

Despite appalling conditions, the PALESTINE EMERGING initiative on Economic Reconstruction and Development makes progress; appoints Executive Director.

Earlier this year, even as the war raged on, a coalition of over 100 leaders and experts from Palestinian business and civil society, international organizations, and funding bodies launched **Palestine Emerging** - a robust and sustainable road to prosperity and economic growth in Gaza and the West Bank.

Though the war continues, **Palestine Emerging** has been able to flesh out the vision for long-term reconstruction following “the day after”, making things happen, harnessing best-in-class global experts to tackle issues of post-conflict resolution that create the most value for the greatest number of people and will have maximum economic impact.

GOVERNING COUNCIL and INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Palestine Emerging has established a **Governing Council** (GovCo) to more formally manage all related activities. The GovCo has seven Palestinians and three international experts. There is also a wider **International Advisory Group** (IAG), and all will convene for a mid-December strategy session in Washington.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Palestine Emerging Governing Council** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Shireen Shelleh** as Executive Director of **Palestine Emerging**. Shireen is CEO of the Ramallah-based Center for Engineering and Planning (CEPS), which has operations in Canada, UAE, Iraq, Libya, and Jordan. She has led technical teams of national and international experts in spatial, strategic planning, and infrastructure development and takes on the Executive Director role as a very well-known Palestinian leader, part of a spearheading a new generation, who demonstrated great awareness, knowledge, deft communications and ambitious strategic aspiration. Shireen is building on the transformative ‘**GAMECHANGERS**’ that will positively impact Palestine for generations.

HEALTHCARE

After organizing several Palestinian coordination meetings in Amman over late-July, **Palestine Emerging** leadership, drawn from Arab Hospitals Group, the WHO, Rand and others, have elaborated a 16-week program of seven short, medium and long-term workstreams. This effort avoids duplicative initiatives, better coordinates short-term and long-term activities, and prioritizes the most impactful actions. Current focus remains on reforming the healthcare system to digitize records and dealing with the systemic issue of arrears that stymies investment.

GAZA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF RECONSTRUCTION

To advance the **Gaza Technical University of Reconstruction** (GTUR), **Palestine Emerging** has convened several world-renowned institutions as well as several Palestinian universities to develop the vision for a global centre for economic reconstruction to be based in Gaza. This new institution will focus on vocational training for assessors, surveyors and other technical professionals needed for Gaza’s reconstruction. Eventually, the GTUR will develop the human capital for related export services. This ambitious Gamechanger has received widespread support.

Palestine Emerging is organizing a forthcoming 2-day GTUR workshop in London to identify related plans, resources, and governance needed to make progress.

GAZA INTERIM SPATIAL PLAN

Palestine Emerging is also launching work on the **Gaza Interim Spatial Plan** (GISP), which was identified by various agencies as a significant planning gap. Building on what has gone before and aligned with other current work by the PA, UN, Rand and the Palestinian private sector, this required framework specifically seeks to address the transitional period (Post-Conflict Year 1 to 10) and will address needs of temporary communities and hazard removal while anticipating conflicts with long-term assets and optimal urbanization patterns.

PALESTINIAN BANK OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

While entirely dependent on hopes for a substantial political settlement to create a real horizon for investible conditions in Gaza and the West Bank, **Palestine Emerging** continues to support the **Palestinian Bank of Reconstruction and Development**, an institution that will convene global donors to underpin Palestinian institutions, and which continues to gain traction and a strong-enough willingness to invest short-term resource into this Gamechanger, delivering best-in-class transparency and accountability, to ‘build back better’.

TRADE POLICIES

Palestine Emerging continues making progress on **Trade Policies**. We are working with a specialist Ramallah-based consultancy liaising with local and global partners, including the International Chambers of Commerce to craft and deliver a variety of short and medium-term interventions, together with all relevant Palestinian bodies, to bring a step-change increase in exports.

GAZA-WEST BANK CORRIDOR

Palestine Emerging continues to support The **Gaza-West Bank Corridor**. This was tentatively agreed by Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas in 2008, to create a land corridor under Israeli sovereignty for the exclusive use of the Palestinian Authority. As mandated by the G7 in June 2024, the Corridor is needed to unify the Gaza Strip with the West Bank, and is crucial to any prospects for Palestinian economic reconstruction. Our work to progress a consensual plan, as well as related short-term requirements, continues.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

Finally, **Palestine Emerging** continues to support broader Palestinian efforts on **social security reform**, in particular private pensions. This major initiative, once established, will have an extraordinary impact on Palestinian lives and the broader economy. A specially commissioned survey on relevant attitudes and preferences in the West Bank and Gaza is in the field.

OTHER GAMECHANGERS

Palestine Emerging will continue to support other Gamechangers with expertise and resources where it can. These efforts include **5G Networks**, the **Standards and Currency Pivot**, **Desalination**, the **Industrial Port** and the **Palestinian Bond**, as well as other private sector led initiatives. We will address some of these ideas in more detail during the upcoming December sessions in Washington.