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<b>Programme Title:</b>	Creating one-stop-shop for sustainable businesses
<b>Country:</b>	occupied Palestinian territory

## I. Joint Programme Information

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### 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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**Reporting Period Ending:**

Sunday, November 1, 2015

## II. Contact Information

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### Technical team contacts

Joint programme coordinator

JP monitoring and evaluation focal point

JP communications and advocacy focal point

JP knowledge management focal point

JP private sector focal point

### Agency contact points

Contact 1

Contact 2

Contact 3

Contact 4

Contact 5

## III. Financial information

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### SDG-F Funds

<b>UN Agency</b>	<b>Total approved funds</b>	<b>Total funds Transferred to date</b>	<b>Total funds committed to date</b>	<b>Total funds disbursed to date</b>
UN Women (UN Women)				
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)				
International Trade Centre (ITC)				

<b>Total</b>				
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## Matching Funds

<b>Total</b>				
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## IV. Beneficiaries

### Direct Beneficiaries - Breakdown

<b>Beneficiary type - individual</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				
Other 1				
<b>Total</b>				

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

### Indirect Beneficiaries - Breakdown

<b>Beneficiary type - individual</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Farmers				
Entrepreneurs				
Civil servants/government				
Indigenous				
Children				
Youth				

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

## V. Joint Programme Progress

### 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)

Gender equality and women's empowerment is the main focus of the project's outputs and has been mainstreamed in all phases of the project cycle, including the design phase of the project. At an institutional level, women's empowerment is the focus of all planned interventions related to policy making and institutional capacity building, especially ensuring the promotion of women's economic rights through service delivery. Furthermore, the selection criteria of all local implementing partners is based on a capacity assessment to ensure all are able to effectively promote gender equality and implement results-oriented, gender sensitive interventions.

The programme sets the base of economic empowerment by developing policies and practices that give women the opportunity to access services in both public sector (MoNE) and private sector (One-stop-shop). The programme also provided two business shops as selling and marketing points for cooperatives products, as access to market is one of the obstacles that women face in business. The two business shops are private companies owned by women, who gain profit from selling the products.

The programme builds the capacity of women to make sure that they gain the needed capacities in the market and local economy. All these concrete actions seek to give women equal opportunities in the economic sector to achieve economic empowerment.

The JP has been designed and formulated with the objective of empowering women economically.

Therefore, the different interventions are mainly tackling issues/obstacles faced by women. The progress could be summarized as follows:

- At the institutional level: the selection of the Women Business institution as local partner to work under the supervision of the UNW on the delivery of the different interventions. This will strengthen the BWF, will help in building their capacity, and therefore, will enable them to promote better their service, and encourage more women owned MSMEs to become members, and benefit from their services.

- At the cooperatives level: the project has benefited more than 15 cooperatives (more than 100 women). They have benefited from different trainings. Therefore, build their capacities and skills in different areas.

Women expressed their satisfaction about the trainings delivered so far, and stated that the trainings has made a huge change in the way they understood business and how to function.

- At the enterprise level: fifteen women owned SMEs attended training on export packaging and Building Export Business, product design. The training enabled women to gain a better understanding of export requirements. The selected women have now better understanding about market requirements and current trends in the European market through direct assistance/coaching.

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

The selected women will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to run their businesses, implement their deals, and manage their supply chains and agreements. This enables them to generate income and become sustainable and independent.

Creating the business shops as private sector companies owned by women will not only benefit the owners, but also stays as a selling and marketing point for other women businesses (MSME's, Cooperatives and Associations). And before the JP is finalized, an exit strategy will be built for these business shops. Also creating a one-stop-shop as a sustainable hub to provide services for women businesses, with all knowledge related to business development, product development and trading is a sustainable tool for other businesses. Also an exit strategy has to be built to ensure sustainability.

All beneficiaries will move from the informal sector into the formal sector by receiving the technical and legal support needed to officially register their enterprises.

- At the Enterprise Level: the selected women-owned SMEs are integrating the knowledge and skills acquired through training and advisory services provided by the project's technical experts and consultants. The commitment of the selected enterprises and the positive results will ensure that the new techniques will be well integrated in the enterprises' business processes and will continue to be used in the long term.

- Institutional level: the project is in the process of strengthens the BWF in order to be more effective in servicing its constituencies. It is expected that at the end of the project BWF will act as a multiplier institution by extending its services to more women in other sectors. This will strengthen the demand for BWF services and will make it more sustainable in the long-term.

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

The JP was designed in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development; furthermore, each of the UN Agencies is implementing in coordination with a line ministry; FAO programmes are implemented under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), UN Women under the umbrella of Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and ITC with Ministry of National Economy (MoNE). Furthermore, the JP activities are in line with the National Agriculture Sector Strategy: Resilience and Development 2014-2016.

The JP's benefits also extended to the public sector through trainings on gender sensitive services to women owners or in the working environment.

The MoA is part of the committee that will support FAO in developing 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. launching of the business shop in Jenin; where the launch was hosted by the Jenin governor's office, attended by other Palestinian government representatives and jointly planned by FAO, Al Thimar and ESDC with the support of other JP implementing partners.

The JP will further target the private sector through the BWF (representing part of the women in the private

sector), UN Women's local implementing partner. The JP also targets the public sector (MoNE) with capacity building activities. BWF and MoNE will provide services to the same beneficiaries and will work closely for the benefit of the women businesses. Also the programme targets two private sector companies to enhance their capacities in gender mainstreaming in the work environment, and will conduct gender audits for both companies in line with the Ministry of Labor's regulations, requiring close collaboration between the public and private sectors.

## Communication and Advocacy

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

No

### **Please provide concrete gains on how the the JP communication and advocacy efforts have increased awareness on SDGs.:**

As part of the management architecture of the JP, FAO, UN Women and ITC have developed a joint communications strategy that aims to educate the public about the SDGs and the importance of using partnerships such as those fostered under the JP to achieve them. Part of this strategy includes empowering local partners to deliver this message in their target communities. Furthermore, the JP will produce communications materials about the project as well as its objectives and activities to facilitate outreach to all relevant stakeholders.

The JP's awareness-raising already includes regularly meeting with Palestinian government officials from multiple ministries to emphasize the cross cutting importance of promoting gender equality to the socioeconomic well-being of all Palestinians.

In its recent opening ceremony for the business shop in Jenin, for instance, all participating agencies highlighted the importance of supporting women to achieve their full potential in order to build an inclusive and sustainable economy that actively includes rural women. Links below indicate local press coverage of the event, which was also publicly supported by the Palestinian government, including at the national and Jenin governorate levels. The RC opened this event in order to underline the importance of this intervention.

The JP has also conducted an orientation workshop for all the partners in this programme, especially BWF and ESDC. The workshop explained the UN Agencies partnerships under SDG-F and how they will work towards achieving the SDGs by integrating their efforts in close cooperation with the public and private sectors and civil society organizations. Through this workshop, the implementing partners were made aware of the SDGs and their link with the programme and its' indicators.

### **JP website URL:**

[https://youtu.be/\\_KPQLf7raek](https://youtu.be/_KPQLf7raek) - <http://goo.gl/YMdvI7> - <http://goo.gl/XkjLJA> - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l289cgmc4pnn74j/AABOu7b177IQfLs1a-Ytao3la?dl=0>

### **JP website URL:**

[https://youtu.be/\\_KPQLf7raek](https://youtu.be/_KPQLf7raek) - <http://goo.gl/YMdvI7> - <http://goo.gl/XkjLJA> - <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/l289cgmc4pnn74j/AABOu7b177IQfLs1a-Ytao3la?dl=0>

### **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
<p>Managerial practices (financial, procurement, etc.) implemented jointly by the UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs</p>	<p>The joint efforts are ongoing throughout the programme. The project teams meet at least once per month to discuss any joint efforts needed for the coming period including managing events, and preparing agendas, logistical arrangements, and talking points. Each UN Agency highlights its main role in the coming management or coordination of actions, and the main output is having a comprehensive integrated action as one agency, distributing roles and responsibilities among the agencies.</p> <p>Further joint implementation will be happening at the beginning of year 2, by exchanging technical support, and managing joint budgets and items to be procured.</p>
<p>Joint analytical work (studies, publications, etc.) undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs</p>	<p>Partners of the JP work closely. For instance, from 24 to 28 May 2015, the International Trade Center (ITC) supported a food expert to undertake a field mission to the West Bank, Palestine, with the double aim of selecting the most promising products for export to Europe and identifying gaps between local business practices and international standards. The visit was organized jointly by FAO, ESDC and ITC. During the visit, women-owned/run cooperatives and producer groups were visited across the West Bank. A report detailing the assessment of this mission and its recommendations has been drafted and is currently being finalized by ITC. Once completed, the report will guide planning for later stages of the JP where FAO and ITC work jointly to promote the access of female producers to international markets.</p> <p>Partners of the JP worked closely in the call for proposal for the one-stop-shop, particularly UN Women and ITC, where BWF was selected to be the implementing partner for UN Women.</p> <p>The criteria of selecting the beneficiaries was discussed between the JP partners and agreed on. This was an important step to agree on the best criteria for sustainable businesses.</p>
<p>Joint activities undertaken jointly by UN implementing agencies for SDG-F JPs</p>	<p>The launch of the Business Shop in Jenin was planned by FAO with the collective support of other JP partners, including consultation on objectives, purpose and target audience of the event as well as high level support with the attendance of senior staff from all participating agencies, including the UN Resident Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, FAO Head of Office and UN Women National Programme Coordinator.</p> <p>An orientation workshop has been conducted in joint cooperation between the JP partners. The workshop was prepared jointly, in terms of presentations, materials and facilities. The idea of the workshop was discussed in a programme management committee and agreed upon in terms of context, details and methodology.</p>
<p>Other, please specify:</p>	<p>The JP partners meet periodically for updates and planning for future actions. Also the JP committee meets 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.</p>

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

The JP team meets 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. Coordinating the activities together and in parallel assures the success of joint implementation, especially when partners need to exchange technical assessments and agree on the most efficient methodology and approaches to move forward in implementation, reporting and exchange technical aspects each agency profession. 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 handle the cooperation with the partner agency. For other aspects (especially technical) like communications, visibility, finance ...etc. the focal point coordinates and makes sure the technical support is provided.

Meetings allow partners to discuss implementation obstacles and come up with solutions with appropriate and effective agreed upon methodology. While facing an obstacle in some aspects, a decision has been taken jointly to conduct an orientation workshop to give an overview on the programme in terms of visibility, communication, reporting, and to arrange joint activities and events. This approach will continue and other types of meetings will include the implementing and responsible partners to ensure all parties are aware of all activities and to maximize coordination between all partners under the programme.

On the field level, the UN partners conduct monitoring visits to the beneficiaries and activities jointly, for the purpose of monitoring and supporting, for example the programme team conducted a joint field visit for the first business shop in Jenin (north of the West Bank) to monitor the business shop before launching and advise on technical aspects in parallel with the launching preparations.

## 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 Other	<p>From the design phase, FAO's dimension of the JP has fully integrated public-private partnerships. 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.</p> <p>UN Women is in close coordination with the Ministry of Women Affairs on the programme level, but also UN Women will work closely with the ministry of National Economy in raising their capacity and support them to strengthen their capacities and develop the appropriate policies and procedures to help women access services and information.</p> <p>UN Women will work with the Ministry of Labor to conduct the Gender Audit for two private sector companies and build their capacities.</p>

Partners	Involvement *	Type of involvement	Examples
Private Sector	Fully involved	Service Provision Other	<p>FAO and its partner ESDC work directly with the private sector to implement this project. AL Rozana Company (southern West Bank) and Al Thimar Company (northern West Bank) run the two business shops supported under the JP and are involved either as a beneficiary or an implementer in nearly all aspects of the project.</p> <p>UN Women is conducting a gender audit for two private sector companies, and will develop their capacities in creating a gender equality working environment.</p> <p>UN Women and ITC, through the BWF is targeting women MSME's from formal and informal private sector to build their capacities and competitiveness. BWF is in partnership with the Palestinian Shippers Council (private sector trade facilitation organization) and Agility consulting company, will implement the programme.</p>
Civil Society	Fully involved	Service Provision Other	<p>Building on its existing relationship with the organization Economic and Social Development of Palestine (ESDC), FAO works with this local implementer to engage with the 15 associations and cooperatives currently served by this project, including to provide capacity building trainings and to regularly monitor their progress in achieving key JP objectives.</p> <p>The NCWE and BWF are part of the civil society, where they are partners in the programme with the UN Women. The relation varies between partners in discussion and review committee, and beneficiaries of the programme.</p>
Academia	Not involved		<p>The project does not currently include the participation of academia but is likely to build on this in later stages of the JP as partners work to inform national policy-making in terms of educating women more in business and economic empowerment aspects.</p>

\* 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:**

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 will be a beneficiary when delivering a training on services and women empowerment. Although the MoNE will be a decision maker when it comes to drafting policies towards empowering women and protecting their products, or providing incentives to them.

The Business Women Forum and their partners (Palestinian Shippers' Council-PSC and Agility) as the implementing partner, will be implementing some components on the programme that are related to the One-stop-shop to benefit women MSME's, meanwhile, the BWF will directly benefit from the practical knowledge gained under the implementation to be ready to manage the One-stop-shop.

**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 are involved and on the same page for 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.

A focal point in each UN Agency represents the programme and facilitates other communications with many partners' staff members joining the programme meetings for technical input as needed. Joint field visits are conducted to make sure that partners understand developments in the field and the implementation on the partners' component to benefit technically, and for further joint planning. The public sector is involved, for example the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development participated in the launching of the first business shop; the Ministry of Agriculture and local public institutions also supported the business shop launching event, in the Governorate of Jenin.

## VI. Joint Programme contribution to the SDGs

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 1	<p>1.4 [By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance]</p> <p>The JP supports women to realize their economic rights both directly through capacity building and technical support as well as indirectly through advocacy. In this reporting period, 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 to consumers.</p> <p>The JP will support women MSME's to register their businesses and move from the informal to formal sector. Moreover, the programme will support the public sector to implement policies and practices that will provide access for women in terms of services, information and technical support.</p>

SDG #	JP Contribution
Goal 2	<p>2.3 [By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment ]</p> <p>The JP directly targets small-scale women food producers (through cooperatives) and cultural businesses (MSME's) and seeks to provide them with the technical support and capacity building necessary to improve their productivity and incomes. By facilitating the integration of these women into the formal economy, the JP supports the realization of their equal access.</p> <p>Also the JP will focus on creating local, regional and international marketing channels for these businesses to become self-sufficient, sustainable and profitable. Seeking to address issues identified in the Palestinian National Export Strategy, the JP contributes directly to institutionalizing, standardizing, and marketing food and non-food products produced by the women MSME's, including cooperatives, in Palestine. As a result, the JP is expected to contribute to increased Palestinian exports and local market shares, which will drive income and employment generation, improving in particular the livelihoods of women and their families, and will contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the country, in line with the SDGs.</p>
Goal 4	<p>4.4 [By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship]</p> <p>The JP has provided and continues to provide technical and vocational skills training to marginalized women's cooperative members to address skills gaps that may have otherwise prevented these women from accessing decent jobs or pursuing entrepreneurial opportunities.</p>
Goal 5	<p>5.a [ Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws ]</p> <p>Both through its awareness raising activities vis-à-vis the Palestinian government, civil society, private sector and general public about the importance of women's empowerment as well as through joint research activities designed to inform policy-making, the JP supports reforms that allow women to realize their rights.</p>
Goal 8	<p>8.3 [Promote development-oriented policies [that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services]</p> <p>By facilitating improved public-private partnerships, the JP encourages both the public and private sectors to assess how they can work collectively to ensure positive outcomes for marginalized communities, particularly the importance of supporting women's access to and ownership of MSMEs. This will be jointly implemented by the related ministries, especially MoNE and MoL. The JP will provide capacity building to the MSME's to give them the tools to access finance; also the programme provides grants by creating a competition between women beneficiaries.</p>
Goal 10	<p>10.2 [By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status]</p> <p>By targeting marginalized women that were previously excluded from the formal sector, the JP contributes to an inclusive economy.</p>
Goal 11	<p>11.a [Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning ]</p> <p>The JP connects rural and peri-urban women producers of agriculture and handicraft products with larger domestic markets located in urban areas, strengthening the horizontal integration of the domestic economy.</p>

## VII. Additional Information

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Attachments

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