
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)

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

Report submitted by

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III. Financial information

Detailed Financial Report:

 [Joint Programme Work Plan and Budget-May-Oct-2016.. \(FINAL\).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	426,700.00	99,589.00	180,043.25
UN Women (UN Women)	346,700.00	346,700.00	64,422.38	227,225.59
UN Women (UN Women)	726,600.00	726,600.00	49,906.75	413,266.23

Total	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	213,918.13	820,535.07
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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	450,000.00	450,000.00	145,750.00	304,250.00
ITC	350,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	340,000.00
UN Women	700,000.00	700,000.00	0.00	575,256.00

Total	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00	145,750.00	1,219,506.00
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IV. Beneficiaries

Direct Beneficiaries – Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government	107	72	35	Within the current reporting period, additional 51 (35 F & 16 M) staff members from the Ministry of Agriculture were targeted. This brings the total number of training beneficiaries to 107, (72 F & 35 M) staff members from the different PA ministries (Public servants), gender support committee, MoNE, inspectors from the MoL, and MoA.
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				

Private sector (staff)	18	14	4	Through the previous reporting period, 16 Staff members from the two Palestinian companies went through a gender audit by UN Women, and 2 women running two businesses Shops by FAO.
Women's cooperatives	637	631	6	Within the current reporting period, additional 492 women members of targeted cooperatives received training and /or other direct support. This brings the total number of training beneficiaries to 637 for the first 18 months
women MSME's	45	45		45 women MSME's trained and other direct support
Total	807	762	45	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs	45.00	MSME's (30 WB and 15 Gaza).
Cooperatives	20.00	Targeted in the previous reporting period, namely , through capacity building, product development etc. interventions.
Government/municipal organizations	5.00	Within the current reporting period, one PA Ministry (MoA) was targeted added to the four targeted ministries in the previous reporting period.
Private sector	4.00	No additional companies were targeted during this period to the two Palestinian companies; targeted by the Gender Audit and the women run business Shops.
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
Women's Associations/cooperatives	3	Within the current reporting period, 3 Cooperatives were targeted, where they contracted the business shops as selling points for their products.
Total	77	

Indirect Beneficiaries - Breakdown

Beneficiary type - individual	Total	Female	Male	Comments
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
MSME's members and their families	1,350			Individual beneficiaries are calculated based on taking the average household of women families and the average of employees that the MSMEs have.

Cooperatives members and their families	3,567	2,497.00	1,070.00	Individual beneficiaries are calculated based on taking the average household of women families and the average of employees that the cooperatives have.
Total	4,917	2,497.00	1,070.00	

Beneficiary type - institutional	Total	Comments
SMEs		
Cooperatives		
Government/municipal organizations		
Private sector		
Community-based organizations		
NGOs		
Total		

Any other information regarding JP beneficiaries*:

Building on the four introductory workshops and learning exchange visits that were conducted during the first year of the project for 20 women's associations/cooperatives, and the two business shops, FAO facilitated learning exchange visits between the three cooperatives added to the business shops' supplier pool.

During the reporting period, an additional 492 women benefited from technical trainings on food processing, food safety and quality control, packaging and labeling, and marketing. This brings the total training beneficiary number to 637 for the first 18 months of project implementation.

Nine women's cooperatives and 492 of their members benefited from 70 technical training hours, which included practical and theoretical components on food manufacturing and processing as well as quality assurance and compliance with local and international standards.

The business shops sell products produced by the 23 women's associations/cooperatives – produced by their 637 female and 185 male members – to the general public.

During the reporting period, the two business shops participated in four local exhibitions which were conducted in (Hebron, Ramallah and Salfit), in addition to participating in the launch of the One Stop Shop by UN Women.

During the reporting period, a field visit to Ashdod port was conducted; where 22 women MSME's from WB (out of the 45 targeted MSME's) participated in this coaching tour.

During the reporting period, two awareness workshops on gender integration for the Ministry of Agriculture were conducted and targeted 51 participants (35 Females and 16 Males). The two workshops targeted the service providers, decision makers, the planning and gender unit at the Ministry of Agriculture .

During the reporting period, 35 women MSMEs participated in two local exhibitions; one organized by the JP and one by Al Rozana Association (National NGO), "Birzet Heritage week exhibition". Also, 2 women MSMEs participated in a regional exhibition in Abu Dhabi, coordinated by ITC, and one MSME participated

in an international exhibition in Geneva in coordination with ITC.

On the sidelines of the launch of the One Stop Shop – Business Services Hub, 27 women owned MSMEs (from the WB and GS) and two business shops participated in the local exhibition that followed after the launching event. The exhibition continued for two days; where both cultural and agricultural products were presented.

During the reporting period, 30 women MSMEs participated in the legal training that was conducted between the period of May-August 2016 in Gaza, Ramallah and Bethlehem by Palestinian Shippers Council (a national consortium partner). The training covered legal and logistic issues related to international trade, contract formation, tasks and responsibilities, insurances etc.

During the reporting period, production Support Services through On the Job Training for Women MSME's were provided by Agility Management and Financial Counseling (a National consortium partner), as a result, 43 comprehensive business plans for the women MSME's were updated based on the needs aroused after the training component.

During the reporting period, 42 coaching days took place on pricing and costing for 43 women MSME's (WB and GS) on bookkeeping, segregation of duties and dealing with postdated checks.

During the reporting period, 10 women MSMEs were connected to the international market by participating in different events by ITC, such as: Solidarity day for the Palestinian people, participation in Abu Dhabi trade show, the participation in the Fashion Show in Astrakhan. Their Skills to negotiate and communicate with buyers have been improved. They better understood and learned market requirements and current trends in the EU market through direct contacts with prospective buyers, and agents

V. Joint Programme Progress

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
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>As a result of the awareness raising workshops that provided to 51 staff members from the decision makers and the planning and gender units in the Ministry of Agriculture, the services providers of the ministry are capable now of integrating gender perspective in the work place and service provision. In addition 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, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor, and 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.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the Joint programme One Stop Shop, in full partnership with governmental institutions, has initiated the process of a comprehensive gender sensitive review and update of the existing legal framework of the Ministry of Agriculture, from a gender perspective. The final report will be submitted to the reference group by November.</p> <p>At the private sector level, two private companies, The Bank of Palestine and the Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company conducted Participatory Gender Audit Approach, which will be reflected by gender sensitive policies and regulations based on international gender audit tools established by ILO. The two companies committed to imbed all the recommendations of the gender audit in their services and interventions.</p>	<p>Applying any new policy require a national dialogue involving the private sector as well as public. The dialogue will need to be initiated by the government and it is not very clear nationally what is the financial implications for the private sector to adopt any new policies (if any). Also, there is no monitoring mechanism that are applied to ensure the proper implementation. This will also need the Legislative Council approval, which is not active at this moment.</p> <p>In 2016, the government initiated the development of the new national sectoral strategic plans 2017-2022, where UN Women and its partners will be advocating to have the legal framework review and update from a gender perspective 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 two private companies adopte the gender sensitive policies and regulations based on international gender audit tools of ILO.</p> <p>The private sector has the incentive to update its regulatory framework from a gender perspective.</p>

Expected Results (Outcomes & outputs)	Progress	Difficulties	Expected deliverables
<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 51 public servants (37 F & 16 M) working in the Ministry of Agriculture had developed their skills and knowledge on gender mainstreaming, gender integration, and gender sensitive Services; through two awareness raising workshops, which targeted the decision makers, staff from the planning and gender units in addition to key public servants. The workshops were built on a needs assessment for the ministry following to which a comprehensive capacity building and gendered service tools were developed and delivered.</p> <p>In parallel with the awareness workshops and according to the signed MoU between the UN Women and Ministry of Agriculture, the JP initiated the process of developing a gender responsive guidance manual for the Ministry of Agriculture on planning, budgeting and services provision, this manual will help the ministry in sensitizing their services in relation to gender equality and closing the gender gaps.</p> <p>UN Women, in partnership with the relevant line ministries, recruited a national consultant who launched the process of drafting of two gender-sensitive policies that will protect the interests of women MSME's and cooperatives. The process of reviewing the regulatory environment of MSME's and cooperatives has been initiated by the national consultant in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, aligned with a comprehensive gender sensitive review and update of the existing legal framework for the Agriculture Sector Strategy 2014-2016. In addition, the national consultant conducted an inception meeting with 13 participants from the different governmental and nongovernmental representatives. A fruitful discussion took place regarding the current cross sectoral planning cycle 2017-2022, where the national consultant will benefit from these national consultation sessions to enrich the policy papers and the national consultations along with the drafting process, where a national reference group was created to act an advisory body for the process of drafting the policies, which includes members of the ministries, NGOs and private sector members.</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's economic empowerment. Therefore, a participatory approach has been adopted to develop these policies and enhance gender sensitive practices.</p>	<p>Cover the existing related laws and regulations in the revision of the regulatory environment on women economic empowerment.</p> <p>Develop a training program on gender sensitive policy development.</p> <p>Draft the 2 policies (the first on the protection of local production of cultural, agro-business and agricultural products, and the second on the establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in agriculture and synergy creation).</p> <p>Development of a guiding manual on best practices to mainstream gender in service delivery for MoA.</p> <p>National consultations and launching event for the policies with the presence of all stakeholders.</p>
<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>16 staff members from the Bank of Palestine and the Birzeit Pharmaceuticals Company (12 F, 4 M) developed their knowledge and capacity 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, the 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 has been drafted and presented to the management of the two companies with concrete recommendations of needed measures to improve the gender sensitivity of the two companies. A press conference has taken place to announce the gender audit results for the Bank of Palestine, in cooperation with ILO. An action plan and recommendations were developed which will be adopted and committed by 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 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 dialogue with the private sector to address the main risks and benefits of applying gender equality. Also, will set in place the most effective action plan for implementation of gender equality and promotion of women rights in the private sector.</p>	<p>Follow up for adopting the gender audit action plans and recommendations.</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>23 women's cooperatives have contractual agreements to supply two private business shops with their products for direct sales. The two shops are dedicated to selling products by the women operated cooperatives. The shops provide the cooperatives with direct access to the local market. With the support of matching funds, FAO has also distributed a variety of inputs, including high efficiency food processing machines, equipment and tools such as mixing and grinding machines; vacuum packaging machines; cookers and ovens; packaging materials like plastic, glass and carton; balances; and freezers and refrigerators to four of these cooperatives as well as provided them with intensive trainings.</p> <p>Women MSME's are also benefiting from the established One Stop Shop Business Development Service Hub hosted by the Business Women Forum. This Hub is providing technical support and product development services to women MSME's and cooperatives, enabling them to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to increase access to the different markets. As a result of this support, 37 of the women MSMEs had officially registered their businesses with the relevant governmental institutions; where 14 registered in the Chamber of Commerce, 19 in the Ministry of National Economy, 2 in the Ministry of Health, one in the Ministry of Finance and one in the Palestinian Standard Institution. This registration has transformed their businesses from the informal to the formal economy, which will increase their access to new markets and buyers.</p> <p>Until September 2016, women MSMEs of the One Stop Shop reported 37% increase of sales in all the targeted markets (in local, regional and international markets). With regards to the international market, advanced negotiations with prospective customers took place; five are expected to place an order before the end of 2016.</p>	<p>The ability and willingness of the MSME's and cooperatives to apply all the skills they have acquired and to translate the theoretical concepts to practical procedures in their business plans. In order to address the above challenge, UN Women initiated different approaches to ensure increasing the competitiveness of the MSME's and Cooperatives through on job training, Business to Business and coaching.</p> <p>Some of the women MSME's refused to register officially in the MoNE and the Chambers of Commerce because of their fears being subject to taxes. To tackle this problem awareness group session was 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>Continue to build on the achievements of the two business shops, including increased sales and higher income improvements.</p> <p>Continue to provide business development service through the One Stop Shop-Business Services Hub for women MSME's</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 markets.</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>The two business shops (Al Thimar and Al Rozana), opened in the first reporting period, continued to provide access to the local market to women cooperatives in the West Bank and received additional support through training and in-kind assistance to reinforce their capacities and autonomy. During the reporting period, the launch of the Al Rozana business shop in Halhoul took place in June 2016 following delays caused by the political situation (as previously reported in the second interim report). In addition, three more cooperatives began selling their products at the business shops, bringing the total number of cooperatives with sales relationships to 23. The shops create a direct linkage between the cooperatives and the consumers allowing the cooperatives for an effective access to the local market. The shops are fully stocked with products from the women cooperatives and have increased their efforts to locally market the products through participating in four local food exhibitions, including for example "the Palestine Food Industries Union food exhibition", "Der Balou", Hebron Grape Festival", "Welcome Ramadan exhibition in Ramallah". Also, a product manual was designed, printed and disseminated in these business shops highlighting the available products at the shops and information on their nutritional value.</p> <p>Shop sales now total 155,000 shekels (USD 40,790) for Al Thimar and 105,548 shekels (USD 27,775) for Al-Rozana, respectively, in their first year of operations from September 2015 through August 2016. This translates to a monthly average profit of 4,728 (USD 1,244) shekels for Al Rozana and 3,500 shekels (USD 921) for Al Thimar.</p> <p>The cooperatives selling their products at the two shops continued to receive support from the JP through training and on the job coaching related to food processing, food safety and quality control, packaging and labeling, and marketing. During the reporting period, 492 women were trained and coached bringing the total number of women members of cooperatives trained since the start of the JP to 637 who benefited from capacity building, product development and market linkages interventions. One comprehensive marketing plan was designed for both companies (Althimar and Alrozana) based on the outcomes of an assessment mission of the two companies' marketing needs and the findings of the market study that was completed during the first reporting period. Since the two companies have similar operational environments and market many of the same products under the 'Baitutie' (home made) brand name, a joint marketing plan was found to be most appropriate, particularly given the strong existing cooperation between the two shops. In order to support the implementation of the marketing expert's joint marketing plan, the companies also received coaching. Several marketing activities were conducted during the reporting period, including the implementation of a promotional campaign for shops' products to be sold and used in supermarket, hotels and restaurants in accordance with the marketing plan.</p> <p>A draft plan for international marketing was developed by an international expert from ITC during the first reporting period. During a follow-up visit in the current reporting period, the expert visited Palestine again to further develop his assessment of the potential of export to the European market. Six operation manuals are fully developed and being used by six cooperatives for six products. Of the remaining 14 manuals (20 total products) eight are drafted and will be completed by mid of October 2016 with an additional six manuals to be drafted in the next reporting period.</p> <p>Through matching funds, four of the cooperatives received a variety of inputs and training as well as coaching and support to build a sales relationship with the West Bank-based marketing firms Mount of Green Olives Company and New Farm. Furthermore, FAO strengthened the institutional and managerial capacities of these women's cooperatives through introducing ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems as well as building the capacities of their management and finance staff to conduct financial business analysis and economic feasibility assessments. As a result of the combined SDG Fund and matching support, the four women's cooperatives were able to sell around 12 tons of high quality food products in 2015 (32 percent more compared to 2014), while the market value and profit value were increased by 34% and 36% respectively.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the JP, through UN Women launched the One Stop Shop - Business Development Services Hub which is located at the BWF premises in Ramallah- the One Stop Shop Business Development Services Hub hosted through a national consortium that consists of the BWF, Agility for Consultations and the Palestinian Shippers Council (PSC). This Business Development Services Hub considered as an incubation space for women MSME's and cooperatives that provides the technical support and product development services. Currently, this hub is working on facilitating process of establishing a business, or strengthening an existing one, registering it, having the necessary skills to operate and run it, as well as the technical skills that will ensure the business success. In addition, the hub works on institutionalizing the business process of establishing a new business and provides the space for similar women to run business in the present and the future.</p> <p>In this reporting period, the One Stop Shop Business Development Services Hub provided training support by the Palestinian Shippers Council (PSC) for 30 women MSMEs participated in the legal training that was conducted between the period of May-August 2016 in Gaza, Ramallah and Bethlehem. The training covered many legal and logistic issues related to international trade, contract formation, tasks and responsibilities, insurances and many others. The training gave an overview of international trade and trade conventions, understand the articles of trade Contracts formation and its obligations and responsibilities, understand the legal frame work of transportation and logistics, this training was an eye opener on many legal issues that the women MSMEs were not knowledgeable about.</p> <p>In addition, 42 coaching days were provided on pricing and costing for 43 women MSME's by Agility, the coaching session focused on bookkeeping, postdated checks, creating business bank account, segregation of duties and analysis results of baseline survey and the raw materials exercise conducted by UN Women consortium partners (BWF and PSC) respectively. Moreover, UN-Women joint programme along with the regional joint programme "Spring Forward for Women" (Matching funds) have worked jointly throughout UN Women consortium partners on developing 43 business plans for the targeted women MSME's and had officially registered 37 MSMEs with the relevant governmental institutions, out of this number two were registered as companies.</p> <p>Throughout this reporting period, 34 out of 43 women MSMEs were selected by a committee consisting of UN women and the consortium partners, and given grants to enhance their own businesses. A competitive grants scheme was developed by the matching fund "Spring Forward for Women Programme", funded by the EU and UN women, to complement the first component of "Providing key capacity building services, in addition to give the MSMEs the opportunity to implement their developed business and market plans. The grants were mainly distributed on renovation of the women MSMEs workshops, purchase of raw materials, equipment and promotional tools, the grants amount ranged between a minimum of 10,000 ILS and a maximum of 24,674 ILS with a total of 740220 ILS for the selected 34 MSME's. This component is considered very important for the women MSMEs as it will help them to enhance their own businesses and will open new horizons for them in terms of trade on the local, regional and international levels, besides creating income generating opportunities at the outcome level.</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 and the mitigation plan was to distribute the trainings as per locations.</p> <p>The difference in the technical and knowledge levels of MSME's reached, accordingly more than one trainer had to be in the session to correspond to the needs of the whole group in the levels of women MSMEs of the training sessions; and in some cases the training material itself was modified in a way to suit all MSMEs' levels of knowledge and experience.</p>	<p>Provide the business shops with training on the use of Facebook for marketing and promotional purposes Business shops will continue to be supported to enhance their standards, participate in exhibitions and form links with the national and international market in order to consolidate the improvements made over the past year.</p> <p>PSC and BWF will provide coaching hours for product development and market linkages for women MSME's.</p> <p>Agility will provide coaching on market and distribution channels per cultural product category for women MSME's</p> <p>Follow up on the grants component and the 30 women MSMEs who received grants</p>

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>During the reporting period, a market led approach was used to ensure that the targeted products, from both sectors cultural and agricultural products, will successfully access to the targeted markets as the following: -</p> <p>1- for the cooperatives (food products): A Road Map for Palestinian Companies in ancient grains, herbs & spices, pickles, condiments was developed to provide the required guidance to the cooperatives/intermediary exporters on the market requirements.</p> <p>- In June 2016, women cooperatives and exporters were visited by ITC specialized expert, and have participated in an export marketing workshop. During these visits important insights were gathered about the capabilities and aims of these organizations. To facilitate the work, and to ensure that the market requirements provided by ITC experts are met, an intermediary exporter was selected to work together with FAO and ITC on the marketing export Strategy, and to ensure that the market requirements collected in the above mentioned study have been met prior committing to any transaction.</p> <p>- During 2016, coaching sessions and guidance were provided to the intermediary exporter covering different aspects, including: compliance requirements, labelling requirements, pricing, and packaging and on the marketing aspect. A compliance check list, labeling check list, and a marketing strategy have been provided to the intermediary exporter (For more details, please see annex 1: Marketing Export Strategy).</p> <p>- In September 2016, ITC, FAO and the intermediary exporter worked together on fine-tuning the marketing mix; in particular, products, prices, promotional messages and target markets. Under ITC guidance, samples and promotional materials have been prepared to be presented during the "SIAL Food Event" in Paris, which will take place on 16-20 October 2017.</p> <p>2- For the cultural products: work with the women MSME's was accomplished as follows: - ITC has finalized its work on product design and development with this group of beneficiaries, based on the recommendations provided in market requirements studies undertaken in March 2015. In addition to that, marketing research for the Portfolio of Products was conducted to assist the product development process for the EU/Netherlands market. - During September, 2016 ITC contacted more than 109 organizations, mostly in the UK, Germany, USA and the Netherlands, more than fourteen advanced negotiations with prospective customers took place; five/seven are expected to place an order before the end of 2016 (for more details about the Prospects at the negotiation stage, please see Annex 1). Several business matching events took place during the reporting period: - ITC planned for, organized and coordinated the participation of a group of women MSMEs 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 presented samples from other Palestinian women MSME's at the Caspian Fashion Week, which took place in Astrakhan on 21-24 April. Moreover, ITC organized for a trip for a group of German potential buyers to Palestine during the period 9-13 May 2016. A major "mainstream" importer joined the tour. Their product range is considered as broad and cross-category (home, fashion, personal accessories). Buyers provided feedback on the products, and ITC is following up on their needs.</p> <p>For market linkages:</p> <p>- Linkages have been also 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 was organized with the embassy in Geneva at the United Nations premises on 2-3 June 2016. The objective was to present and showcase the products that reflect the Palestinian culture and heritage, which also serve as a business matching event and will open new markets/business deals for the women MSME's. The embassy will also participate in the UN Bazaar women in November showing also the women's products. In addition, ITC is preparing for the participation of women to the Bazaar Berlin that will take place in the period Nov.16-20.</p>	<p>Women businesses challenges to access export markets EU in particular as they are; Small processing units, none of them continuous or automatic. - 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. For remedying these challenges it is recommended to; - Consolidate the existing product offer into larger volumes of consistent quality. - 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.</p>	<p>As per the JP work plan, ITC will be implementing the following within the upcoming reporting period, in order increase access to and participation in trade: - Identify the shipping cost and the suggested ways to make the shipment for both the women MSME's and cooperatives; - Prepare a 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.</p>
<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>The communication strategy and visibility criteria continue to act as guides for product promotion tools such as local fairs, food exhibitions, etc. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Palestine Standards institution (PSI) in order to enhance the standards for four products to align with the Palestinian standards; makkous, thyme (za'atar), freekeh and maftoul), as per the standards resulted from the ITC market research developed in the first phase of the programme. Of these, the standards for two products are ready (makkous and Thyme), while the specifications for maftoul and freekeh are being drafted. In addition, the two business shops have built on their previously informal arrangement to export their products to a shop called Al Hannona Market in Amman, Jordan by working to sign an official agreement that governs this trade relationship. By the end of September 2016, the value of exports to the Rozana business shop totalled 13,500 shekels (USD 3,550). The companies also signed a sales agreement with the local marketing company New Farm, which sells Baitutie products on the local market. During the reporting period sales had a total value of 10,000 shekels (USD 2,630). As part of the efforts undertaken by the JP to promote the products of the MSME's and cooperative, UN Women consortium partner Agility finalized the baseline survey and benchmarking exercise for women MSMEs products; this exercise focused on benchmark existing products specifications to local and regional markets requirements and standards, during this reporting period, UN Women =consortium partners analyzed the results of the baseline survey and developed customized approaches for each key categories to link products with potential markets. A field visit to Ashdod port was led by PSC; where 22 women MSMEs from WB participated in this coaching tour. The tour aimed to familiarize the beneficiaries with the shipping and clearance mechanisms of goods, in addition to the port facilities, warehouses, and knowledge of (Less Container Load) LCL shipments. The tour was accompanied by ports experts, who provided comprehensive explanation for the women MSME's. Also, this reporting period highlighted more progress and efforts on the design of the One Stop Shop portal which will be a virtual business services hub for beneficiaries for obtaining information, services, accessing training materials and sessions, having group discussions; having direct contact with trainers and consultants, updated project activities and achievements, in addition to showcasing their products and marketing them with a possibility of online selling; moreover the portal will also introduce stakeholders to the One Stop Shop, its services, partners, modalities used and it will show the story and products of each MSME of the 45 MSMEs under the project: as you can see in the link: http://clients.intertech.ps/bwf During the reporting period UN Women and FAO organized a local exhibition in Ramallah, where 27 of the women MSMEs and two Business Shops participated in this event and made a total number of sales NIS 52,000 was reached, the event continued for two days, from 27-28 September 2016. This event followed the launching event of the OSS, where many official persons, donors and representatives from the private public, UN Agencies, and Palestinian Government Ministries attended this event and secured high visibility through local media agencies. In addition, 8 women MSMEs participated in a local exhibition organized by Al Razana Association "Birzeit Heritage week", the event took place between 13-17 July, during the week women made a total number of sales NIS 4500, through matching funds from UN Women. At the international level, one MSME participated in Palestinian handicraft exhibition that was conducted on the sideline of the international day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people; which took place on the 3- June-2016, in Geneva where one woman MSME participated and showcased products of more than 20 MSMEs and managed to sale products for OSS MSMEs with a total of 4670 USD. This activity was coordinated by ITC. During the reporting period a catalogue of business cards for women MSME's products was produced that includes professional pictures of products, and a brief summary of each MSME, these business cards will be used as part of the targeted MSMEs marketing materials. In addition, this reporting period witnessed updating the marketing and promotional plans for the 43 women MSMEs.</p>	<p>The main difficulty is preparing the products to meet the local, regional and international standards and needs, the mitigation as to network with the PSI throughout the trainings to train women of these standards and respond to them through the product development process</p>	<p>- FAO will continue its work with PSI to agree to and promote compliance with Palestinian standards for four food products - Facilitation of participation in trade shows, expos - Continue the work on products development for the women MSMEs - work with ITC for international promotion of the MSME's and cooperatives products - Promote Palestinian products in Palestinian embassies, consulates, chambers of commerce in the Gulf region. - Developing a tailored training and awareness raising programmes on trade facilitation for women MSMEs and cooperatives - Finalize the portal and website of the One Stop Shop - 51Editing and publishing all the training material as reference point on the one stop shop portal - Develop a catalogue on women MSME's products (for marketing purposes).</p>

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:

UN Women consortium partners succeeded in 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 Jawwal, 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 to ensure the continuity and the sustainability of the MSME's and cooperatives at the institutional level. Moving from the informal to the formal economy businesses will open new windows for them to reach new markets in the region and internationally, 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.

A cooperation agreement was signed with the Palestine Standards institution (PSI) in order to develop Palestinian standards for four products - makdous, thyme (za'atar), freekeh and maftoul. Of these, the standards for two products are ready (makdous and Thyme), while the specifications for maftoul and freekeh are being developed.

At the Policy level:

Endorsement of newly developed 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 (the first on the protection of local production of cultural, agro-business and agricultural products, and the second on the establishment of incentives for

women cooperatives working in agriculture and synergy creation), this in addition to adopting these skills during the current national cycle of cross sectoral national planning 2017-2022.

At the private sector level,

The JP targeted two private sector companies, Bank of Palestine (BoP) and Birziet Pharmaceutical Company the main purpose was to help the two companies to adopt gender sensitive mechanisms that address gender equality at work. The sustainability will be ensured through adopting the recommendations provided by UN Women to ensure equal opportunities and access to leadership positions at work. The project is also directly engaging and supporting the private sector through its two point of sale business shops in the northern and southern West Bank, which are now also selling their products through the marketing company New Farm in the West Bank and through Al Hanona Market in Amman, Jordan. At the socio-economic level

To increase access and competitiveness of women MSME's and cooperatives' products in local, regional and international markets, the JP is still working on strengthening women MSME's and cooperatives capacity through many specialized services like coaching, trainings, Business to Business methods etc. Additionally, the One-Stop-Shop Business Service Hub and the two business shops are especially designed to enhance women's economic empowerment through improving the quality of products, enhancing the skills of women, increasing access to market channels, which results in income generating sustainable businesses. The targeted women MSMEs reported an average sales increase of 37% increase in sales, and new job opportunities were created for a group of 45 women, a new workshop was also launched by one of the beneficiaries as a result of JP and its complementary projects. Also, the OSS provides business development services for women MSME's which enhances their businesses and their access to economic opportunities, including markets etc.

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 the policies. UN Women as a leading agency for this component, recruited a specialized consultant who will work jointly with the reference group and other public and private stakeholders in drafting two gender sensitive policies (the first on the protection of local production of cultural, agro-business and agricultural products, and the second on the establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in agriculture and synergy creation)..

UN Women has initiated the process of gender mainstreaming the Palestinian private companies. During the reporting period, UN Women created a partnership with two private companies to promote gender equality and equal opportunities at work; the two targeted companies were engaged in the gender audit process that aimed to ensure that the employed women have equal access to services and opportunities; the gender audit process resulted in action plans and recommendations for the two companies, which will be adopted by them.

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.

FAO has coordinated with MoA through its beneficiaries and partners; Al Thimar, Al Rozana and ESDC,

where the MoA has supported the opening of the business shops and provides the technical assistance needed.

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 is being implemented that aims to foster greater public support to Palestine women's economic empowerment in general, and women's entrepreneurship in particular guides communications and visibility actions under the JP.

Building on the activities of year one, including the production of a product manual for the business shops, the JP recently finalized marketing plans for the shops and the targeted 43 women MSMEs and continues to develop the capacity of 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. Such meetings have positively influenced the public engagements of key stakeholders like the Minister of Agriculture who has highlighted the importance of women's access to markets on numerous occasions, even in forums not connected to the JP. Additional visibility items (banners, notebooks and folders) were produced by BWF with the input of the communications team for use in the launch of the One Stop Shop. In the next reporting period, the communications team is expected to produce a brochure and success story booklet that can be distributed as a single project information pack.

Photos from Launch of the Halhoul Shop:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l94l1p05flks5cc/AABbTfZ7eWA2Ekdcj2kA7E3xa?dl=0>

Photos of the One Stop Shop Launching event:

- Raya: <http://www.raya.ps/ar/eye-on-event/954140.html>
- Panet: <http://www.panet.co.il/article/1480436>
- Zamn Press: <http://zamnpres.com/content/103973>
- Zamn Press: <http://zamnpres.com/content/103969>
- Wafa: <http://images.wafa.ps/album.aspx?id=36013>
- Al Haya Newspaper: http://www.alhaya.ps/arch_page.php?nid=288388
- Al Quds Newspaper: <http://www.alquds.com/pdf/1475026036739334200/1475026156000/>
- https://www.facebook.com/BusinessWomenForum/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1178213605550039
(EN and AR)

Photos of business shops' participation in exhibition:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/x2kzzxgc83h8i3u/AAAE0ZBqiS5mCDvTvwph657a?dl=0>

JP Facebook page:

Some pictures of the capacity building component that were posted on BWF's Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1055511121153622.1073742005.111049848933092&type=3>

JP twitter handle:

@

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	UN Women finalized the JP baseline survey and the Performance Monitoring Framework. This survey is currently being used as a guiding tool for undertaking joint activities, 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	Lead agencies attended and participated in respective launch events for the project's different areas of focus, meaning for the Halhoul Business Shop in June 2016 and the One-stop Shop in September 2016.
Other, please specify:	FAO and ITC are working on an international marketing plan, with the first draft produced in October 2016. An ITC expert visited the oPt twice, and his mission included meetings with the two business shops and 10 of the cooperatives in addition to local marketing companies.

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

The JP teams meet regularly (PMT meetings) to coordinate upcoming activities and actions. These meetings give the opportunity to all partners to raise any coming plans and events that need joint efforts. The RC representative always supports the meetings and makes sure that appropriate coordination between UN agencies is taking place. A focal point is assigned in each agency to facilitate cooperation mechanisms between the JP partners in terms of technical, financial and visibility issues. On the field level, the JP Team conduct regular joint monitoring visits to the project beneficiaries and activities, for the purpose of monitoring and supporting each agency's work. For example, the FAO communications focal point provided feedback on the development of the One Stop Shop's web portal both to UN Women and their implementing partner, BWF. UN Women and FAO agreed to start organizing monitoring field visits for FAO targeted cooperatives.

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	<p>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.</p> <p>The JP is working with the related PA Ministries (MoWA, MoL, MoA, and MoNE), particularly through the NCWE to develop policies that contribute to strengthen and increase women economic participation, protect and guarantee their rights and equal access to markets. UN Women and the Ministry of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen action on gender equality and women's empowerment, through support effective gender mainstreaming in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>UN Women partners' consortium (especially PSC) coordinated with MoNE, who provided the full support needed for women MSME's to register their businesses.</p> <p>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 supported FAO to develop a needs assessment and marketing study. At the governorate level, FAO works closely with the MOA to ensure policy support for and the promotion of the two business shops and 23 cooperatives.</p>
Private Sector	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	<p>UN Women conducted 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; where the Bank of Palestine management and the Palestinian monetary fund has expressed their commitment towards these recommendations. In Halhoul, FAO is working in close cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce to build strong links between the business shop and key private sector stakeholders in the agriculture sector and to ensure the visibility of the shop in the local market.</p> <p>In addition, the two business shops have built on their previously informal arrangement to export their products at a shop called Al Hanona Market in Amman, Jordan by working to sign an official agreement that governs this trade relationship. By the end of September 2016, the value of exports to this shop totaled 13,500 shekels (USD 3,550).</p>

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Civil Society	Fully involved	Policy-decision making Service Provision	FAO built on their previous cooperation to implement the JP, by strengthening 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. Through the JP, UN Women extended ensured full engagement of the civil society (especially the partner consortium) in the cooperation and coordination with the ministries' through facilitation of services provided by these ministries. Also, the consortium is fully engaged in the policies' development process, that is made through a participatory approach through engaging also other national stakeholders, including line ministries, private sector etc.
Academia			

* 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, PSC and Agility on empowering women MSMEs, therefore, the JP created a partners' consortium between the Business Women Forum (BWF), 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 provides several practical knowledge and awareness for women MSMEs, and equip them with needed tools to competitively access markets with various methods. This is done 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. 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. This is considered a unique and first of its kind approach to enhance women business through a partnership between the private and non-governmental partnership.

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 supported FAO to develop 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. FAO has also started working with the MONE on the registration of the trademarks for 20 food processing products, which will benefit 20 women.

At the same time, ESDC provides capacity building to women MSME’s, cooperatives 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.

UN Women established a national reference group was created to act an advisory body for the process of drafting the policies, which includes members of the ministries, NGOs and private sector members, which will support the HP advocacy work until the end of the programme and will ensure access to decision makers to endorse these policies.

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 the JP 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 representative support 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. For example, the Chief of the Coordination Unit- UNSCO led the opening ceremony of the One Stop Shop in Ramallah, which was significant for representing the joint spirit of the programme. In addition to joint field visits that aim to 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 supported women MSME’s to register their businesses and move from the informal to formal sector. Moreover, the programme provides technical support to public sector to improve services provided to businesses from a gender perspective.</p>

SDG #	JP Contribution
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 close the gender gap, and 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. In addition, the JP</p> <p>The JP is working on ensuring women's full and effective participation in business and trade and equal opportunities by coaching the women MSMEs and cooperatives continuously on business and trade aspects. Economically, they have been empowered with tools and mechanisms, they have moved from being informal to be registered and formal companies. The knowledge they obtained from the JP helped them make the change, and become more business oriented and market driven.</p> <p>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>
Goal 10	<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</p> <p>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 (the first on the protection of local production of cultural, agro-business and agricultural products, and the second on the establishment of incentives for women cooperatives working in agriculture and synergy creation, this in addition to adopting these skills during the current national cycle of cross sectoral national planning 2017-2022.</p> <p>At the private sector level,</p> <p>The JP targeted two private sector companies, Bank of Palestine and Birziet Pharmaceutical Company the main purpose was to help the two companies to adopt gender sensitive mechanisms that address gender equality at work. The sustainability will be ensured through adopting the recommendations provided by UN Women to ensure equal opportunities and access to leadership positions at work.</p>

VII. Additional Information

Attachments

Programme baseline study *:

 [FINAL Report- Baseline-OPTIMUM FINAL 2016 RH.pdf](#)

Performance Monitoring Framework *:

 [Performance Monitoring Framework.docx](#)

JP Communication and Advocacy Plan *:

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

Other publications:

 [Sample feedback.docx](#)

 [Export Marketing Plan Palestinian Food Products_Final \(2\).docx](#)

 [PatternsofPalestine-monthlyreport-Septemder.docx](#)

 [FINAL PRINTED MANUAL - Feb 11, 2016.pdf](#)

 [B2B Tour Palestine brief_10_16.docx](#)

Press releases:

 [Press release links.docx](#)
