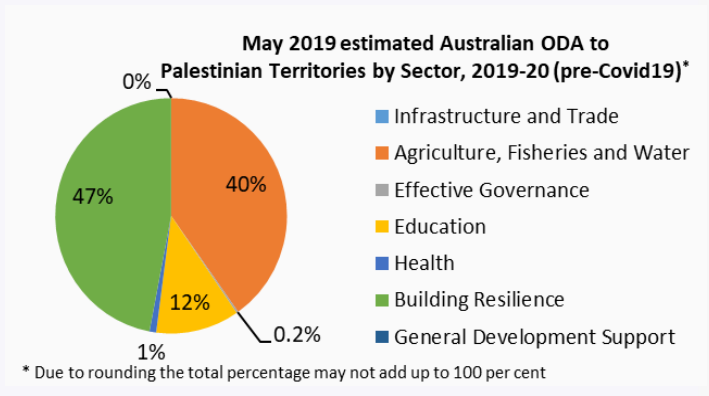




2019-20 PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Program Budget ¹	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m) ²
Bilateral	20.5
Regional	1.6
Global	20.4
Other Government Departments	-
Total Australian ODA to Palestinian Territories	42.6

¹Funding supports programs in the PTs and, through UNRWA, Palestinians in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. ² Actual expenditure is expected to be available in December 2020.



COVID-19 Development Response

- Australia’s support to the Palestinian Territories (PTs) is delivered in the context of our long-standing support for a two-state solution, where Israel and a future Palestinian state co-exist in peace and security. It contributes to stability and security in the region, including through supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide health, education and humanitarian services to vulnerable populations, and supporting agricultural development to strengthen resilience and capacity. In 2019/2020, approximately \$2,033,000 was pivoted to boost the COVID-19 response in the PTs.
- Recognising the importance of agriculture to economic recovery, the Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement Phase 3 (AMENCA 3) is directing about 27 per cent of its budget in 2020 to assist farmers and businesses’ amid the COVID-19 disruption.
- UNOPS pivoted about 30 per cent of its funds to support COVID-19. UNOPS assists efficient entry of goods and people into the PTs which has been important in prioritising timely supply of COVID-19 resources.
- UNRWA allocated equal to 6.25 per cent of its 2020 budget to COVID-19 to deliver targeted health assistance, cash assistance to vulnerable people and innovative education solutions. Its health, education, and humanitarian assets

addressed the pandemic through medical services, and schools used for as testing.

- Australia’s \$3.8 million contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported provision of PPE to its local Red Crescent Society partners, a quarantine centre, and medical supplies.

Other program highlights

- AMENCA 3 facilitated economic opportunities for farming communities to improve markets and productivity. It met or exceeded most indicators such as: 40,000 farmers with increased income; upgraded agricultural roads to improve accessibility to land; and increased agricultural production.
- UNRWA delivered education to 533,000 children and provided more than 8.7 million primary health consultations. During COVID, it adjusted to continue service delivery in safety including triaging patients to reduce congestion and providing self-learning resources during school closures to nearly 92 percent of UNRWA students.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2019-20 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TITLE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK INDICATOR/BENCHMARK	BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST INDICATOR/BENCHMARK
Objective 1: Improved Public Financial Management and a more competitive agricultural economy in the PTs.	1.1 The stock of income tax debt is lower than it was in October 2018.	Funding to the activity that contributed to this benchmark was discontinued in 2018 as Australia withdrew from the World Bank Palestinian Recovery and Development Program Trust Fund. Australia took the decision due to concern that providing funds for this aspect of the Palestinian Authority's operations provided an opportunity for the Palestinian Authority to use its own budget to assist Palestinians convicted of politically motivated violence.
	1.2 Farmers Report Increased Income From Better Functioning Value Chains Supported By AMENCA 3.	AMENCA 3 exceeded end of program cumulative targets (a year early) for the indicators that assess increased income. Farmers reported increased incomes in 2019 as business relationships with the private sector matured. Increasingly, farmers enjoy reliable seasonal prices, and business aggregators and processors have a reliable supply chain. Product diversification and increasing focus on quality was notable in 2019. The targets for women and youth participation were achieved.
Objective 2: Palestinian refugees in the PTs and across the region are able to access quality basic services.	2.1 Benchmarks relating to student achievement in mathematics in UNRWA schools were set (and measured) in the 2016-17 APPR. As UNRWA measures these in a standardised manner every three years, we will measure these again in 2019-20.	The monitoring of learning and achievement (MLA) tests for grade 4 and grade 8 students in maths was scheduled to take place in April 2020 but due to the COVID-19 related closure of schools it has been postponed until spring 2021 (dependent on the schools having reopened).
	2.2 A reduction from the 2019 outcome of average daily medical consultations from UNRWA health clinics (inferring improved quality consultations rather than a higher volume) as well as better preventative health measures.	Despite restrictions and instability in Gaza and the West Bank, conflict in Syria, and economic uncertainty in Lebanon, UNRWA met or surpassed most health indicators. The 2019 target for average daily medical consultations per doctor were met in four of five jurisdictions (Jordan excepted). Through e-health innovations, agency staff – observing confidentiality – collect, store, and communicate patient data. This reduced the number of medical consultations, allowing for longer doctor/patient consultation, improved quality of care, and reduced waiting times. These reforms led to an increase in the quality of services provided and clarity on patient tracking, eliminating duplicate records and cases that did not require the attention of medical staff.
<p><i>Note: The PTs aid program in 2019-2020 included grant agreements with the ICRC and UNOPS. However, performance indicators were not included for these organisations this financial year as the agreements were not programmed at the time of publication of the last annual Aid Investment Plan (AIP).</i></p>		

ANNEX A: PROGRAM QUALITY

Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality
Palestinian Farmers Connecting to Markets (AMENCA 3)	\$31m	2019 AQC	5	4	4
	2016-2021	2020 AQC	5	5	5

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.