy, further exposing and exacerbating the negative impact of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the prospects of sustainable development in Palestine. High rates of poverty and unemployment, weak public health infrastructure, widespread informality, existing gender and digital divide and lack of comprehensive social protection systems (all having occupation as a root cause) affected the State of Palestine's preparedness to tackle the pandemic. Palestine suffered economic growth contraction in 2020, with severe impacts on micro, small and medium enterprises, internal and international trade, supply chains and tourism, leading to loss of jobs and livelihoods and pushing more Palestinians into poverty and destitution.

Through impacts on economic growth, employment, poverty, inequalities and other deprivations, the COVID-19 pandemic poses serious challenges for the achievement of the SDGs in Palestine. Though the government of the State of Palestine has taken steps to address the adverse socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and prevent further erosion of past progress on the achievement of SDGs, its capacity to finance large relief and stimulus packages has been limited, not least because of the Israeli government's illegal decision to withhold Palestinian clearance revenues and the substantial reduction of donor support to Palestine.

In addition to challenges posed by occupation and the pandemic to the achievement of progress on SDGs, the report identifies a number of challenges specific to each Goal. Challenges common to all seventeen Goals, however to varying degrees, can be summarized as follows:

- Lack of a comprehensive and unified planning and progress monitoring framework for the achievement of SDGs. While all sectoral strategic plans have been aligned with SDGs, this alignment is articulated at the SDG Target level, and for most SDGs it is not clear which interventions are planned to achieve SDGs or their Targets. The exceptions, also invariably, to this are SDG 1, SDG 3, and SDG 4. The ability to reporting on progress against most SDGs somewhat remains limited.
- Lack of up-to-date data on a large number of SDG Target indicators, with data on good number of indicators being outdated or unavailable all together.
- Shifting public expenditure priorities as a result of the pandemic, in a context of already constrained and limited fiscal space, has weakened government's ability to allocate planned financial resources to planned programs and interventions, thereby stalling progress, and in some cases, holding it back.

The report also presents a number of suggestions for the way forward on how progress on the achievement of the SDG can be put on track again, and even accelerated. This is done for each of the SDGs. The key common suggestions in this regard are can be summarized as follows:

- The continuation of Israel's occupation, its systematic and widespread violations of international law continue to be the biggest impediment for Palestine to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, the National Team for SDGs has called for the international community to exert pressure on the government of Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and recognize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. This is very much needed as it is a prerequisite for enabling Palestine to meet its commitments towards sustainable development.
- Economic resilience with new fiscal and debt sustainability frameworks, societal resilience with universal social protection schemes and climate resilience with greater investments in sustainable development overall, including in sustainable infrastructure, are key building blocks of a resilient recovery. Palestine hopes to receive support from friendly States to bolster such efforts, including through continued and stronger international solidarity and universal access to vaccines so that the can move to the trajectory of sustainable development.
- Strengthening the planning and monitoring framework for the achievement of the SDGs in Palestine by clearly articulating the interventions that will be carried out by each sector and public institution towards the achievement of SDG targets and putting in place a monitoring system to track and report on progress. There is an imminent need for capacity building in Palestinian National Institutions in this area, and Palestine hopes to benefit from the expertise of friendly States in order to institute the best-known practices.
- Aligning the Covid-19 recovery efforts with efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, ensuring that recovery plans and the SDGs go together. Recognizing the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impeded progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, suggestions underscore that recovery from the COVID-19 crisis provides an opportunity for building back better through inclusive,

resilient and sustainable recovery strategies and investments aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.