

The Project for Construction of School Facilities for Basic Education in the Gaza Strip



Project Site Gaza Strip

1. Background of Project

Educational facilities in Palestine were superannuated due to lack of repair during Israel's occupation. In addition, increasing enrollment aggravated the shortage of educational facilities, which forced many schools to adopt double shifts and to have classes on a tight schedule. The Palestine Interim Self Government Ministry of Education stated the policy to "ensure the quantity and quality of schools and establish schools in appropriate sites," and considered it a high priority after initiating the interim autonomy government. However, it was too early for the new Interim Self-Government to secure the financial resources necessary for constructing school facilities; thus, the Government had to depend on assistance from overseas. Schools had been constructed so far through assistance from international organizations and foreign countries, but the target number of classrooms had yet to be attained.

Therefore, with a view to improving learning conditions in classrooms, the Palestine Interim Self-Government requested the Japanese Government to formulate a plan for primary and secondary school construction in the Gaza Strip, where the situation was particularly critical in terms of school shortage, and to provide the Grant Aid necessary for executing the plan.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1997, FY1998

(2) Type of Cooperation

Grant Aid

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Ministry of Education

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

Educational environment is improved in the Gaza Strip.

2) Project Purpose

Classes are held in newly constructed primary and secondary schools.

3) Outputs

- a) Ten sets of primary and secondary school facilities (1 school building, 1 toilet facility for students, 1 sunshade, 1 canteen, 1 guard's room, etc.) are constructed.
- b) Materials for science education (experiment apparatus, microscope, etc.), furniture, and other equipment and materials are procured.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Grant	Total 2.60 billion yen (E/N amount)
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Palestinian Side

Land

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Operation and Maintenance Study:

Makoto INABA, Appraisal Officer for Grant Aid Program, Grant Aid Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Facilities Study:

Reiko HAYASHI, Japan International Cooperation System

4. Period of Evaluation

5 February 2000-13 February 2000

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

There were some restrictions in this project. For instance, builders had to go through the same formalities applied to those traveling from foreign countries in order to enter the Gaza Strip from Israel's territory, and the procurement of materials and machinery was also a cumbersome process. However, the total of 10 schools (222 classrooms) were completed within a limited period of construction, which led to the conclusion that the project was executed efficiently.

(2) Effectiveness

The project supplied 10 schools (222 classrooms) in the Gaza Strip, where a total of 9,477 students were enrolled. Also, construction of multi-purpose classrooms, laboratories, and the like made the learning environment in the new schools much better than that of the old schools. The project purpose was almost attained, as was described above.

(3) Impact

The existing classrooms in some areas became less congested due to the newly constructed schools.

The project carried out not only new construction and extension work of classrooms but also the headmaster's offices and teachers' rooms, which opened the way to an attempt to build capacity into school administration.

In addition, the Japanese engineers were dispatched for a long-term stay during the construction, which contributed to transferring construction technology and to enhancing awareness of safety control.

(4) Relevance

On a global scale, the Gaza district was a rarity in terms of overpopulation. There were 125 large-scale schools, each with enrollments of 1,000 or more as of 1998/99, and it was becoming more and more difficult for the schools to continue carrying on classes in a single shift. Therefore, the demand for new construction and extension work was very high. The project was also relevant to the priorities to "ensure quantity and quality of schools and establish schools in appropriate sites" set by the Ministry of Education. In summary, the project was considered highly relevant.

(5) Sustainability

At the time of the evaluation, the necessary costs for small repair and maintenance work were ensured and funds for large-scale rehabilitation work were to be



A school building provided by the project



Children study in a new classroom

provided by the Ministry of Education. Therefore, financial independence was confirmed for the present.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

The evaluation team made trips to observe not only newly constructed schools but other schools, as well. Many schools were facing problems regarding water and electric power supply. It was recommended that when installing water and electric power supply systems for the same type of project on the west bank in the future, training in day-to-day maintenance and immediate repair in an emergency, etc. should be included.

(2) Recommendations

It was found at the time of evaluation that there was no need to provide Follow-up cooperation. However, since it was difficult to assess Palestine's maintenance capability so early after the completion, it may be necessary to conduct a survey 10 to 15 years from now.