

## Sustainable Economic Development, Employment and Labour Market

# More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth I (MJO I) - Short Term Courses Component

### Background and Objective

In the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, youth between 18 and 29 years represent about 22% of the total population. Almost half of the young people in this age group are not in employment or education, with significant differences between the Gaza Strip (60%) and the West Bank (37%) and between males (31%) and females (69%). While the unemployment problem in the Palestinian Territories is a consequence of the overall unstable economic and political situation, private sector companies also face the problem of being unable to find sufficiently and appropriately qualified workers.

*'Through this approach, we are able to link the outputs of vocational training with the requirements of the labour market, therefore, providing more job opportunities for the most marginalized young people and fulfilling the needs of the local market.'*

*Majdi Qaud, TVET Unit, Hebron Chamber of Commerce, Hebron*

To match vocational training and education to the demands of the labour market, GIZ is implementing the programme “More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth” (MJO) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ). One of its components is the innovatively designed “Short-Term Courses” which offers a new chance to underprivileged and unemployed youth to reintegrate them efficiently back into the labour market.



Project name	More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth I (MJO I)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip
Partners	Ministry of Labour, Private Sector Organisations, Community Based Organisations
Duration	January 2015 – June 2024

### Approach

The Short-Term Course component comprises two measures: the “short-term courses” and the “community-based projects”. Both measures are tailored to target beneficiaries aged between 16 to 39 years. They prioritise the primary interests of the economic sector as well as the needs of communities with marginalised youth, including refugees in Area C, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the STC component introduces sustainable interventions for socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged persons with disabilities.

The first measure, “short-term courses”, is implemented through Private Sector Organisations (PSOs). The implementation is preceded by a corresponding tendering procedure. The PSOs organise the planning and implementation of courses with the support of GIZ on their own responsibility in the framework of grant agreements or local subsidies. In exceptional cases, when the capacities of the implementing partners are not yet sufficient, GIZ carries out projects itself.

Female beneficiary attending an automotive mechatronics short-term course at the Tulkarem Vocational Training Centre



Carpentry short-term course targeting youth in marginalised areas in the West Bank

The second measure of STC includes “community-based projects” which are implemented through the Community Based Organisations (CBOs). This measure aims at economically integrating marginalised young adults in remote areas. This is achieved by implementing supported income-generating projects that are identified based on the communities’ needs and priorities. The role of the CBOs is to facilitate the decision on the income-generating projects and follow-up the implementation of the projects to ensure transparency and accountability within the community.

The STC approach also takes the personal interests and talents of the students into account. It provides individualised instruction and tutoring schemes in order to strengthen their self-esteem and self-confidence which is often low due to previous school failures and dropouts.

The STC measures are being aligned, in close consultation with the private sector companies, to the needed specialisations in the labour market. By bridging the gap between the vocational training and education content and the actual requirements of the private sector, the STC works on ensuring a steady inclusion of underprivileged Palestinian youth to have long-term employment and better living standards.

In response to soaring food commodity prices in the Palestinian Territories as a consequence of the war in Ukraine, additional short-term qualification measures are being implemented to strengthen food security. These measures are aimed at increasing self-sufficiency and the productivity of food production in the West Bank.

## Achievements

- The programme supports 31 Private Sector Organisations (PSOs) and 12 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in the West Bank and Gaza.
- 3.175 trainees, of which 48% were female, have successfully completed labour-market oriented STCs.

- 40% of the traced graduates of the STCs got employed within 6 months after graduation.
- 579 trainees, of which 57% were female, have successfully completed food security measures in the West Bank.
- Responding to the high demand, chambers, associations, and NGOs are currently preparing the sustainable continuation of the STCs without direct support of GIZ.

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