



**FACT SHEET**

**WATER RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

**Infrastructure Needs Program (INP)**

**PROJECT PROFILE**

**JANUARY 2011**



*Salem CO-ED Elementary School, one of seven schools built under the INP in time for the 2009 school year.*

**Project Overview**

Since 1994, USAID has provided \$670 million in assistance to Palestinians to implement infrastructure projects. The \$300 million Infrastructure Needs Program (INP) was launched in 2008 to provide critical infrastructure that promotes economic growth, improves quality of life for Palestinians in the West Bank and helps the Palestinian Authority (PA) address both immediate and long-term infrastructure needs. INP projects include the construction and rehabilitation of roads, water systems and distribution networks, wastewater systems, schools, and other required facilities as the Palestinian Authority prepares for its role in a future Palestinian state. These projects create desperately needed jobs which bolster local economic activity. Should political and security conditions permit, this program will implement similar projects in the Gaza Strip.

**Goals**

- Provide essential infrastructure projects to support a viable Palestinian state.
- Provide critical support to PA ministries and agencies that focus on infrastructure operation and maintenance issues.
- Hire experienced personnel to join Palestinian firms and train local engineers and project managers on U.S. design, construction, and safety standards and protocols.
- Provide significant employment opportunities to Palestinian workers.

**Activities**

The INP constructs and rehabilitates critical infrastructure throughout the West Bank. Roads projects are designed to create and link transportation networks to spur economic growth in the targeted area. As a result of INP roads programs, residents and businesses can transport their goods and services more easily throughout the West Bank. Quality of life for Palestinians also improves as residents are able to travel more easily to neighboring towns and villages.

The INP is addressing the present water crisis by improving the Palestinian water system. The average Palestinian family is living on 60 liters of water per capita per day (l/c/d) with many Palestinians living on as little as 30 l/c/d (the World Health Organization suggests 120 l/c/d for people in developing nations; water consumption in the United States is approx. 500 l/c/d). While 88 percent of Palestinians receive potable water in their homes, the water supply is not consistent; shortfalls are covered by the collection of rain water in residential cisterns or by the purchase of water from commercial tanker trucks or private enterprises. INP is mitigating these water shortages by providing new, upgraded water networks, and by drilling new water wells.

**CHALLENGES**

- Lack of contiguous road networks which impact economic and social activity.
- Insufficient residential potable water sources.
- Protracted GOI approvals to transport materials and equipment into the West Bank.
- Lack of safe travel and access to essential services and economic activities.
- Delays in PWA land acquisition for funded projects.



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*Asphalt being applied to a new road in Tulkarem.*

Women in particular have benefited from the employment opportunities created by the INP project. Through the Employment and Professional Enrichment Program, INP enhances the professional competencies of recent graduates and provides them with practical engineering work experience, thereby increasing their employability for both local and international jobs.

With significant INP-funded construction underway in the West Bank, many of the best and brightest Palestinian engineers, planners, and managers previously working abroad on construction projects are returning to the West Bank and are able to find gainful employment in their home country.

#### Successes

- Completion of the Al Dahriyeh Al Ramadeen Road has increased trade dramatically between once-isolated Al Dahriyeh and the neighboring Israeli city of Beer Sheva. Over the next 20 years it is expected that more than 17 million vehicles will travel on this road.
- In 2009, 17 projects were completed including seven schools, 63 kilometers of asphalt roads, and two water system projects benefiting more than 1 million Palestinians.
- 2010 saw the reconstruction of 33 roads totaling 160 kilometers; construction of a new water transmission line extending existing bulk water supply system; construction of four new water distribution systems and four new water reservoirs, and procurement of 199 kilometers of small and large diameter steel water pipes. These projects benefit more than 1.4 million Palestinians.
- Projects continuing into 2011 include the reconstruction of 19 roads totaling 111 kilometers; the rehabilitation of nine well pumping stations; and the construction of five new water wells and three new water reservoirs.
- Projects completed in 2009 generated more than 140,000 person-days of employment and more than 290,000 days of employment in 2010.
- In 2010, USAID launched the FORSA/Employment and Professional Enrichment Program to provide professional internships to more than 100 Palestinian recent university graduates with American firms in the West Bank.
- USAID's implementing partners have hired 22 female engineers under INP, representing approximately 20 percent of the engineers under this program.

#### Project Detail

Multiple Implementing Partners: IRD, APCO/Arcon, Morganti, AIC; Life of Project: 08/20/2008-08/19/2013; Total Estimated Cost: \$300,000,000.

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