The Palestine Liberation Organization

(for the benefit of The Palestinian Authority)

Palestinian Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP)

WEST BANK AND GAZA SOCIAL RECOVERY AND JOB CREATION PROJECT

– Additional Financing (AF) –

Project ID: P508729

Addendum to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

January 20, 2026

Brief Project Description

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Addendum relates to the proposed Additional Financing (AF) for the West Bank and Gaza Social Recovery and Job Creation Project (SRJCP, P508729). The project was approved on April 1, 2025 and became effective on May 26, 2025. It was initially financed with US$60 million, including US$40 million from the Trust Fund for Gaza and the West Bank (TFGWB) and US$20 million from the Palestinian Fund for Reconstruction and Development (PFRD), and it currently focuses on the West Bank, with no operational activities planned in Gaza at this stage.

Since early 2025, West Bank governorates have experienced a significant escalation in Israeli military operations, resulting in the displacement of more than 40,000 Palestinians from the Jenin, Tulkarm, and Nur Shams refugee camps. Concurrently, the repeated closure of approximately 898 military checkpoints across the West Bank has severely restricted movement, effectively paralyzing economic activity. These restrictions have disrupted supply chains and inter-governorate trade, undermined local commerce, reduced household and business revenues, increased unemployment, and further weakened the already fragile productive capacity of the Palestinian economy[1] . The Palestinian Authority (PA) faces a fiscal crisis, with systemic governance challenges threatening public service continuity, exacerbated by reductions in clearance revenues and domestic fiscal shortfalls.

The PA Institutions, alongside Local Government Units (LGUs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), are vital in addressing these challenges but operate under immense constraints. Women and marginalized groups, including Persons with Disability (PwD) are disproportionately affected, as socio-cultural barriers and restricted mobility limit their economic opportunities, with female labor participation at a mere 17.8% in Q3 of 2025[2] . Amid these pressures, the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) has been reactivated to coordinate recovery efforts, launching the Social Recovery and Job Creation Program. The WB&G Social Recovery and Job Creation Project (SRJCP) under MoFP's program aims to address these challenges by creating immediate employment opportunities, strengthening resilience, and supporting infrastructure development in marginalized areas, with a particular focus on empowering women and vulnerable groups.

SRJCP is designed to respond to the severe employment shock and vulnerability affecting households and communities, while also strengthening the operational capacity of select government institutions. Its Project Development Objective is to (i) increase employment opportunities for select groups in target areas, and (ii) improve the operational capacity of select government institutions.

The project is structured around four components. Component 1 finances labor-intensive, small-scale public infrastructure works implemented through eligible Local Government Units (LGUs) in the West Bank, to provide short-term employment and help maintain the provision of local services, with priority to areas affected by damage and high unemployment; it also includes MDLF operational support and technical assistance, including for monitoring and E&S management. Component 2 supports women and persons with disabilities who may not be able to participate in labor-intensive public works, through business support services that strengthen skills, operational processes, and market access to help sustain and grow livelihood activities across a range of sectors. Component 3 provides capacity-building support

[1] Palestine Economic Update, June 2025, MAS, special-bulletin-june-2025-eng-1751409462-pdf
[2] Women and Men in Palestine, Oct 2025, PCBS, Report-Women-and-Men-in-Palestine-Issues-and-Statistics-PCBS-231025.pdf.

to government institutions through technical assistance and related inputs, and Component 4 is a Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).

The project's E&S approach is guided by the E&S Management Framework (ESMF), which sets screening, mitigation, roles and responsibilities, consultation, and grievance arrangements for implementation partners and beneficiaries across components. For more information about the project, the E&S risks and mitigation measures, E&S procedures and implementation arrangements are available in the SRJCP ESMF: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sMf_lXEZFJINEBO05aqquNgkoNz-DJgC/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100271865350480565775&rtpof=true&sd=true

Consequently, and with an impressive implementation and results momentum achieved through the project to date, an Additional Financing (AF) is proposed for the SRJCP, intended to scale up the project's activities in the West Bank without changing the PDO, core design, or implementation arrangements.

Under Component 1, the AF will continue to support to LGUs, with MDLF applying the same allocation approach currently used across 373 LGUs, and the AF expected to approximately double resources to each LGU compared to current levels. While under Component 2, the AF enables NDC to extend support to additional NGOs, under Component 3, the AF shifts emphasis to targeted capacity-building for select line ministries, aligned with the broader jobs and recovery agenda described in the project documentation.

Therefore, this SEP Addendum is prepared to reflect the AF scale-up and the latest engagement carried out since project preparation, and to present the updated stakeholder engagement approach for the AF implementation period, including fit-for-purpose disclosure, inclusive participation measures, and project-level grievance arrangements. The project closing date remains April 30, 2029.

Project Affected and Interested Parties

The AF is proposed as a scale-up of the SRJCP, with no changes to the project design, implementation arrangements, PDO, or PDO indicators. The AF mainly increases financing across the existing components, which is expected to expand the coverage and number of beneficiaries, participating LGUs, and implementing NGOs, without changing the core stakeholder categories. As such, there are no foreseen changes in the identification of the project relevant stakeholders, where project affected parties (PAPs), Other interested parties (OIPs), and vulnerable and marginalized groups, remain as identified in the project SEP. The SRJCP SEP can be accessed through the following link: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18bgtEetLj/.

In summary, PAPs for the SRJCP include (not limited to) local communities, community members and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from project activities, and those who directly benefit from project support. Under Component 1 (Labor Intensive Infrastructure), PAPs include (not limited to): (i) unemployed skilled and unskilled workers and their families; (ii) local communities and residents benefiting from improved infrastructure; and (iii) community members that may be directly impacted by project activities, such as land users and owners, and persons living in proximity to planned works. Under Component 2 (Support to Women and Persons with Disabilities), PAPs include women and persons with disabilities (PWD), including those operating existing businesses or aspiring to establish micro and small businesses across a range of sectors, as well as families, caretakers, and dependents of the women and PWD targeted under this support. Under Component 3 (MoFP and PA Capacity Building), affected parties include PA and MoFP officials and staff involved in capacity building activities, and the staff of MoL, MoA,

PMO, and MoLG engaged in the component's targeted support and modernization activities. In addition, given that Component 1 includes implementation through LGUs and, where applicable, contractors, PAPs also include direct and contracted project workers involved in the delivery of subprojects (including engineers and contractors engaged by LGUs), who are directly exposed to project-related working conditions and OHS requirements.

Parties interested include (but are not limited to) parties other than directly affected communities who have an interest in, or can influence, the project both the SRJC project and its AF. These include institutional actors such as the Ministry of Public Works, PCBS, MoSD, the Palestinian Fund for Employment, the Palestinian Water Authority, MoWA, the Ministry of Industry, MoNE, MoA, and EQA. OIPs also include workers' unions (such as the Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions and the Engineers Association), international NGOs and development partners, UN agencies, and a wide range of local NGOs and CBOs that are active in employment, social inclusion, women's economic empowerment, disability inclusion, community development, agriculture, and local governance. Private sector stakeholders are also included, particularly suppliers of materials and equipment and governorate-level chambers of commerce, trade, and agriculture; as well as academic and research institutions and local media outlets. Further details and categorization of the project stakeholders are available in the SRJC project SEP.

Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups remain those who may face barriers in accessing project information, participating in engagement activities, or benefitting from project opportunities. In the SRJCP context, these include (but are not limited to): unemployed and economically disadvantaged youth and workers and their dependents (including children and the elderly); PWD including disabled women; women-headed households; low-income families with women and or PWD; women and PWD living in remote areas, Access Restricted Areas (ARAs), and areas impacted by hostilities; and Bedouin communities. These groups are represented through, and can be reached in partnership with, NGOs and CBOs working directly with them (including SAWA, WCLAC, Qader for Community Development, and the General Union of People with Disability). Details of the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups under the SRJCP are available in Table 1 in the project SEP, including their types, barriers to accessing information and/or project benefits, and their representative organizations in stakeholder engagement.

Summary of Stakeholder Engagement Under the SRJC Project

Stakeholder engagement for the Social Recovery and Job Creation Project (SRJCP) has, to date, combined institutional consultations with targeted engagement of civil society and representative organizations, reflecting the project's dual focus on (i) labor-intensive community infrastructure and local service delivery, and (ii) community and household level recovery and job creation interventions delivered through NGOs. Consultations during preparation focused on validating the project design and identifying risks, inclusion needs, and practical implementation considerations, with continued technical and operational engagement taking place as the project moved into early implementation and the rollout of E&S requirements.

During project preparation, a series of structured consultations were held with key stakeholders. On 8 January 2025, MoFP and the World Bank consulted with the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) to introduce the project's components and align on priorities for Component 1, including identification of labor-intensive interventions and next steps for data collection and prioritization. Furthermore, on 19 January 2025, MoFP and the World Bank held a focus group with women's organizations to better

understand the operating context and capacities of women-led organizations and women-led MSMEs, including constraints related to finance, market access, mobility, and the need for tailored capacity building (including OHS and safe practices for women-led cooperatives), and the availability of grievance and GBV referral mechanisms at the organizational level. A second focus group on the same day convened agricultural and rural development NGOs to discuss sector priorities and constraints relevant to proposed interventions, including barriers affecting women and persons with disabilities in agriculture, access limitations in Area C, and the importance of strengthening E&S capacity, safe farming, and OHS practices as part of implementation support.

Complementing these group consultations, bilateral engagement was also undertaken with specialist organizations supporting vulnerable groups. In late January 2025, MoFP consulted SAWA on SEA/SH risks and the practical integration of referral pathways, including the need for robust reporting and awareness arrangements and follow-up engagement to strengthen stakeholder readiness for referral and response. The project team also consulted Qader for Social Development to inform disability inclusion measures, including opportunities to leverage Qader's resources (such as employment databases and information platforms) and the need for continued engagement with organizations representing persons with disabilities throughout implementation.

As implementation preparations progressed, the project continued to use workshops and orientation sessions to operationalize stakeholder engagement commitments and cascade E&S requirements. In June 2025, a workshop was held to review technical feedback related to the NGO selection process and to discuss SEP implementation as a rolling plan, alongside arrangements to cascade E&S screening and mitigation requirements from MoFP/NDC to NGOs and beneficiaries. Moreover, an ESMF orientation session (25 June 2025) introduced the project design, applicable ESF requirements, expected risks, mitigation measures, disclosure arrangements, and the grievance mechanism, as part of the ESMF consultation session detailed in the project's ESMF. This was followed by orientation workshops for village councils and municipalities (July 2025) that covered project requirements and the practical integration of E&S measures within subproject preparation and implementation, including screening status, procurement arrangements, and grievance mechanism integration. Stakeholder engagement has also been maintained through ongoing coordination meetings with implementing partners and the World Bank to address emerging needs and strengthen implementation quality; the E&S kick-off meeting in August 2025 reviewed the disclosed E&S instruments and reinforced expectations on documentation, stakeholder engagement, and Grievance Mechanism (GM) operation, including specific actions agreed with MDLF on solid waste management, OHS responsibilities, and procurement clearances.

Follow-up technical coordination continued through late 2025 through a sequence of implementation support meetings and orientations with MDLF, NDC, and relevant ministries to strengthen delivery readiness and E&S performance. In November 2025, MoFP, the World Bank, and MDLF met to review implementation progress and agree practical actions to improve performance, including continued simplification of E&S documentation, strengthening the grievance mechanism structure, addressing urban planning related access issues that affect subproject implementation, improving contractor reporting, strengthening E&S risk screening and mitigation, and enhancing OHS practices and inspections, alongside preparing a capacity building action plan and conducting environmental and social audits. In parallel, MoFP and NDC held a technical meeting to advance implementation arrangements for Component 2, including confirming the NGO shortlist and the steps needed to complete selection, clarifying compliance requirements and oversight needs, and strengthening communications and readiness for stakeholder

outreach. In early December 2025, MoFP and MDLF conducted a detailed working session to review the use of cleared ESMF tools and annexes on actual subproject files, confirm ongoing training topics delivered to LGUs, and review the operational pipeline and reporting timelines; this included discussion of the volume of subproject proposals received, the status of ongoing and preapproved subprojects, the workflow for data collection and results reporting, and the functioning of grievance uptake at municipal level with an identified gap at village council level, where additional support is needed and where a simple GM brochure was considered as a practical awareness tool. Later in December, MoFP and NDC convened a focused session on strengthening the stakeholder engagement approach with implementing NGOs, including agreeing on consultation methods, communication and awareness tools, feedback mechanisms, a six-month capacity building plan for NGOs on E&S requirements, strengthened screening procedures for eligibility and beneficiary selection, and support for NGOs to establish or strengthen internal grievance mechanisms. Finally, MoFP conducted orientations with line ministries involved under Component 3 to ensure consistent application of ESF requirements, including sessions that reviewed the ESS requirements, clarified grievance handling workflows and timeframes, mapped capacity building needs, and discussed the development of ministry level M&E and capacity building plans, while also reinforcing requirements on labor management compliance and good practice on waste management and exclusion list application within supported activities. These engagements, together with the documented minutes and follow-up actions, have informed the project SEP's implementation approach. Details of the engagement and consultation meetings conducted are available in Annex I.

Summary of Stakeholder Engagement Conducted During the AF Preparation

Stakeholder engagement during preparation of the SRJCP Additional Financing (AF) built on the ongoing coordination arrangements established under the SRJC project. These engagements were used to validate the AF readiness priorities, confirm implementation arrangements, and ensure the AF E&S instruments and monitoring systems remain fit for purpose as the project scales up.

Given that the AF is designed as a scale-up of the ongoing project, several implementation support engagements in late 2025 also included AF-related discussions, in particular on confirming the scale-up approach and oversight needs; identifying the remaining NGOs and additional subprojects expected to be financed under the AF; strengthening outreach to ensure women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are effectively reached; and updating and disclosing the relevant E&S instruments (including the SEP and ESCP) to support the expanded scope.

In this context, a meeting held on 25 November 2025 between the PMU, MoFP and NDC included AF scale-up readiness, including reviewing AF requirements by updating the project's E&S instruments (i.e., the SEP and ESCP) and improving NGOs outreach to engage beneficiaries including women, PwD and other vulnerable groups. On 3 December 2025, the PMU and MDLF reviewed application of cleared ESMF tools and discussed AF requirements in practice, including strengthening outreach to LGUs as additional subprojects are introduced.

Furthermore, and during an online consultation held by the PMU and NDC on 11 December 2025 to prepare the stakeholder engagement approach and readiness support to be applied with the targeted NGOs, the AF requirements were discussed, including the update of the E&S instruments, accelerating

the granting process for selected NGOs, and the required consultations with NGOs for the AF, as well as designing a method to improve NGOs feedback.

The PMU also held orientation sessions with the ministries engaged under Component 3 in mid-December 2025 to support AF readiness and consistent ESF application as interventions expand. On 14 December 2025, an orientation with MoLG covered the AF and using the ministry's employee feedback on the project proposal to enhance implementation. On 16 December 2025, an orientation with MoA also included discussion on the AF as done with MoLG; to use MoA's employees feedback on the project to address improvements in the E&S implementation for the project and the prospective AF, and to expand beneficiaries reach.

Furthermore, the MoFP conducted two bilateral phone-based stakeholder engagement consultations on January 11, 2026. The first consultation was held with organizations representing women, youth, persons with disabilities, and rural communities (including QADER, PARC, and REFORM). The discussion covered AF components, the stakeholder engagement approach, the GM (including SEA/SH referral pathways), and practical measures to enhance inclusion and reduce risks of social exclusion, including engagement through established community committees and approaches responsive to local norms. The second consultation was held with MDLF and NDC and focused on strengthening engagement with communities, workers, and beneficiaries under the AF. This included enhancing village councils' grievance handling capacity and ensuring the disclosure and application of the updated SEP and ESCP for the AF. Details of the engagement and consultation meetings conducted are available in Annex I.

Information Disclosure/Beneficiary Feedback

Similar to the project, information disclosure and feedback under the AF will rely on MoFP's existing communication channels and established processes under the project SEP, with a stronger focus on reaching vulnerable and marginalized groups. The MoFP will continue to use its official communication platforms, including its Facebook page (Arabic as the default, and bilingual as needed), to announce key project milestones, and any relevant changes related to the AF.

To support two-way communication and responsiveness, the SEP will be revised and updated as necessary during project implementation. Semi-annually summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries, and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the project managers.

Specific mechanisms to report back to the stakeholders include (but not limited) to the following: non-technical summaries, updates on SEP disclosed on project page, news announcements through local media, social media posts, videos, interviews, and articles. This reporting back to the stakeholders will be done on an annual basis.

The PMU will monitor and respond to public inquiries received through official channels, and will route any issues that constitute grievances to the project GM intake channels. This approach will be used to reduce information gaps, respond to questions from different stakeholder categories, and strengthen feedback loops during implementation, consistent with the SEP's approach to ongoing consultation and disclosure.

Official project documents will continue to be disclosed through MoFP channels in line with ESF requirements, including the AF SEP Addendum, the updated ESCP, and any updated environmental and

social instruments. In addition, stakeholders will be reminded of the GM and its electronic intake options through the MoF website "Contact Us" grievance form and the government e-complaints portal. This development follows recent changes in the structure of the Palestinian Government. According to the Presidential Decree, No 26, issued on December 15, 2025[3], the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) was re-merged with the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Grievance Redress

The SRJCP Grievance Mechanism (GM) will continue to be used for the Additional Financing (AF) and as detailed in the project SEP. Additionally, a parallel workers' GM has been established at the MDLF,NDC, and MoFP which shall be maintained and operated for the project and AF as described in the ESMF and project SEP and in line with the environmental and social standard 2 (ESS2).

The SRJCP continues to apply a project Grievance Mechanism (GM) that is accessible to all project stakeholders, including beneficiaries and communities, participating local government units (LGUs), NGOs and CBOs, project workers, and any other parties that may be affected by, or have concerns related to, project activities. In line with the project's implementation arrangements, the GM is implemented at three levels: (i) Component 1 through the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) and participating local government units (LGUs), (ii) Component 2 through the NGO Development Center (NDC) and beneficiary NGOs, and (iii) Component 3 through the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) Project Management Unit (PMU). The GM includes provisions for handling SEA/SH-related complaints safely and confidentially, with survivor-centered referral through the national GBV referral system and relevant ministries (including MoSD). The recent institutional change at the MoFP applies to the current Grievance Mechanism (GM) uptake, whereby the MoF website will serve as the primary electronic channel for receiving grievances and concerns. In addition, the existing grievance/complaint unit at MoFP and a dedicated email address has been established to handle SRJCP-related complaints MoFP's current website can be accessed through: https://pmof.ps/. The updated ESCP for the AF requires the project to publicize, maintain, and operate the GM throughout implementation, ensuring it is readily accessible at no cost and without retribution, and that it remains equipped to receive and respond to SEA/SH-related grievances in a safe and confidential manner.

Grievances can be submitted through any of the channels below. Complaints received at any level will be routed to the relevant implementing party (LGU/MDLF, NGO/NDC, or MoFP) depending on where the issue relates, with follow up and oversight by the MoFP PMU Social Specialist in coordination with MDLF and NDC.

1. Component 1 (MDLF and participating LGUs)

- MDLF phone: 02-2426610/2
- LGU/locality channels: based on each LGU's capacities and location
- MDLF online complaint option: via the MDLF website : https://www.mdlf.org.ps/ar/home/complain

2. Component 2 (NDC and beneficiary NGOs)

- NDC phone: 02-2347771/5

[3] قرار بقانون رقم (26) لسنة 2025م بشأن دمج وزارتي المالية والتخطيط والتعاون الدولي-فلسطين

- NDC email intake: compliants@ndc.ps
- NGO-level GM: each implementing NGO will maintain a functional GM (with a committee) for project-related complaints

3. Component 3 (MoFP)

- Mobile: +972593327712
- Email intake: SRJC_Complaintes@MOPIC.GOV.PS
- In person: MoFP office, Ramallah, Al-Masyoun Ministers Complex
- Complaints Unit at MoFP's PMU: phone +970 (2) 297 8830 ext. 3301, email ikhlasbader2018@gmail.com.
- Centralized government complaints portal: cs.pmo.gov.ps

These channels remain active and are used in parallel with the Ministry's engagement on social media.

All grievances are logged and tracked in a GM matrix/log (including reference number, date received, complainant details when provided, description, actions taken, and status). At Component 1 level, LGUs log and process complaints through the relevant LGU department and the project engineer, with tracking in the GM matrix. At Component 2 level, implementing NGOs resolve project-level grievances through their GM committees, in close coordination with NDC, with complaints logged and tracked. At Component 3 level, complaints are registered and forwarded to the relevant MoFP Directorate General depending on the nature of the complaint, with tracking by the PMU Social Specialist.

Indicative timelines in the project SEP include acknowledging receipt within three business days for Component 1 complaints (aligned with LGU public service procedures), and within two business days for Components 2 and 3. Verification and proposed corrective actions are targeted within 14 business days, and progress on GM implementation is tracked through monthly reporting from LGUs to MDLF under Component 1, and from selected NGOs to NDC under Component 2, while NDC and MDLF report to MoFP/PMU on a semi-annual basis. This is the same approach as mentioned in the project..

- **SEA/SH-sensitive grievances**: SEA/SH-related complaints are handled with confidentiality and a survivor-centered approach. The project does not pursue investigation of SEA/SH cases; instead, it facilitates safe referral through the national GBV referral system and relevant institutions, and ensures that GM personnel are trained and that the GM has appropriate features (including options for anonymity and secure referral). Further details are avaible in the project SEP.
- **Workers' GM:** The project SEP confirms the same ESS2 approach, while reflecting current institutional arrangements: MDLF will continue operating its functional workers' GM and ensure LGUs establish and operate a workers' GM at subproject level; NDC will update and apply its Workers' GM manual and ensure partner NGOs establish a workers' GM; and at MoFP level (and with beneficiary partners), a workers' GM is established and maintained to receive project worker grievances including compensation, discrimination, OHS and GBV/SEA/SH, with monitoring oversight by the MoFP Social Specialist for Components 1 and 2. For full procedures, intake channels, and processing steps, refer to the Project SEP.
- **World Bank Grievance Redress Service**: In addition to the project-level GM, communities and individuals who believe they are adversely affected may submit complaints to the World Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS) and the independent World Bank Accountability Mechanism:

https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service.

Annex I: Summary of Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Meeting Topic	Stakeholders / Attendees	Date	Venue	No. of Attendees	Key Discussion Points
Consultation Between MoLG & MoFP Introduction of project components and consultation with MoLG during the design phase.	Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) Ministry of Finance and Planning and (MoFP) Deputy Minister, G.D of Projects, G.D of Training department, MoLG Consultant, from MoFP WB Portfolio Manager and Social Safeguards Specialist	08/01/2025	MoLG Headquarters-Ramallah	6	• MoLG welcomed the project objectives and expressed willingness to support its implementation, either through MDLF or in collaboration with other stakeholders. • MoLG will propose priority interventions under Component 1 (labor-intensive) for further discussion with MoFP. • MoFP will develop and share a data collection template to gather relevant information. • MoLG will compile a table of proposed activities to outline key interventions and identify priority areas for implementation.
Consultation Focus Group with Women Representing NGOs and Organizations	• MoFP • World Bank • MoL • NDC • NGOs; BWF, RWDS, PFE, Shufat Women Center, PWWSD, Nabi Samuel Women Cooperative, Inash Al Usra, ASALA, WATC, MO	19/01/2025	Ramallah, Ministries Complex, PSI Building, First Floor Meeting Room	*23*	• Assessment of the capacity of women's organizations, particularly in relation to the project's activities. • Women-led Micro, small, medium establishments and the sectors they mostly operate within. • Challenges faced by women-led businesses, including access to finance, high loan interest rates, lack of bank programs for agriculture, export barriers, and competition with Israeli markets. • Integration of women in non-traditional sectors. • Policy and advocacy efforts on women rights, socio-economic empowerment, and GBV (SEA / SH), among others. • Activities provided by women organizations, including awareness campaigns, vocational trainings, addressing GBV and economic-GBV, women rights, cooperatives support, and agricultural support, among others. • Importance of capacity building in safe farming, OHS, and organic production for women-led cooperatives. • The E&S and OHS capacity of women organizations, including on job trainings, existing policies and plans, farming safe and best practices, and OHS. • Grievance Mechanisms at their operational levels, and with their beneficiaries and partners, including GBV (SEA / SH) referral pathways. • Tailored financial tools and grants to support micro and small businesses. • Need for enhanced product quality, packaging, and certification to access broader markets. • Significant barriers for women in marginalized areas, including mobility restrictions and infrastructure challenges. • The budgets and fiscal situations of these organizations and their capacities.
Consultation Focus Group with Agricultural and Rural Development NGOs and Organizations	• MoFP • World Bank • MoA • NDC • MoL • Agricultural NGOs; Arab Center for Agricultural Development (ACAD), Farmers Union,	19/01/2025	Ramallah, Ministries Complex, PSI Building, First Floor Meeting Room	*15*	• Identification of agricultural programs and projects supported by NGOs. • Discussion on the role of women and persons with disabilities in agricultural activities, highlighting challenges such as financing barriers, marketing difficulties, and limited access to Area C. • Discussion on the potential interventions under the project in the sector. • Integration of women and vulnerable groups in the sector through capacity building, resources, and financing.

	Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG), Maan Development Center, Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC), Land Research Center, Unionof Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Palestinian Farmers Union (PFU)				• Importance of environmental and social capacities, including OHS guidelines, organic and safe farming practices, green and circular economies. • Challenges faced by agricultural stakeholders, including the lack of farmer protection policies, water scarcity, climate change impacts, and restricted development in Area C. • Recommendations for enhancing OHS practices, including capacity building and integrating environmental considerations into agricultural projects. • Calls for improved institutional capacity, particularly through the appointment of environmental and social focal points at MoFP and NDC. • Grievance Mechanisms at their operational levels, and with their beneficiaries and partners, including GBV (SEA / SH) referral pathways.
Consultation with GBV organization Representative	• MoFP • SAWA	26/01/2025	Bi-lateral Phone Consultation	*2*	• The bi-lateral consultation aimed to discuss the project components, development objectives, ESF tools including the SEP and stakeholder engagement, the GM, and referral pathways for GBV (SEA / SH) as well as the applicable E&S risks and the proposed ESF instruments and mitigation measures. • An update on SAWA's interventions and ongoing activities in relation to women protection and prevention of SEA / SH. • Consultation on the design and components, social risks, and mitigation measures relevant to the project and particularly component 2. • SAWA's GBV (SEA / SH) referral mechanism and its relevance under Component 2 of the project. • The operational structure for referrals, and coordination with implementing agencies and awarded NGOs. • The importance of having established SEA/SH reporting procedures and raising awareness of referral mechanisms among stakeholders.
Consultation with PWD organization Representative	• MoFP • Qader for Community Development	26/01/2025	Bi-lateral Phone Consultation	*2*	• The bi-lateral consultation aimed to discuss the project components, development objectives, ESF tools including the SEP and stakeholder engagement, the GM, and referral pathways for GBV (SEA / SH) as well as the applicable E&S risks and the proposed ESF instruments and mitigation measures. • Presentation of Qader's economic empowerment and employment database for PwD, developed in collaboration with MoL. • Introduction to Qader's e-portal, featuring information, studies, laws, and policies relevant to PwD, as a resource for project stakeholders. • Discussion on the potential roles and interventions Qader could provide in relation to the project. • Social risks relevant to PWD and relevant mitigation measures and management tools.
2 Orientation workshops (one for village councils and one for municipalities)	Village and municipality councils' members	July-2025			• Overview of project requirements, including a detailed presentation on environmental and social (E&S) aspects related to the preparation and implementation of sub-projects. • Status of the screening process and pre-approval of sub-projects, covering 107 municipal sub-projects and 5 village council sub-projects. • Procurement approach for pre-approved sub-projects, including the use of framework standard procurement documents for the supply of materials and equipment, prepared by LGUs with support from MDLF consultants. • Integration of environmental and social requirements within the Grievance Information and Access (GM) mechanism and workers' contracts. • Deployment and geographic coverage of (LTCs),

					organized into three clusters (North, Middle, and South), with one environmental and social consultant assigned to each cluster.
Workshop to review and discuss feedback from technical committee on the selection process of beneficiary NGOs	Civil society organization, MoFP, NDC, WB	June/2025		*130*	• Review and discussion of the Technical Committee's feedback on the beneficiary NGOs selection process. • Discussion of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including its implementation as a six-month rolling plan. • Cascading of environmental and social (E&S) screening procedures and mitigation measures from MoFP, NDC, and NGOs down to beneficiaries to enhance sustainability and minimize the risk of incidents. • Presentation of NDC's comprehensive E&S action plan, including capacity building for NGOs and focal points on activity screening and assessment, preparation of E&S requirements at the beneficiary level, and ensuring beneficiaries' full understanding of work requirements, occupational health and safety, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation.
ESMF orientation session		25/6/2025	Online Meeting (ZOOM)-MoFP	*65*	The workshop was conducted through three structured sessions, as detailed in the workshop agenda. The sessions focused on introducing the project and discussing key environmental and social aspects relevant to its implementation, as outlined below: Session One: Presented by MoFP's PMU: • Introduction to the project, including its background and overall scope. • Discussion of the project's main objectives and expected outcomes. • Overview of the project components and how they are linked to implementation activities. • Explanation of the project management structure, including roles and responsibilities of the involved institutions. • Session Two: Presented by World Bank–Hired Consultants • Discussion of the applicable national environmental and social laws, as well as the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). • Introduction to the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including its purpose and key requirements. • Identification and discussion of the expected environmental and social risks associated with project activities. • Review of the plans, procedures, and mitigation measures to be applied for effective environmental and social management. • Explanation of information disclosure mechanisms to ensure transparency and stakeholder awareness. • Discussion of the project's complaints and grievance redress mechanism, including procedures for receiving and addressing complaints.
E&S kick- off meeting	WB, MDLF, NDC, and MoFP	26/8/2025	MoFP Building	*7*	Project Overview: • Partners were welcomed, and an overview of the project's three components and key achievements to date was presented. • Environmental and Social (E&S) documents developed and disclosed so far, including the SEP, ESCP, GM, and LALF were reviewed, with particular focus on the Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF). Environmental and Social Compliance:

					• Appreciation was expressed for partners' efforts in implementing the project in line with E&S requirements. Emphasis was placed on proper documentation throughout all phases of project implementation, in accordance with approved E&S procedures. Documentation Review: • MDLF and NDC were requested to submit sample agreements and relevant project documents to the World Bank team for review and approval. Stakeholder Engagement and GM: • The importance of stakeholder engagement, disclosure of project documents, and effective operation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GM) was highlighted. MDLF Comments on ESMF: • MDLF raised key comments related to solid waste management (generation, separation, and recycling), assignment of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) responsibilities at LGU level, and the requirement for MDLF clearance prior to procurement. Agreed Actions on ESMF Comments: • Solid waste separation and reuse/recycling to be applied where feasible. • OHS responsibilities to be assigned to an existing engineer rather than hiring new staff. • MDLF clearance to be obtained prior to procurement, as stipulated in the ESMF. • Environmental and social clauses to be incorporated into procurement agreements. Capacity Building: • MDLF staff conducted an orientation session for the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) to support effective project implementation. Project Status Update: • The project is currently in the evaluation phase for selecting implementing NGOs. It was also confirmed that an Environmental and Social Specialist was appointed on 20 August.
Review of the mission outcomes and next steps	MoFP, World Bank, MDLF	20/11/2025	MoFP/PMU office	*7*	• Continue document simplification. • Strengthen GM structure. • Address urban planning-related access issues. • Improve contractor reporting. • Conduct ES risk screening and mitigation. • Enhance OHS practices and inspections. • Draft capacity building action plan. • Conduct environmental & social audits.
Shortlisting NGOs and take the steps to finalize remaining NGOs to be funded under AF	PMU, MoFP, NDC	25/11/2025	MoFP Building	*8*	• Shortlist NGOs finalized; remaining NGOs to be funded under AF. • Compliance with MoI; WB to send official letter. • Discussion on audit ToR and fiscal-year alignment. Procurement, networking, communication, and implementation arrangements. • Oversight needs due to project size. • Preparation for information sessions. • Reviewed AF requirements by updating the SEP and ESCP and improving NGOs outreach to engage beneficiaries including women, and people with disability and other vulnerable groups.

Orientation and revision of the E&S, and monitoring requirement	MDLF and MoFP	3/12/2025	MDLF Office	*7*	• The environmental specialist oversees the commitment of MDLF in using the approved annexes in the cleared ESMF. Samples were reviewed for actual subprojects. (Observation: they use the form "Annex 1: screening form" in this stage • Also, the environmental and social specialist checked the list of training that MDLF is carrying out. "Observation: yes, there is are list of trainings in several topics such as health and safety, stakeholder engagement, and other topics." • The main outputs for the implementation phase to this moment were: 1. The MDLF received 460 subproject proposals: 183 proposals from the municipalities and 277 proposals from the local councils. 2. There are 5 ongoing projects 3. There are 117 preapproval projects, expected to be ongoing by the end of this month or the first week of January 2026 4. MDLF is committed to submitting the semiannual report by the mid of Jan 2026, so MoFP will have enough time to consolidate the overall report for all project components 5. The MoFP/PMU monitoring and evaluation specialist discussed the workflow of data collection and getting the results documented in the framework 6. The MoFP specialist provided an overview of the grievance system and its operational process. The MDLF highlighted that municipalities have an established grievance mechanism, including a clear system and complaint boxes. However, a gap remains at the village council level, where additional support is needed to strengthen grievance handling. It was also noted that the GM brochure can be launched as a simple tool to raise individual and community awareness about the complaint submission process. 7. The MoFP/PMU M&E specialist discussed the workflow of data collection and getting the results documented in the framework. 8. The PMU M&E Specialist reviewed the Project indicators and the M&E requirements with the MDLF Planning and M&E Manager. 9. The MoFP/PMU M&E Specialist also reviewed and discussed the reporting template, Data collection Sheet to be shared and agreed upon, and the beneficiaries' satisfaction assessment. 10. The MoFP/PMU Social Specialist discussed the complaints system and how we can launch the Brochure 11. Discussed the requirement of the AF, including updating the SEP and ESCP, and enhancing outreach to LGUs to strengthen engagement with workers, community members, and other affected parties for additional sub-projects.
Consultation session "Preparation of the SEP.	MoFP/PMU, NDC	11/12/2025	Online Meeting/PMU office	*3*	• The team discussed the development of an SEP that will outline the tools and methods for engagement with the 11 targeted NGOs implementing project interventions. • The SEP will include consultation approaches, awareness sessions, communication methods, and feedback mechanisms. Six-Month Capacity Building Plan: • A proposed capacity building plan will be designed to enhance the readiness of the targeted NGOs in meeting the Environmental and Social requirements. • The plan will cover topics such as grievance

					mechanisms, social inclusion, compliance with E&S standards, and other essential components. Screening Process for Project Eligibility: • The meeting reviewed the required E&S screening procedures for assessing project proposals and beneficiary selection. • The objective is to ensure that all submitted project activities meet the environmental and social safeguards. Development of Grievance Mechanisms (GM) within Targeted NGOs: • The participants agreed on the need to support the NGOs in establishing or strengthening their internal grievance mechanisms. • The aim is to enhance accountability, improve responsiveness, and increase awareness of proper grievance handling. Preparation of Awareness Presentations: • It was agreed to prepare a series of presentations covering key awareness topics including: • Environmental and Social requirements • Grievance Mechanism (GM) • Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and protection considerations • Stakeholder Engagement principles and practices. Accelerate the granting process for the selected NGOs, implement SEP activities, conduct the required consultation with NGOs regarding the AF, and design a method to improve NGO feedback.
Orientation Session on Environmental and Social Requirements	MoLG, MoFP/PMU	14/12/2025	MoLG Building	5	Environmental and Social Orientation: • The Environmental and Social (E&S) Specialists conducted an orientation session to raise awareness on the implications of the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). The session covered the ten ESSs and clarified the requirements and specifications for applying these standards throughout the implementation of project interventions. • Awareness Session on Environmental and Social Standards: A brief awareness session was delivered to highlight the importance of the Environmental and Social Standards in strengthening the protection of affected beneficiaries and local communities and in ensuring responsible and sustainable project implementation. Capacity Building Needs Assessment: • Mapping exercise conducted to identify the capacity-building needs of MoLG employees. • Focus on strengthening operational capacity through enhanced knowledge in environmental and social requirements, grievance mechanisms, procurement, and other relevant areas. Grievance Mechanism Follow-up: • The E&S Specialist introduced the Grievance Mechanism approved by the World Bank and explained the grievance process, including the grievance handling workflow, management procedures, required timeframes, and mechanisms for providing feedback to complainants. • Agreed to meet with the Grievance and Complaints Unit to follow up on the effectiveness of the grievance mechanism across ministry units and departments. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System Development: • Development of an M&E system to enhance MoLG's operational capacity. • Process will involve internal and cross-departmental

					consultations to incorporate feedback from various MoLG units and departments. • The system will serve as a tool to improve operational efficiency and accountability. Capacity Building Plan: • The Environmental & Social (E&S) Specialist will develop a comprehensive six-month capacity-building plan (Jan–June 2025). • The plan will include targeted training for MoLG employees on topics related to environmental and social requirements, grievance mechanisms, procurement processes, and other project-relevant areas. • The training will aim to address identified capacity gaps and strengthen the operational effectiveness of MoLG staff. Discussion on ongoing efforts to assign three employees to support MoLG operations. • These employees will assist the Minister's office, Deputy Minister's office, and the project coordinator in coordinating project activities within the ministry framework. The E&S Specialist emphasized that the assignment of employees must be carried out in full compliance with the Labor Management Procedures (Annex 7), as outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Reviewed the AF using ministry employee feedback on the project MoLG proposal and identified key requirements to close gaps in the current implementation plan.
Orientation Session on Environmental and Social Requirements	MoA, MoFP/PMU	16/12/2025	MoA Building	*4*	Review of Interventions Plan in Line with ESF and ESCP: • The meeting discussed and reviewed the proposed project interventions in alignment with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). • It was agreed that these frameworks will be applied throughout project implementation, with close coordination and continuous engagement with the Environmental and Social (E&S) Specialists/PMU/MoFP. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP): • The requirements for preparing and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan were discussed. • The plan will define consultation approaches, feedback mechanisms, and partnership modalities with stakeholders to ensure meaningful engagement. This process aims to keep beneficiaries well informed and to strengthen transparency and accountability among all stakeholders. Grievance Mechanism (GM): • The Social Specialist highlighted the importance of an effective Grievance Mechanism to ensure that all complaints and concerns are addressed within defined timeframes. • MoA clarified that it has an existing complaints unit that operates as part of the national governmental grievance mechanism. MoA also committed to disseminating information on the grievance process and available tools to targeted farmer beneficiaries during upcoming information and orientation sessions. Orientation on Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs): • A detailed explanation of the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) was provided, outlining the key environmental and social requirements

					for implementing the interventions by MoA. The session emphasized the need to identify, avoid, and mitigate potential environmental and social risks. • The Environmental Specialist stressed the importance of ensuring that selected farmers either own the land or hold valid rental agreements, that project activities do not restrict access to natural resources, and that surrounding communities are not adversely affected. Waste Management Compliance: • The meeting confirmed that all procurement activities, including cartons and plastic boxes for farmers' products, must comply with the project's Waste Management Plan. In addition, awareness will be raised among employees and beneficiaries on avoiding the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides that could cause environmental or health risks. Capacity Building Requirements (Action Point): • Based on the discussions, MoA is required to identify and propose capacity-building topics aligned with environmental and social requirements. These topics will be shared with the E&S Specialists to support the development of a targeted capacity-building plan and related training activities. Project Exclusion List (Costs Not Covered by the Project): • Fertilizers and pesticides. • Activities that negatively affect natural resources. • Activities that lead to Land acquisition. Reviewed the AD using ministry employee feedback on the project MoA proposal, addressing improvements to the ES application and the expansion of beneficiaries compared to the proposal.
Consultation with Women, youth, PWD and rural communities. organization Representative	• MoFP • Qader for Community Development • PARC • REFORM	11/01/2026	Bi-lateral Phone Consultation	4	• The bi-lateral consultation aimed to discuss and review the AF, project components, development objectives, ESF tools including the SEP and stakeholder engagement, the GM, referral pathways for GBV (SEA/SH), applicable E&S risks, and proposed ESF instruments and mitigation measures. • REFORM and PARC representatives emphasized the importance of engaging rural community members throughout AF preparation and implementation through established community committees, with a particular focus on women and youth, who are underrepresented in local decision-making. • REFORM highlighted the role of local culture and the need to consider it carefully to mitigate risks of exclusion, particularly for women, youth, and other vulnerable social groups. • Qader talked about their economic empowerment and employment database for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), developed in collaboration with MoL. • Discussion on potential roles and interventions that Qader could provide in relation to the project, including enhancing engagement of PwD in project activities. • Social risks relevant to PwD were discussed, along with mitigation measures and management tools.

• **Consultation with MDLF and NDC**	• MoFP • MDLF • NDC	• 11/01/2026	• Bi-lateral Phone Consultation	• 3	• MDLF and NDC will continue their efforts to enhance engagement with communities, workers, and beneficiaries who will benefit from the grants, particularly in the development of ESMEs. • Both institutions will engage with targeted communities and beneficiaries through LGUs and NGOs to support AF implementation, taking feedback into account and adapting corrective or adaptive measures as needed. • The AF will expand the development of LGU sub-projects and improve public services. NDC will also increase the number of selected NGOs to reach and benefit more women and Persons with Disabilities (PwD). • The AF presents an opportunity to include additional actors, such as new NGOs with innovative approaches, to enhance women's and PwD's skills in managing small projects and to support marginalized families. • MDLF will continue developing the capacity of village councils in receiving, handling, and managing grievances through the Grievance Mechanism (GM), including SEA/SH incidents, and raise awareness on GM-related issues. • To improve MDLF's efforts in strengthening village councils' capacity on GM, they will cooperate with existing E&S consultants to support LGUs in ensuring proper uptake, handling, and timely response to grievances, mitigating potential risks, and applying corrective or adaptive measures as needed. • NDC and MDLF will use and disclose the updated SEP and ESCP for the AF to ensure transparency and proper stakeholder engagement.