



# Education

September 2005



USAID/West Bank/Gaza

*These children go to a school that was newly renovated with support from USAID.*

## EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

- Psycho-social training provided to over 32,000 students to help deal with trauma caused by the political situation
- Supported non-governmental work in the following areas:
  - University student work in peer mediation and conflict resolution
  - Civic education for secondary students
  - Addition of peace education to secondary school curriculum
- 800 classrooms remodeled and rebuilt for increased girls enrolment
- 476 local scholarships provided to university undergraduates

## OVERVIEW

Education in the West Bank and Gaza, particularly higher education, has suffered from years of inadequate funding to support faculty, students, facilities and equipment. This situation has left the education system weakened and disconnected from the needs of the job market.

## PROGRAMS

USAID is nurturing a cadre of professionals and leaders by funding local scholarships and by sending graduate students to the United States for study in sectors critical to Palestinian society and its economic development. The education program aims to build human capacity and support emerging leaders by providing training opportunities to Palestinians and new library materials and information technology to universities. A new element of USAID's strategy is to focus on the needs of youth, with the goal of providing opportunities to link them to promising livelihoods.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- USAID has awarded 160 scholarships for master's degrees in U.S. universities. Six graduates will complete their studies in 2005 and return to the West Bank and Gaza. Upon their return, scholars will receive mentoring to promote a successful reentry, assistance with job placement, and other support.
- A new faculty development program will send 25 Doctoral students to American Universities in late 2006. Each will pursue specialized fields then return to their Palestinian schools to upgrade instruction. A short-term training program for 25 college professors will provide each teacher two three-month consultations at a U.S. college. The instructors will develop a new curriculum, test it at their Palestinian college, and then return to their state-side counterparts to refine and improve the syllabus and teaching methodology.
- Four hundred seventy-six local, talented and financially challenged undergraduate students (199 male and 277 female) are provided two- to four-semester full-tuition scholarships to study at accredited universities, community colleges and technical institutes in the West Bank and Gaza.
- USAID is funding up to 15 research proposals in the fields of biochemistry, botany, nutrition, microbiology, electronics, environment and wastewater treatment, and energy.



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# WEST BANK/GAZA

## Education (continued)



Alan Gignoux

- A short-term training program in information technology (IT) began in fiscal year 2003. It has provided 328 IT professionals and recent IT graduates with professional certification training focused on current and potential market needs. IT graduates received training in Oracle, Java, Windows, SQL, and CISCO.
- USAID plans to introduce a vocational training activity to develop the curricula and build the capacity of Palestinian vocational and technical centers and colleges.
- USAID conducted an 8 month needs assessment survey of higher education and higher education's management information system. USAID also provided staff training to the Ministry of Higher Education in project cycle management, communication skills, human resources and strategic planning.
- An extra \$7 million was donated by the American people in May 2005 to enlarge U.S.-funded higher education and training programs in the West Bank and Gaza. This money will go toward:
  - covering the tuition fees of an additional 1,500 students at technical and vocational colleges;
  - providing 13 technical and vocational colleges (with a total of 4,000 students) with modern equipment and supplies; and
  - modernizing computer labs at 20 community colleges in order to improve internet access and provide state-of-the-art skills training for 5,000 students.
- USAID is the largest donor to the primary education sector, with its high visibility contributions to the construction and rehabilitation of schools and kindergartens. By the end of 2003, USAID improved the learning environment by building and repairing classrooms, libraries, and labs. Eight hundred classrooms were remodeled and rebuilt to provide the opportunity for girls to go to school in areas where they previously were unable to because of space limitations.

### WEST BANK/GAZA

#### Education Budget (FY02-06)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
2003	2.8
2004	2.2
2005	10.0
2006	9.0
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$24 million</u>

On behalf of the American people, the U.S. government has provided humanitarian assistance and economic development to those in need around the world since the Marshall Plan.