

Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation Kit



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Cover photo: Jewish and Arab children playing soccer in Israel as part of a coexistence program

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ABOUT TIP

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last six years there has been a real drive to improve relations on the ground between Israelis and Palestinians living and working in the West Bank. Much of this progress can be attributed to Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and the easing of trade and physical barriers.¹

Part of the success is also a result of the funding the Palestinian Authority (PA), the administrative body tasked with running the West Bank, receives from the United States, Europe and other donors.

There has been more than \$3 billion in direct foreign donor assistance to the PA's budget since 2007. PA Prime Minister Fayyad *reduced* foreign aid from \$1.8 billion in 2008, to \$1.1 billion in 2010, and has said that the PA "will gradually wean" itself from such funding by 2013.²

Under the guidance of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the PA has also become partner to Israel in facilitating international projects in the West Bank and in helping Gaza to export more goods.³

- The **West Bank and Gaza's economy (combined) grew approximately 7 percent in 2010**, according to the International Monetary Fund. Much of the progress is attributed to better security and improved cooperation between the PA and Israel.
- **Freedom of movement** has increased between Israel and the West Bank: visitors who arrived during Christmas 2010, for example, were offered free shuttles between Jerusalem and Bethlehem in order to ensure an easier voyage between the two holy cities.
- Israel received 1,500 applications from Gazans for **healthcare in Israel** since the start of 2011, representing a 63 percent increase from 2010. Eighty percent of the applicants were approved by April 2011.
- Israel is helping Palestinians facilitate a positive business environment: in February 2011 approximately **800 businessmen from Gaza traveled abroad for business**, according to the Israeli unit that handles cooperation between Gaza, the West Bank and Israel.
- Gaza is famous for its agricultural products. Israel, The World Bank, the PA and other organizations are **working to increase the number and types of goods** exported from Gaza.

Israel's Civil Administration

Under the interim agreements of the 1993 Oslo Accords, the West Bank is divided into three portions: Area A, Area B and Area C.

In Areas A and B (approximately 40 percent of the West Bank region), most civil authorities are under PA control. These authorities coordinate closely with the Civil Administration, an Israeli unit tasked with the coordination and administration of civilian and humanitarian needs in the West Bank.

In Area C (60 percent of the West Bank, in which around 150,000 Palestinians reside), the Civil Administration acts as a liaison between Palestinian and Israeli authorities to promote common interests, working for the well-being of both the Israeli and Palestinian populations in the area.

The Civil Administration is part of a larger body, the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), a unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). It works with the PA in areas such as agriculture, industry, tourism, healthcare, water, security, religious affairs, waste disposal and building permits. Acting as the liaison between Israel and the PA, each branch is in constant communication

¹ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/west-bank-economy-heading-toward-growth-for-first-time-in-years-1.7967>

² Friedson, Felice, "Fayyad: PA to Wean Itself Off Foreign Aid by 2013," *The Jerusalem Post*, Feb. 16, 2011, <http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=208519&R=R3>

³ <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-14/west-bank-economy-grows-9-in-first-half-while-gaza-expands-16-imf-says.html>

with its Palestinian counterpart, local businesses and communities. The Civil Administration is made up of both military and civilian personnel; roughly two thirds are military officers.

This map illustrates Oslo II, designed to establish the groundwork for Palestinian self-rule. It designated the breakdown of Areas A, B and C (listed above). Major Jewish population centers may be part of any land-swap arrangement in a negotiated peace deal between the Israelis and Palestinians. The map is courtesy of Foundation for Middle East Peace.



PALESTINIAN-ISRAEL SECURITY COORDINATION

Increased cooperation between the IDF and the Palestinian security forces has brought greater stability to the region. The coordination is based on a mutual interest and understanding that terror poses a threat to stability for all in the region. IDF counter-terrorism teams that carry out pinpointed missions based on intelligence have also helped to thwart terrorist efforts.

Post-Intifada Security Coordination Successes

Coordination and cooperation have increased since the end of the second Palestinian uprising in the mid-2000s, especially since the U.S. and EU began taking a more active role in training the Palestinian security services. Their efforts have created a motivated and highly effective security apparatus, one that has proven to be a valuable ally to Israel. Recent events have only affirmed this.

"Coordination is better ... there is an improvement," said Palestinian Gen. Radi Assidi in an interview with the *Christian Science Monitor*. Assidi referred to Israeli army officers responsible for the Jenin region as "my counterparts."⁴ A high level of professionalism exists between the security services.

A report from March 2011 stated that "686 meetings were held between Israeli and PA commanders in 2010, an increase of 26 percent from the previous year."⁵ Cooperation is not just limited to terrorism, but basic law-enforcement jobs, such as policing forgery, drugs and even traffic regulations. Israeli and PA police officers were also said to have markedly increased their cooperation over the last year, with seminars on forensics, antiquity theft, car theft and community police operations.⁶

A report by the Israeli Coordinator for Activities in the Territories stated that "security coordination between Israel and the PA was broadened and the activities of the Palestinian security organizations in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) were expanded, leading to improved overall security and to an improved sense of security among Palestinians in Judea and Samaria."⁷ It is important to note that this opinion was expressed after the murder of five members of the Fogel family in the settlement of Itamar in the West Bank this March.

Security coordination continues to be an area where Israel and the PA cooperate effectively and relatively amicably. The relationship remains important, effectual and an example for the two sides to follow in areas outside of security. It is a promising basis for Israel and the PA to build on and proves their ability to work together, furthering the path to two states living in peace.

⁴ Mitnick, Joshua, "From intifada hub to model Palestinian city: How Jenin turned around," *The Christian Science Monitor*, Aug. 5, 2010, <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2010/0805/From-intifada-hub-to-model-Palestinian-city-How-Jenin-turned-around>

⁵ "Report: Palestinians stepping up cooperation," *The World Tribune*, Mar. 16, 2011, http://www.worldtribune.com/worldtribune/WTARC/2011/me_israel0294_03_16.asp

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

WEST BANK ECONOMY

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking to the American Task Force on Palestine on Oct. 21, 2010 reiterated the idea that **security and economic prosperity are linked** and that since the PA stepped up its internal security operations, the West Bank is more safe and prosperous.⁸

Confidence-building measures, including the longer operating hours for crossings and the improvement in security coordination were two key factors in the economic growth.

The Economics Branch of the Civil Administration has a Trade and Industry Office. It promotes economic growth in the West Bank by balancing security needs with the needs of the Palestinian and Israeli business community. It focuses on import-export activity from overseas, the facilitation of dual-use items into Palestinian territories and economic projects in Area C of the West Bank.

The Economics Branch initiates field visits and professional workshops for Palestinian businessmen in Israel—including seminars, promotion of Palestinian business ventures within Israel and trade fairs. The Economic Branch’s staff meets regularly with Palestinian Authority officials and representatives of international organizations promoting economic growth in the West Bank.

For example, all Palestinian import/export requests handed over to the Civil Administration’s Foreign Trade Coordinator are generally approved within 24 to 48 hours.⁹

Certain specialized construction goods, however, require an expert opinion for authorization. The Civil Administration therefore recruited an expert engineer in order to shorten the process to four days.

9 percent: growth in the West Bank’s economy in 2010

600: new business opened in Jenin in 2010; thousands opened all over the West Bank in the same time period. Thousands of new shops opened, including 600 new businesses in Jenin alone.

60 percent: projected growth in the West Bank’s economy by 2013.

\$858 million: estimated value of exports from the West Bank in 2010

30 percent: rise in property prices in Ramallah over the past two years

9 percent: fall in unemployment in the West Bank, from 18.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009 to 16.5 percent in the first quarter of 2010

The Civil Administration’s Economic Branch initiates field visits and professional workshops for Palestinian businessmen in Israel—including guided visits to Israel, seminars with Israeli government and promotion of Palestinian business ventures in Israeli trade fairs and exhibitions. It also meets regularly with PA officials and representatives of international organizations promoting economic growth in the West Bank.¹⁰

Projects undertaken in the last year include:

- (1) Extending operating hours for terminals and border crossing points
- (2) Expanding access to Israel for over 600 prominent Palestinian businessmen
- (3) Increasing work permits to over 50,000 collectively

In addition, work is underway in preparing the infrastructure for the PA’s first planned city, Rawabi.¹¹ The city, a model for future development with 5,000 housing

⁸ "Remarks to the American Task Force on Palestine," Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, U.S. Department of State, Oct. 20, 2010, <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/149766.htm>

⁹ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/03/10/confidence-building-measures-in-the-west-bank-and-the-impact-on-the-palestinian-economy/>

¹⁰ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2010/10/28/overview-and-activities-of-the-civil-administrations-trade-and-industry-office-28-oct-2010/>

units, is intended to be a high-tech and research hub.¹²

Other large industrial projects in the West Bank include the Ersal Center, which is "*the first modern commercial center in Palestine.*" The Ersal Center is planned near the twin Palestinian cities Al-Bireh and Ramallah and will include 66 percent office space for high-tech companies and recreational green spaces.



growth rate in construction of private and public properties.

More **tourists and jobs** are expected as the security and economic climate improve.

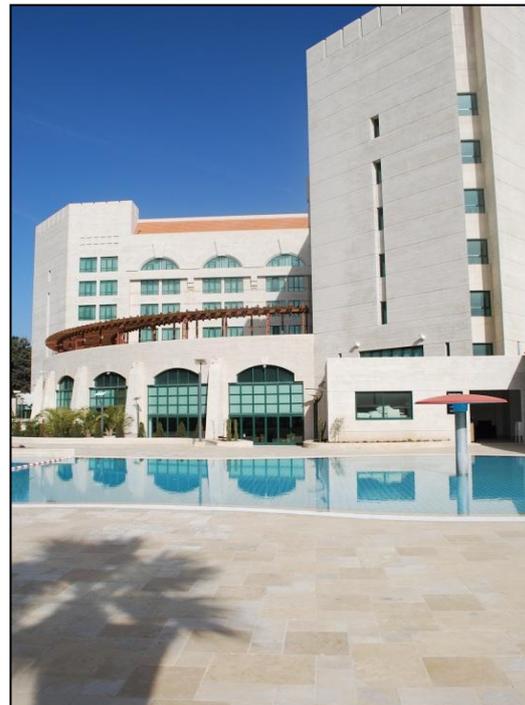
The U.S. also sponsored the Palestine Investment Conference in Bethlehem in the summer of 2010, which generated \$655 million for its high-growth economic sectors.¹⁷ Israel worked closely with the PA to enable the entrance of businessmen from Gaza, Syria and Lebanon for the conference.

Palestinian economic advisors stated that a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians would have a tremendously positive effect on the West Bank's economy.¹⁸

Ramallah is also experiencing a building "boom,"

Ramallah, the administrative capital of the PA located six miles north of Jerusalem, is experiencing a building boom. Property prices rose by 30 percent over the last two years.¹³ The PA is building new roads to deal with the influx of traffic. A \$500 million mortgage fund is also expected to further boost the economy and the residential property market.¹⁴

The West Bank had high rates of growth in 2010 - up from 7.2 percent in 2009, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported.¹⁵ The West Bank economy grew nine percent in the first half of 2010 while Gaza's economy expanded about 16 percent in that time period.¹⁶



Ramallah's brand new 5-star hotel. the Movendick.

¹¹ Rawabi Business District Website. Accessed Oct. 21, 2010, <http://www.rawabi.ps/work.php?link=0&page=work>

¹² "Building Rawabi," *The Jerusalem Post*, Sept. 3, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Editorials/Article.aspx?ID=170533>

¹³ "Ramallah building boom symbolizes West Bank growth," *Haaretz*, Aug. 2, 2010,

<http://www.haaretz.com/business/ramallah-building-boom-symbolizes-west-bank-growth-1.305544>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-14/west-bank-economy-grows-9-in-first-half-while-gaza-expands-16-imf-says.html>

¹⁷ "Remarks to the American Task Force on Palestine," Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, U.S. Department of State, Oct. 20, 2010, <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/149766.htm>

¹⁸ Ferziger, Jonathan, "Palestinian Economy May Grow 20%, Abbas Aide Says," *Bloomberg Business Week*, Aug. 4, 2010, <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-04/palestinian-economy-may-grow-20-abbas-aide-says.html>

and property prices rose 30 percent during the last two years. The PA is building new roads to deal with the influx of traffic.

The arrival of an international 5-star hotel in Ramallah, the administrative capital of the PA located six miles north of Jerusalem, is a testament to "*political stability*" that "*highlights economic growth in an area previously associated with Palestinian militancy,*" reported *The Guardian*.¹⁹

The hotel, the Movenpick Ramallah, is located a few minutes away from Ramallah's city center overlooking Jerusalem. It employs mainly local staff and has 172 rooms, pools, terraces, restaurants and business conference centers.

At the end of the second fiscal quarter of 2010, the number of hotel guests in the West Bank was up 42 percent compared to the same period in 2009²⁰. At present, peace talks between Israel and the PA are stalled but Israel has urged Abbas to rejoin direct talks to try to reach a final peace agreement. If peace talks fail, renewed resistance and economic and political uncertainty are likely, Palestinian-American businessman Sam Bahour told *The Guardian*.²¹



Today, although Palestinians still have many obstacles to overcome, it is easier than ever to envision an independent Palestine... More than 100 new companies were registered in the West Bank in August alone – everything from venture capital funds to local hardware stores.

The Palestinian people have many partners who are working and investing every day to improve life in the West Bank and Gaza and to help lay the foundations of a future state. Private companies, philanthropies and foundations, universities – all of them are contributing expertise, energy, and effort.

And our government remains fully committed. For example, last year we invested nearly \$2 million to upgrade and reopen the Jalameh crossing between Israel and the northern West Bank, adding new lanes and inspection sites.

As a result, the number of vehicles able to cross has steadily increased from zero to slightly – to roughly around 7,500 cars and buses per week. Now, this has had an impact: Arab Israeli shoppers spent an estimated \$12 million in Jenin this quarter. The markets are full and the streets are crowded and there's even a new movie theater.

-- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, addressing the American Task Force on Palestine, Oct. 2010

¹⁹<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/01/movenpick-ramallah-west-bank>

²⁰ <http://www.portlandtrust.org/publications/bulletins.html>

²¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/01/movenpick-ramallah-west-bank>



The stone factory in Bethlehem thrives on cooperation between Israel and the PA and creates Palestinian jobs as a result.

The improved security situation has helped spur large economic growth. These factors have resulted, for example, in a decline in the Palestinian unemployment rate (3% decrease in the first quarter of 2010 compared to previous year), an increasing GDP rate (9% in the first half of 2010), and continued construction, especially in Nablus and Bethlehem for social, cultural and economic purposes, including shopping malls, hotels, cinemas and cafes.²²

A positive example of cooperation is the successful stone factory in Bethlehem that Israel helped to open and setup more than two years ago. With over a hundred Palestinian employees, the factory manufactures and processes stone building blocks.

Nasri Mukarker, right, is the owner of the successful stone factory in Bethlehem.



²² <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/03/10/confidence-building-measures-in-the-west-bank-and-the-impact-on-the-palestinian-economy/>

INFRASTRUCTURE

Solid waste treatment



The Zahrat al-Finjan services communities in the northern West Bank. The picture above shows the installation of the sanitary lining at the waste site.

In order to address the growing demands of the West Bank's population and growing infrastructure, Israel, the PA and several international organizations cooperate on various infrastructure and quality-of-life projects.

In Areas B and C, which fall under Palestinian and Israeli jurisdiction, there are three solid waste disposal facilities either operating or currently under construction. They treat solid waste in a safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

One of them, Zahrat al-Finjan Solid Waste Site, was promoted by the World Bank and chosen as the most successful infrastructure project in the region for 2000-2009. It has been successfully operating since 2009.²³

The other projects - El-Minya and Ramun solid waste sites - are already underway. El-Minya will serve 700,000 Palestinians when it is fully constructed.

There are also two other professionally-run solid waste sites in the West Bank: the Abu-Dis and the Tovlan landfill.

Wastewater treatment

Israel has developed various techniques to deal with water scarcity – and one of these methods is reusing wastewater for farming. According to the IDF, “treated wastewater constitutes 72% of water used in Israeli agriculture, a percentage significantly higher than most developed nations in the world.”²⁴ However, the Palestinian sectors use nearly half of their water resources on agriculture. To remedy this, the Civil Administration works with international organizations and the Palestinian Water Authority to improve wastewater infrastructure in the West Bank.

Approximately a quarter of Palestinian sewage is treated by Israel each year and another eight percent is treated by the Palestinians. The chart to the right depicts progress that the Civil Administration is making to ensure the Palestinians' wastewater sector grows to be able to handle the needs of all residents and businesses.

Waste Water Sector Responses	
Project	Status
Dir Sharaf WWTP	Under Implementation
Hebron WWTP	Permit Order Issued 2003
Tulkarem Waste Water Network	Permit Order to be Issued before July 2011
Bitunia WWTP	Pending Submission of Building Permit Request
Salfit WWTP	Area B. No further permitting required from the Civil Administration
Nablus East WWTP	Area B. Master Plan Approved 1999 by the Civil Administration. No further permitting required by the Civil Administration.
Bethlehem West WWTP	Endorsed by the Civil Administration. Pending submission of Feasibility Study.

²³ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/05/12/solid-waste-disposal-facilities-in-west-bank-promoted-by-civil-administration/>

²⁴ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/03/20/progress-report-on-the-waste-water-treatment-sector/>

TRANSPORTATION

Israel continually engages with NGOs to facilitate ease of transport for Palestinians living in the West Bank. In 2010, it processed and facilitated 21 USAID funded road rehabilitation projects in Area C.

The Civil Administration approved 21 new roads in 2010 and in 2011 there are 26 roads being processed.

Approving a transportation project involves analyzing land ownership rights, inspecting road safety standards, ensuring no environmental damage and rerouting existing infrastructure in certain cases, such as water pipes, electricity or telecommunication lines.

In 2010, Israel processed and approved over 95 percent of all road rehabilitation and construction applications submitted, thanks to efficient work and synchronization from all parties involved.

Another example of cooperation is the Civil Administration's funding of the Israeli company Mekorot's movement of water pipelines to accommodate two USAID road projects. The Civil Administration gave \$140,000 (500,000 NIS) towards the project.

The Civil Administration also participated in the unique case of securing sections of a historic Jordanian minefield that was causing safety concerns for the contractor. The Civil Administration saved the operation by arranging for an elite bomb disposal unit to secure the minefield and allow the completion of the road project.²⁵

The Kebatia-Zbabde Road in the West Bank was newly rehabilitated in 2010 after the Civil Administration used elite army units to secure sections of a nearby historic minefield that was causing safety concerns for the contractors.



Cooperation in Um Rehyan

The Civil Administration completed an electricity project in the West Bank village, Um Rehyan, in March. It is home to about 500 Palestinians near the city of Jenin. Israel supplies all of the West Bank's electricity needs.

The project, funded by the Civil Administration, was carried out in part by the Israel Electric Corporation. It was carried out after village leaders requested the changes, at which time the Civil Administration facilitated the staffing and funding of the project.²⁶

²⁵ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/02/20/progress-report-on-transport-sector-development/>

²⁶ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/01/31/civil-administration-funds-electricity-project-for-the-um-rehyan-village/>

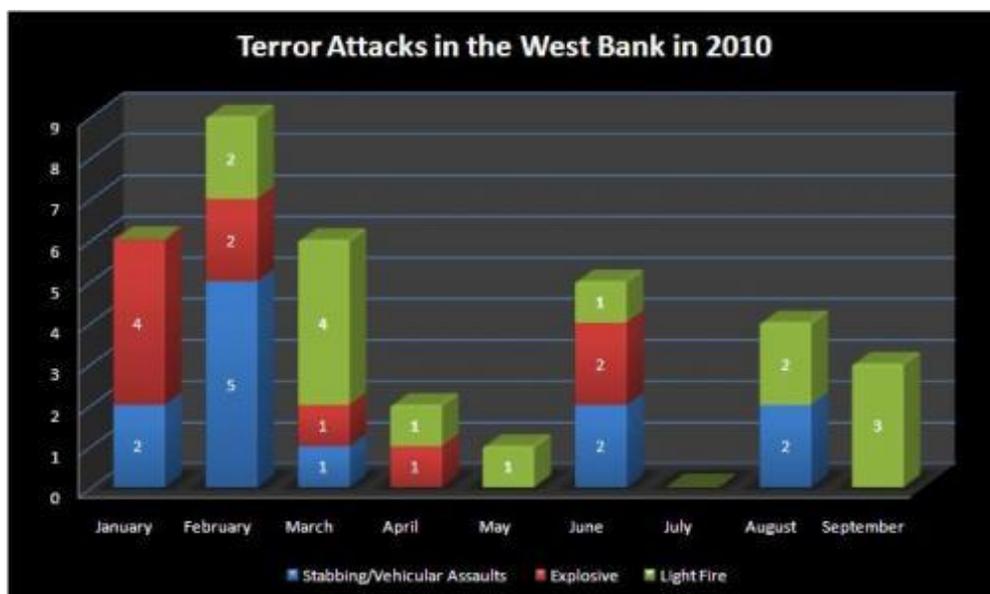
MOVEMENT WITHIN THE WEST BANK

Part of the increase in freedom of movement in the West Bank is a result of fewer inspection points. However, there are still roadblocks scattered throughout the area.

The number of checkpoints was reduced to 14 at the end of 2010.²⁷ What is important to point out is that the inspection points are in the “open” status most of the time and are inspected occasionally based on intelligence.

Therefore, the current situation means that Palestinians can travel continuously from Hebron in the southern West Bank to Jenin in the north without stopping for inspection.

Checkpoints were originally introduced as a security measure during the violence of the second Palestinian uprising (intifada) which began in 2000. Incidents such as bombings, shootings, and other violent attacks have significantly decreased.



Checkpoints comprise barriers at which passing individuals are screened and checked for weapons or weapons-making material, and are manned by IDF soldiers or border police officers. They stem the flow of weapons and terrorists.

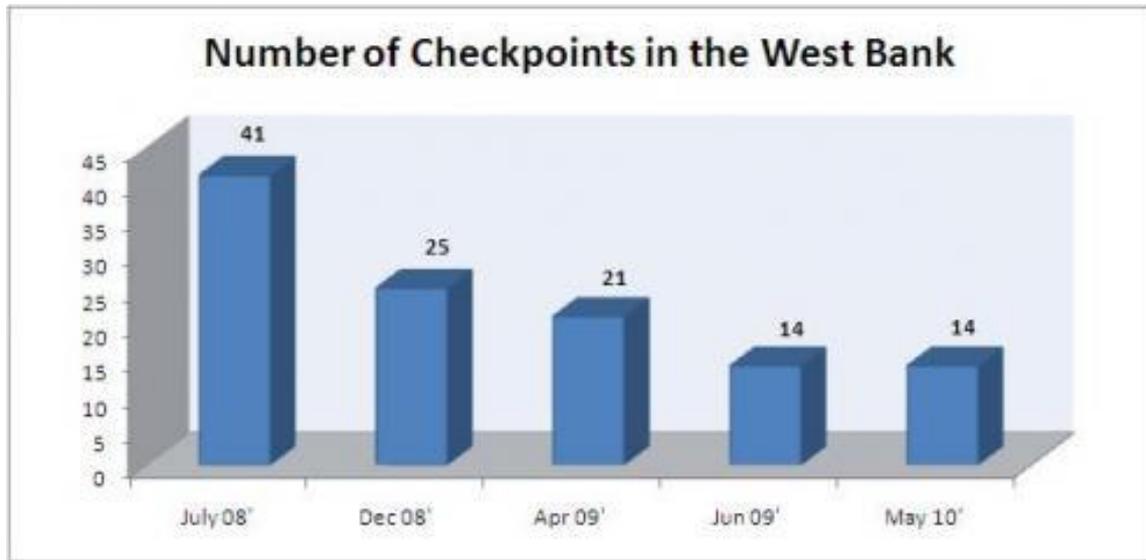
In order to facilitate Palestinian movement, the IDF dismantled the Hawara checkpoint between Nablus and Ramallah, to allow nearly “completely unimpeded travel” between the two hubs.²⁸

The Hawara checkpoint was known to be a smuggling-point for terrorists; large quantities of explosives and other weapons were confiscated there. “In 2004 a 12-year-old boy wearing an explosives belt was apprehended,” reported Israel’s *Ha’aretz*.

Yet conditions at Hawara were eased in 2009, as were other travel restrictions for West Bank Palestinians. “Since then, Palestinian vehicles have sometimes faced only random inspections from Israeli soldiers.”²⁹

²⁷ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2010/10/07/improved-security-situation-leads-to-decrease-in-number-of-checkpoints-in-the-west-bank-6-sept-2010/>

²⁸ <http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/idf-to-remove-major-west-bank-checkpoint-to-enable-palestinian-movement-1.342612>



Charts courtesy of IDF

Israel's Removal of Illegal Outposts

Israel recently dismantled four northern West Bank outposts that were populated mainly by Jewish settlers. Settlers opposed to the removal of the illegal structures clashed with the police.³⁰

The Israeli courts ordered the dismantling, Israel Police Spokesman Mickey Rosenfeld told The Israel Project.³¹

Israel's courts uphold the rule of law on all issues for anyone – Jewish, Christian or Muslim – who violates laws – including those relating to the security fence, settlements and human rights. For example, Israel regularly takes down illegal roadblocks that obstruct the movements of Palestinians in the West Bank.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/haaretz-exclusive-video-israeli-settlers-clash-with-police-during-west-bank-outpost-demolition-1.365518>

³¹ <http://www.theisraelproject.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=hsJPK0PIJpH&b=689705&ct=10860027&printmode=1>

BORDER CROSSINGS

There have also been efforts to convert the border crossings for Palestinians entering Israel from the West Bank from military to civilian control. For example, private companies have taken over many of the functions that soldiers used to do.

Many Palestinians have work permits to enter Israel each day. There has been a significant increase in the movement of goods from the West Bank and the Civil Administration confirms that “trust between the PA, farmers and Israel” has been re-established.

New, state-of-the-art crossings facilitate the easy movements of goods and people.

Some 30,000 permits were given to West Bank Palestinians for school trips into Israel in 2010. That number doubled in 2011. By June 2011, more than 31,000 Palestinians entered Israel on school trips.

Numerous Palestinians also use the border crossings each day to export their goods to Israel and other countries.

The West Bank is considered Israel’s biggest trade partner, the Civil Administration told The Israel Project.

In order to facilitate the Palestinian economy, Israel developed a “businessman card,” which is akin to a special line for those traveling for business. Also, during Ramadan, one of Islam’s holiest holidays, border crossings into Israel open earlier to accommodate religious observances.

Another feature that has aided travel is the development of X-ray scanners, which speed up the scanning of goods and mean that cargo does not have to be scanned again when exported through the Israeli port city, Ashdod.³²

TARQUMIYA

Tarqumiya is the largest crossing for trucks in and out of the West Bank. It is located in the Hebron district, the city which itself is referred to as the “capital city of economics” in the West Bank.

Equipped with three large scanners, which are capable of scanning trucks loaded with goods in just a few minutes, it has become a hub of imports and exports. Using the scanners, waiting times have been drastically reduced, because there is no longer a need to manually unload the trucks for inspection. The Israel Ministry of Defense spent \$6 million on the purchase of these scanners and installed them at no cost to the PA.

Once trucks have cleared the scanner, they receive a stamp to certify security approval, which means that they do not need to go through the same process again if they are headed for export from the port of Ashdod. They are not charged an export tax by Israel.



Tarqumiya’s state-of-the-art scanner system facilitates Palestinian commerce

³² COGAT, as told to The Israel Project and a group of foreign dignitaries on a tour of the West Bank on June 21, 2011.

AGRICULTURE

The Civil Administration ensured the marketing of 15,000-18,000 tons of cucumbers, which in turn supplied **Palestinian farmers with approximately \$18 million** (60 million NIS) in revenues in 2011. The produce is significant to the 3,000 families of Palestinian farmers in the northern West Bank who consider cucumbers their primary source of income, as well as for Israelis, who buy 60% of their cucumbers from the West Bank town of Jenin.

In order to best answer the farmers' needs, the hours of the Gilboa Crossing were extended to allow all the produce gathered throughout the day to be exported, thus maintaining the freshness of the vegetables. Furthermore, the Civil Administration Agricultural Coordinator Samir Muadi ordered agronomical examinations on the produce in order to ensure the public's health.

It should be noted that in the last year the Gilboa Crossing was equipped with an x-ray scanner costing millions of shekels, which allows for the transfer of products without opening their packaging. This has significant impact on the quality of the product as well as the security checks needed.³³

The Civil Administration extended border crossing hours at the height of cucumber season in May 2011, in order to ensure that Palestinian farmers' produce was transferred at an optimal time. Jenin, the Palestinian cucumber-harvesting town, sells between 15,000 and 18,000 tons of cucumbers to Israel, for about \$18 million in revenues. Goods are transferred from Palestinian to Israel trucks with the ease of a new state-of-the-art x-ray scanner purchased by Israel.

For a list of Palestinian ecological and agricultural organizations in the West Bank go to:
<http://vispo.com/PRIME/palecoagra.htm>

Freedom of Movement



Gates like the one picture above in the West Bank give Palestinian farmers freedom of movement to their fields while ensuring Israeli security.

Israel is in the midst of altering the route of its security barrier to aid Palestinians who live and work in its vicinity.

Following a ruling by the Israeli Supreme Court, one mile (1.7 km) of the security fence is being rerouted close to Mod'in Illit, which lies between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.³⁴

As a result some two million square feet (700,000 square meters) of land will be returned to residents of the Palestinian village Bil'in.³⁵

The original route was calculated to encompass a

large hill which was seen as a key vantage point by the IDF.

³³ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/05/22/cucumber-season-begins-in-the-west-bank-with-help-from-the-civil-administration/>

³⁴ <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=168424>

³⁵ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/work-starts-to-reroute-west-bank-security-fence-at-bil-in-1.263146>

The court argued that Israel's strive for coexistence superseded these original strategic considerations. The court accepted the Palestinian contention that the old route prevented the natural expansion of Bil'in and hindered access to agricultural land.

In addition to altering the route of the fence in several places, Israel has installed 80 gates to allow farmers and builders to access their workplaces on the other side of the fence.

There are 40 gates which are opened daily and a further 40 that are seasonal and opened during the olive harvest. Palestinians farmers operate some of these crossings by remote control.

TOURISM

Another area of cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians is tourism. Ease of access for group tours through the border crossings and coordination has improved, particularly for holy sites in Israel (such as Jerusalem and Nazareth) and the West Bank (such as Bethlehem, Jericho and Nablus).

During the Christmas-holiday period in 2010, an estimated 2.4 million Christians visited Israel and the West Bank. In 2010, 1.7 million foreign tourists (not including Israeli Arabs) visited Bethlehem and Jericho – a record-breaking number since the second intifada, according to the Palestinian Hotel Association. During the holiday period, Israel's Tourism Ministry arranged free shuttles for pilgrims between the various cities. They eased access for foreign tourists to enhance their visitor and religious experiences.

During Easter this year, Israel facilitated the pilgrimage of about 3,000 pilgrims to visit Qasr al-Yahud baptism site in the West Bank. Widely considered the location where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, Israel's Ministry of Tourism invested thousands of shekels to renovate the site and create proper facilities for the pilgrims.³⁶



Public officials and religious leaders celebrate Israel's opening of Qasr al-Yahud for visits by pilgrims and tourists.

The site is believed to be the place where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. It is also considered to be the place where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into biblical Canaan.

In August 2010, Israel and the West Bank cooperated to allow tour guides from Israel to take groups to Bethlehem and Jericho as a result of the better security situation.³⁷ This represented a loosening of security policy between the West Bank and Israel. There are also Palestinian tour guides who operate in Israel. All the crossings around Bethlehem were open in 2010.

Trade unions and associations that represent tour guides from both regions cooperate to improve the quality of tourism. For example, there is coordination between the Israeli and Palestinian Ministries of Tourism to offer a joint 'Holy Land' package that includes Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the Civil Administration told The Israel Project.

³⁶ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/04/24/qasr-al-yahud-easter-baptism-ceremony-assisted-by-idf-civil-administration/>

³⁷ <http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2010/08/23/117360.html>

Israel gave West Bank Palestinians 100,600 religious prayer permits to enter Israel in the first seven months of 2011, officials told The Israel Project.

HEALTHCARE

The United Nations reports that the West Bank and Gaza have a well-developed health care system that provides the full range of primary, secondary and tertiary services that include the option of patient referrals to neighboring countries for specialty care if the “relevant expertise is not available locally.”³⁸

The main providers are the Palestinian Ministry of Health, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Palestinian nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, according to the U.N.

Some 2 million Palestinians are registered with UNRWA: approximately 1.2 million Palestinians are registered in the Gaza Strip and 848,000 Palestinians in the West Bank, making up 75.8% and 33.8% of the respective total resident populations.

The health conditions of Palestinian mothers and children registered with UNRWA have shown continued improvement. The percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel is 99.6% in the West Bank and 99.9% in the Gaza Strip in 2010. The infant mortality rate is comparable to, if not better than, rates in other Middle Eastern countries.

“On average, 75% of pregnant women registered during the first trimester, 99.4% delivered in a health institution and over 90% received postnatal care,” the World Health Organization stated in May 2011.³⁹ During 2010, the full immunization coverage rate among infants at 12 months of age was 90.2% in Gaza and 99.9% in the West Bank. The coverage rate for children aged 18 months receiving

booster doses was above 99.9% in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.⁴⁰

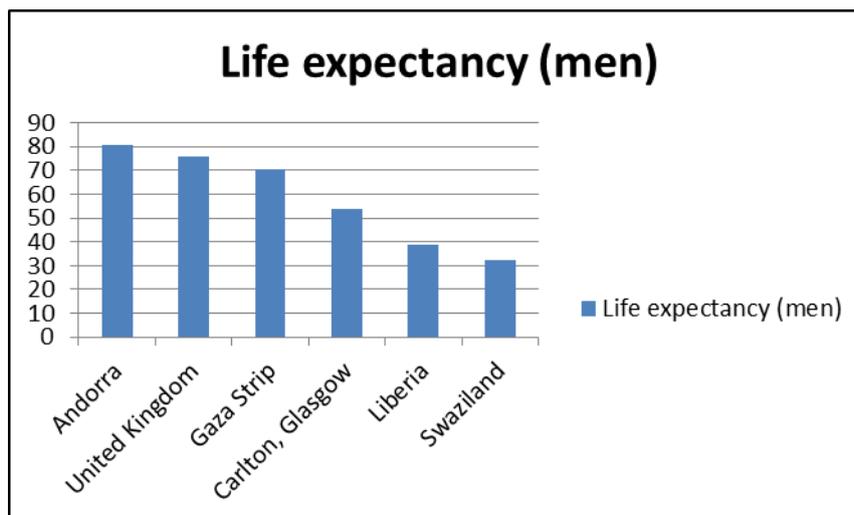
Also, the UK’s *The Guardian* recently reported that Gazans have a life expectancy that rivals many developed countries.⁴¹

“Life expectancy in Gaza is 74, seven years above the world average and higher than in Egypt, India or Russia. Infant mortality, a

“In assessing the condition of the 1.6 million people who live in Gaza, there are issues of where to draw the baseline and — often — what motivates the discussion. It has never been among the world’s poorest places. There is near universal literacy and relatively low infant mortality, and health conditions remain better than across much of the developing world.

‘We have 100 percent vaccination; no polio, measles, diphtheria or AIDS,’ said Mahmoud Daher, a World Health Organization official here. ‘We’ve never had a cholera outbreak.’”

- Ethan Bronner, *The New York Times*, June 2011



³⁸<http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/47d4e277b48d9d3685256ddc00612265/9b8154497a585d36852578af00522589?OpenDocument>

³⁹<http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/47d4e277b48d9d3685256ddc00612265/e3112cdf3518e79852578a9006a58d9?OpenDocument>

⁴⁰<http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/47d4e277b48d9d3685256ddc00612265/e3112cdf3518e79852578a9006a58d9?OpenDocument>

⁴¹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2006/jan/21/health.politics>

reliable indicator of problem-state status, is less than half the world average. The inflation rate in 2010 was 3.5 percent, compared to an annualized U.S. rate of 3.6 percent in May this year,” *The Washington Times* reported in June 2011.⁴²

West Bank and Gaza – According to the World Bank

Poverty rate - 31.2% in 2007, 21.9% in 2009

Life expectancy – 74 in 2009

Literacy rate, adult total – 95% in 2009

Unemployment rate – 24.5% in 2009

Improved water source, rural (% of rural population with access) – 91% in 2008

Palestinians and Medical Treatment

Israel regularly treats Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza who are in need of medical care. Israeli hospitals, such as Barzilai Medical Center near the Gaza border, regularly treat Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank.

The Civil Administration gave 97,405 medical permits to Palestinians from the West Bank in the first seven months of 2011 alone, officials told The Israel Project.

In 2010, Israel announced the availability of special funds to Palestinians with special needs. The Welfare Review Committee of the Civil Administration, established to oversee the applications, approved each and every request, spending over \$25,000 (90,000 NIS) on wheelchairs, hearing devices, prosthetics, and other types of medical equipment.

The Civil Administration also recently announced an increase in allotted funds for 2011 and is currently welcoming applications from private individuals, NGOs, and international organizations on behalf of Palestinians with disabilities.⁴³

The Civil Administration also opened a new health service center at the end of May 2011 that provides quick response for ambulance transport for West Bank patients to Israel and Jordan. The center coordinates the medical needs of the patients and is open 24-hours a day.⁴⁴ The center provides follow-up care medical coordination in Israel.

All Israeli hospitals and doctors provide care to Palestinians regardless of political orientation.

Jerusalem’s Shaare Zedek Hospital, for example, specializes in kidney dialysis for patients from the West Bank.

“This is an additional step we are taking in order to advance our foremost priority here at the Civil Administration – and that is to save human life and to administer the best possible health care. During 2010, over 180,000 patients and their companions were transferred for treatment in Israeli hospitals in addition to 3,600 ambulance evacuations from the West Bank to Israel.”

-- Ms. Dalia Bassa, the Civil Administration’s Health Coordinator

⁴² <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jun/27/the-floating-gaza-strip-show/>

⁴³ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/03/03/civil-administration-distributed-90000-nis-worth-of-medical-equipment-to-palestinians-with-disabilities-in-2010/>

⁴⁴ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/05/18/new-health-service-center-opened-for-palestinians-in-the-west-bank/>



“To be honest, sometimes it’s terrifying.

“They are people who are suffering and they are just like you and me. I know it. I sometimes speak to them on the phone.

“We can barely communicate because I speak Hebrew and they speak Arabic. But they are so grateful for my actions and picking them up. And that’s why I do it.”

- Roni Keidar, long-time resident of Netiv Ha’asara near the Israeli-Gaza Border, in April 2011. She is part of an Israeli organization that facilitates peaceful relations between Palestinians and Israelis. She drives to the Erez Border Crossing - even amid rocket-fire from Gaza - to pick up Palestinians in need of special medical attention for treatment in Israel.

A doctor from Barzilai Medical Center recently told The Israel Project: “We don't treat terrorists, we treat *human beings*, and we don't care why they are sent to the hospital”.

Other Doctors recounted personal stories in which they cared for Hamas fighters and terrorists who openly stated that their purpose in recovering is to enable them to “kill Jews.”

As a testament to Israel's independent healthcare system, Israeli doctors care for people of all nations, creeds and backgrounds.



Pioneering in Healthcare for All

Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Organization is a formative influence in the development of Israel's healthcare system, and is also one of the world's leading institutions in healthcare.⁴⁵ Half of all medical research in Israel is conducted at Hadassah facilities.⁴⁶

Hadassah Medical Organization prioritizes educating healthcare professionals without regard to race, religion or national origin. It employs many Israeli-Arab doctors and treats Palestinians living in the West Bank. It is considered a “pioneering organization” and is part of the focus of the Palestine/Israel Health Initiative, a USAID funded program that fosters bridges and trust between Israelis and Palestinians.

Hadassah regularly treats Palestinian children living in the West Bank. For example, six years ago, Hadassah and the French NGO, A Heart for Peace, decided that Palestinian children who could not afford open heart surgery or other serious heart procedures would receive medical care at Hadassah hospital for free.⁴⁷



Hanadi Mirar from Ramallah thanked Hadassah and the Civil Administration for giving her son the possibility to receive treatment that she could not otherwise afford. “We don't have the money to afford this treatment,” said Mirar.

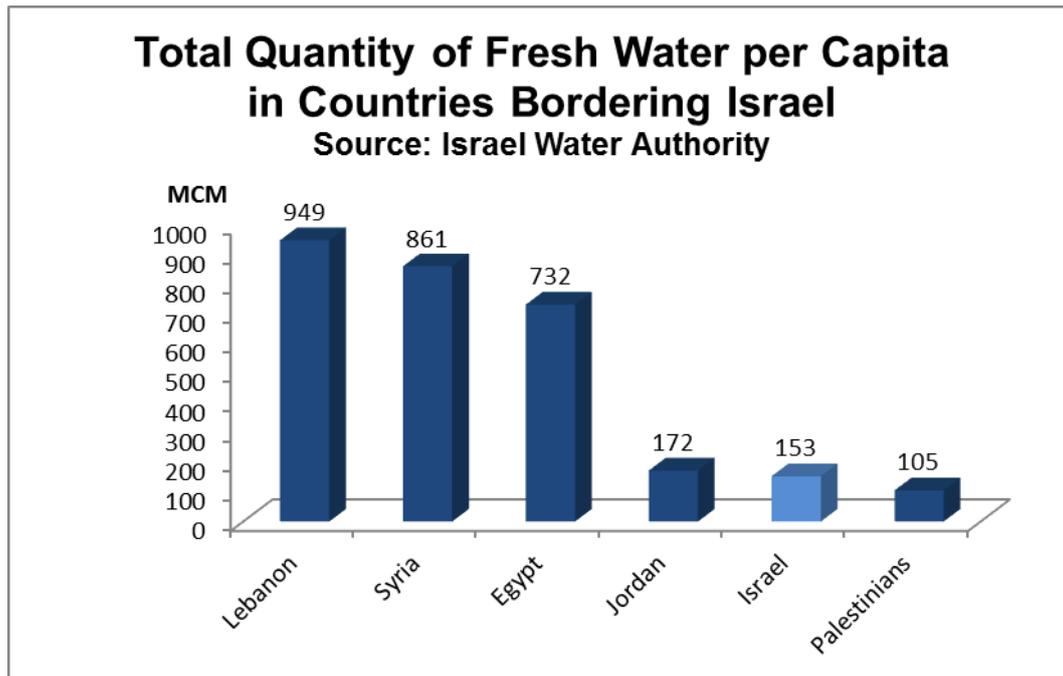
⁴⁵ “Hadassah Medical Organization,” Hadassah Medical Organization Web site, http://www.hadassah.org/pageframe.asp?section=health&page=medical_org.html&header=medical_org&size=55 , accessed April 9, 2008

⁴⁶ “Hadassah Medical Organization,” Hadassah Medical Organization Web site, http://www.hadassah.org/pageframe.asp?section=health&page=medical_org.html&header=medical_org&size=55 , accessed April 9, 2008

⁴⁷ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/07/11/civil-administration-hadassah-hospital-coordinate-trip-for-palestinian-children-to-the-zoo/>

WATER

Most countries in the Middle East suffer from an ongoing shortage of water. The majority of these countries are among those with the least average rainfall per year (Egypt has the least, with an average of 2 inches, or 51mm, per year)⁴⁸. The situation is worsening due to the decrease in useable water reserves as a result of pollution and climatic changes, as well as population growth and the rising demand for water.



Like the rest of the Middle East, Israel considers water a national resource of utmost importance. It is vital to ensure the population's well-being and quality of life, and to preserve the rural-agricultural sector. Israel has suffered from a chronic water shortage for years.

The causes of the crisis are both natural and man-made. Israel has suffered from four consecutive years of drought. The increase in demand for water for domestic uses, caused by population growth and the rising standard of living, has led to over-utilization of its renewable water sources.

To help solve the problem of water shortage in the region as a whole, there are steps which need to be taken;

- Cooperation based on sustainable management
- Application of advanced technologies for efficient water use
- Development of new water sources

Conventional Water Resources

The total average annual potential of renewable water amounts to some 1,800 MCM (million cubic meters), of which about 95 percent is already exploited and used for domestic consumption and irrigation. About 80 percent of the water potential is in the north of the country and only 20 percent in the south.

Israel's main freshwater resources are;

- Lake Kinneret – the Sea of Galilee

⁴⁸ "Average precipitation in depth (mm per year)," WDI Database, AG.LND.PRPCP.MM, *World Bank*

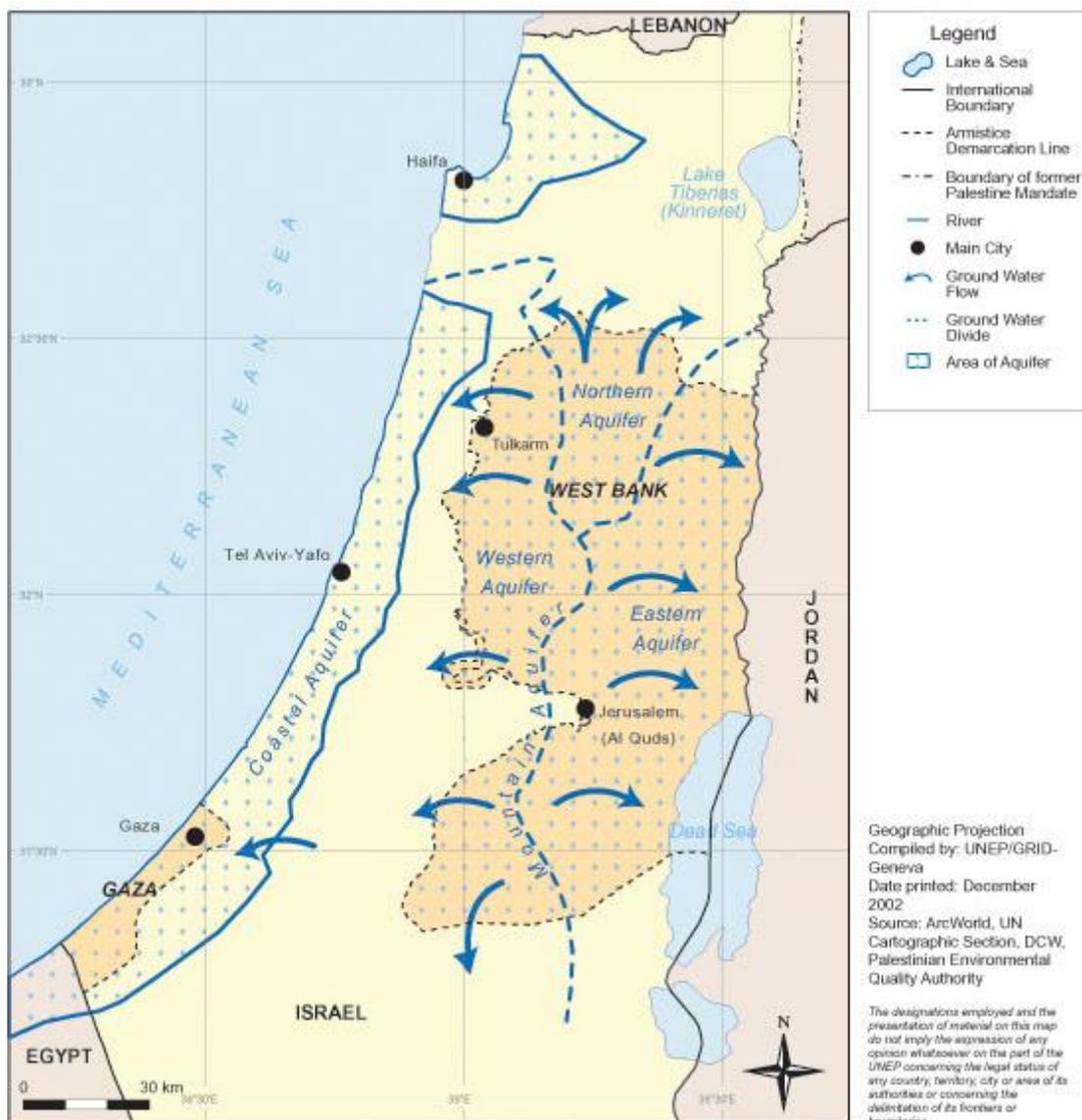
- The Coastal Aquifer – along the coastal plain of the Mediterranean Sea,
- The Mountain Aquifer – under the central north-south (Carmel) mountain range.

Additional smaller regional resources are located in the Upper Galilee, Western Galilee, Beit Shean Valley, Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea Rift, the Negev and the Arava.

Resource	Replenishable Quantity (MCM/yr) ⁴⁹
Lake Kinneret	700
The Coastal Aquifer	320
The Mountain Aquifer	370
Additional Regional Resources	410
Total	1,800

Israel has long made it a national mission to utilize and improve existing sources by developing non-conventional water sources, while promoting conservation. These efforts have focused on the following: reclaimed wastewater effluents; intercepted runoff and artificial recharge; artificially-induced rainfall – cloud seeding; and desalination.

The West Bank currently has one principal source of natural fresh water – the Mountain Aquifer. The PA does not currently purify water and does not use treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation.



⁴⁹ "Israel's Chronic Water Problem," *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Aug. 10, 2002, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts%20About%20Israel/Land/Israel-s%20Chronic%20Water%20Problem>

The Mountain Aquifer

The Mountain Aquifer is shared by both the Israelis and the Palestinians, and is a topic of much debate. Hydrologically, the Mountain Aquifer, like most aquifers worldwide, comprises two parts: a replenishment part, and a confined part. The replenishment zone is composed of permeable rock through which the water infiltrates vertically to the groundwater storage area. This recharge area is about 1,800km².

Water Agreements between Israel and the Palestinians

Over the years a number of efforts of cooperation have been attempted in the field of water management.

*Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, Oslo Agreements*⁵⁰

The Declaration of Principles contains both a general and a specific reference to water. It was agreed, for example, that cooperation would exist on the subject of water, including a Water Development Program (Annex III). Proposals were formulated for conducting studies and programs on water rights for both sides.

Annex IV goes on to lay out the practical aspects, such as the development of water infrastructure and a general regional initiative.

*Cairo Agreement*⁵¹

In 1994, a Gaza-Jericho Agreement was reached, and added under the Cairo Agreement. In the framework of agreement implementation, control over the water supply system in the Gaza Strip was transferred to the Palestinians, who assumed responsibility for management, development and maintenance of the water supply and sewerage systems. Not included were Israeli communities, mainly Gush Katif, where the wells, piping and storage reservoirs remained under Israeli ownership.

In 2005, as part of Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip, water supply systems that had served the Israeli communities were also transferred to the Palestinians. This included 25 wells, storage reservoirs and a well-developed transmissions system.

*Interim Agreement*⁵²

In September 1995, the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was signed in Washington. It was significant for recognizing the establishment of a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, i.e. an elected council; the Palestinian Council.

An extensive section on the question of water and sewage was included. The principle water-related items in the Interim Agreement are as follows:

- Israel recognizes the Palestinian water rights in the West Bank. These will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations and settled in a Permanent Status Agreement relating the various water resources
- Both sides recognize the necessity to develop additional water for various uses
- Both sides agree to coordinate the management of water and sewage resources in the West Bank during the interim period, in accordance with the following principles;
 - Maintaining existing quantities of utilization from the resources, taking into consideration the quantities of additional water for the Palestinians from the eastern side of the Mountain aquifer, and other agreed sources in the West Bank

⁵⁰ "Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements," *United Nations*, Oct. 11, 1993, <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/71DC8C9D96D2F0FF85256117007CB6CA>

⁵¹ "The Cairo Agreement," *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Feb. 9, 1994, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Archive/Peace+Process/1994/The+Cairo+Agreement+-+09-Feb-94.htm>

⁵² "Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank the Gaza Strip," *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Sep. 28, 1995, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/THE%20ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN%20INTERIM%20AGREEMENT>

- Using the water resources in a manner which will ensure sustainable use in the future, in quantity and quality
- Adjusting the utilization of the resources according to variable climate and hydrological conditions
- Treating, reusing or properly disposing of all domestic, urban, industrial, and agricultural sewage
- Israel shall transfer powers and responsibilities in the sphere of water and sewage in the West Bank to the Palestinians
- Both sides have agreed that the future needs of the Palestinians in the West Bank are estimated to be between 70-80 MCM/yr
- In order to meet the immediate fresh water needs of the Palestinians, Israel recognizes to make available to the Palestinians 28.6 MCM/yr during the interim period

Until the signing of the Interim Agreement, Israel's Mekorot Water Co. Ltd. was responsible for managing Israel's water works, while the Civil Administration that Israel had established in the West Bank was in charge of managing the Palestinian installations.

Following the signing of the Interim Agreement, responsibility for management and maintenance of the Israeli installations remained with Mekorot, but responsibility for the Palestinian installations was transferred to the PA. The installations supplying water both to Israelis and Palestinians remained under Israel's responsibility.

The period of the Interim Agreement was originally determined as five years from the signing of the agreement. However, the two sides have continued to operate according to this Interim Agreement since the time of its signing to present day, even though more than 13 years have elapsed since the agreement was signed. Israel has responded to the needs of the Palestinians and has increased the quantity of water provided to them far beyond that specified in the Interim Agreement.

The Joint Water Committee

The Joint Water Committee (JWC) was established to implement the terms of the Interim Agreement. The JWC has an equal number of representatives for each side (Israel and the Palestinians). All decisions of JWC must be unanimous, and there are joint supervisor and enforcement teams subject to the Committee. The JWC holds joint meetings, exchanges letters, conversations and daily contacts in order to manage the water issue.

The JWC is mandate to deal with all water and sewage issues in the West Bank, including:

- Joint management of water sources and sewage systems
- Protection of water sources and sewage
- Cooperation, information exchanged and resolution of conflict on the issue
- Regulation of the water supply from one side to another

There are four sub-committees:

Hydrological Committee discusses and authorizes requests for water drilling. There are currently some 500 legal water drillings in the West Bank. The committee has so far authorized the Palestinians to drill about 70 new water wells for drinking water, 11 wells for agricultural irrigation, and 22 observation wells. The committee has also authorized the Palestinians to upgrade about 55 old wells. The Israel Water Authority notes that only about half of the authorized drillings have actually been carried out.

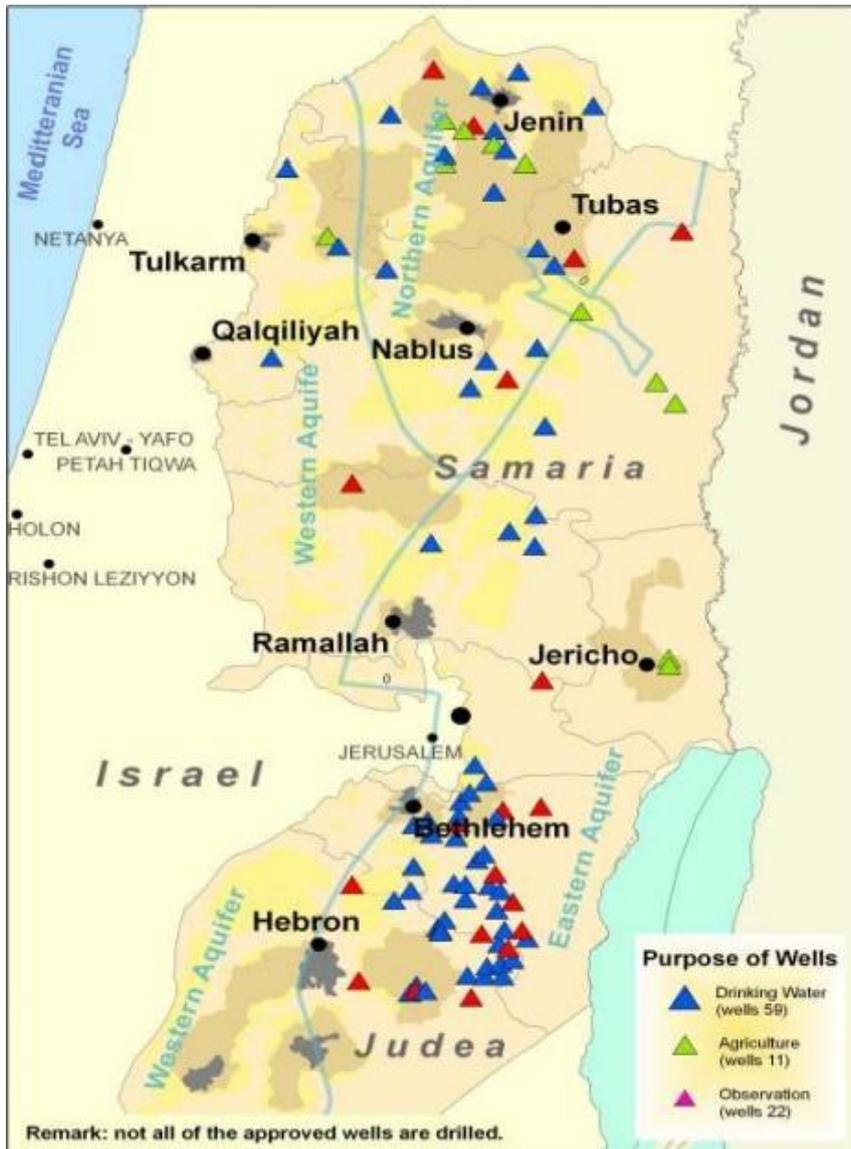
Water Projects Committee, which has so far authorized the Palestinians to lay hundreds of kilometers of water pipes, and the building of dozens of reservoirs and pumping stations. The committee has also authorized the expansion of the water supply systems to Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Sewage Committee authorizes the establishment of sewage treatment plants. So far only one sewage treatment facility has been set up, at El-Bireh.

Water Prices Committee determines the prices of the water that Israel sells to the Palestinians and discusses any problems arising from this issue. According to the Israel Water Authority, the financial agreements with the Palestinians on this issue carried out in an orderly manner.

It should be noted that almost all the Palestinians' development programs in the domains of water supply and wastewater have been financed by donor countries; however, the funds are given on condition that the JWC approves the program.

Israeli Commitments to Providing Water



Map of approved wells by the JWC

The Interim Agreement determined that water supply to the Palestinians would increase by 28.6 MCM/yr, of which 5 MCM/yr would be supplied to the Gaza Strip. It was agreed that this quantity would be in addition to the quantity consumed by the Palestinians in that year, namely, 118 MCM.

In other words, it was agreed that water supply to the Palestinians during the Interim Agreement period would increase by 20% in the West Bank. In practice, during the 13 years that have elapsed since the agreement was signed, water supply to the Palestinians in the West Bank has been increased by 60 MCM/yr, i.e. about 50%. Palestinian consumption has reached 180 MCM/yr.

Israel offered the Palestinians the possibility of erecting a seawater desalination plant in the Hadera area, which would be constructed and operated for them by the donor countries, and which would supply water directly to areas in the West Bank. However this offer has not yet been utilized.

In addition, Israel proposed to the Palestinians the purchase of water for the Gaza Strip directly from the desalination plant at Ashkelon. The Palestinians are well aware of the need to develop a new major source of water (desalination), but yet no steps have been taken in this direction.⁵³

⁵³ <http://idfspokesperson.com/2011/02/17/progress-report-on-water-in-the-west-bank-from-the-civil-administration/>

NEGOTIATED PEACE

In June 2007, Hamas – backed by Iran – seized control of Gaza in a violent coup that left hundreds dead, including members of Fatah, the political party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas, a U.S. State Department-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, consistently vows to destroy Israel.

Following Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza, Abbas declared a state of emergency. Salam Fayyad was appointed as the Palestinian prime minister.

After the Hamas-Fatah split, the PA helped shape a thriving West Bank economy, improving the way of life for many Palestinians. Under Fayyad and Abbas, the PA strengthened its cooperation with Israel, particularly in security and economy.

“On the ground, Mr. Fayyad's economic and institutional reforms appear to have bolstered his image. One poll released on Sunday showed that among 420 respondents in Gaza and the West Bank, 58 per cent said they preferred having Mr. Fayyad as head of a new government,” the American Task Force on Palestine reported in May 2011.⁵⁴

Another recent poll also found “that 61 percent of Palestinians want the unity government to follow Abbas' peace policies and program, compared to only 18 percent who said they want it to follow Hamas' course.”⁵⁵

In Cairo in May 2011, a tentative political union was brokered between Fatah and Hamas, causing Israel and other countries to worry that the West Bank's progress under Fayyad and Abbas would be threatened. As the prospect of a new unity government lingers, Hamas leaders declare that the new prime minister must come from Gaza and replace Fayyad.

The West Bank's progress is a positive point for both Israel and the PA. Hamas' refusal to recognize Israel threatens to undermine that progress.

2010-2011 Main Negotiating Points between Israel and the Palestinian Authority

Recognition of Israel as a Jewish State

The PA and its leaders have not recognized Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people. Doing so would serve as an important confidence-building measure and would help to end the culture of hate toward Israel that is promoted in the West Bank and Gaza.

Security and final borders

Israel is calling for the demilitarization of a future Palestinian state as well as the possible deployment of the IDF in the Jordan Valley to prevent weapons smuggling into the West Bank. PA President Mahmoud Abbas has called for a return to pre-1967 lines as a precondition for talks.

Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements in the West Bank

The PA insists that Israel halt all construction in most East Jerusalem suburbs and the West Bank. Israel says the future of these communities should be discussed as one of the elements of a final-status agreement

Resolution of the Palestinian refugee issue

The Palestinians continue to demand that all members of the Palestinian diaspora should be able to resettle in Israel. The Israeli position is that those who wish to should seek their future in the proposed Palestinian state.

Access to crucial resources including water

Both sides suffer from the regional water scarcity and must work together to provide mutually-fair access to all sources including desalination plants on the Mediterranean coast, the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel and aquifers in the West Bank.

⁵⁴ http://www.americantaskforce.org/daily_news_article/2011/05/04/1304481600_7

⁵⁵ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/survey-majority-of-palestinians-want-fayyad-as-prime-minister-1.368749>

Peace Negotiations: the Key Points Since 2000

FORMER PRIME MINISTER EHUD OLMERT'S COMMENTS ON GENEVA INITIATIVE CONFERENCE (SEPTEMBER 2010)

A solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must be based on 1967 lines with Jerusalem managed by international trustees including Israel and a Palestinian state. The refugee issue should be resolved in the framework on the Arab Peace Initiative, and with reference to the Road Map.

"EIGHT-POINT DOCUMENT" (2007)⁵⁶

This document outlines eight points agreed upon by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's government. It called for "Palestine to be declared a national homeland for the Palestinian people and Israel to be declared a national homeland for the Jewish people." Israel would withdraw and destroy its Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria in stages to establish an "unarmed Palestinian state within the 1967 borders." Jerusalem would be divided into two capitals and Israel would relinquish sovereignty to a committee to oversee Old City and holy sites. The document also dealt with finding a just solution for the Palestinian refugee problem.

ANNAPOLIS AGREEMENT (NOVEMBER 2007)⁵⁷

The Annapolis Conference marked the first time Israel and Palestine entered a conference with a common understanding that a two-state solution is the outline for addressing the conflict. The goal is for Israel and Palestine to be two states, living side by side in peace and security. It called to end bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict. The agreement confronted terrorism, incitement, and propagated a culture of peace and nonviolence.

ROAD MAP TO PEACE (APRIL 2003)⁵⁸

The principles of the plan were first outlined by U.S. president George W. Bush in a speech on June 4, 2002 to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace. The plan was split into three phases:

Phase I (as early as May 2003):

- End Palestinian violence and reform the Palestinian political system in preparation for statehood
- Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas occupied from September 2000, and freeze settlement expansion

Phase II (as early as June-Dec 2003):

- International Conference, convened by the Quartet, to support Palestinian economic recovery
- Launch a process leading to establishment of an independent Palestinian state with provisional borders
- Revival of multilateral engagement on issues including water resources, environment, economic development, refugees, and arms control issues
- Arab states to restore pre-intifada links to Israel
- Promotion by Quartet of international recognition of Palestine, including possible U.N. membership

Phase III (as early as 2004-2005):

- Second international conference
- Permanent status agreement and end of conflict

⁵⁶ "PA Leaks 8-Point Agreement Made With Olmert," *Arutz Sheva*, Sep. 17, 2007, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/Flash.aspx/133157>

⁵⁷ "Annapolis agreement: full text," *Guardian*, Nov. 27, 2007, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2007/nov/27/israel.usa1>

⁵⁸ "Bush Says He Will Help Israelis, Palestinians Work Toward Peace," *Global Security*, April 30, 2003, <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2003/04/mil-030430-usia02.htm>

- Agreement on final borders
- Clarification of the fate of Jerusalem, refugees, and settlements
- Arab states to agree to peace deals with Israel

ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE (2002, re-endorsed 2007)⁵⁹

- Complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the Syrian Golan Heights, to the 4 June 1967 line and the territories still occupied in southern Lebanon
- Attain a solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees to be agreed upon in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 194
- Accept the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the Palestinian territories occupied since June 4, 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital
- In return, the Arab states will consider the Arab-Israeli conflict over, sign a peace agreement with Israel and establish normal relations with Israel within the framework of this comprehensive peace

CAMP DAVID SUMMIT 2000⁶⁰

Territory

Palestinian position;

- Demanded return to 1967 armistice lines (Green Line), immediate withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Israeli position;

- Palestinian state on 73 percent of the West Bank, and 100 percent of the Gaza Strip. In 10-25 years, the Palestinian state would expand to 90-91 percent of the West Bank (94 percent excluding greater Jerusalem)
- Israel would have to withdraw from 63 settlements, keeping only those close to the Green Line, with the exception of Kiryat Arba (to be an Israeli enclave, linked by a bypass road)
- 1% of the Negev to be ceded to the Palestinians
- Israel recognized the need for a contiguous Palestinian state, proposed that the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be linked by an elevated highway and elevated railroad, running through the Negev

Jerusalem and the Temple Mount

Palestinian position;

- All of East Jerusalem should be returned to Palestinian sovereignty with the Jewish Quarter and Western Wall placed under Israeli authority, not sovereignty. Jerusalem to be an open city with cooperation on municipal services.

Israeli position;

- Palestinians would be granted "custodianship", not sovereignty, on the Temple Mount, with Israel retaining sovereignty over the Western Wall. The Jewish Quarter will remain in Israeli hands. Palestinians would be granted the rest of the Old City and control of Islamic and Christian holy sites.
- Settlements beyond the Green Line such as Ma'ale Adumim, Givat Ze'ev and Gush Etzion would be annexed to Jerusalem, while the Palestinians would be given sovereignty over villages and cities such as Abu Dis, Alezariya, and eastern Sawahre.
- East Jerusalem would be run by Palestinian civilian administration, with the possibility of merging it to Israeli East Jerusalem and West Jerusalem.

Refugees and the right of return

Palestinian position;

⁵⁹ "The Arab Peace Initiative, March 28, 2002," MidEast Web, <http://www.mideastweb.org/saudipeace.htm> (accessed Jan. 13, 2011)

⁶⁰ "The Middle East Peace Summit at Camp David-July 2000", Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 11, 2000, <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern%20History/Historic%20Events/The%20Middle%20East%20Peace%20Summit%20at%20Camp%20David-%20July%202002> (accessed Jan. 13, 2011)

- Refugees from Israel's first defensive war against Arab countries, comprising some four million (about half of the Palestinian people) should be given full right of return, including the restoration of property or compensatory payment.

Israeli position;

- A maximum of 100,000 refugees would be allowed to return to Israel, on the basis of humanitarian considerations or family reunification.
- All other people classified as Palestinian refugees would be settled in their present place of inhabitation, the Palestinian state, or third-party countries.
- Israel would fund their resettlement and absorption, contributing a total of \$30 billion.

Israeli security concerns

- Israel would be allowed to set up early warning stations inside the Palestinian state.
- Israel would be able to use airspace, and have the right to deploy troops on Palestinian territory in the event of an emergency.
- An international force would be stationed in the Jordan Valley.
- Palestinian authorities would maintain control of border crossings, under temporary Israeli observation.
- Israel demanded that the Palestinian state be demilitarized with the exception of its paramilitary security forces, that it would not make alliances without Israeli approval or allow the introduction of foreign forces east of the Jordan River, and that it dismantle terrorist groups.

Palestinians Push for Unilateral Declaration of Statehood

The PA has embarked on a campaign to seek international support for a unilateral declaration of independence of a Palestinian state. The Palestinian leadership is aiming to bring the idea to the UN in September. The implications are very serious for the entire Middle East peace process.

According to the Palestinian plan, it would mean;

- a) borders based on the 1949 armistice demarcation lines (often referred to as "the 1967 lines") without territory swaps (something both sides have accepted are needed in previous negotiations)
- b) affirmation of the "right of return" for the Arab 1948 refugees and their descendants, which would both swamp Israel demographically and not take into account the "right of return" for the approximate same number of Jewish refugees who were pushed out of Arab countries
- c) no arrangements that would help provide Israel with security against attack from the areas of withdrawal (a presence along the Jordan river, demilitarization of the Palestinian state)

Since the UN General Assembly can only make recommendations, rather than imposing a mandate, it is possible that supporters of the PA will bring their proposal to the UN Security Council, which has the power to mandate the result they seek.

Should the Palestinians go the unilateral statehood route, a majority in the General Assembly seems guaranteed, and recognition by the Security Council – whose decisions are legally binding, unlike the GA – could face an American veto. Thus, the recognition drive at the UN will not necessarily bring about a Palestinian state. This step would widen the gap between Israelis and Palestinians, hamper negotiations and make a negotiated peace almost impossible.

In assessing the Palestinian's Plan B, governments around the world should keep the following facts in mind:

- A unilateral declaration of independence violates the prevailing Oslo Accords. It would relieve Israel of all obligations towards the Palestinians and have unpredictable consequences for the economy, freedom of movement and other areas such as water and electricity supply to the Palestinians

- In the 19 years since the Oslo Accords, Palestinians have not made a settlement freeze a pre-condition to negotiations. Abbas himself negotiated with seven previous Israeli Prime Ministers without such a demand
- Abbas' refusal to meet with Israel is a violation of a pledge he himself made at the Annapolis conference in November 2007: "We agree to immediately launch good-faith bilateral negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty, resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues without exception, as specified in previous agreements. We agree to engage in vigorous, ongoing and continuous negotiations."
- Abbas is also rejecting the imperative laid down by the Quartet in March 2010, demanding "the resumption, without preconditions, of direct, bilateral negotiations that resolve all final status issues as previously agreed by the parties."

Lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians can only come through negotiations that settle all core issues. Furthermore, unilateral steps could diminish the likelihood that the Palestinians create a state that exists alongside Israel in peace and security – a goal that Israel shares.

Useful Contacts

Medical Professionals

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Abraham Fund

The Abraham Fund Initiatives works to advance coexistence, equality and cooperation among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens by creating and running a number of initiatives, providing strategic projects and conducting public education and advocacy. The main idea of the organization is to promote its vision of shared citizenship and opportunity for all of Israel's citizens.

Contact: Yaakov Abraham, public relations coordinator, Tel.: +972-2-534-9300 ext. 857 or general contact, (Israel) +972-2-534-9300; (U.S.) 001-212-661-7770;

E-mail: info@abrahamfund.org.il

Web site: <http://www.abrahamfund.org>

The Abraham Fund's coexistence programs include:

• **A Joint Educational Future for Arabs and Jews in Israel**

A forum of academics and educators, Jews and Arabs, interacting over the course of two years to develop the Arab education system, develop recommendations and to implement them in practice.

• **Bicycling: Forming A Jewish-Arab Team**

The volunteer bicycling team is operated in collaboration with Samson Bikers Cycling Club and The Judean Hills Jewish-Arab Coexistence Association that brings together Jewish and Arab residents in the area of the Mate Yehuda Regional Council outside of Jerusalem.

• **The Central District Jewish-Arab Principals Forum for Education for Coexistence**

A leadership forum of more than 80 Jewish and Arab school principals for coexistence educational enrichment, strategy planning and monitoring of their coordinated and separate coexistence educational programs.

• **The Coexistence Network in Israel**

The goal of the Coexistence Network is to unite coexistence professionals and organizations across Israel, between Arabs and Jews in Israel, as well as to create an equal, pluralistic, just and fair society for all of the country's citizens, both Jews and Arabs.
Web site: <http://www.coexnet.org.il>

Bridges for Peace

Bridges for Peace works to foster relationships between Christian and Jews worldwide. It educates Christians about Jews and Israel, combat anti-Semitism and support Israel as a Jewish homeland.

Tel: +972-2-624-5004

<http://www.bridgesforpeace.com/>

Christian Friends of Israel

Christian Friends of Israel is an international evangelical Christian ministry that represents Christians who affiliate with the Jewish state through outreach projects and education. It also assists the disadvantaged.

Contact: International Director, Ray Sanders

Tel: +972-2-623-3778

E-mail: cfi@cfijerusalem.org

Web site: www.CFIJerusalem.net

Citizens Accord Forum

The Citizens Accord Forum orientated to advance the position of Israeli Arabs in Israeli society through "advocacy, education, local and community development, media, and networking.

Tel: 972-2-673-1118

E-mail: yachad1@netvision.net.il

Web site: <http://www.caf.org.il/Index.asp>

Coexistence on Wheels

The cycling club of 'LaMitnadev' successfully operates a cycling for coexistence club with Jewish and Arab children from the Mateh Yehuda municipality. By bringing together Jewish and Arab children in the cycling for coexistence forum we are attempting to break down social barriers and change attitudes.

Contact Organization Director General, Dror Halevi

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E-mail: lmtnvd@zahav.net.il

Web site:

<http://www.lamitnadev.org.il/EN/?view=project&id=8>

The Ecumenical Theological Research Fraternity in Israel

ETRFI concerns itself with Christian-Jewish dialogue in Israel and is an umbrella organization for Christians in Israel with a range of members from all the historic churches. It works with various Christian and Jewish organization and institutions in Israel
Contact: Executive Secretary, Rev. Dr. Petra Heldt

Tel: +972-2-673-5423

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Web site: <http://www.etrfi.org/>

Hadassah Hospital

Hadassah Medical Organization has two hospitals in Jerusalem – the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus. The staff of Hadassah Medical Organization comprises of Jews, Israeli Arabs and Palestinians. Doctors at Hadassah work side by side without regard for race, religion or ethnic origin. Jewish doctors also treat Palestinian children from the West Bank and Gaza.

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Hand in Hand Schools (Yad B'Yad)

Hand in Hand Schools is a program which has founded bi-lingual schools in Jerusalem and the Galilee region for which there is a Jewish and Arab principal for each school. The idea is to build understanding, friendship and peace through educational methods. According to the project, there is one Jewish and one Arab teacher jointly leading each class. Classes are composed evenly of Jewish and Arab students, who learn each other's language and culture.

Tel:+ 972-2-673-5356

Email: info@handinhand.org.il

Web site: <http://www.handinhand12.org/>

Hapoel Jerusalem Youth Program

Hapoel Jerusalem Youth Program believes understanding can be reached through sports. Hapoel Jerusalem Youth Program has a three-stage strategy: This program provides training for Arab coaches and joins them with teams from Jewish Public Schools in training and classes.

Web site:

<http://www.maxexchange.com/mpdn/hjyp.htm>

I Am You Are

Since the summer of 1999, the Department of Education at the Jerusalem Cinematheque has offered the I AM YOU ARE workshop, which considers issues of identity and coexistence between Israeli and Palestinian youth from Jerusalem and its surroundings. The workshops bring together teens between the ages of 15-17 - Jews and Arabs, boys and girls, observant and secular - who have basic knowledge of film, television, and art; and who wish to experience self-expression through filmmaking.

Contact: Lia van Leer Founder and Director,
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Interfaith Encounter Association

The Interfaith Encounter Association is dedicated to promoting peace in the Middle East through interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural study. Projects include Youth Interfaith Encounter in Jerusalem that fosters dialogue between youths of different faiths.

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Website: <http://www.interfaith-encounter.org/index.htm>

Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel

The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel (ICCI) works to foster reconciliation, coexistence and understanding between the three faiths. It works with youth, women and religiously leaders to achieve its objectives.

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Website: <http://www.icci.co.il/>

IPCRI - Israel Palestine Center For Research And Information

The Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) is a joint institution of Israelis and Palestinians dedicated to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two-states for two peoples" solution. IPCRI therefore advocates for the rights of the Jewish and the Palestinian people to fulfill their national interests within the framework of achieving national self-determination within two separate states and by establishing peaceful relations between them.

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Jerusalem Circus

The Jerusalem Circus is a non-profit organization created in 1994 by Elisheva Yortner to develop the circus arts in Israel. The circus serves as a tool for dialogue and shared Jewish-Arab artistic creativity, and as a unique platform for encounters between Jewish and Arab/Palestinian residents of East and West Jerusalem, who rehearse together and work as a team to reach their common goal – to put

on a circus performance. The Jerusalem circus runs both a "Circus School" and a performance troupe which performs in Israel and abroad.

The Jewish-Arab Youth Circus is a program which helps Arab and Jewish youth to bridge the gap between their cultures by training and playing together on the flying trapeze, unicycles and juggling acts.

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Jerusalem Foundation

The Jerusalem Foundation seeks to create a fair and honest living environment for all residents of Jerusalem of different backgrounds. The Jerusalem Foundation has developed an agenda around three areas: community empowerment and economic independence; coexistence, cultural life and creativity. The foundation funds a "peace kindergarten" for Arab and Jewish children and trains community leaders in a course called "Managing Coexistence".

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Jerusalem Inter-Cultural Center

The Jerusalem Inter-Cultural Center was established to help Jerusalem residents become involved in shaping their city. Projects include community dialogue and Jewish/Arab cooperation, the Arabic-Hebrew Studies Center in Jerusalem and the Speaking Arts Conference in cooperation with the Jewish Foundation.

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Web site: <http://www.jicc.org.il/>

New Israel Fund

The New Israel Fund (NIF) is committed to democratic change within Israel. Through its action arm, SHATIL, it mentors, trains and leads Israeli civil society in an ongoing struggle to empower the underprivileged. Its

Jerusalem office awards grants to

organizations that work for social change.

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**Sikkuy: The Association for the
Advancement of Civic Equality in Israel**

The goal of Sikkuy, a non profit, non partisan NGO, is to provide civic equality to both Jews and Arabs in Israel through the values of equality, shared citizenship and human dignity.

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TRUST-Emun

TRUST-Emun is an Israeli non-profit organization concerned with interfaith dialogue between all faiths. Programs include dialogue, education and social events.

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