



الإسلام المحمدي رسول الله

The Saudi Fund for Development

Grants for Palestine from the  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the  
Saudi Fund for Development





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The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its official and public levels gives utmost importance to the human issues in general, and the Palestinian dilemma in particular which receives the Kingdom's continuous economic and political support. In the field of economic support, the Kingdom had in course of the past few years offered through the SFD the Palestinian people more than SR. 13875 million, equivalent to almost US\$ 3700 million. It was allocated to support the Palestinian authority budget and implement development projects through the international and regional organizations and institutions.



The Kingdom has continuously stressed the urgency to support the Palestinian people and provide them with the basic requirements for a decent life; such as education, housing and health care. Not only this, but it has also closely worked with those who exert any efforts to lighten the strain of people's suffering. The Kingdom deeply believes that one day the issue would be eventually resolved according to the international law in a fair way that guarantees all rights of the Palestinian people. Yet till this moment eventually comes, the Kingdom considers that it is the duty of the international community whether all governments, institutes or organizations, to provide the necessary support to the Palestinians.



The Kingdom's contributions extended to cover the vital and main sectors which included education, health, housing, infrastructure and social Development. This is allustrated as follow :





### ■ Health :

The kingdom through the Saudi Fund, had supported the Palestinian health sector with a total of SR. 217.50 million, equivalent to almost US\$ 58 million. The amount was allocated for the construction, equipping and furnishing of more than 17 health centers, equipping a number of hospitals and the provision of advanced medical devices and medicines. That's in addition to supporting the medical staffs and their technical cadres to cope with the current worldwide medical development and raise the standards of health services across Palestine territories. The amount was also used for the provision of medicines and an ambulance for the clinic attached to Al-Aqsa Mosque.

### ■ Education :

Education is definitely the main tool to raise up awareness of the children and prepare the coming generations to be able enough to build the Palestinian state. As the kingdom believes in the importance of this sector, it contributed a total of SR. 470.47 million, equivalent to about US\$ 125.46 million in order to construct, expand, develop and equip more than 61 primary and preparatory schools in different parts of Palestine territories.

### ■ Housing :

Housing represents the backbone of societies in general; however for the Palestinians it goes far beyond this, it actually stands as the icon of Palestinian resistance against the cruel occupation and a blockage to the expansion of Israeli settlement particularly in the sacred areas, historic mosques and Islamic monuments in the old towns, especially the major ones such as Al-Quds and Al-Khalil which truly preserve the Arab and Islamic identity.



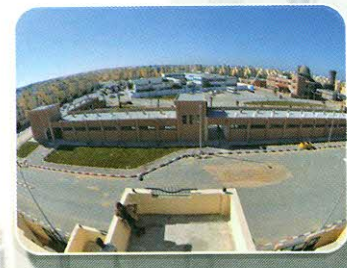


In order to support the Palestinians' resistance in the face of occupation and help preserve those old towns from seizure, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had financed a broad range of projects which aim to repair and rehabilitate the old town houses especially those close to Al-Aqsa, Dome of the Rock and Ibrahim Mosques. Likewise, the Kingdom constructed and renovated the residential units in the Palestinian refugee camps located in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as Nahr Al-Bared and Ain Al-Hilwa refugee camps in Lebanon. In this regard, the Kingdom had contributed a total of SR. 986.88 million, that is equivalent to US\$ 263.17 million to construct more than 2100 residential units and renovate 10230 houses.

### **The Saudi Program for Housing Palestinian Refugees in Rafah**

The housing project in Rafah represents a residential complex of a comprehensive services constructed over more than 481000 m<sup>2</sup>. The project is set to be implemented in three phases at a total cost exceeding SR. 401 million which is equivalent to US\$ 107 million. The first phase was executed over 247602 m<sup>2</sup> and was opened in February, 2013. It comprised 752 residential units to house about 4564 people; besides the construction of 4 schools, a commercial complex, a health center and a cultural one. That's in addition to the provision of several services which included connecting and construct a tank of water, sewerage, electricity and communication networks besides the construction and lighting of roads network and a mosque with a capacity of more than 1200 prayers, making gardens and digging water wells with a storage tank of 2000 m<sup>3</sup> capacity.

The second phase consisted of the construction of 765 residential units to house 4761 individuals over an area of about 177804 m<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, two schools were constructed and supplied with all the required services such as the connection of water, sewerage, electricity



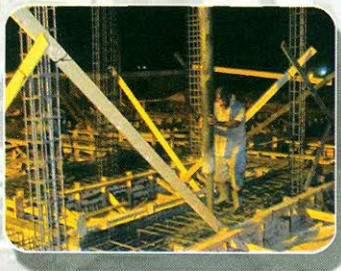




and communication networks besides the construction and lighting of roads, making gardens, and a mosque with a capacity of 400 prayers. This phase is scheduled to be opened in 2014.

The third phase comprises of the construction of 220 residential units to house 1300 individuals over a total area of 55784 m<sup>2</sup> besides to the connecting of water, sewerage, electricity and communication networks, making gardens, and construction and lighting of roads.

The housing project in Rafah is definitely one of the major and most significant projects that the Kingdom keens to support in Gaza Strip. The project is totally unique in every bit; size, design, form and construction circumstances. Actually, it is the first comprehensive project ever that "UNRWA" implements in Palestine. The project was also incepted amid extremely harsh conditions due to the blockade imposed on Gaza Strip which led to a clear shortage in the basic materials required for construction, as well as the stoppage of the construction works and its related activities, which led to the deterioration of the economic and social circumstances of Gaza Strip besides the increase in the unemployment rate. Nevertheless, "UNRWA" perfectly managed to implement the program in record time and with high quality standards due to the optimal diplomatic and professional efforts of its staff in charge of the project. It's worth mentioning that the project had directly and indirectly contributed to support Gaza Strip economy in a real crucial timing. In terms of this, the project had in its first phase, provided more than 400 thousand working days and contributed to improve the economies and the works related to construction business as of the blacksmithing and carpentry repair-shops, etc. It had also contributed to the increase in the income of many individuals and families.





■ **Infrastructure :**

The Kingdom had through the Fund contributed to the finance of various infrastructure projects. Those included the construction and maintenance of the electricity, water, sewerage and communications networks, laying roads through all the Palestinian lands plus Nahr Al-Bard and Ain Al-Hilwa refugee camps in Lebanon. The mentioned projects totaled to about SR. 258.40 million which is equivalent to US\$ 68.90 million.



■ **Social Development :**

The social Development sector is evidently significant in fighting poverty and reducing the dependence of Palestinian families in earning their living on the aids and assistances granted by donor countries and organizations. For this, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia contributed to the program of empowering economy and boosting the capacities of those working in the education and health sectors. In this respect, the kingdom had participated together with a number of financiers to finance the project of "Enhancing social protection and comprehensiveness in Gaza Strip". The project aims to improve the economic circumstances of some poor Palestinian families in Gaza Strip through developing their capacities to be effectively productive; this in turn increases their income and improves their living standard in order to eventually become independent in earning their living.

