

PPI & Palestinian Local Authorities

A Special Study

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1. Introduction

Local authorities play a key role in leading their communities as well as ensuring the delivery of high quality services to them. Good governance structures enable an authority to pursue its vision effectively and reinforce that vision with mechanisms for control and management of risk. Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and, ultimately, good outcomes for citizens and service users. All authorities should aim to meet the best standards of governance arrangements should not only be sound but be seen to be sound.

It has come to be widely held that strengthening municipalities and other local level agencies is important because many policy choices can best be made at the local level where local needs and preferences are clearly felt and articulated, and implementation is best left to institutions at the local level. Municipalities have much experience in service delivery at the local level which can be developed and built upon for a more effective performance; municipalities can also be the focal points for the coordination of the various governments and agencies involved in local governance.

2. Palestinian Municipalities – General Data

Local governments form the backbone of public administration in the Palestinian Territory. Regardless of whether you want to build a house, open a store, obtain a water connection or get information on the solid waste collection in your area – your first port of call is the municipal office. For most Palestinians, it is the closest public institution to them, responsible for providing the majority of basic services. Therefore, it needs good governance on the municipal side, well-trained personnel, transparent and standardized procedures and sufficient funds to ensure a high-quality provision of basic services.

2-1 Administrative Categories and General Conditions

According to the latest information published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS, 2008), there are 517 local authorities in the Palestinian Territory distributed by type as 121 municipalities, 12 local councils, 355 village councils or project committees, and 29 directors of refugee camps as presented in the following table.

Table 1: Palestinian Municipalities Classification

Municipality Classification	Number as published in 2008	Population Size
Municipality	121	7,000 +
Local Council	12	4,000 - 7,000
Village Council or Project Committee	355	1 - 4,000
Camp Director	29	N/A
Total	517	

A recent survey by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2008) revealed that there are 4,214 total local authorities members in the Palestinian Territory, of which 3,651 are males and 563 are females (13.4%), most of the female members are in the West Bank. Of the male members, 3.3% are less than 30 years of age, 76.5% are between 30-50 years of age and 20.2% are more than 50 years of age. Of the female members, 6.7% of female members are less than 30 years of age, 85.1% are between 30-50 years of age and 8.2% are more than 50 years of age.

As for the number of people represented by a member of the local authority, there was a significant disparity noted between the West Bank and Gaza Strip and at the governorate level: the overall rate in the Palestinian Territory was 894 persons per member (601 in the West Bank and 4,706 in the Gaza Strip). The Gaza governorate recorded the highest rate (12,728 persons per member), and Qalqilya governorate recorded the lowest rate (304 persons per member). The results indicate that 103 local authorities reported the need to upgrade the capacity of technical and administrative staff, 109 reported the need for computers, while 60 reported the need for premises and funding for development projects (PCBS, 2008).

2-2 Political Background

Prior to the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the Palestinian Municipalities and Village Councils were the only bodies responsible for providing public services to the Palestinian People. The Israeli occupation undermined many institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, including local government institutions. Indigenous political institutions atrophied, but at the same time the Palestinian civil society was mobilized

by the national struggle. Many NGOs and political organizations including local authorities formed to oppose the Israeli government and the occupation.

Some municipalities trace their establishment back to the 19th century, and despite many challenges and crisis situations over the years, have been able to sustain services and respond to the needs of their communities. Since 1967, mayors of Palestinian municipalities were appointed by Israel -with some exceptions. It was only in the year 2004 that the first comprehensive round of Municipal elections was held in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT). The second and third rounds were held in May and September 2005 respectively (UNDP-POGAR).

2-3 Fiscal Decentralization

Since the Oslo Accords, the concept of decentralization has received popular support both among the populace and in the Palestinian Authority (PA) government. The PA has worked to develop a framework for political decentralization, though implementation has been difficult. Palestinian officials participated in international conferences hosted by the World Bank and the Council on Foreign Relations on devising effective political decentralization for the West Bank and Gaza.

Fiscally, Palestinian municipal governments are already fairly decentralized. Fund transfers from the national government only accounted for 15% of total revenues. In Gaza, municipalities collect property taxes directly and keep 90% of revenues, while passing on the remaining 10% to the national government. In the West Bank, the proportions of distribution are the same, but the national government collects property taxes. Other taxes, such as the fuel tax, are centrally collected and supposed to be partially transferred to the municipalities according to current laws. Municipalities implement most infrastructure projects, which are financed primarily by donor countries that provide oversight and whose priorities often take precedence over those of the LG. (UNDP-POGAR)

The Palestinian Ministry of Local Government (MOLG) was established in 1994 for the purpose of developing the transparency and accountability of local governance, upon the establishment of the Palestinian Authority. Among its responsibilities, the MOLG is to monitor and supervise the work of local authorities and make sure that these authorities comply with laws and policies issued by the ministry. The MOLG also approves the annual budget for all local authorities (Palestinian Ministry of Local Government)

2-4 Legal Authority

The Palestinian local governments are organized through three laws that are directly related to the local government functioning; PNA 1996, PNA 1997; and PNA 1999. The first law is the one articulated for “elections for local Authorities Law of 1996.”, however, local elections were not held until May 2005. Before that date, the Ministry of Local Governments appointed Local Government Units’ mayors and council members. The second local government law was approved in 1997, which sets out the formation, financing and responsibilities of elected local councils and mayors. A third law was issued that related to organizing the financial aspects of running the Palestinian local government. In addition, the ministry of local government introduced many regulations that organized and monitored the work of local administrations such as the payroll system for the municipality employees. (Sabri & Jaber, 2007)

Accordingly, local government in Palestine aimed to establish elected local units to provide local services that are funded by taxes and local fees, under the supervision of the central government. The Palestinian local government sector including municipality councils and village councils offer services to local residents as stated by the related laws. They are authorized to impose certain taxes to finance their activities. There are many types of taxes that exist in the West Bank that include the property taxes, license fees, and educational tax which is imposed on the residents of municipalities, and other three different types of taxes imposed on the residents of the village councils. (Sabri & Jaber, 2007)

2-5 Services & Revenue

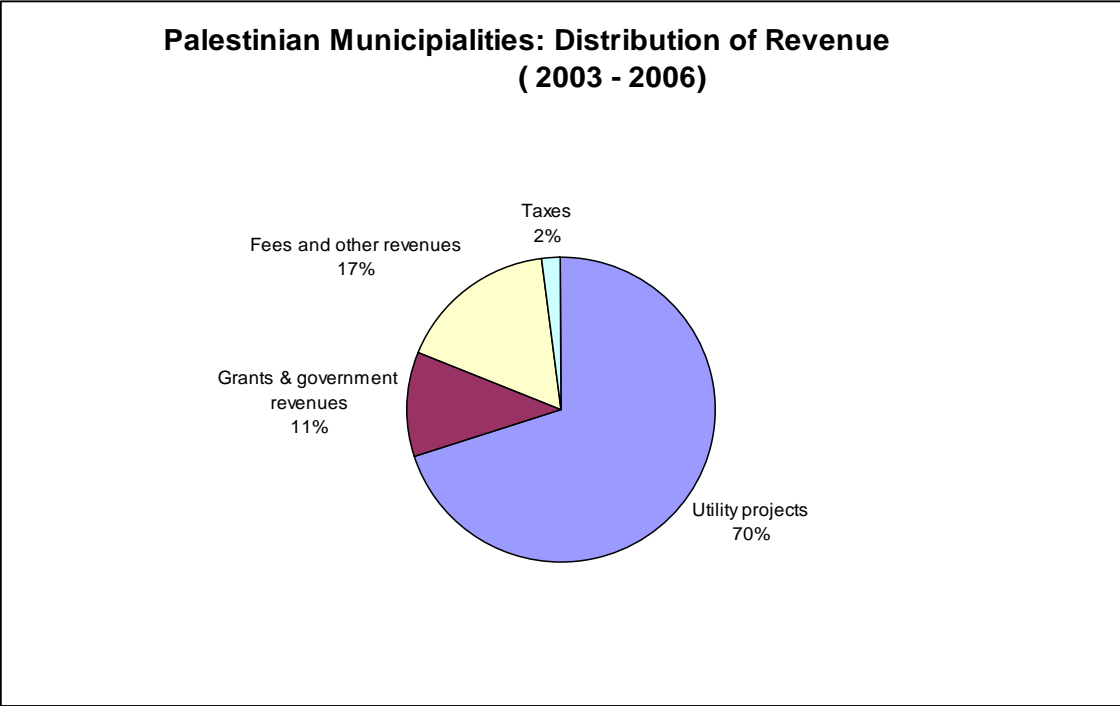
The Local Authorities Law of 1997- mentioned in the previous section, assigns them 22 specific functions, including solid waste management, local road development and maintenance, libraries, parks and recreation, slaughter houses, markets, land use planning and development, business and professional licensing, environmental health and pest control, and in some cases they build their own schools and health clinics. In addition, many provide electricity, water and wastewater services both to their own constituents and communities as well as to surrounding areas.

The major income of the local governments’ budget also diverge from one municipality to another due to the fact that the majority of Palestinian municipalities own and run the water, electricity projects, while others don’t have such projects. However, in general the major incomes come from taxes, fees of buildings, water revenues, electricity revenues, rent of owned properties, and other special fees besides the

allocated funds from the central government such as the petroleum and transportation fees. The collected local taxes and fees are supposed to be the first source of revenues, as it was estimated to be about 22% of the local government revenues between the period (1995 and 2004). The property tax is the main local tax, which formed about 18% of the total regular revenues of the Palestinian municipalities. Palestinian municipalities also get aid from Arab and other countries in order to cover developmental projects, or to establish hospitals and schools.

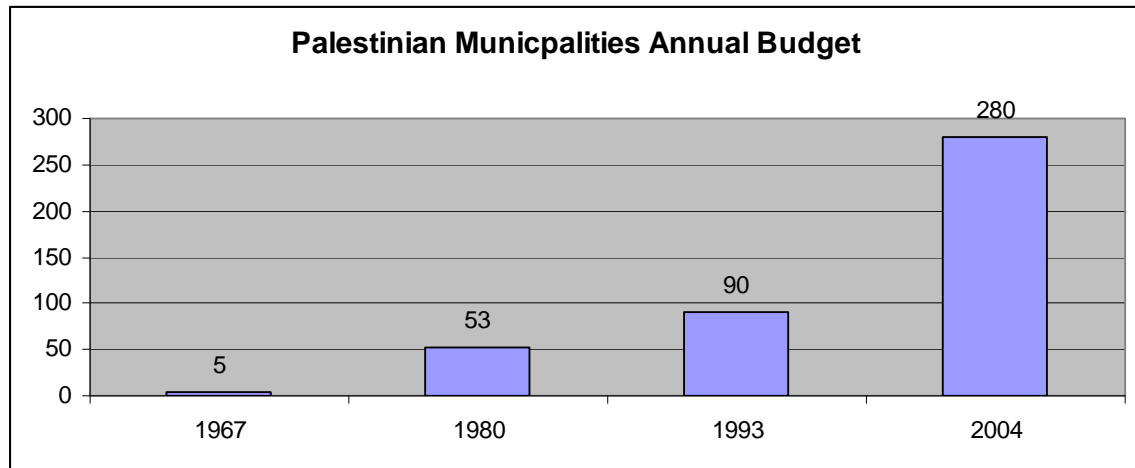
The following figure which is integrated from the same source gives an idea about the various sources of revenues of Palestinian Municipalities:

Figure 1: Sources of funds for the Palestinian municipalities (2003- 2006)



As for the annual allocated budget of all Palestinian local governments, it has increased from about five million dollars in 1967, to 53 million in 1980, while it reached about 90 million in 1993. And, since the establishment of the PNA, the total local government budgets value increased significantly, reaching about 280 million in 2004. (Sabri & Jaber 2007). The following figure exhibits this growth:

Figure 2: Palestinian Municipalities Annual Budget



3. Palestinian Municipalities Main Challenges

Before venturing any further, let us keep in mind that Palestinian local authorities are affected by the overall Palestinian situation. In their report, regarding the current situation of Local Authorities issued in February 2008, the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), the representative body of all Palestinian local authorities, presented some of the Palestinian local authorities' facts. The report stated that the Israeli policies of injustice, collective punishment, discrimination, settlements activities and land confiscation, erection of the wall, sieges, closures and checkpoints (more than 500 in the West Bank), and the arrests of more than 50 elected officials including mayors and staff of major Palestinian municipalities in Israeli prisons on administrative detentions continues to suffocate Palestinians and directly affect their living conditions. The same report continues that these policies, which are continuously escalating, limit the democratic life, shatter the hopes and plans for social, economic, health, and educational developments in Palestine, create obstacles for staff development and project execution due to the severe moving restrictions of people, goods and materials.

The Palestinian State Audit & Control Bureau in 2007 also reviewed Palestinian public institutions, including ministries and local authorities major challenges towards implementing good governance practices:

- A fast growing population and the extremely high population density in the case of Gaza, thus significant population not receiving basic services.
- Inadequate fiscal base for public institutions.
- Lack of discipline of tax-payment undermined by occupation and second Intifada.
- Limited professional capacities, both officials and staff, of public institutions.
- Extensive infrastructure damage.
- Lack of territorial contiguity.
- High level of unemployment, especially among youth and university graduates.

The financial municipal situation is very alarming and critical as many municipalities are unable to provide staff salaries for a few months, and are forced to limit services provision to the basic minimum, due to the unprecedented deep economic crises and alarmingly high unemployment figures. The financial situation of APLA is also difficult since local authorities are unable to pay membership fees.

A UN Press Release stated that the Palestinians institution's lack of control over their natural resources as Israel continues to confiscate Palestinian land and water resources; lead to damaging socio-economic development since over a decade.

According to the World Bank, in the past eight years due to the ongoing conflict (including the loss of sizable municipal assets due to Israeli incursions) and contraction in the economy, municipal budgets have declined by an average of 30 percent. The financial crisis of municipalities is also due to poor management practices such as a wide gap between planned budgets, available revenues and executed budgets; weak development planning, and a large wage bill.

The combination of these factors has created a financial crisis and is stressing the ability of municipalities to continue to provide services, with sharp differences between the West Bank and Gaza. In the West Bank, municipalities are finding it difficult to maintain existing infrastructure (roads, water networks, waste water etc) or make new capital investments. In Gaza, municipalities are unable to cover the minimum services charges and are trying to make-do with worn-out and used spare parts for solid waste collection, running waste water pumps and the like. Staff salaries in nearly all municipalities in Gaza are on average six months in arrears. Indeed, over the past year, Gazan municipal employees have been running services as volunteer citizens.

4. The launching of PPI in Palestine

Pro Poor Integrity approach links the needs, priorities, and voice of local communities with decision-makers in the executive, parliament, and judiciary at the local and national level. This bridging improves the prospects for genuine development gains, sustainability, and replication. The approach focuses on the development of trust between the organization and the community through its performance.

At the beginning of PPI program in Palestine, a core group of civil society organizations for potential participation in the implementation of the PPI programme have been identified:

AMAN - Transparency Palestine

ESDC: The Economic and Social Development Centre of Palestine (ESDC)

ARIJ: The Applied Research Institute -Jerusalem

PNGO: a Palestinian NGO umbrella organization

Given that PNGO encompasses the majority of independent NGO's present in Palestine, the core group seems sufficiently representative of the organisations aimed to be included in the PPI. Additional organisations will need to be identified for the Parliamentary and Judicial component of the project.

The outcome of meetings and discussions from the core group was used to establish baselines for PPI project. Given the 5 year project cycle, and in order to measure impact and results a good IT management system will need to be established for all countries. Here in Palestine, ARIJ does have the capacity to manage it and has offered its knowhow and resources for this purpose.

In the year-long preparation period, the core group decided to have a steering committee, and drafted clear roles and responsibilities for the steering committee and participating members. The core group also recommended establishing an advisory group given the nature of the project and the necessary engagement of the government and other key stakeholders (UNRWA, Universities, PCBS, other NGO's, etc.) Also, the core group suggested establishing a multi-sector working group for performance monitoring.

4-1- Transparency and Accountability Systems in the Palestinian local authorities

Since TIRI's objective is integrity, it is important to assess the transparency and accountability in addition to managerial and accounting performances. The findings of a recent managerial performance assessment show a few aspects of transparency that

exist in the Palestinian municipalities; 61% of the municipalities discuss their financial final statements within the local councils, 58% of the municipalities appoint their employees according to an advertisement and using competition among applicants, and 58% of municipalities have a system for receiving and studying citizens' complaints.

On the other hand, only 46% of municipalities have special departments for managing emergencies and crisis in the municipality, 92% of them do not have any sort of communication with the residents, whether online or their official councils meetings are not open for the public, and 88% of the municipalities do not publicize their financial statements. (Sabri & Jaber, 2007)

Another administrative issue in the Palestinian local government is the weak organizational structure of the municipalities; the majority of the municipalities have four major departments: management, financial, engineering and health departments. In numbers, 84% of the municipalities have administrative departments, 81% have financial departments, 69% have engineering departments, and 61% have health departments. On the other hand, 70% of all municipalities provide different services through partial or semi departments such as the maintenance facilities, public services, health and sanitation, and employees affairs. It can be perceived that municipalities provide many services to the public through two or three departments, and all the services and facilities are within these departments. (Sabri & Jaber, 2007)

However, many municipalities do not offer certain services, and thus do not have a department or semi-department; 50% of the municipalities do not have customer service department, 58 % do not have a projects department at all, 53 % do not have any official personnel to follow the donors' projects. The department that really needs high consideration is the employees' affairs, as 56 % of the respondents do not have this service neither as a department nor within a department. The municipalities that have more than eight departments are mainly the ones serving a large number of residents like Nablus, Gaza, Bethlehem, and Hebron. For example, the municipality of Gaza has 20 departments, and the municipality of Bethlehem has nine departments (Sabri & Jaber, 2007).

The problems facing the Palestinian municipality administrations are mainly due to the inability of the residents to pay dues or failure from the municipality to collect its fees, taxes, and the price of utilities. Residents (owing to many political and cultural reasons) fail to pay their dues from fees and taxes, rents of stores, or even from their consumption of water and electricity. The other major problem for municipalities relates to the ministry of finance that does not pay or transfer the fees and taxes to the municipalities (Sabri & Jaber, 2007).

Accordingly, it may be stated that the due debt for municipalities on residences regarding tax, fees, prices of utilities owed by residents to the municipality represent the major problem facing the Palestinian municipalities. However, this issue varies from one municipality to another. For example, the due debt of residents ranged from 42 percent of annual budget as in the case of Al-Bireha municipality to 250 percent as in Rafah Municipality.

In the area of internal control, one study found that although Palestinian Municipalities vary among each other in their managerial and financial performances, they show real signs of weaknesses in their organizational capacities. These weaknesses start with information systems and accounting software and end with small things like filing and archiving systems. The lack of documented instructions concerning financial procedures and the fact that internal audit functions are not implemented seriously resulted in a poor internal control environment in general. In regards to public finance management standards, the study showed that there is little awareness among mayors and municipality personnel about the idea of fiscal transparency. In this area the Ministry of Local Governance does not perform adequate oversight activities. The role of the municipal board as a supervisory or monitoring body of the municipality's financial activities seems to be weak as well. (Ishaq, 2009)

4-2 PPI Approach in Palestine

The PPI programme for Palestine has been warmly welcomed since it fits well with the agenda of the Palestinian National Authority, the international community and the envisaged national plan on integrity put forward by the civil society.

ARIJ, TIRI, AMAN, and other Palestinian civil society organizations started working in partnership to probe the interest of local Palestinian organisations in the DFID-funded Pro-Poor Integrity TIRI programme. The programme seeks to bring together, foster collaboration and build capacity, responsiveness and accountability across civil society, public administration, the judiciary and parliament in eight countries, among which Palestine.

Participating NGO's underlined the specificity of Palestine, and the project team identified the following characteristics that render the implementation of the PPI challenging here in Palestine

1. Israeli **occupation** is the main obstacle due to lack of sovereignty by Palestinian government over natural resources, borders, security, etc.

2. **Fragmentation** in service delivery (UNRWA, private sector, government, civil society for health, education, water and sanitation and social services).
3. **Political instability** due to the lack of progress in the Middle East Peace negotiations.
4. **Lack of legitimacy** of central and local governments (two governments (West Bank & Gaza Strip), in addition to the fact that some local authorities have not been elected through a democratic process since elections were phased out after Hamas victories in early 2006.
5. The **Legislative Council** (Parliament) is nominally functioning solely in the Gaza Strip completely led by Hamas legitimately-elected Hamas members. In the West Bank laws are not being enacted. Parliament committees are not meeting. Hamas Parliament members from the West Bank are in Israeli prisons.
6. The **judiciary** is not independent and lacks enforcement capacity.

There are a number of NGO's currently active in governance issues and AMAN, the local chapter of Transparency International, is already working on the idea of adoption a National strategy on Integrity. Their main goal is to gain trust with the Palestinian population in order to improve government performance. Opinion polls recently conducted have shown very negative public perceptions, which are not entirely justified by reality. Civil society wants to work hand in hand with the government to correct these perceptions and put measures in place to increase accountability, transparency and information-sharing. Other AMAN ongoing activities include the development of a Special CPI suited to the needs and situation of Palestine. This is being developed in cooperation with the World Bank, Global Integrity and PCBS. Other key initiatives include ongoing opinion polls, an annual corruption report, a study on the Integrity system (key sectional insights will be provided including water issues), and a report on water management is also being published. The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem (ARIJ) has also conducted a preliminary assessment of the Joint Services Council (JSC.) JSC's are in charge of the operation and maintenance of the municipal facilities for water supply and sewerage, while administrative and financial aspects remain with the municipalities.

4-3 Selection of Municipalities

During the core group preparation meetings, there was some disagreement over which communities should be considered for the project. The Financial and Administrative Control Committee (Diwan) evaluated Jericho and Bethlehem municipalities as having relatively good governance standards. On the other hand, the core group asserted that

Jericho was badly managed, while Hebron was a model worthy of emulation. Some organizations in the core group favoured to include Gaza given the long horizon of the project (5 years). Others feared that the results of evaluating the politically-conditioned performance of government services in the Gaza Strip, when there is no legitimate government in Gaza and there is a blockade and sanctions imposed by Israel and the international community will render work in Gaza unpractical.

To select four municipalities out of five hundred and seventeen local authorities, three steps were taken:

1. Prepare a list of all local authorities in Palestine that includes population, name of local authority, governorate, type and classification.
2. Sort out the municipality based on the required criteria (Table2.) The criteria resulted in six municipalities; Hebron (Al Khalil), Jenin, Jericho (Ariha), Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed, Nablus, and Tulkarm.
3. Choose four municipalities out of the six. Two weak municipalities and two good municipalities were chosen; Hebron (Al Khalil), Jericho (Ariha), Ar Ram & Dahiyat alBareed, and Nablus.

Table 2: Criteria for Selecting Municipalities

NO	Criterion	Indicators	Weight
1	Administrative Classification (Municipality A,B,C,D, Village Council, or Project Committee)	Municipality + A	30%
2	Financial Budget	The highest budget	20%
3	Population	More than 15000	15%
4	Geographic Distribution	One locality from each quarter of West bank	10%
5	Socio-economic Conditions (Poverty and / or unemployment rates)	The highest unemployment rate	10%
6	Willingness to roll-in	Ability to work	10%
7	Political Susceptibility	The most effected area by occupation activities	5%
Total		Municipality + A	100%

Following is a small profile about the selected municipalities:

4-3-1 Hebron Municipality

Hebron city has been governed by a municipal council since 1926, which today comprises of 8 elected members with 1200 paid employees. Hebron municipality has ten departments so as to facilitate services for the residents, these departments are: Administration, Engineering, Public relations, Study and Planning, Financial, Water, Traffic, Computer Services, Collection and computer services, and Health and Environment.

Hebron Municipality is the largest institution in the city of Hebron in terms of operational labor force, number of services offered, and projects carried out. The municipality offers a variety of services, the most important of which are electricity, water, roads, sanitation, the environment, and construction. In addition, the municipality provides services to the industrial and agricultural sectors, as well as cultural and sports services to all sectors of society.

4-3-2 Nablus Municipality

Founded in 1869, Nablus Municipality is currently considered one of the largest organizations in Palestine in terms of volume of services it provides, the projects it carries out, and the number of local staff it employs, 1820 employees. The major departments of the Municipality are: Administration, Engineering, Electricity, Water and Sanitation, Finance, Public Health and Environment, Solid Waste Water Management, Mechanics, Municipal Court, Slaughter House, Central Vegetable Market, Fire Brigade, Customer Service Complaints Section, and finally the vehicles' department.

4-3-3 Al-Ram Municipality

Founded in 1996, the municipality has 55 staff members. The major departments of the Municipality are: Administration, Engineering, and Public Health. Al-Ram municipality is a weak and inefficient municipality lacking infrastructure and executive capabilities. Their provided services is either outsourced or does not reach the whole city like its waste water network that covers only 42% of the city, while solid waste is burned at a dumpster located near the city.

One of the main reasons for this inefficiency is Al-Ram's unusual circumstances; the real population of Al-Ram is 60,000 while the official population, according to PCBS, is 22,000. This difference originated from the fact that 75% of Al-Ram population possesses Jerusalem I.Ds and admitting their living in Al-Ram would result in them losing their I.Ds and certain rights associated with holding a Jerusalem I.D. For Al-Ram

municipality, this fluctuation means that they have the financial means to support 22,000 while actually serving 60,000.

4-3-4 Jericho Municipality

Jericho municipality like Al-Ram has an inefficient structure. It has 350 employees for 18,000 people living in the city. Jericho doesn't have any sort of waste water network while solid waste is collected and burned at the dumpster. The major departments of the Municipality are: Administration, Engineering, Water and Sanitation, Finance, Public Health, Mechanics, and a library.

4-4 The Selected Municipal Services

Originally, PPI selected four services for its program; health, education, water and sanitation, and social protection. As is, local Palestinian authorities don't provide such service for the public. Local authorities provide other services, like water, solid waste management, sanitation, and waste water management. So to implement the project in Palestine, services had to be changed. Moreover, since the judiciary system in Palestine faces its own challenges; not independent and lacks enforcement capacity, the core group decided to leave it out of PPI in Palestine.

In a recent PCBS Local Community Survey, the results showed that 123 localities (22.9%) in the West Bank (77,275 persons) have no public water network, 64 localities were connected to public water network after 1998, of which 58 were in the West Bank. Regarding the main source of water, data show that 110 of the localities connected to public water networks in the West Bank in 2008 obtain water through the Israeli Mekorot company, while 112 of the localities connected to the public network in the West Bank obtain water through the West Bank Water Department. However, in the Gaza Strip, 17 of the localities connected to the public network obtain water through wells, and only 6 localities obtain water through the Israeli Mekorot Company. 427 total developmental projects are needed by local authorities in the Palestinian Territory in the rehabilitation and improvement of infrastructure for water. (PCBS, 2008)

The results of the same survey reveal that 85 localities (16%) are connected to the public sewage system, of which 64 localities are in the West Bank. In addition 511 localities use cesspits for wastewater disposal, 478 in the West Bank and 33 in Gaza Strip. The results reveal also that 33 localities were connected to the public sewage system after 1998, of which 25 were in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip. (PCBS, 2008)

The results also revealed that 99 (18%) localities do not have the services of collecting solid waste with 59,444 persons. The local authorities provide collecting solid waste services in 331 localities, and 122 dumping sites in the Palestinian Territory, of which 119 are in the West Bank, and 3 are in the Gaza Strip. There are 67 dumping sites used by one locality, and 55 used by more than one locality. (PCBS, 2008)

The table below shows the selected localities and services according to PPI services

Table 3: The Four Selected Municipalities and their Services

Municipality	Year Established	Total Population	Number of Paid Employees	Services Provided		
				Water	Solid Waste	Waste Water
Hebron	1926	166,000	1200	X	X	X
Nablus	1869	127,000	1820	X	X	X
Al-Ram	1996	60,000	55	X	X	X
Jericho	1951	18,000	350	X	X	

4-4-1 Water

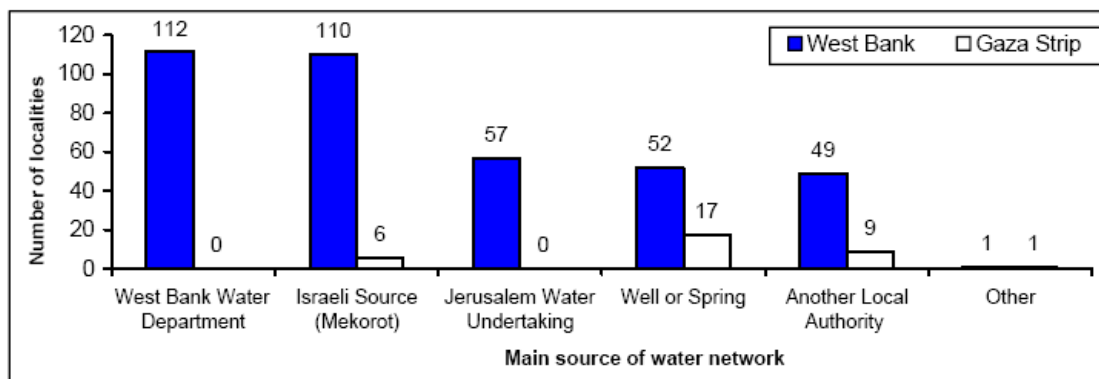
Connection to public water network

- 123 localities (22.9%) in the West Bank, with 177,275 persons, have no public water network.
- 64 localities were connected to public water network after 1998, of which 58 in the West Bank.

Source of public water network

- 110 localities in the West Bank in 2008 obtain water through Israeli Mekorot company
- 112 localities in the West Bank obtain water through the West Bank Water Department.
- In Gaza Strip, 17 localities obtain water through Wells.
- 6 localities in Gaza Strip obtain water through Israeli Mekorot Company.

Figure 3: Distribution of Localities which are Connected to Water Network in the Palestinian Territory by the Main Water Network Source and Region, 2008



Availability of water services

- 234 localities have access to water for 24 hours: 229 localities in the West Bank, and 5 localities in Gaza Strip.

Alternative sources of the public water network

- 157 localities depend on ground water wells as an alternative to the public water network.
- 421 localities depend on rainwater collecting wells as an alternative to the public water network.

The problems faced by the locality in obtaining drinking water services

- 123 localities have no public water network,
- 251 localities have old networks.
- 247 localities suffer from the problem of interruption of water supply,
- 192 localities suffer from the problem of non-served areas.

Developmental projects in the water sector

- 172 localities that need a public water tank,
 - 106 localities need to expand their network,
 - 58 localities have problems in water supply and need to change the water source.
- There are no plans and budgets to fulfill these requirements.

4-4-2 Wastewater

Wastewater disposal method

- 85 localities (16%) are connected to public sewage system, 64 localities in the West Bank.
- 511 localities use cesspit for wastewater disposal, 478 in the West Bank and 33 in Gaza Strip.
- 33 localities were connected to public sewage system after 1998: 25 in the West Bank and 8 in Gaza Strip.

Developmental projects in the wastewater sector

- 307 localities need construction of sewage network
- 136 localities need treatment plants
- 34 localities need to cover the open channels of waste water
- 42 localities need to develop the sewage network

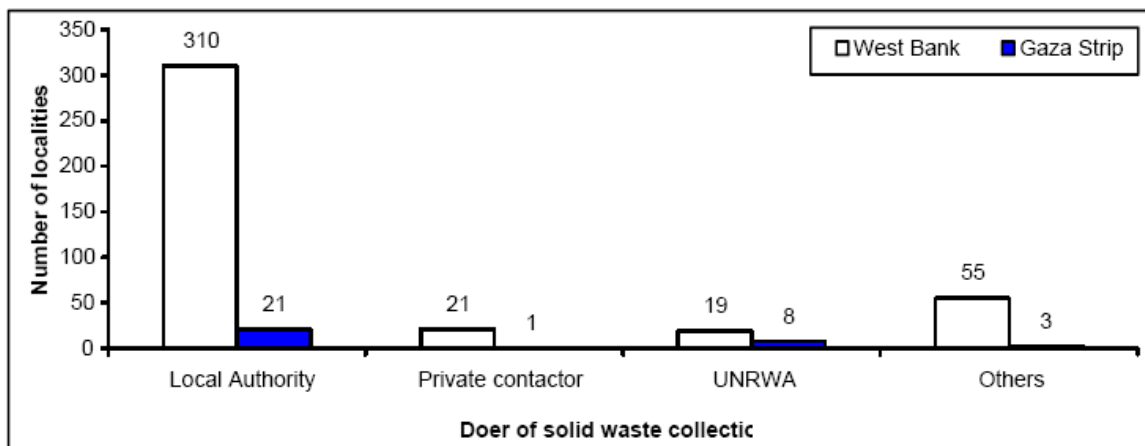
There are no plans and no budgets to fulfill these requirements.

4-4-3 Solid Waste

Doer of solid waste collection

- 99 (18%) localities, with 59,444 persons, do not have the services of collecting solid waste.
- The local authorities provide collecting solid waste services in 331 localities, of which 310 in the West Bank and 21 in Gaza Strip
- Private contractors collect the solid waste in 22 localities.

Figure 4: Distribution of Localities in the Palestinian Territory by Doer of Solid Waste Collection and Region, 2008



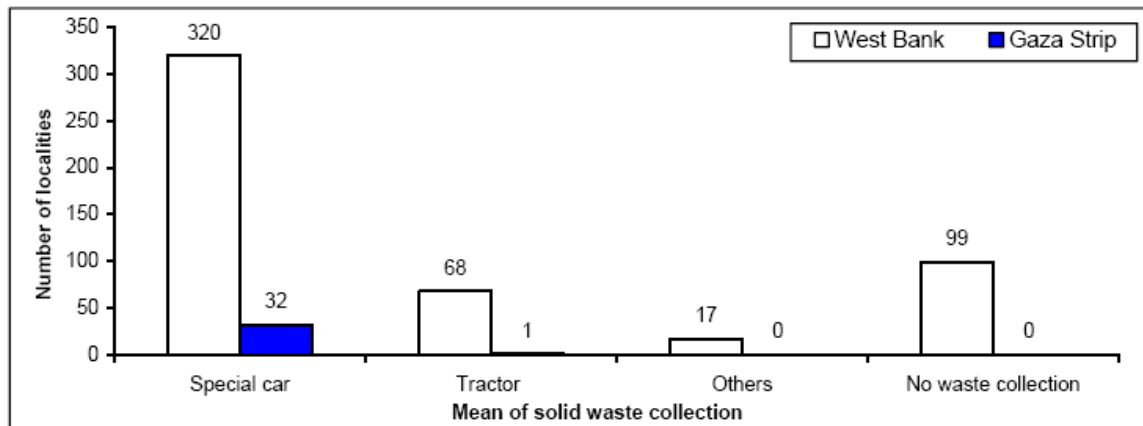
Periodicity of solid waste collection

- The wastes are collected daily in 125 localities,
- Collection is made more than once a week in 254 localities

Mean of solid waste collection

- The wastes are collected by using a specialized car in 352 localities.
- 69 localities use a tractor as a mean of collecting wastes.

Figure 5: Distribution of Localities in the Palestinian Territory by Mean of Solid Waste Collection and Region, 2008



Dumping sites

- 122 dumping sites in the Palestinian Territory: 119 in the West Bank, 3 in Gaza Strip.
- 67 dumping sites used by one locality
- 55 dumping sites used by more than one locality.

The health and environmental effects of the dumping sites

Dumping sites are considered as sources of

- Insects for 248 localities
- Bad smell for 245 localities
- Epidemic diseases for 223 Localities.

5. Conclusion

PPI links the desires, and concerns local communities with decision-makers in the municipality. This bridging improves the prospects for genuine development gains, sustainability, and replication. PPI focuses on the development of trust between the municipality and the community through its performance. Strengthening municipalities is important because many strategic decisions are best made at the local level where local needs and preferences are visible and plain.

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