
Programme Title:	Creating one-stop-shop for sustainable businesses
Country:	occupied Palestinian territory

I. Joint Programme Information

Joint Programme Information

Programme title:

Creating one-stop-shop for sustainable businesses

Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives

Inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication

 Create opportunities for decent jobs and secure livelihoods.

 Create better government policies and fair and accountable public institutions.

 Promote inclusive and sustainable business practices.

UN Lead Agency:

UN Women (UN Women)

UN Participating Organizations:

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

UN Women (UN Women)

Local Partners:

Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA)

Palestinian Ministry of National Economy (MoNE)

TBD: Women Business Forum (BWF)/Palestinian Business Women Association (ASALA)/Palestine for Credit and Development (FATEN)

Palestinian Standards Institution (PSI)

Palestine Trade Center-PalTrade

Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC)

Rozana Business Women Group

Al Thimar Company

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Reporting Period Ending:

Sunday, May 1, 2016

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III. Financial information

Detailed Financial Report:

 [Joint Programme Work Plan and Budget.xlsx](#)

SDG-F Funds

UN Agency	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	426,700.00	229,578.00	182,798.00	77,791.00
International Trade Centre (ITC)	346,700.00	191,065.50	28,000.00	108,800.38
UN Women (UN Women)	726,600.00	304,159.00	70,659.09	191,861.65

Total	1,500,000.00	724,802.50	281,457.09	378,453.03
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Matching Funds

Name of source	Total approved funds	Total funds Transferred to date	Total funds committed to date	Total funds disbursed to date
FAO/Netherlands	450,000.00	450,000.00	248,750.00	140,750.00
ITC	350,000.00	350,000.00	37,000.00	200,800.00
UN Women	700,000.00	700,000.00	101,727.00	240,845.00

Total	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	387,477.00	582,395.00
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IV. Beneficiaries

Total number of direct beneficiaries to date:

292

Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government	56	37	19	Staff members from PA ministries (Public servants) , gender support committee of the MoL , inspectors from the MoL, and NCWE
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				

Private sector (staff)	18	14	4	Staff members from the two Palestinian companies undergoing gender audit and women run businesses operating the two Stop Shops.
Women's cooperatives	145	139	6	Women members of targeted cooperatives
women MSME's	45	45		45 women owned /run MSME's
Total	264	235	29	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments		
SMEs	45.00	MSME's (30 WB and 15 Gaza) the 15 from Gaza through the matching funds		
Cooperatives	20.00	Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations	4.00	MoA, MoWA, MoNE and Mol		
Private sector	4.00	Two Palestinian companies undergoing gender audit and two women run businesses operating Stop Shops (FAO)		
Community-based organizations				
NGOs				
Total	73			

Indirect Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
MSME's members	1,350	1,215.00	135.00	Individual beneficiaries taking the average household and the average of employees the MSMEs have.
Cooperatives members	580	273.00	307.00	Women run businesses) and (family members)
Private sector				
Total	1,930	1,488.00	442.00	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs	45.00	
Cooperatives	20.00	
Government/municipal organizations	4.00	
Private sector	4	
Community-based organizations		

NGOs		
Total	73	

Any other information regarding JP beneficiaries*:

- A specialized ToT training was organized on the ILO Participatory Gender Audit tool (PGA) targeting 14 staff members from two targeted companies (The Bank of Palestine and the Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company) (10 F and 4 M)
- 45 women owned /run MSME's were directly targeted, with specialized technical trainings on advocacy, business management, communication, export management, financial management, and marketing and trade facilitation. The trainings aimed to enhance their technical, financial, and managerial skills of the women entrepreneurs to enhance their competitiveness within the local, regional and international markets.
- 20 inspectors (11 F 9 M) from the MoL were trained on gender mainstreaming, communication skills, documentation, and reporting violations against women at workplace.
- 21 staff members (15 F and 6 M) from the Support Committee of the Gender Unit in the MoL were targeted through a specialized training; the training aimed to raise the general understanding of the participants on the gender concepts and how to mainstream gender issues in the planning process at MoL, in addition to equip the participants with the needed skills in strategic planning, including preparing gender-sensitive budgets.
- Building on the four introductory workshops that were conducted during the first reporting period for 15 women's associations/cooperatives and the two business shops, FAO facilitated learning exchange visits between the five cooperatives added to the business shops' supplier pool.
- During the reporting period, an additional 145 women participated in technical training on food processing, food safety and quality control, packaging and labelling, and marketing. This brings the total training beneficiary number to 245 for the first 12 months of project implementation.
- Two private sector women-run companies owned by four women continued to receive financial assistance to run the two business shops, to be used for start-up costs such as product labels. The business shops sell products from the 20 women's associations/cooperatives - produced by their 584 female and 273 male members - to the general public.

V. Joint Programme Progress

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Outcome 1: Public and private sectors have enhanced policies and practices for inclusive socio-economic development of women owned/run MSME's and cooperatives</p>	<p>the Public servants responsible for reviewing and updating the legal framework governing micro and macro-economic activities have the basic skills and knowledge needed to integrate gender aspects within any process for developing a gender sensitive legal framework. Ministries including the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, in addition to members representing the National Committee for Women's Employment have core staff with the skills and knowledge to undertake a comprehensive review and update of existing policies and regulations from a gender perspective in order to promote women's economic participation. The Joint Programme will build on this newly acquired knowledge and in full partnership with governmental institutions, to initiate the process of a comprehensive gender sensitive review and update of the existing legal framework.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labor is capable now of integrating gender perspective in the work place inspection program implemented by the Ministry after the training provided to 20 Inspectors on gender mainstreaming and related topics.</p> <p>At the private sector level, two private companies, The Bank of Palestine and the Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company are on their way of becoming one of few companies in Palestine that adopt gender sensitive policies and regulations based on international gender audit tools.</p>	<p>Applying any new policies require a national dialogue involving the private sector as well as public sector. The dialogue will need to be initiated by the government and it is not very clear how much support the private sector will provide as any new policies will have financial implications. In 2016, the government is preparing the new national development plans and sectoral plans and UN Women and partners will be pushing to have the legal framework review and update as a top priority in the agenda of the government. This will ensure that the government initiate the national dialogue related to policy change from a gender perspective as the process of developing the strategies will adopt a participatory approach.</p>	<p>Strengthen the individual's capacity of key staff members at key line ministries to review and update legal framework governing economic activities from a gender perspective. Develop gender sensitive policies on protection of local production of cultural, agro-business and agricultural products, and the establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in agriculture and synergy creation.</p> <p>The private sector has the incentive to update its regulatory framework from a gender perspective.</p>
<p>JP Output 1.1: Palestinian public institutions are better able to develop and apply more equitable policies and technical services to support and protect increased economic activity in the private sector.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, a total of 65 public servants (37 F & 19 M) working in line ministries had developed their skills and knowledge on gender mainstreaming, gender audits, and gender sensitive services in the public sector. The public servants were targeted by the JP in coordination with the regional Programme "Spring forward for Women" (matching funds) to develop the necessary skills and knowledge at the targeted Line Ministries needed to undertake a policy review and update from a gender perspective. The training was built on a needs assessment that identified priority needs in terms of capacity building for the line ministries targeted.</p> <p>Out of the 65 participants, 15 Participants (13 F & 2 M) from the National Committee for Women's Employment, Ministry of Labor, Ministry on National Economy, Ministry of Women Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture where trained on gender mainstreaming, gender audit and enhancing deliverance of gender sensitive services in the public sectors. The participants work mandate is directly related to strengthening the legal framework governing micro and macro-economic activities and will directly be involved in policy update and development that protect women's interest.</p> <p>Another 20 inspectors from the Ministry of Labor (8 F, 11M) were trained on gender mainstreaming, communication documentation, and reporting violations against women in the workplace. The Inspectors will be able to undertake their inspections from a gender perspective to ensure that the rights of both women and men are protected in the work place. Based on the training of the public servants and the strategic partnership UN Women has built with the National Committee for Women Employment and the Ministry of National Economy, a policy review will be initiated by the Line Ministries with technical and financial support by the JP. UN Women in partnership with the relevant Line ministries is currently finalizing the recruitment of national consultant who will facilitate the drafting of two gender-sensitive policies that will protect the interest of women entrepreneurs and cooperatives/associations.</p>	<p>The capacity of private and public sector to adopt gender sensitive policies and practices is at a low level and no policies are in place to support women economic empowerment. Therefore, a participatory approach has been chosen to develop these policies and enhance gender sensitive practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cover all related laws and regulations in the revision of the regulatory environment on women economic empowerment. - Establishment of one reference group to include all public stakeholders related to economic empowerment. - In process of draft the 2 policies (protection of local products, incentive for women workers). - Program design for ToT in all aspects related to gender and promotion of women's rights in economic sector. - Development of manual on best practices to mainstream gender in service delivery. - The UN Women and the Ministry of Agriculture will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen action on gender equality and women's empowerment, through support effective gender mainstreaming in the agriculture sector

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 1.2: Targeted private companies have increased engagement and social responsibility towards inclusion of women in the economic sector based on values and gender equality and promotion of women rights</p>	<p>14 staff members from the Bank of Palestine and the Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company (10 F, 4 M) developed their knowledge on the International Labor Organization Participatory Gender Audit Tool. The training was developed and organized to provide staff members of the two companies with the skills and knowledge needed to conduct a gender audit of their respective company using the ILO recognized tools and to follow up on the recommendations of the audit. The training focused on practical knowledge needed to implement the recommendations of the gender audit of both companies, conducted through a certified consultant. In parallel to this, UN Women through national expert consultant initiated the gender audit of the two companies under the overall management of staff members who underwent the training. Review of internal policies and regulations, processes and procedures of the two companies is completed and the final report is being drafted and will be presented to the management of the two companies with concrete recommendations of needed measures to improve the gender sensitivity of the two companies.</p>	<p>The risk of translating the two private company's commitments towards concrete actions, due to additional financial resources that might be needed. UN Women approach will be based on raising the awareness of the private sector on the importance of women engagement in the economic sector. UN Women will enter in a strategic dialog with the private sector to address the main risks and benefits of applying gender equality. Also set in place the most effective action plan for implementation of gender equality and promotion of women rights in the private sector.</p>	<p>Identify the main gender gaps in the private sector companies and provide key recommendations for amendments</p>
<p>JP Outcome 2: Increase access and competitiveness of women run MSME's and cooperatives' products in local, regional and international markets.</p>	<p>20 women's cooperatives have contractual agreements to supply two private business shops with their products for direct sale. The two shops are dedicated to selling products by the women operated cooperatives. 16 of the 20 cooperatives have reported an increase in income of 10 % since the beginning of the JP due to the shops, with 10 of the 16 increasing their incomes by more than 20%. The shops provide the cooperatives with a direct access to the local market.</p> <p>Services provided for part of the Women MSME's and cooperatives on technical support and product development services to enable them to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to increase access to the different markets. As a result of this support, 17 women MSME's had officially registered their businesses with the relevant governmental institutions, out of this number, two were registered as companies.</p>	<p>The ability and willingness of the MSME's and cooperatives in applying all the skills that have been acquired in a holistic approach and to translate the theoretical concepts to practical procedures in their business plans. UN Women adapted different approaches to ensure increasing the competitiveness of the MSME's and Cooperatives through on job training, Business to Business and coaching.</p>	<p>Continue to build on the achievements of the two business shops, including increased sales and higher income improvements.</p> <p>create market linkages for these MSMEs and cooperatives to export their products to regional and international markets continue working to increase the sales of targeted MSME's and cooperatives in local, regional and international market</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 2.1: Women owned/run MSME's and cooperatives strengthen their capacity to improve their competitiveness in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way</p>	<p>Two business shops (in the northern and southern West Bank) were opened in the first reporting period and now sell the products of 20 women's cooperatives and associations. This includes five cooperatives added during the current reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building on the work of the previous reporting period, which saw the shops fully stocked by the women's associations/cooperatives' products, the two business shops were supported to participate in the Palestine Food Industries Union's (PFIU) food exhibition in March 2016 to enhance national awareness about their shops and products. - As of April 2016, sales from the Al Thimar shop totaled 75,000 shekels (USD 19,950) and for Al Rozana, sales reached 81,865 shekels (USD 21,776). - The two business shops were supported to produce a hardcover, printed product manual for use in local marketing activities. The manual includes nutritional information and details such as the health advantages of products (when applicable). - All the women's associations and cooperatives continued to benefit from capacity building and training, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food processing • Food safety and quality control • Packaging and labeling • Marketing <p>In addition to targeting women run cooperatives, 45 women MSME's were targeted during the reporting period through a capacity development program developed and implemented through the UN Women partner consortium. The 45 Women MSME's (15 from the Gaza Strip and 30 from the West Bank) were selected to be part of capacity building program and are categorized into 4 main product categories: Embroidery and textile, jewelry and accessories, handicrafts (candles, pottery, wood work, glass, etc.) soap and natural products. Nine training sessions were delivered to the MSME's based on their needs. Training topics included specialized technical trainings on advocacy, Business Management, communication, export management, financial management, marketing and trade facilitation.</p> <p>In addition to the capacity building programme, the UN Women partner consortium (Agility, BWF and PSC) conducted a product baseline survey for all the women MSME's products. The survey aimed to identify the main gaps of each product from the buyers and potential buyer's perspectives; moreover the existing MSME's products were benchmarked in accordance with specifications of local, regional and international markets requirements and standards to be linked with potential markets.</p> <p>UN Women partner consortium provided women MSME's with technical advice on registration and as a result, 17 new MSMEs out of 45 are now officially registered in the chambers of commerce and the Ministry of National Economy and 9 in process of registration.</p>	<p>The Business shop in Halhoul (southern West Bank) has faced same external obstacles to implementation as a result of the recent escalation of tensions in the West Bank. Hebron governorate as a whole, but the Halhoul area in particular, has seen an increase in clashes between Palestinians and Israeli Security Forces, making the economic environment less predictable and operations more difficult. The main consequence of these conditions is that the official launch of the shop has not yet taken place even though the shop is already open and selling goods. A large public launch was deemed inappropriate due the high toll that such clashes have taken on the local community and the reduced predictability of the security situation. Some of the women MSME's refused to register officially in the MoNE and the Chambers of Commerce because of fearing of being subject to tax. To tackle this problem Group sessions were held with the MSMEs to explain the importance of registration of their businesses on the short run and the long run and to encourage them to take this step.</p> <p>Political conditions and geographical barriers affected the commitment of some women MSMEs in the capacity building training programme; however, the JP Management team took these circumstances into consideration.</p> <p>The difference in the levels of women MSMEs constituted a barrier at the beginning of the training sessions; as there is an obvious difference in levels reached and accordingly more than one trainer had to be in the session to correspond to the needs of the whole group; and in some cases the training material itself was modified in a way to suit all MSMEs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the business shops to create a joint website to host a digital catalogue of products based on the manual produced for the local market - Developing training material on shipping process and international obligation insurance policies and fulfilling business obligations as per the signed agreement - Training material development on strategic, operational and financial planning - Editing and publishing all the training material as reference point on the one stop shop portal - coaching hours for pricing and costing - coaching on market channels and distribution channels per product category - provide on the job support to insure successful implementation of strategy - training and coaching on standards of Arab countries and EU , international certification - Selection of the 30 women MSMEs from among the 45 trained MSMEs for the grants competitive approach.

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>JP Output 2.2: Women owned/run MSME's and cooperatives increase their participation in trade</p>	<p>Work on creating linkages with buyers for 15 women owned businesses is in progress. ITC has finalized its work on product design and development with this group of beneficiaries based on the recommendations provided in both studies. A strategic meeting took place on 29 October 2016, in Huage, Netherlands, including: ITC, BWF to finalize and fine-tune the roadmap for implementing the Access to the European Market component. The implementation of the Roadmap has been initiated in November 2015 in different countries, including:</p> <p>More than 10 major market visits/interventions had been carried out all over Germany and Netherlands, including visits to major fairs like Berlin Bazaar, Fair Goods Cologne, Base Camp Fair Bonn, Markt der Voelker, Stuttgart, craft markets in Bad Honnef, Bonn, Cologne, several Christmas, Easter and Spring fairs. The main goal was to establish initial contacts, collect business data for the data base, analyzing the market for Palestine products. In Berlin and Bonn diplomatic representatives of the State of Palestine were interviewed and asked to provide some kind of support for the project. After receiving samples, the catalogue/booklet and initial price lists in February 2016, the strategy has changed towards personalized market penetration. Conversation is being maintained with about 20 buyers and potential cooperation partners as well. Visits at boutiques, shops and outlets in the region Cologne/Bonn as well as in Berlin were undertaken in March 2016. This process is ongoing, follow-up conversation is done by email and phone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linkages have been created with the Fashion Stores in Canada. Feedback on the products has been provided, order has been in place. The Fashion Company will ensure that selected products will be presented in different fashion shows and will be included in the spring collection on 2016. The first event will take place in New York in May 2016. - Matchmaking Events: Organization for the participation of a group of the Palestinian businesswomen in the textile international fair in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 16-19 April. The selected group of women showcased their products at the International Textile Fair in Abu Dhabi, alongside exhibitors from Europe, Turkey India, China, India, Japan and Korea. Business-to-business (B2B) meetings with buyers in the UAE following the Fair have been arranged. Furthermore, ITC will present samples from other Palestinian women entrepreneurs at the Caspian Fashion Week, which takes place in Astrakhan on 21-24 April. - In addition to that, linkages have been created with the Palestinian Embassy in Switzerland. ITC had several meetings with the Palestinian Ambassador to promote the newly produced collection of the beneficiaries. A showcase for the products will be organised with the embassy in Geneva at the United Nations premises on 2-3 June 2016. The objective is to show the Palestinian culture and heritage. The embassy might also participate in the UN Bazaar women in November showing also the women's products. - ITC is currently organizing for a trip for a group of German potential buyers to Palestine to meet with the beneficiaries, and to investigate possibilities of making some deals with them. 	<p>Women businesses challenges to access export markets EU in particular as they are;</p> <p>Small processing units, none of them continuous or automatic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small scale of production. - Buildings often did not comply with requirements for food processing (Good Manufacturing Practices) - Working procedures were often informal and did not generally comply with GMP. - No formal quality and food safety systems were used, nor did they own certifications. - Focus on finished products for the domestic markets, neighbouring markets, or solidarity and ethnic markets abroad with uptake of Palestinian products. - Often a dependence on others for their marketing (production on order) but with some encouraging exceptions. - Varying levels of business planning and marketing and business skills. - Many organisations were multi-purpose, for example playing a role in social and cultural events in the village or town as well. <p>For remedying these challenges</p> <p>Consolidate the existing product offer into larger volumes of consistent quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help companies and organisations to introduce certified quality and food safety systems. - Help companies to obtain organic certification. - Develop facilities for exporting ingredients in bulk. - Engage specialised exporters for making market linkages. - Establish a platform for addressing export marketing issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the shipping cost and the suggested ways to make the shipment for both the women MSME's and cooperatives ; - List of products which should be improved (in quality or design), based on the feedback provided by the buyers. - Provide list of prices for the MSME's and cooperatives products - Organize business matching events or participate in international trade fairs to link women MSM's and cooperatives with potential buyers. - Follow up on linkages/orders resulting from events. - Identify markets and potential buyers and provide specific presentation and feedback on the marketing positioning and attractiveness of the portfolio of the selected products. - Identify the specifications required by the local, regional and international buyers for MSME's and cooperatives. - Develop sales action plans for each product in the portfolio. - Implement the designed sales action plans. - Ensure that the products are in line with the market. - Provide recommendations, in case they are needed, and identify main challenges (based on the market analysis). - Hold regular meetings and interviews with potential buyers. Monitor buyers' preferences to determine focus of sales efforts.

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<p>Output 2.3: Promotion of Palestinian products produced by women owned MSME's and cooperatives in local, regional and international markets is increased</p>	<p>A communication strategy was developed as a base for product promotion tools such as local fairs, food exhibitions, etc.</p> <p>As part of the efforts undertaken by the JP to promote the products of the MSME's and cooperative, the One Stop Shop established through the JP completed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A product baseline survey for all the women MSME's products. The survey aimed to measure the satisfaction of buyers/ customers with the MSME's products. Results of the survey will be used as a benchmark for improving the products to meet customers' satisfaction in the product development phase. The survey administered targeted potential customers including hotels and banks and other chain corporates. 2. A raw materials mapping exercise was conducted through the One Stop Shop for all MSME's. 3 group discussions with the women MSME's were organized to assist the women in improving their raw material procurement cycle. 3. Technical advice to women MSME's in relation to moving from the non-formal economy to the formal economy through registration. To be able to link the targeted women owned MSME's and cooperatives with potential buyers from the local, regional and international markets, UN Women and the implementing consortium were aware of the importance of registering the 45 MSMEs in the Ministry of National Economy and the chambers of commerce. During the reporting period UN Women through the partner consortium officially registered 17 MSME's from WB and Gaza. However, more efforts will be paid in the coming quarter to encourage the remaining MSMEs to register officially. 4. A product benchmarking exercise was completed. The benchmarking exercise aimed at identifying potential market for each MSME on the local, regional and international levels and also to identify the applicable Palestinian Quality Standard for each product. 	<p>The main difficulty is preparing the products to meet the local, regional and international standards.</p> <p>The JP working on the product development and packaging based on the local, regional and international standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The One Stop Shop and The two business shops will continue to work with ITC for international promotion of the MSME's and cooperatives products - Field visit for 30 MSME's to Ashdod Port - developing a promotional campaign for the MSME's and cooperatives - Creating a high quality photo database for selected products that will be used as part of the targeted MSMEs marketing materials - facilitation of participation in trade shows , expos - Produce and disseminate documentary film to promote women Palestinian products at regional level. - Promote Palestinian products in Palestinian embassies, consulates, chambers of commerce in the Gulf region.

Cross-cutting issues

How has the JP addressed during the reporting period (please provide concrete actions):

1) The **sustainability** of the JP work. (200 words)

At the institutional level:

□ The UN Women partner consortium (Agility and PSC) led by BWF started creating more synergies and cooperation with relevant stakeholders; they were also able to create market linkages on the local level between MSMEs and different companies and organizations namely Jawal, BoP and the Islamic Bank.

□ The one-stop-shop/business service hub and the two business shops will continue to provide the technical support and product development services that ease the process of establishing a business, or strengthening an existing one, registering it, provide the necessary skills to operate and run any other businesses, as well as the technical skills that will ensure the business success. It will institutionalize the process and provide the space for similar women run business in the present and the future.

□ Registration of MSMEs and cooperatives in the Ministry of National Economy, Ministry of Health, Chambers of Commerce and other related line ministries is crucial phase to ensure the continuity and the

sustainability of the MSME's and cooperatives, moving from the informal to the formal economy businesses will open a new window for them to reach a new markets in the regional and international markets, this will drive income and employment generation, as well as contribute to improve the livelihoods of women and their families, and improve the overall socio-economic development of the country.

At the Policy level:

□ Endorsement of policies that focus on the issues of protection of local production of cultural and agricultural products and establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in agriculture sector, this action will contribute to strengthening and increasing of women's economic participation and protect and guarantee their rights and continuation.

2) The promotion of **women's empowerment and gender equality**. (200 words)

Gender equality and women's empowerment are core development objectives of the project. Fundamental for the realization of human rights and key to effective and sustainable development outcomes, gender equality and women's empowerment are addressed in all of the JP's outcomes, outputs and Activities as detailed below:

At the institutional level

The JP is equipping Line Ministries with the required skills for engendering the existing legal framework governing economic activities and also engendering services provided to businesses. The capacity development training provided to key staff from line ministries has ensured that the ministries have the required set of skills to undergo a comprehensive review of the legal-framework and procedures and regulations from a gender perspective. With the support of the JP, the ministries will begin this process of reviewing policies and will propose two new policies for promoting women's participation in economic activities through protection of local production of cultural and agricultural products and the establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in the agriculture sector. The training has targeted both women and men staff members whose duties and responsibilities are directly related to policy making.

At the private sector level:-

The JP targeted two private sector companies, Bank of Palestine and Birziet Pharmaceutical Company the main purpose was help the two companies to adopt gender sensitive HR policies.

At the socio-economic level

To increase access and competitiveness of women run MSME's and cooperatives' products in local, regional and international markets, the JP is continuing on strengthen women owned/run MSME's and cooperatives capacity through many specialized approaches like coaching, trainings, business to Business methods. Additionally, the one-stop-shop/business service hub and the two business shops are especially designed to enhance women economic empowerment.

3) The engagement in **public-private partnerships**. (200 words)

The JP built strong relations with all relevant stakeholders from the public and private sectors; at the policy making level, the JP was keen to enhance these relations. During the reporting period several meetings were conducted to establish a reference group which consisted from MoWA, NCWE, Ministry of Labour, MoNE, MoA and representatives of relevant civil society organizations, women owned MSMEs and cooperatives, to ensure that voices and concerns are heard when drafting policies. UN Women as a leading agency for this component, is working on recruiting a specialized consultant who will work jointly with the

reference group and other public and private stakeholders in drafting two gender sensitive policies one for protection of local production of cultural, agro-business and agricultural products, and second one establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in agriculture sector.

UN Women has started its keen efforts towards gender mainstreaming within Palestinian private companies sector, during the reporting period UN Women through the One Stop Shop created a partnership with two private companies in relation to gender equality and women empowerment; the two targeted companies were subjected to holistic gender audit process that aimed to ensure that the employed women have access and control over available economic and finance resources, the two companies will provided with key recommendations concerning the main gender gaps identified.

The MoA is part of the committee that supported FAO to develop a needs assessment and marketing study. Through the project's implementation, FAO facilitates the MoA's strategic engagement with the private sector (business shops run by Al Thimar and Al Rozana companies) as well as civil society (ESDC), which also acts as an intermediary for women's associations and cooperatives.

Under the JP, FAO works in coordination with the MoA, Al Thimar, Al Rozana and ESDC towards successful project outcomes; e.g. and the participation of the two business shops in the PFIU, MoA endorsed, food exhibition was jointly planned by FAO, Al Thimar, Al Rozana and ESDC.

Communication and Advocacy

Has the JP articulated an advocacy & communication actions that helps advance its policy objectives and development outcomes?:

Yes

Please describe communication activities developed as part of the JP. :

A joint communication strategy that aims to foster greater public support to Palestine women's economic empowerment in general, and women's entrepreneurship in particular was developed through the JP.

A comprehensive product manual for the two shops selling cooperatives product was designed, printed and disseminated as part of the promotion of the cooperative products on sale at the two shops. The manual provides a detailed description of all products available at the shops with nutritional information about each product. The manual was disseminated widely to increase the potential customer pool of the shops.

The JP depends on developing the capacity of the stakeholders and implementing partners to undertake successful advocacy at the community and national level. In particular, FAO continued to meet regularly with the MoA and MoNE to enhance knowledge about the importance of working with the private sector as well as creating an enabling environment for agricultural cooperatives, particularly women's cooperatives, to access the market to ensure inclusive and sustainable development. Visibility items (pens, notebooks and folders) were produced with the input of the communications team and are being distributed to key JP stakeholders.

Other social media channels managed by joint programme (Instagram, Google+, You Tube...):

One UN Coordination and Delivering as One

The SDG-F is based on the principles of effective development cooperation, inclusion and participation and One UN coordination.

Actions	Description
Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	The project management teams meet on a regular basis, to discuss any joint efforts needed for the coming period including operational coordination, integrating work plan, budget preparation, drafting reports, establishing communication and public information plans, addressing management and implementation and other programme related issues. Each UN Agency highlights its main role and responsibility for any joint event or coordination. The joint implementation will continue to be expanded in year 2, by exchanging technical support, and managing joint budgets and procurement.
Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	On 31 of March, UN Women has conducted a workshop to discuss and finalize the first draft of the JP baseline survey and the Performance Monitoring Framework, the JP Management Teams (FAO, ITC and UN Women), in addition to the reference group from the JP project partners (MOA, MoL, MoNE, NCWE and MoWA) attended this workshop. The consultant presented the main findings and received as well as comments and feedback from the reference group on the survey findings, the final version of the survey will be ready soon. This report is being used as a guide for planning joint activities in year two, where FAO, UN Women and ITC work jointly to promote the access of female producers to international markets.
Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs	FAO attended as well as provided feedback and comments on trainings delivered by UN Women partners through the One Stop Shop's Consortium to women's MSMEs.
Other, please specify:	The JP partners meet periodically for updates and planning for future actions. Also the JP teams meet when there is a need to discuss new or emerging issues. Many bilateral meetings are also conducted to assure joint planning and implementation of the programme.

What types of coordination mechanisms and decisions have been taken to ensure joint delivery? :

The JP teams meet regularly to coordinate coming activities and actions. These meetings give the opportunity to all partners to raise any coming plans and events that need joint efforts, In addition to collaboration and coordination by email by UN Women as a lead for the JP. The RC always supports the meetings and makes sure of the appropriate coordination between UN agencies. A focal point is assigned in each agency to facilitate cooperation mechanisms between the JP partners. On the field level, the JP Teams conduct regular monitoring visits to the project beneficiaries and activities, for the purpose of monitoring and supporting, for example the programme team conducted a joint field visit to the business shop in Halhoul (south of the West Bank) to monitor the business shop, particularly given the deterioration of the security situation in the shop's area, and to advise on technical aspects as well as assess when a public launch might be possible.

National Ownership: Paris, Accra and Busan Commitments

The SDG-F strengthens the UN system's ability to deliver results in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner by supporting the Joint Programme modality and by bringing together United Nations Agencies and national counterparts in a collective effort to ensure ownership and sustainability of results of JPs and advance towards the SDGs.

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Government (specify national/local)	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	At the governmental level, the JP is working with the MoNE to facilitate registration of women small businesses, with special focus on the women owned run MSME's to swift the economic activities from the informal to formal sector. In addition to that the JP will work with the MoNE to build the capacity of the appointed MoNE staff with regards to all aspect related to deliverance of gender sensitive services. The JP is working with the related PA Ministries (MoWA, MoL, MoA, and MoNE), particularly with the NCWE to develop policies that contribute to strengthen and increase of the women economic participation and protect and guarantee their rights. UN Women and the Ministry of Agriculture will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen action on gender equality and women's empowerment, through support effective gender mainstreaming in the agriculture sector. All of FAO's programmes are implemented under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and FAO's activities under this JP are in line with the MoA's Agriculture Strategy: Resilience and Development 2014-2016. The MoA is part of the committee that will support FAO in developing a needs assessment and marketing study.
Private Sector	Fully involved	Policy-decision making	UN Women is conducting a gender audit for two Palestinian companies "Bank of Palestine" and the "Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company" to provide them with key recommendations concerning the gender gaps in specific areas of work and how to adopt gender sensitive policies and procedures.
Civil Society	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	FAO built on their previous cooperation to implement the JP, by strengthening the ESDC and their presence and influence in civil society. ESDC is also working on enhancing the capacity building of the cooperatives particularly, in agricultural and agro business products as well as producing local market studies per targeted product. UN Women extended its partnership with the civil society and formulated a partnership with three partners (Agility, PSC and led BWF) who get involved in each step of the implementation of the capacity building programme.
Academia	Not involved		

* Implementation of activities and the delivery of outputs

Please briefly describe the current situation of the government, private sector and civil society on regards of ownership, align:

UN Women is working with its implementing partners (BWF, Agility and PSC) on empowering women MSMEs through providing key services and financial support for promoting their production capacity and sustainable economic development, to successfully implement the project to be unique and complementary to cover the three main aspects of the project; Women Economic Support and Empowerment, Business and Product Development, and Trade Facilitation. Therefore, in response to the

UN Women call for proposal collaboration agreements were signed between the Business Women Forum, the Palestinian Shippers' Council (PSC), and Agility for Management and Financial Consulting Firms (Agility), where the collective specialty and previous experience of the three partners mainly covered Economic Empowerment for Women owned MSMEs. The BWF, PSC and Agility partnership provide several practical knowledge and awareness for women MSMEs, and arm them with needed tools to competitively access markets with various methods. UN Women participates in the steering committee to make sure that the project direction is going in the right track and assure the successful implementation of the JP.

BWF's partnership with ITC played a very important role in this reporting period; where the OSS project uses the results of the ITC needs assessment as a reference to develop new tools for the OSS development of the product baseline survey; as for upcoming quarters, BWF is looking to strengthening this partnership more through benefiting from the expertise of ITC in the fields of product development and creating market linkages.

All of FAO's programmes are implemented under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and FAO's activities under this JP are in line with the MoA's Agriculture Strategy: Resilience and Development 2014-2016. The MoA is part of the committee that will support FAO in developing a needs assessment and marketing study. This partnership is not limited to the national level. For instance, sub offices of the MoA at the governorate level are actively engaged in supporting the cooperatives' participation in the JP and have publically supported the business shops in Jenin and Halhoul, which are run by the private companies Al Thimar and Al Rozana, respectively. These companies collect (buy), assemble, test, package and sell the agricultural products produced by the targeted women's cooperatives.

At the same time, Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC) provides capacity building to women owned MSME's, cooperatives and entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector, including Al Thimar and Al Rozana (to ensure compliance with and progress of project objectives).

The Ministry of Women Affairs MoWA is the line ministry of UN Women in all programmes. However, many of the ministries are also engaged in UN Women work; for example, The MoNE, MoL and NCWE will work to develop policies that contribute to strengthen and increase of the women economic participation and protect and guarantee their rights.

Please briefly provide an overall assessment of the governance and managerial structures :

The governance structure ensures that all the joint planning is decided collectively and transparently between partners. Furthermore, the JP partners are very committed to the programme meetings (NSC and PMC); these meetings are conducted periodically and as needed on emerging issues. The RC and his office lead the meetings and make sure that all partners have clear picture about the progress of the JP in all sectors in addition to the coming steps and joint activities. The RC leadership is highly important in the JP structure. For example, the RC led the opening ceremony of the business shop in the north of the West Bank, which was significant for representing the joint spirit of the programme. In addition to Joint field visits that aim understand developments in the field.

VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 1	<p>The JP supports women to realize their economic rights both directly through capacity building and technical support as well as indirectly through advocating for their rights. For instance, women who have traditionally been involved in agriculture but disconnected from the financial rewards of the market were supported to sell their products directly through the JP business shops.</p> <p>The JP is supporting women MSME's to register their businesses and move from the informal to formal sector. Moreover, the programme provide technical support to public sector to improve services provided to businesses from a gender perspective.</p>
Goal 5	<p>The occupied Palestinian territory is facing a significant gender challenge, reflected by enormous disparity in employment and asset ownership among women and men. This situation reinforces the need to better economically empower women and support them to overcome existing barriers and societal constraints. The JP is currently working in enhancing the competitiveness and access of the women own/run MSME's and cooperatives through providing them with the needed technical trainings, skills and physical inputs to enable them to become self-sustainable businesses and more able to access new working opportunities and markets. On the institutional level, the JP is currently working on enhancing the capacity of the public institutions, especially the Ministry of National Economy, MoL, MoWA and MoA to be able to deliver gender sensitive services for women owned businesses, MSMEs and cooperatives. In addition to ongoing work to develop and apply more equitable policies and technical services.</p>
Goal 8	<p>"Creating a One Stop Shop for Sustainable Businesses" supports initiatives that tackle inclusive growth by creating opportunities for good and decent jobs and secure livelihoods. The JP directly address these dimensions of sustainable development, by support the women run own MSME's through providing the women MSMEs and cooperatives with the best practices in terms of Product Development services, Promotion and Distribution Services, Trade Facilitation Services including Legal Services all in all will help to expand and enhance the women business that finally will lead to create additional decent working opportunities and inclusive economic growth.</p>
	<p>Gender equality and women's empowerment are core development objectives of the project. Fundamental for the realization of human rights and key to effective and sustainable development outcomes, gender equality and women's empowerment are addressed in all of the JP's outcomes, outputs and Activities.</p> <p>At the institutional level:- The JP is equipping Line Ministries with the required skills for engendering the existing legal framework governing economic activities and also engendering services provided to businesses. The capacity development training provided to key staff from line ministries has ensured that the ministries have the required set of kills to undergo a comprehensive review of the legal-framework and procedures and regulations from a gender perspective. With the support of the JP, the ministries will begin this process of reviewing policies and will propose two new policies for promoting women's participation in economic activities through protection of local production of cultural and agricultural products and the establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in the agriculture sector. The training has targeted both women and men staff members whose duties and responsibilities are directly related to policy making.</p> <p>At the private sector level: The JP targeted two private sector companies, Bank of Palestine and Birziet Pharmaceutical Company the main purpose was help the two companies to adopt gender sensitive HR policies.</p> <p>At the socio-economic level: To increase access and competitiveness of women run MSME's and cooperatives' products in local, regional and international markets, the JP is still working on strengthen women owned/run MSME's and cooperatives capacity through many specialized approaches like coaching, trainings, business to Business methods. Additionally, the one-stop-shop/business service hub and the two business shops are especially designed to enhance women economic empowerment.</p>

VII. Additional Information

Additional Comments:

It is very early at this stage to be able to document a story of change although many successes took place over the implementation period; accordingly the following voices from the field highlight few of the identified successes related to the women owned /run MSME's:

Nadia Abu Ghattas, Bethlehem: "For me, the training of communication and social media was more than great, as it opened new horizons for me. At first, I was totally against the idea of using social media to promote my products but then the trainer helped me go through it step by step and I realized that it could really benefit my business, his methodology used was more than great and I am going to start working more on my Facebook page"

Nisreen Abu Fkhaideh, Ramallah: "Despite the fact that the trainings were very hectic and that we had to complete them within a short period of time; they were very interesting and I benefited a lot from them; as for me many of the topics discussed were completely new to me, I am proud in particular of preparing a mind map as per the training received and I would like to state that the trainers were great with us and they were ready to help us at any time"

Mira Najjar - Gaza: "my idea started around a year and a half ago by adding embroidery to many things such as bags, trays and furniture, I have three women who work with me with a very limited income, I was able throughout the trainings to transfer to them what I have learned and I can feel the difference already on my project"

Alaa Jaradat - Tulkarem: "The trainings were very useful and great as they helped me gain new skills and develop new ideas in my project; also registration in the MoNE and the chambers of commerce is a great benefit for me as it opened new productions lines and marketing lines for me; now I even have a brand name; as for the trainings; although we had to take them in a very short amount of time and I preferred to take one before the other, but I was able to divide them between me and my husband who also works with me in accordance with our expertise and in order to achieve maximum benefit. Also, I wanted to send a shipment to the United States and lacked the necessary knowledge and Information regarding the regulations and requirements since it was a new market for me; so I was very satisfied when you negotiated with the freight forwarder and got me a good deal for my first entry to the US market".

Attachments

Performance Monitoring Framework *:

 [SDG F Performance Monitoring Framework.doc](#)

JP Communication and Advocacy Plan *:

 [SDG F UNJP COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.docx](#)

Press releases:

 [Press releases.docx](#)

Additional documentation:

 [Women MSME's products.docx](#)

File sharing service :

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k61ycy6gj39irpk/AACBbIVpzFnHFz-YNfLUmc6Fa?dl=0>
