



## Project Summary

The **general objective** of the project is to increase access for boys and girls to an improved child-friendly justice system in Palestine.

This project corresponds to a second phase of a specialised programmatic intervention on juvenile justice Tdh is carrying out since August 2016 in partnership with UNICEF. In the second phase the project is focused on: **(1)** enhancing child friendly justice processes such as **diversion** and **alternatives to detention** for children in conflict with the law, **(2)** providing access to **effective rehabilitation and reintegration services** to support children's post-release from detention and/or rehabilitation centres as well as from police stations, **(3)** strengthening **legislative implementation framework for juvenile justice**.

### General Information

**Project title:** Justice for Children (J4C) –Phase II

**Donor:** UNICEF

**Location:** West Bank (Bethlehem Governorate) and Gaza Strip, Palestine

**Duration:** November 2017 – April 2018 (6 months)

**Partners:** Community based organizations (CBOs) – Shorug in the West Bank, Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) in Gaza.

**Total budget:** 86,500 CHF

## Key data and needs to address

- The number of children in conflict with the law (and specially those aged 12-18 years old) increases gradually every year. The official data (although under reporting is a critical issue) from 2012-2016 period shows a yearly average of 850-900 children (Gaza Strip) and 1700-1800 (West Bank) arrested and/or kept in detention awaiting trial for months. Girls have limited/restricted access to the justice system.
- The Juvenile Justice System in the State of Palestine has made important progress since the approval of the first specialised Juvenile Protection Law (JPL). However, it has been adopted without enacting secondary legislation preventing the applicability of its non-self-executing provisions. Lack of specialized child justice professionals within the system in Palestine hinder proper implementation of the law. Whilst the aforementioned law is not yet applied in Gaza, the authorities there have shown a willingness to advance children's rights through the application of various principles in the JPL.
- For those girls and boys who have experienced contact with the justice system (which they perceived as being not child-friendly) and the subsequent generated stigmatization, the participation in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes have an important healing role and help to address social, psychological and developmental needs. These programmes need to be available to children in conflict and in contact with the law as part of non-custodial measures (alternatives to detention and diversion measures) but also while in custody.



### Outcome 1

#### Diversion and alternatives to detention are reached by children

- 45 children in conflict with the law in the Gaza Strip are provided with specialized **legal representation and social accompaniment** during police and judicial proceedings aiming to access diversion and alternatives to detention.
- **Equipment of a Vocational Training Centre** to provide quality child friendly alternatives to detention and diversion measures in the Gaza Strip.
- **Documentation report** on the **impact** of the alternatives to detention and diversion measures on **children and their families** in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.



### Outcome 2

#### Specialized rehabilitation and reintegration services

- 65 children (47 boys, 17 girls) are provided with **specialized PSS services through drama and music therapies and life skills support**.
- Performance on a **theatre play** directed by children themselves (child-led advocacy through child participation groups) embedded with **juvenile justice related messages and directed to decision-makers and community members**.



### Outcome 3

#### Juvenile Justice legislative implementation framework is strengthened

- 70 justice and social actors in the Gaza Strip (42 male, 28 female) are provided with specialised thematic **trainings on the application of the Juvenile Protection Law** and report improved learning and awareness.
- 30 justice and social actors joined through a validation workshop to establish a procedure to **systematically apply alternatives to detention and diversion measures** in the Gaza Strip.
- **Police child-friendly Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs)** compiled and disseminated in the Gaza Strip.

## Target groups

- Total number of **direct beneficiaries:** 258
- **Children at risk and in conflict with the law, boys and girls**, aged between 10 and 17 years of age; **parents and caregivers, child services providers; JJ justice and social professional actors**.

## Location

- **Gaza Strip.** Al-Rabee Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. 5 governorates: North Gaza, Gaza Governorates, Deir Al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah)
- **West Bank.** Bethlehem Governorate. Activities have been conducted with the support of child services providers accredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development.

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