



PALESTINE EMERGING CATALOGUE OF WORK

*A comprehensive listing of
existing work on economic
reconstruction and
development in the West
Bank and Gaza*

PALESTINE EMERGING CATALOGUE OF WORK

Summer 2024

PALESTINE EMERGING

Preparing for the economic reconstruction and development of Palestine, working together and building on what has gone before

WHO ARE WE

PALESTINE EMERGING is a cooperative private-sector initiative, focused on the economic reconstruction and development of Gaza and the West Bank.

We represent the emerging consensus of a pro-bono coalition of over 100 leaders and experts, drawn from a wide range of Palestinian and international, civil-society groups, technical organizations, and funding institutions.

CATALOGUE OF WORK

The PE CATALOGUE OF WORK is a live document of relevant resources that address infrastructure and economic development in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, and the catalogue is still being updated. To view the latest catalogue, please go to www.palestine-emerging.org or scan the QR code below.

DISCLAIMER

The content of this catalogue does not reflect the stance of PALESTINE EMERGING, and it is meant to provide a high-level executive summary of the projects listed.



www.palestine-emerging.org

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Call for Contributions

Palestine Emerging - Catalogue Call for Contributions of Existing Projects and Papers on Economic Reconstruction and Development in Gaza and the West Bank

A catalogue of relevant resources related to economic reconstruction is being assembled and contributions are invited, demonstrating detailed and technical approaches to infrastructure reconstruction, urban development planning, and economic development in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. This call extends to completed works and ongoing and proposed projects that meet the criteria. A diverse array of contributors is encouraged to submit relevant work and to reach out within networks for fitting submissions. An executive summary of selected submissions will be made accessible on a public website for reference by groups such as bilateral donors, development, and government agencies.

Selection Criteria:

- **Timeframe:** works are being sought which are completed or initiated after 2000. This includes ongoing and proposed projects currently in development.
- **Content Requirements:** focus is on extended, comprehensive papers, in-depth policy analyses, and detailed reports of private sector projects. Submissions must be no longer than four A4 pages, with a preference for more substantial and thorough documents. Short newspaper articles or opinion pieces do not meet the criteria.
- **Geographical Focus:** must be centred around the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Works may reference regional entities like Egypt or Jordan as part of a broader regional or global network.
- **Technical and Policy Focus:** should be centred on infrastructure reconstruction, urban planning, and economic development, with particular interest in projects addressing connectivity in and out of Gaza. Policy papers should delve into reconstruction and economic development topics such as land ownership laws and strategies for easing import-export restrictions.
- **Source of Work:** particularly interested in submissions drafted or commissioned by private entities (non-state actors).
- **Political Neutrality:** submissions must maintain a technical and policy-driven focus. They should address specific strategies and development policies, avoiding political speculation and not targeting specific political entities, such as the Palestinian Authority. It is recognised certain political assumptions may be made to enable critical analysis; however political advocacy submissions will not meet the criteria.

How to Contribute:

Submissions are welcomed from those who have conducted relevant work or know of potential contributors in their networks. Please ensure that submissions adhere to the criteria outlined above.

We ask respondents to confirm:

- title of the work,
- author(s),
- short (max 1 page) summary,
- direct links to the report and/or agency that produced it.

Please send your submissions or inquiries to Hugo Tay – hugo.tay@portlandtrust.org and Ross Anthony – rossa@rand.org

Mapping of Keywords

	Year Completed	WB	Gaza	Infra Dev	Econ Dev	Connectivity	Disaster Recovery	Policy
1. Global Palestine, Connected Gaza	2016		✓	✓		✓		
2. The Arc	2005	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3. Gaza Interim Damage and Needs Assessment	2024		✓				✓	
4. Evaluation of EU Co-operation with Palestine	2014	✓	✓	✓	✓			
5. Gaza Strip Reconstruction & Development Plan	2014	✓	✓	✓	✓			
6. Road & Transportation Master Plan	2016	✓	✓	✓		✓		
7. Currency Board White Paper	2023	✓	✓					✓
8. Palestine Health Rebuilding Initiative	In progress	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
9.								
10. The Green Blue Deal	2020, (update in progress)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
11. West Bank Economic Spatial Plan	In progress	✓		✓	✓	✓		
12. West Bank Spatial Plan	In progress	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13. Beyond Aid	2013	✓	✓	✓	✓			
14. Annapolis Conference	2008	✓	✓			✓		✓
15. WB-Sinai Link	2023 (updated)	✓		✓		✓		
16. Building a Successful Palestinian State	2007	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
17. The Cost of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	2015	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
18. Alternatives in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	2021	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
19. Plan for Post War Gaza	2024	✓	✓	✓				✓
20. Forward Economic Development Plan	In progress	✓	✓		✓			

1 Global Palestine, Connected Gaza

Responsible Party, Year Completed: The Palestinian private sector and Portland, 2016

Key Words: Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Connectivity

Link: <https://portlandtrust.org/global-palestine-connected-gaza/>

Status: Completed

Contact: Hugo Tay – hugo.tay@portlandtrust.org

Executive Summary:

Global Palestine, Connected Gaza, led by the Palestinian private sector, is an ambitious initiative to revitalise the Gaza governorates. Central to its strategy is a comprehensive spatial vision that addresses Gaza's immediate challenges, such as extensive infrastructure damage and high youth unemployment, while laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term development.

The initiative outlines 70 investable projects, categorised by type and region, each integral to the plan's success. These projects, guided by fundamental design principles of focused urban growth, historic preservation, and natural system recovery, aim to significantly boost Gaza's GDP and employment. Global Palestine, Connected Gaza, is poised to transform Gaza into a liveable, economically vibrant, and sustainable region by concentrating on strategic urban development, transportation, energy, water infrastructure, and environmental sustainability.

This plan targets immediate reconstruction needs and envisions a future where Gaza is a model for sustainable urban development, contributing positively to the broader Palestinian and regional landscape.

Short Term Priorities:

- Develop interim housing solutions across four central neighbourhoods to address the displacement crisis; reconstruction of schools and hospitals is a priority to meet the community's basic needs.
- Construct a port and ensuring land access to accelerate logistics and reconstruction material flow into Gaza, develop crucial transportation nodes like the Gaza Gateway for regional connectivity.
- Ensure the immediate repair of essential infrastructure to ensure a steady supply of energy and water, upgrade power infrastructure, pursuing alternative electricity

sources, balance water extraction, launch desalination facilities, and improve water and energy networks.

- Restore agricultural land and green spaces surrounding urban centres to support farmers in resuming production and providing post-harvest services, focus on boosting employment in the agricultural sector.

Long Term Priorities:

- Expand beyond current urban areas, focus on permanent residential, commercial, and community facilities, invest in industrial development in specific northern and eastern zones, enhance central urban areas, and implement environmental protection zones.
- Aim for a significant shift to renewable energy sources for electricity, integrate utility networks regionally, and expand wastewater treatment facilities.
- Complete strategic infrastructure projects such as the operationalisation of the port, develop of a heavy rail connecting Gaza Gateway with Gaza City and establishment of the Gaza Transit Spine for light rail services.
- Expand the Gaza Gateway into a significant regional rail interchange is also planned.
- Support ecological remediation efforts, consolidating green infrastructure, open space networks, and agricultural areas as part of a green ecosystem.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Complete comprehensive damage assessments before initiating reconstruction efforts.
- Implement a phased approach to housing, starting with immediate, emergency housing needs, transitioning to short-term interim housing solutions, and ultimately increasing long-term, affordable housing options.

2 The Arc

Responsible Party and Year Completed: RAND, 2005

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Connectivity

Link: <https://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG327-2.html>

Status: Completed

Contact: Ross Anthony – rossa@rand.org; Shelly Culbertson – shellyc@rand.org

Executive Summary:

This Arc study explores the creation of infrastructure for a new Palestinian state, building on previous RAND analyses. It examines a new Palestinian state's political, economic, social, resource, and environmental challenges, particularly with a rapidly growing population and potential refugee influx.

The study proposes the 'Arc', an innovative transportation system, as a central structure to address these challenges. This system would connect major cities and towns, providing a backbone for transportation, water, telecommunications, and energy infrastructure while preserving natural landscapes and promoting national cohesion.

A key aspect of the design was to have stations on the Arc located outside of major cities and connected to them by bus-rapid transit boulevards on which to accommodate population growth.

Short Term Priorities:

- Address the immediate housing needs due to high fertility rates and population growth. This includes constructing new housing units to accommodate the growing population and potential refugees.
- Begin the development of basic infrastructure like water, electricity, and sewerage systems, which are currently inadequate to meet the population's needs.
- Create job opportunities for the burgeoning workforce, especially young people, in the face of limited employment prospects.

Long Term Priorities:

- Focus on constructing high-density residential areas to support the projected population increase, including refugees.

- Develop a long-term infrastructure strategy that includes transportation and utilities like water and electricity, telecommunications, and solid waste disposal.
- Address the need for economic diversification to create sustainable employment opportunities and mitigate the reliance on external job markets.
- Manage population growth to avoid urban sprawl while incorporating space for parks and the natural habitat.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Start the phased implementation of the Arc, the proposed transportation corridor that includes mass transit systems, national aqueducts, and energy lines.
- Tackle challenges related to the carrying capacity, including water consumption, land use for agriculture, and environmental sustainability.
- Leverage the construction of the Arc and other infrastructure projects to provide immediate employment opportunities.

3 Gaza Interim Damage Assessment

Responsible Party and Year Completed: United Nations, World Bank, and partners, 2024

Key Words: Gaza, Disaster Recovery

Link: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/14e309cd34e04e40b90eb19afa7b5d15-0280012024/original/Gaza-Interim-Damage-Assessment-032924-Final.pdf>

/ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/05/23/world-bank-issues-new-update-on-the-palestinian-economy#:~:text=Compared%20to%20the%20last%20poverty,a%2012%25%20drop%20from%202022.>

Status: Completed

Contact: George Willcoxon - willcoxon@un.org

Executive Summary:

This interim damage assessment provides a preliminary estimate of the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Gaza Strip up to January 2024, detailing cumulative damage across critical sectors such as Housing, Health, Education, WASH, Energy, and more. It includes both physical and economic assessments, along with initial human and social impacts. Data primarily covers October 2023 to January 2024, with casualty figures updated to March 2024. This interim assessment, based on quantitative and qualitative data from IPSOS and validated by the World Bank, UN, and EU, highlights limitations due to ongoing conflict and restricted ground access. A comprehensive Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) will follow, encompassing broader sectors and detailed recovery needs, typically several times higher than initial damage estimates.

Estimated Damages:

- Total direct damage: US\$ 18.5 billion (97% of 2022 GDP of West Bank & Gaza).
- Majorly affected sectors: residential buildings (72%), commerce, industry, and services (9%).
- Critical infrastructure damage: education, WASH, health, energy, ICT, municipal services, and transport.
- Heavily affected areas: Gaza, North Gaza, and Khan Younis governorates.

Humanitarian Impact:

- Over 31,000 deaths, with 70% women and children; 1.7 million displaced.
- Acute food insecurity for over half the population
- Severe water shortages and potential further reductions.
- Over 1 million people homeless; 84% of health facilities damaged or destroyed.

- Education system collapsed, with schools used as IDP shelters.
- 17,000 children separated from families, vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.
- Severe mental health deterioration among vulnerable groups.

Economic Impact:

- Massive economic shock: 74% unemployment, multidimensional poverty.
- GDP dropped by 86% in Q4 2023 (24% y-o-y drop); further contraction expected to exceed 50% in 2024.
- Significant long-term reconstruction effort needed; early recovery actions should begin promptly.

4 Evaluation of EU Co-operation with Palestine

Responsible Party and Year Completed: EuropeAid, 2014

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development

Link: <https://www.oecd.org/derec/ec/Evaluation-of-EU-Cooperation-with-Palestine-Vol1.pdf>

Status: Completed

Contact: Joseph Saba – jsaba@verizon.net

Executive Summary:

The EU's long-term commitment to Palestinian support and a Two-State solution has been marked by substantial aid, aimed at fostering self-determination and addressing the challenges of occupation. Despite over €2.5 billion in aid between 2008 and 2013, aimed at sustaining welfare, preventing economic collapse, and building capacity for statehood, the overarching goals of economic viability and a democratic, contiguous State of Palestine remain unachieved.

Challenges such as prolonged occupation, settlements, and internal political divisions have hindered progress towards these objectives. Despite efforts, EU cooperation has struggled to effectively address these binding constraints, leading to a donor dependent economy.

The evaluation suggests a new approach to cooperation, emphasizing a comprehensive review and potential restructuring to enhance effectiveness and alignment with EU norms. This "green field approach" seeks to address political and structural constraints head-on, aiming for a results-oriented, accountable framework that upholds the principles of good governance and supports a viable, democratic Palestinian state.

Short Term Priorities:

- Implement a Results Measurement System and a Reporting for Management Programme to improve performance monitoring.
- Develop systematic results frameworks for both strategic planning and program design to build a results-oriented culture.
- Improve local Palestinian capacities (e.g., PA, UNRWA, and Civil Society Organizations) for participating in results-based approaches, including statistical capacities for monitoring and evaluation.

Long Term Priorities:

- Address the "binding constraints" such as Israeli occupation policies and Palestinian political divisions through enhanced EU dialogue and cooperation with both Israel and Palestine.
- Seek to improve donor coordination and the effectiveness of aid by fostering stronger alliances with regional actors, civil society, and UNRWA.
- Increase accountability mechanisms to ensure the Palestinian population can hold the PA accountable for resource allocation and management.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Adopt a "greenfield approach" for EU cooperation with Palestine, including a comprehensive review and potential restructuring of current cooperation strategies to enhance effectiveness, coherence, and alignment with EU norms.
- Engage in high-level discussions within the EU and with both Israel and Palestine to create a clear, authorizing environment for the restructured cooperation framework.
- Ensure that the cooperation framework is designed to be adaptable and responsive to the changing political and operational landscape, maintaining stability while aiming for long-term sustainability and self-reliance.

5 Gaza Strip Reconstruction & Development Plan

Responsible Party and Year Completed: Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction, 2014

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development

Link: <https://www.pecdar.ps/en/article/842/--Gaza-Strip-Reconstruction-and-Development-Plan>

Status: Completed

Contact: PECDAE – ata@pecdar.pna.net

Executive Summary:

The Gaza Strip has significant potential across various economic sectors despite ongoing socio-economic challenges. Key sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture possess competitive advantages that could drive economic growth if the blockade is lifted. This strategic plan emphasizes the importance of comprehensive socio-economic development to enhance the quality of life for Gaza's population. Success hinges on securing necessary funding, effective coordination, and robust private sector participation. Major obstacles include border closures, political instability, and a reduction in financial aid. The plan prioritizes reconstruction, economic revitalization, and balanced development across Palestinian territories.

Short Term Priorities:

- Rebuild homes, schools, health facilities, sewerage networks, and other vital infrastructures.
- Ensure the timely provision of funding for the relief phase.

Long Term Priorities:

- Establish industrial zones, a seaport, and an airport.
- Open border crossings, construct new schools, and develop new roads.
- Foster human capital development and ensure territorial contiguity within Palestine.
- Promote balanced development to improve service standards across all sectors and areas in Palestine.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Provide adequate shelter, food, healthcare, electricity, and water.
- Remove debris and renovate partially damaged homes and schools.

6 Road and Transportation Master Plan

Responsible Party and Year Completed: Ministry of Transportation, 2016

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Connectivity, Infrastructure Development

Link: <https://www.systematica.net/project/road-and-transportation-master-plan-of-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/>

Status: Completed

Contact: Systematica

Executive Summary:

The Road and Transportation Master Plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a comprehensive strategy to unify the transport sector across both regions.

The plan focuses on establishing a multimodal transport network and a phased development strategy, integrating West Bank and Gaza Strip into a cohesive framework. The plan includes a Spatial Design Master Plan and an Implementation Program Plan, aiming to improve connectivity on various scales and create a unified vision for the future of Palestinian transport.

Short Term Priorities:

- Identify a short-term investment plan for urgent and essential transport projects.
- Enhance transport within the West Bank and Gaza Strip, focusing on local connectivity.
- Create new and refurbishing existing transport infrastructures, including roads, railways, and public transport systems in major cities.

Long Term Priorities:

- Develop a major transport axis combining rail and road networks.
- Implement additional transport routes to facilitate movement across different regions.
- Upgrade facilities at border crossings to improve freight and logistics operations.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Construct two main railway lines - an international line connecting Rafah Border Crossing in Gaza Strip to Al Beyda new Border Crossing in West Bank, and a national line connecting Al Khalil/Hebron to Jenin.
- Revamp the fishery port in the Gaza Strip, build a new commercial port in Gaza City, refurbishing the damaged airport in the Gaza Strip, reopening Qalandia Air Field, and constructing a new international airport in the Jordan Valley.
- Implement Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems in major Palestinian cities, including Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, Gaza City, Hebron, Nablus, and Ramallah.

7 Currency Board White Paper

Responsible Party and Year Completed: Åke Lönnberg, 2023

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Policy

Link: <https://portlandtrust.org/monetary-reform/>

Status: Completed

Contact: Åke Lönnberg – ake.lonnberg@gmail.com

Executive Summary:

The paper, "A Currency Board for Palestine," delves into the feasibility and implications of establishing a Currency Board Arrangement (CBA) for Palestine. It posits that amidst various monetary frameworks, a CBA emerges as the most viable option to ensure the stability of a new domestic currency in Palestine. This choice is underpinned by the need for a significant systemic and institutional overhaul, necessitating widespread political consensus and adjustments in legal and institutional frameworks.

Short Term Priorities:

- Garner broad domestic political support and international backing, including from Israel, to legitimize and stabilize the proposed currency system.
- Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to support the implementation of a CBA, ensure the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) operates within a robust legal environment.
- Commit to stringent monetary and fiscal discipline to uphold the integrity and stability of the new currency.

Long Term Priorities:

- Establish a fixed exchange rate system pegged to a strong reserve currency, preferably the U.S. dollar, to facilitate stable economic transactions and foster trust among the Palestinian business community and the international market.
- Ensure the domestic currency is fully backed by foreign assets, with the PMA maintaining 100 percent reserves against domestic currency issuance to guarantee its commitment to the fixed exchange rate.
- Protect the PMA from political pressures that may undermine the currency board's effectiveness, thus ensuring the long-term viability of the new currency.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Finalize the selection of the U.S. dollar as the anchor reserve currency to leverage its stability and international acceptance.

- Engage in dialogue with international stakeholders, including financial institutions and governments, to secure initial investment and support for the currency board's establishment.
- Develop detailed operational guidelines for the PMA regarding the issuance and management of the new currency, focusing on transparency, security features, and anti-counterfeiting measures to build and maintain public confidence in the currency.

8 Palestine Health Rebuilding Initiative

Responsible Party and Year Completed: Gaza Health Rebuilding Initiative, Arab Hospital Group, in progress

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Connectivity, Disaster Recovery, Policy

Link: TBC

Status: In progress

Contact: Dr. Omar Lattouf (Gaza Health Rebuilding Initiative) – olattouf@gmail.com;

Mohammed Abukhaizaran (AHG) – mo.abukhaizaran@gmail.com

Executive Summary:

The "Future of Gaza Health" report, completed after the First International Conference to Rebuild Health System of Gaza in Amman on February 7, 2024, proposes a strategic framework for rebuild Gaza's health infrastructure. Drawing on comprehensive scientific research, international benchmarks, and insights from more than 100 global medical professionals, the report assesses the pre-conflict health system, the extensive damage caused by the conflict, and outlines a phased approach to rebuild and enhance healthcare services in Gaza.

The roadmap for reconstruction prioritizes preserving existing health services, adopting innovative delivery models like mobile clinics and telemedicine, and scaling up services to meet immediate needs. It emphasizes rebuilding infrastructure, enhancing service delivery, developing human resources, and ensuring medical supplies, aligned with the WHO's health system building blocks. The report advocates for a collaborative, interfaith, and international effort, highlighting the need for task forces, strategic alliances, and advocacy to mobilize resources and international support.

The Arab Hospital Group is currently expanding on the report to develop a comprehensive healthcare plan that connects the West Bank and Gaza and focuses on synergies between the private and public health systems.

Short Term Priorities:

- Maintain essential health interventions through alternative delivery models, such as mobile clinics and telemedicine, to ensure continuity of care.

- Leverage technology and flexible service delivery methods to address immediate healthcare needs amidst ongoing conflict challenges.
- Identify and prioritize immediate-impact areas for health service scale-up, aligning with Gaza's most pressing health needs and capabilities.
- Begin critical appraisal and prioritization of healthcare infrastructure development to lay the groundwork for comprehensive system rebuilding.
- Conduct meetings with key stakeholders, including international partners and local communities, to gather support and address concerns related to health system rebuilding.

Long Term Priorities:

- Execute comprehensive reconstruction of Gaza's healthcare infrastructure, aligning with WHO standards and addressing local needs.
- Enhance accessibility and quality of healthcare services, covering both physical and mental health.
- Strengthen healthcare workforce through recruitment, training, and retention strategies.
- Ensure reliable access to medical supplies and equipment, potentially developing local production.
- Improve health data management and research capabilities for informed decision-making.
- Develop local funding mechanisms and governance structures for sustainable health service provision.
- Promote intersectoral collaboration to address broader social determinants of health.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Conduct critical evaluations of healthcare facilities to prioritize rebuilding efforts based on immediate impacts and needs.
- Establish a task force for damage assessment, health system planning, and mobilization of resources for immediate needs.
- Protect and maintain current health services using alternative delivery models to ensure continuous care.
- Scale up healthcare services in critical areas, focusing on the most urgent health needs of the population.
- Develop a detailed plan for the full reconstruction of the healthcare system, including infrastructure, workforce, and supply chains.
- Form strategic alliances and advocacy initiatives to enhance international support and resource mobilization for the health sector's rebuilding.

9 The Green Blue Deal

Responsible Party and Year Completed: EcoPeace Middle East, 2020 (update in progress)

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Connectivity, Policy

Link: <https://ecopeaceme.org/gbd/>

Status: In progress

Contact: Gidon Bromberg – gidon@ecopeaceme.org

Executive Summary:

The Green Blue Deal, initiated by EcoPeace, is designed to foster peace through collaborative water and energy exchange between Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. This initiative emerges in response to the urgent need for sustainable transformation across the US, Israel, Jordan, and Palestine, aiming to address the significant water scarcity challenges faced by these entities.

The plan is structured around four main pillars: Firstly, the water-energy nexus aims to facilitate the exchange of water and electricity between Israel, Jordan, and Palestine. Secondly, it proposes a water management agreement to supersede Article 40 of the Oslo Accords. The third pillar emphasizes river rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, and the promotion of sustainable agriculture practices. Lastly, the plan includes educational programs targeting students and young professionals in the region, encouraging cross-border collaboration and engagement in these critical sectors.

In 2024, EcoPeace is updating the Green Blue Deal to include Gaza and the West Bank, with a plan to utilize the reversal of the National Water Carrier to sell 90 mcm of water from Gaza, from a large 200 mcm facility to be built, to Jordan, in exchange for renewable energy electricity from Jordanian solar farms to the West Bank & Gaza via PENRA in Jericho. The plan will also include transportation links from Gaza to the Gulf and potentially the Mediterranean as part of a regional trade and tourism network.

Short Term Priorities:

- Finalize solar electricity exchange agreements between Jordan, Israel, and Palestine.
- Initiate pilot desalination projects in Gaza for regional water sharing.

- Begin negotiations for a new water management agreement to replace Article 40 of the Oslo Accords.
- Launch river rehabilitation and biodiversity projects in the Jordan Valley.
- Develop and implement cross-border educational programs on sustainability.
- Conduct stakeholder workshops and evaluate pilot schemes for feedback and refinement.

Long Term Priorities:

- Establish a permanent regional framework for water and energy exchange for sustainability and peace, including Gaza in the framework.
- Expand and scale up desalination and renewable energy projects for increased demand and environmental goals.
- Secure a comprehensive water-sharing agreement for equitable access and sustainable management.
- Achieve ecological restoration of rivers and biodiversity conservation across the region.
- Embed sustainability and peacebuilding concepts into national educational systems and professional training programs.
- Incorporate Gaza into the regional transportation network to boost trade and tourism.
- Foster innovation and cooperation in water, energy, and agricultural practices for regional prosperity.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Draft and circulate detailed proposals for solar electricity and water exchange agreements that includes Gaza.
- Secure initial funding and technological partnerships for the construction of a desalination plant in Gaza.
- Schedule the first round of water management negotiations with clear objectives.
- Identify priority sites and partners for river rehabilitation projects.
- Outline curriculums and partnerships for sustainability-focused educational programs.
- Organize a regional conference to present the Green Blue Deal and gather stakeholder input.

10 West Bank Economic Spatial Plan

Responsible Party and Year Completed: RAND, in progress

Key Words: West Bank, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Connectivity

Link: TBC

Status: In progress

Contact: Ross Anthony – rossa@rand.org; Shelly Culbertson – shellyc@rand.org

Executive Summary:

The RAND West Bank Economic Spatial Plan aims to develop a vision that aligns with the aspirations of Palestinians and sets the foundation for creating a successful Palestinian state.

This plan takes into account the eventual evolution of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with potential land swaps, East Jerusalem as the capital, and a connector to Gaza. The plan is executed in two phases: initially developing a spatial and economic vision before identifying and prioritising critical projects for immediate implementation.

Short Term Priorities:

- Create a comprehensive vision for the future, estimate population growth, urban development, and critical infrastructure needs like energy and waste management.
- Involve Palestinian ministries, business leaders, planners, and international organisations to gather diverse perspectives and needs.
- Develop a list of 50 priority projects and select 4-6 for detailed analysis and immediate implementation.

Long Term Priorities:

- Focus on land use efficiency, socio-economic development, and establish symbols of national identity in critical metropolitan areas like East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Nablus, Jenin, Jericho, Hebron, and the Gaza Strip.
- Ensure resource independence in energy, water, sanitation, and communications, support territorial contiguity for freedom of movement and environmental sustainability, and reinforce urban hierarchy.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Conduct thorough reviews and analyses to understand existing conditions, needs, and potential scenarios.

11 West Bank Spatial Plan

Responsible Party and Year Completed: The Palestinian Private Sector and the Palestinian Housing Council, in progress

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Connectivity

Link: TBC

Status: In progress

Contact: Dr Samih Alabed – samieh.alabed@gmail.com

Executive Summary:

This initiative aims to foster infrastructure development in the West Bank, building on the model established by the Connected Gaza, Global Palestine project.

With the support of the Prime Minister's office and contributions from international stakeholders including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar, the project focuses on vital areas like Jerusalem, emphasising the need for the Palestinian Authority (PA) to undergo comprehensive reform.

Key sectors targeted for development include water, energy, transportation, and agriculture, utilising advanced GIS methodologies for strategic planning. The project seeks to attract initial international investment by implementing regulatory reforms, particularly to boost housing and education in Jerusalem.

Short Term Priorities:

- Engage international investors for infrastructure projects, with a focus on Jerusalem, to secure initial funding and support.
- Conduct regulatory reforms to create an investment-friendly environment, addressing private sector concerns especially in housing and education.
- Develop preliminary project lists and securing the green light from the PA for immediate implementation.

Long Term Priorities:

- Establish a robust transportation network, including railways and major roads, to enhance connectivity within the West Bank and with Gaza.
- Focus on the development of the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea facilities to leverage agricultural and industrial potential.

- Expand urban boundaries to accommodate growth, contrasting with the static limits of towns and villages amidst expanding settlements.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Finalise the project list for presentation to the PA and securing approval.
- Coordinate with international banks and investment groups, like the Islamic Bank in Jeddah, to discuss funding mechanisms and investment returns, aiming for a collaborative investment approach with local and international partners.

12 Beyond Aid

Responsible Party and Year Completed: The Palestinian private sector and Portland, 2013

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development

Link: <https://portlandtrust.org/beyond-aid-palestinian-private-sector-initiative-investment-growth-and-employment/>

Status: Completed

Contact: Hugo Tay – hugo.tay@portlandtrust.org

Executive Summary:

From 2006 to 2011, the Palestinian economy experienced significant growth, largely fuelled by substantial international aid and public sector expansion. However, this growth model proved unsustainable, especially as aid levels decreased, leading to a fiscal crisis and limited further public sector expansion.

With the private sector identified as crucial for economic rebalancing, this report explores investment opportunities in five high-potential sectors: Agriculture, IT & Digital Entrepreneurship, Tourism, Construction, and Energy. These sectors offer the promise of adding \$8bn to GDP, creating over 370,000 jobs by 2030, and enhancing economic resilience.

The report, through extensive consultation and analysis, outlines specific initiatives and projects within these sectors that could drive sustainable growth and job creation, highlighting the importance of private sector leadership in achieving economic independence for Palestine.

Short Term Priorities:

- Invest in renewable energy projects and the installation of solar PV panels to reduce energy import dependency.
- Launch targeted education programs in IT and digital entrepreneurship to address skill gaps and enhance sector growth.
- Initiate construction sector reforms to improve coordination, reduce costs, and address the affordable housing shortage.

Long Term Priorities:

- Develop the agricultural sector into a Middle East hub for high-value crops through modern water technologies and increased irrigation.

- Position Palestine as a leading destination in tourism by developing 'tourism hubs' and expanding facilities for key tourist segments.
- Scale up the construction sector to meet housing demands and capture more value chain segments, potentially doubling its contribution to GDP.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Formulate a Coordinating Committee of business leaders to oversee progress across sectors.
- Identify 'champions' for each catalytic project to drive implementation and gather support.
- Organise investor conferences to attract funding and interest in the identified sectors and projects, ensuring collective action for effective project design, operation, and replication.

13 Annapolis Conference

Responsible Party and Year Completed: Set out by Israeli and Palestinian (PLO) leaders, hosted by the US Government, also with the Quartet and most Arab League members, 2008

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Connectivity, Policy

Link: <https://il.boell.org/en/2021/06/01/truman-institute-atlas-jewish-arab-conflict>

Status: Completed

Contact: Shaul Arieli

Executive Summary:

The Annapolis Conference was a high-watermark of several proposals of the parties that involved land swaps as part of the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Here, Israel proposed annexing 6.5% of the West Bank, including major Jewish settlements, in exchange for compensatory land of a comparator 5.8% to Palestine, as well as ensuring the territorial integrity of a future Palestinian state with a land corridor between Gaza and the West Bank (although Israel technically retained sovereignty over that).

The Palestinian proposal ceded 1.9% of the West Bank, containing 63% of settlers, compared to the Israeli proposal's 84%. The proposals also covered Jerusalem, security and refugees.

Although the conference didn't reach agreement, it highlighted the acceptance of the land swap principle based on 1967 borders.

Short Term Priorities:

- Formalize proposals for land swaps between Israel and the Palestinian territories to align with the 1967 borders while accommodating Israeli settlements.
- Solidify consensus on the principle of land swaps, including the percentage of land to be exchanged and the criteria for selecting swap areas.
- Prepare for a potential Palestinian referendum to ensure public support for any land swap agreements.

Long Term Priorities:

- Execute the land swap agreements through detailed mapping and legal processes to redefine borders.
- Adapt the land swap framework to reflect demographic changes and political developments since 1967.
- Develop solutions for territorial continuity between the West Bank and Gaza, including infrastructure projects and sovereignty arrangements.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Complete detailed proposals for land swaps to be available in future negotiations, ensuring they reflect both Israeli security concerns and Palestinian sovereignty aspirations.
- Conduct meetings with key stakeholders, including international partners and local communities, to gather support and address concerns related to land swaps.
- Initiate technical surveys and planning required for the implementation of land swaps, including environmental assessments and infrastructure planning.

14 West Bank – Sinai Link

Responsible Party and Year Completed: Martin Wallen, 2013, 2023 (updated)

Key Words: West Bank, Infrastructure Development, Connectivity

Link: TBD

Status: Completed

Contact: Martin Wallen – wallenengr@verizon.net

Executive Summary:

The West Bank – Sinai Link proposal envisions a comprehensive transportation and utility corridor connecting the West Bank to the Sinai Peninsula.

This proposed international concession aims to provide immediate economic benefits to the West Bank and potential future development for the Gaza Strip, facilitating broader Middle Eastern diplomatic relations. The plan proposes a multifaceted transport system, including an airport, land train transportation, and utility services, offering a direct, secure connection between the West Bank and Egypt.

The initiative focuses on enhancing Palestinian quality of life and economic opportunities, which could catalyse improved relations in the region.

Short Term Priorities:

- Build an internationally operated airport to improve Palestinian connectivity and economic prospects.
- Implement a rubber-tired, self-steering Land Train system for passenger and freight movement.
- Create a corridor for transportation and utilities, including pipelines and electrical transmission.

Long Term Priorities:

- Utilise the link to stimulate the West Bank economy and promote political stability, potentially extending benefits to the Gaza Strip.
- Seek international support for construction, operation, and maintenance, with revenue generation through user fees.
- Develop power generation and water desalination plants within the Sinai Transportation Complex to support the region's needs.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Construct an airport and seaport and establish connections to Egypt and potentially Gaza.
- Secure land leases from Egypt, Israel, and Palestine for the transportation and utility corridor.
- Form a Governing Authority and possibly a subsidiary Operating Agency for the administration, funding, construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

15 Building a Successful Palestinian State

Responsible Party and Year Completed: RAND, 2007

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Policy

Link: <https://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG146-1.html>

Status: Completed

Contact: Ross Anthony – rossa@rand.org

Executive Summary:

The study outlines a strategic framework for the establishment of a successful independent Palestinian state, focusing on the critical elements of governance, economic viability, health, education, water, and security. It emphasises the importance of contiguity and permeability across borders if Palestinian state is to be successful. Detailed planning and international support in overcoming significant challenges to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for Palestine is also required. The research identifies the institutional structures, security measures, and economic and social policies necessary for success, providing a roadmap for action by Palestinians, Israelis, and the international community.

Research Findings:

- Each section was carefully analyzed and policy recommendations were made.
- In governance, Palestinians would need to take actions that promoted the rule of law, give greater power to the Palestinian Parliament, reduce corruption, promote meritocracy in the civil service, and delegate more power to local officials.
- Internal security would need to be enhanced.
- Water: present consumption is far below world standards. A series of conservation as well as supply alternatives to reliance on aquifers were laid out.
- Health: the study recommended that priority be given to “integration health system planning and policy development more closely, and focusing on “improving public and primary health programs.
- Education: a relatively strong system was seen and ways to improve quality and access were laid out.
- Economic development was seen as a key necessary focus for a successful state. Various scenarios were examined and the study concluded a high degree of contiguity of the land as well as permeable borders to enhance trade and commerce were essential ingredients for a successful nation building.

Long Term Priorities:

- Focus on technology, infrastructure, and trade to create a self-reliant economy.
- Build robust governance and legal institutions to ensure the rule of law and public accountability.
- Prioritise health, education, and housing to improve living conditions and social well-being.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Facilitate discussions between Palestinian, Israeli, and international stakeholders to address immediate security and governance challenges.
- Mobilize resources for critical infrastructure, governance reforms, and economic development projects.
- Foster social cohesion and public participation in the nation-building process.

16 The Costs of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Responsible Party and Year Completed: RAND, 2015

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Policy

Link: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR740-1.html

Status: Completed

Contact: Daniel Egel – degel@rand.org

Executive Summary:

This study evaluates the economic ramifications of various potential futures for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the next decade, comparing five different scenarios—a two-state solution, coordinated unilateral withdrawal, uncoordinated unilateral withdrawal, nonviolent resistance, and violent uprising—against the backdrop of the ongoing impasse. The analysis concludes that a two-state solution provides by far the best economic outcomes for both Israelis and Palestinians, with GDP per capita for Palestinians to increase by close to 36% and 5% for Israelis compared to projected baseline from 2015-2024. Although smaller in percentage terms, Israel gains more in absolute terms from moving to a two-state solution than do Palestinians (\$123 billion vs. \$50 billion).

Research Findings:

- A two-state solution provides by far the best economic outcomes for both Israelis and Palestinians.
- A return to violence would have profoundly negative economic consequences for both parties.
- In most scenarios, the value of economic opportunities gained or lost by both parties is much larger than expected changes in direct costs.

Policy Insights:

- Intangible factors, such as each party's security and sovereignty aspirations, are critical considerations in understanding and resolving the impasse.
- Taking advantage of the economic opportunities of a two-state solution would require substantial investments from public, private, and international parties.

Other:

- The study provided a cost calculator so assumption could be changed and detailed research into alternatives could be conducted by all parties.
- It was hoped the consequences of various policy options would help narrow the differences between the parties and further dialogue.

17 Alternatives in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Responsible Party and Year Completed: RAND, 2021

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Economic Development, Policy

Link: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA725-1.html

Status: Completed

Contact: Daniel Egel - degel@rand.org or Charlie Ries - ries@rand.org

Executive Summary:

The RAND study critically examines the viability of the two-state solution and alternative approaches to resolving the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through conducting 33 focus groups with more than 270 participants including West Bank Palestinians, Gazan Palestinians, Israeli Jews, and Israeli Arabs, the study collects diverse opinions on five potential solutions: the status quo, a two-state solution, a confederation, annexation, and a one-state solution. None of the alternatives was acceptable to a majority of both Israelis and Palestinians. The two-state solution was the most politically viable option despite recent loss of popularity and scepticism expressed by all parties.

Research Findings:

- None of the alternatives to a two-state solution explored are acceptable to a majority of Israelis and Palestinians.
- The two-state solution is the most politically viable alternative but all voiced scepticism toward this alternative.
- For Israelis the status quo was most preferred option and a one state solution the least favourite.
- Palestinians favoured the two-state solution but with major changes.
- Separation was the single most important factor determining acceptability.

Policy Insights:

- No alternative to the status quo will be viable without a shift in domestic and international politics.
- International security guarantees for Palestinians will likely be necessary for any peaceful resolution of the conflict.
- Educating the Israelis and Palestinians on the alternatives could lead to more pragmatic decision making.

18 Plan for Post War Gaza

Responsible Party and Year Completed: The Wilson Centre, 2024

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Infrastructure Development, Policy

Link: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/plan-postwar-gaza>

Status: Completed

Contact: Wilson Centre – wwics@wilsoncenter.org

Executive Summary:

This plan, to be implemented with the support of the United States and other regional and non-regional states, proposes the establishment of a Multi-National Authority (MNA) overseen by an International Contact Group (ICG) and an international Policing Force. The goal is for the MNA to temporarily administer Gaza, establish security, remove Hamas from civil governance, begin Gaza's reconstruction, and ultimately transition to local Palestinian governance.

Short Term Priorities:

- Negotiate an end to hostilities, both locally and comprehensively.
- Mobilize and coordinate activities of international, governmental, and non-governmental agencies and organizations.
- Vet and rebuild a police force and gendarmerie in Gaza with Israeli and U.S. participation.
- Begin the task of physical and social reconstruction.
- Restore Gaza's educational system by late 2024.

Long Term Priorities:

- Develop a de-radicalization, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program.
- Establish effective border security between Gaza and Israel and Gaza and Egypt.
- Address housing needs and reform Gaza's judicial system.
- Survey damaged buildings and assess reconstruction priorities.
- Set up local councils to rebuild representative governance.
- Transition governance and security responsibilities to local Palestinian entities once they are capable of maintaining order and stability.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Establish a Multi-National Authority (MNA) to administer Gaza.
- Form an International Contact Group (ICG) to oversee the MNA.
- Set up an international Policing Force to maintain security and order.
- Provide immediate humanitarian aid and basic services, including sewer, water, electricity, and medical capabilities.
- Prevent looting and restore essential services.

19 Forward Economic Development Plan

Responsible Party and Year Completed: The Palestinian private sector and Portland, 2024
(working draft)

Key Words: West Bank, Gaza, Economic Development

Link: TBC

Status: Almost completed (not yet published due to changes after October)

Contact: Hugo Tay – hugo.tay@portlandtrust.org

Executive Summary:

The Forward Economic Development Strategy aims to tackle the cycle of low investment and constrained economic growth in Palestine. Faced with occupation-related restrictions and recurring conflicts, the plan identifies the need for significant sustainable investment and enhancement of the business environment.

The strategy focuses on job creation to address rising unemployment, which has risen by close to 10% from 2000 to 2022. Central to the strategy is the role of the private sector, which employs two-thirds of the workforce and is vital for driving economic growth. This strategy integrates global best practices and methodologies to create a roadmap tailored to the local context, focusing on core sectors including healthcare, agriculture, energy, tourism, and manufacturing and enablers across finance, infrastructure, human capital and technology.

Short Term Priorities:

- Address infrastructure challenges, establish private tertiary hospitals, and enhancing private healthcare services.
- Promote crop diversification, water-efficient technologies, and improve market access for farmers.
- Invest in solar power and improve electricity infrastructure for greater efficiency and affordability.
- Develop archaeological sites and mixed-use spaces to stimulate tourism and cultural preservation.

Long Term Priorities:

- Improve the import/export process, support local companies in global market expansion, and address trade deficits.

- Focus on infrastructure investment, SME support, digital financial inclusion, and improve risk ratings and banking infrastructure.
- Enhance urban planning, financing, and resolve land disputes for sustainable infrastructure growth.
- Address unemployment, align educational outcomes with labour market needs, and establish technology transfer offices and centres of excellence.

Immediate Priorities / Proposed Next Steps:

- Support the ICT sector and startups through investments and collaborations, focusing on high-value IT services and venture capital funding.
- Adapt operational plans, diversify investments, and advocate for improved access to mitigate geopolitical and economic risks.
- Engage in partnerships to enhance programme resilience and create a supportive ecosystem for economic development.

