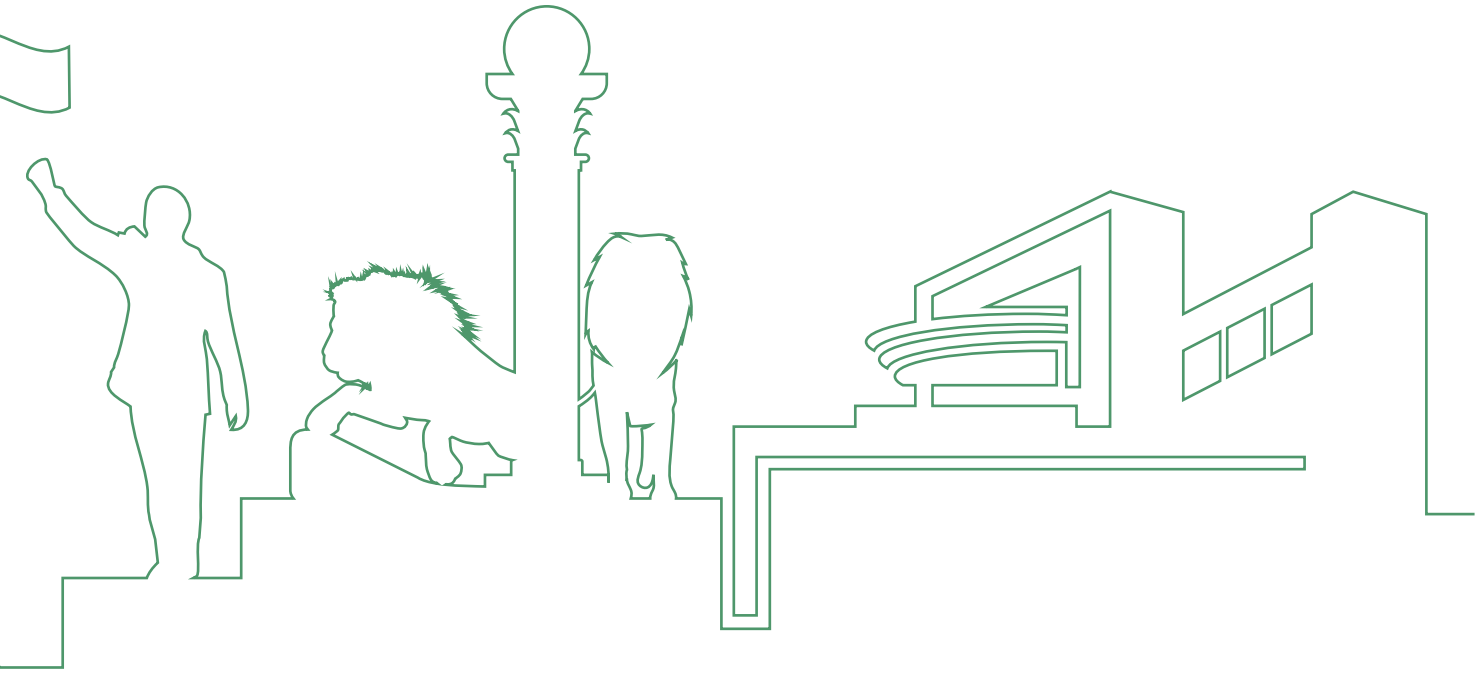
VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW
RAMALLAH CITY
2024

We Ramallah

RAMALLAH 1908
MUNICIPALITY



VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW
RAMALLAH CITY
2024

Title:
Voluntary Local Review - Ramallah City, 2024
Copyright © Ramallah City, 2024

All rights reserved.

This Voluntary Local Review is produced under the project "Fostering COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation through local action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African countries" funded by the 2030 Agenda Sub-fund and implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and United Cities and Local Governments.

Disclaimer:
The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any county, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations and its member states.

Suggested Citation:
Ramallah City (2024). Voluntary Local Review - Ramallah City, 2024 . Ramallah, Palestine.

With the support of:

UN-HABITAT
UNITED NATIONS ESCWA
Shared Prosperity Dignified Life
LOCALIZING THE SDGs

Ramallah Municipality

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments **15**
Foreword by the Prime Minister **16**
Foreword by the Mayor of Ramallah **18**
Foreword by UN-Habitat and ESCWA **20**
Chapter 1: Localizing the 2030 agenda in Palestine **22**
1.1 State of Palestine's efforts in advancing and localizing SDGs 24
1.2 The Ramallah Voluntary Local Review 2024 26
Chapter 2: The City of Ramallah **38**
2.1 Introduction 40
2.2 Comparison with other cities 42
2.2.1 Population and demographics 43
2.2.2 Economy 43
2.3 Opportunities and threats in Ramallah 44
2.3.1 Threat 45
2.3.2 Opportunities 46
Chapter 3: Progress of SDGs inn Ramallah **48**
3.1 SDG 4: Education **50**
3.1.1 Background 52
3.1.2 School accessibility in Ramallah City 52
3.1.3 Governmental and city-level statistics 54
3.1.4 Selected SDG 4 targets and indicators 55
3.1.5 What is needed to make further progress in SDG 4 64
3.1.6 Implementation plan 64
Short term (1-2 years) 64
Medium term (3-5 years) 65
Long term (5+ years) 65
3.2 SDG 8: Economy **66**
3.2.1 Background 68
3.2.2 Local economic development strategies 69
Local level 70
Governorate level 70
National level 70
3.2.3 Selected SDG 8 targets and indicators 72
3.2.4 What is needed to male further progress in SDG 8 83
3.2.5 Implementation plan: 84
Short term (1-2 years) 84
Medium term (3-5 years) 85
Long term (5+ years) 85
3.3 SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities **86**
3.3.1 Background 88
3.3.2 Prioritized SDG indicators and stakeholder insights 89
3.3.3 Neighbourhood functionality analysis 90
Principle 1: Adequate space for streets and efficient street network 91
Principle 2: High density 93
Principle 3: Mixed land use 94
Principle 4: Social mix 94
Principle 5: Limited land-use specialization 95
Agglomeration of the five principles 95
3.3.4 Selected SDG 8 targets and indicators 97
3.3.4.1 Addressing affordable housing 97
3.3.4.2 Traffic management and safety initiatives 98
3.3.4.3 Land and urban planning targets and indicators 104

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3.3.4.4 Solid waste and wastewater indicators 116
3.3.5 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 11 119
3.3.6 Implementation plan 120
Short term (1-2 years) 120
Medium term (3-5 years) 121
Long term (5+ years) 121
3.4 SDG 13: Climate action 122
3.4.1 Background 124
3.4.2 Main issues and priorities pertaining to SDG 13 125
3.4.3 SDG 13 targets and indicators 126
3.4.4 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 13 132
3.4.5 Implementation plan 133
Short term (1-2 years) 133
Medium term (3-5 years) 133
Long term (5+ years) 133
3.5 SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies 134
3.5.1 Background 136
3.5.2 Main issues and priorities 136
3.5.3 SDG 16 targets and indicators 142
3.5.4 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 16 148
3.5.5 Implementation plan 148
Short term (1-2 years) 148
Medium term (3-5 years) 149
Long term (5+ years) 149
3.6 SDG 17: Partnerships 150
3.6.1 Background 152
3.6.2 Main issues and priorities 152
3.6.3 Strategic partnerships and international collaboration 154
Examples of twinning successes: 155
Engagement in international networks: 155
3.6.4 SDG 17 targets and indicators 156
3.6.5 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 17 170
3.6.6 Implementation plan: 170
Short term (1-2 years) 170
Medium term (3-5 years) 170
Long term (5+ years) 171
Chapter 4: Conclusions and looking forward 172
References 178

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: A meeting on June 8, 2024 with management team discussing the selection of SDGs and Indicators 27
Figure 2: Preliminary linkages of Ramallah Municipality priorities 28
Figure 3: The West Bank and Gaza 40
Figure 4: The city of Ramallah 42
Figure 5: Threats of Ramallah city 45
Figure 6: Opportunities of Ramallah city 47
Figure 7: Schools accessibility in Ramallah City 53
Figure 8: Youth municipal council organized by Ramallah Municipality 59
Figure 9: The Ramallah Elementary Mixed School 62
Figure 10: The Chinese School 63
Figure 11: A computer lab provided by Ramallah Municipality 63
Figure 12: A science lab provided by Ramallah Municipality 63
Figure 13: Distribution of economic registered members 69
Figure 14: Souk Al Harajeh, organized by the Ramallah Municipality, takes place on select Fridays during the summer 74
Figure 15: Food trucks in the city 74
Figure 16: Farmers' market in the city 74
Figure 17: The new entrepreneurship centre operated by the municipality at Ramallah City complex 75
Figure 18: The yearly Christmas tree-lighting event attracting thousands of Palestinians and international visitors 80
Figure 19: Comparison of SDG Indicator 8.10.1 between Ramallah City and the region 82
Figure 20: Principle 1 analysis (road area network) 92
Figure 21: Principle 1 analysis (road length network) 92
Figure 22: Principle 2 analysis (population densities) 93
Figure 23: Neighbourhood scores of the 5 principles 96
Figure 24: Ramallah's standing across the region and global values for SDG Indicator 11.2.1 100
Figure 25: Analysis of public transport accessibility in Ramallah City 101
Figure 26: Traffic at the city centre 102
Figure 27: Indoor car parking at municipality-owned Ramallah City complex in the city centre 103
Figure 28: The municipality building car parking 103
Figure 29: Strategic planning workshop in 2023 with the participation of citizens, CSOs and the private sector 107
Figure 30: Participants by gender and domains for Strategic Development Strategy 2023-2026 for Ramallah City committees 107
Figure 31: Conservation of old houses in the city 109
Figure 32: Park of Nations at Ramallah City 110
Figure 33: Analysis of SDG Indicator 11.7.1: open spaces are outside the blue line 111
Figure 34: Souk Al Harajeh organized yearly by the Ramallah Municipality on the main street next to municipality building 112
Figure 35: A cultural event at the municipality's open theatre during Souk Al Harajeh 113
Figure 36: A theatre performance for children in the Ottoman park 113
Figure 37: The design of the Shireen Abu Akleh media museum 114
Figure 38: A public event organized by the Ramallah Municipality in partnership with CSOs at Mandela Square, thanking South Africa for its support to the Palestinian people 114
Figure 39: The new wastewater treatment plant located west of the city 118
Figure 40: Irrigation of plants by treated wastewater at main streets 119
Figure 41: Photovoltaic panels installed on the municipality's rooftop 128
Figure 42: Share of GHG emissions by source 129
Figure 43: Share of GHG emissions by building type 130
Figure 44: Share of GHG emissions by transport type 130

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 45: Environment competition among city schools organized by Ramallah Municipality 131

Figure 46: Youth voluntary campaigns organized by Ramallah Municipality 132

Figure 47: Municipality staff cleaning the streets after Israeli military incursion of the city in 19/9/2019 137

Figure 48: A public election debate among competing lists during municipal elections in 2017 138

Figure 49: A public forum with the Ramallah Municipality's mayor and city council at the main city hall 138

Figure 50: a public forum with youth (60 per cent female) held with the Ramallah Municipality's mayor and city council at the main city hall 139

Figure 51: The indoor playground at the Ramallah Recreation Center 140

Figure 52: The design of the new sports village 141

Figure 53: a photo showing progress of construction works at the new sports village 141

Figure 54: Citizens paying yearly taxes at city hall 142

Figure 55: The new Senior Citizens' Home 154

Figure 56: Signing of a twinning agreement with Sofia Municipality on 18/6/2022 155

Figure 57: Participation of Ramallah Municipality at the World Urban Forum 11 in Poland from 26-30 June 2024 156

Figure 58: Ramallah Municipality revenues vrs receivables 158

Figure 59: Locanda Farah, a renovated old house operated privately 166

Figure 60: The comprehensive master plan for the urban center of Ramallah and Al-Bireh 167

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1: Alignment of priorities as per SDSF for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate with SDGs 29

Table 2: Alignment of priorities of Ramallah's Strategic Plan (2023-2026) with SDGs 30

Table 3: Alignment of priorities of Ramallah's Resilience Plan (2050) with SDGs 30

Table 4: Demographic statistics comparison among selected Palestinian cities 43

Table 5: Economics statistics comparison among Palestinian cities 44

Table 6: National assessment of SDG Indicator 4.7.1 58

Table 7: GDP proportion (time series) in the West Bank 79

Table 8: Stakeholders' insights for SDG 11 89

Table 9: The committees for each domain for establishing the Strategic Development Strategy 2023-2026 for Ramallah City 106

Table 10: Issues and priorities of SDG 13 126

Table 11: GHG emissions in Palestine in time series 128

Table 12: Main issues and priorities of SDG 16 137

Table 13: National level proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive 145

Table 14: Main issues and priorities of SDG 17 153

Table 15: Ramallah's projects and funding (2020-2023) 160

Table 16: International sources of FDI in Palestine 161

Table 17: FDI in Palestine by sector 161

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APLA	Association of Palestinian Local Authorities
ATMs	Automated Teller Machines
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EQA	Environment Quality Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LGUs	Local Government Units
MoEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MOLG	Ministry of Local Government
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
PA	Palestinian Authority
PalDRM	Palestinian National Disaster Risk Management
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSF	Spatial Development Strategic Framework
SEACAP	Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan
SWM	Solid Waste Management
UMF	Urban Monitoring Framework
UN ESCWA	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
UN Habitat	The United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work is supported by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund. This is a collaboration between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and Ramallah Municipality towards the implementation of a project titled "2030 Agenda Sub-Fund Fostering COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation through local action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African countries (April 2022–June 2025)".

Mr. Marwan Durzi, International Development Consultant, played a leading role in preparing the report, serving as the principal author and overseeing data collection, conducting in-depth analysis, and engaging key stakeholder through interviews. This publication would not have been possible without the valued support of Ramallah Municipality management team, UN-Habitat Palestine. Special acknowledgment is also extended to the GIS Department of Ramallah Municipality, whose valuable efforts contributed to the preparation of all maps presented in this report, unless otherwise indicated.

This publication was supervised by the steering committee consisting of Mr. Ahmad Abu Laban, City Director, and Ms. Irene Saadeh, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Ramallah Municipality, Mr. Mahmoud Ataya, Deputy Minister, the Ministry of Planning, Arch. Ohood Enaia, Head of Planning and Policies Unit at the Ministry of Local Government (MOLG), Mr. Khaled Abu Khaled, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and Eng. Abdallah Anati, Executive Director, the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA).

FOREWORD BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Since President Mahmoud Abbas announced the State of Palestine's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the State of Palestine officially began implementing the Plan as of January 2016. The Council of Ministers issued a decision to form a national team that was responsible for issuing comprehensive progress reviews for implementing the SDG Development Plan at the National Level.

Despite the grave challenges resulting from the occupation, which controls the economic and social resources of the State of Palestine and hinders optimizing the usage of its natural resources, Palestine affirms its firm commitment to the principle of "leaving no one behind". It continues to strive for its full liberation and to join the sustainable development in the interests of its citizens. In this context, the government has committed to working in close cooperation with local government units to localize the SDGs to be closer and more impactful on the lives of individuals and communities.

The release of the Ramallah Local Voluntary Report is the first Palestinian effort at the local level in this context, where Palestinian local governments participate in submitting local reports reviewing their efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. This effort contributes to enhancing coherence between national and local levels, complements VNR reports and promotes the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The process of preparing the local voluntary review is an important opportunity to raise awareness about sustainable development, build the capacity, and promote a culture of adoption of these goals locally, in cooperation between government agencies, the private sector and civil society, which contributes to creating economic development opportunities without straining land or natural resources. This approach comes in line with national efforts and initiatives to achieve sustainable and comprehensive development in Palestine.

While we appreciate the efforts made by the Ramallah Municipality in this regard, through the issuance of this report, we call on all Palestinian local government units to integrate the SDG plan into their local plans; for its impact on improving the services provided to citizens.

Prime Minister of the State of Palestine
Mohammad Mustafa

FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR OF RAMALLAH

This VLR marks a significant milestone, being the first-ever Voluntary Local Review for both Ramallah City and Palestine. It is a testament to our commitment to a global vision while grounding our efforts in local realities.

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I present this report on Ramallah Municipality's ongoing commitment to resilience, community support, and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since the launch of the Resilient Strategy in 2017, we have consistently worked to integrate sustainable development into our local planning and crisis management. Our approach has been firmly aligned with both the National Development Plan and the Local Government Sectorial Plan, ensuring that our efforts are in harmony with national priorities while addressing local needs.

Whether in response to repeated incursions, mobility restrictions, or the global pandemic, we have continued to adapt and build systems that ensure our community's needs are met, even in times of crisis.

In light of the escalation of Israeli aggression on Gaza after October 7, 2023, Ramallah Municipality has once again proven its resilience. We mobilized our resources and strengthened our support systems to meet the immediate needs of those most affected by the war. Our response has highlighted the critical role of local governments in supporting vulnerable populations, addressing gaps in service delivery, and promoting solidarity in times of crisis.

Despite the challenges imposed by the occupation—including the economic downturn, limitations on commercial and tourism activities, and disruptions to essential services like waste management and infrastructure projects—the municipality has remained focused on its mission. We provided support to the local economy by empowering small and micro businesses, employed field workers, and continued to provide essential services to our citizens.

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process has been an instrumental tool in ensuring that our local development efforts align with the broader SDG framework. Through the VLR, we have identified capacity gaps, improved data collection systems, and strengthened our ability to monitor and assess progress towards the SDGs at the local level. This process has further highlighted the importance of integrating SDG principles into local governance, ensuring that no one is left behind, and that our planning and actions reflect the needs of all citizens, particularly marginalized groups.

We ensure that culture remains the DNA that shapes our vision in how we apply local government concepts including SDGs, and how culture is an integral part and a corner stone on societies' sustainable development.

Ramallah Municipality remains steadfast in its commitment to the localization of the SDGs, recognizing that these goals are not abstract ideals, but concrete actions that can shape our community's future. As we continue to face challenges, we will build upon the lessons learned from the VLR process and strengthen our resilience in the face of adversity.

We are committed to ensuring that our municipality not only survives but thrives, as we localize the SDGs to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and just future for all.

Sincerely,
Issa Kassis
Mayor

STATEMENT BY UN-HABITAT AND UNESCWA

In an era marked by complex challenges ranging from protracted conflict and climate change to social inequalities and economic uncertainties, local governments stand at the forefront of transformative action. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provide a global framework for addressing these challenges. However, the true realization of these goals hinges on localizing them. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) have become essential tools for this localization. They enable cities and local authorities to assess progress, share good practices and promote inclusive, evidence-based, and coherent policymaking.

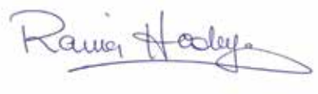
Ramallah has consistently demonstrated bold urban leadership and resilience in the face of complex and evolving challenges. As the first city in the State of Palestine and the first in the Arab region under such unique circumstances to undertake a VLR, Ramallah is charting a new course for sustainable development that is locally grounded and globally aligned. This landmark VLR builds upon the city's longstanding commitment to inclusive growth, social equity and enhancing the quality of life for all its residents. It reflects a strong and strategic alignment of municipal action with global frameworks, most notably the 2030 Agenda.

Through this initiative, the State of Palestine joins a growing global movement of cities advancing the SDGs from the ground up, driven by local ownership, participation, and leadership. This review stands as a testament to the determination and vision of Ramallah's leadership and as a powerful message of hope and progress for communities across the State of Palestine and beyond in the Arab region.

Developed through a participatory process led by Ramallah Municipality, with technical support from the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), this VLR reflects local realities, community priorities and data-informed strategies. It serves both as a snapshot of the city's current position and a roadmap for future efforts.

The journey towards sustainable development is a shared responsibility that begins in our cities and is driven by the vision resilience, and commitment of our communities. We hope this VLR will guide Ramallah's strategic planning and inspire other municipalities in the State of Palestine and across the Arab region to undertake their own review processes.

Together, we can accelerate progress towards more inclusive, just, and sustainable futures.



Rania Hedeya

Regional Director

for Arab States
UN-Habitat

Rola Dashti

Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretatry
UNESCWA

CHAPTER 1:
LOCALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA IN PALESTINE

State of Palestine's efforts in advancing and localizing SDGs

While it is still under direct occupation by the State of Israel, the State of Palestine is recognized by 146 member states of the United Nations. State of Palestine is a parliamentary democracy, based on political pluralism, and is a multiparty system. Palestine does not have a formal constitution. Instead, its legal framework is based on various historical legal systems (Ottoman, Egyptian, Jordanian, and Israeli) as well as the 2002 Basic Law that functions as a temporary constitution until the establishment of an independent state. State of Palestine is divided into two main geographical units: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It operates at three different levels of government: the central level, the regional level (governorates), and the local level (local government units). There are 16 governorates and 405 local government units. Local government units (municipalities and village councils) are under guidance of the Ministry of Local Government (MOLG). Municipalities hold a status of local authorities, while village councils are de-concentrated state bodies. The Local Authorities Law stipulates 27 areas that are under the LGUs' responsibility, such as planning, building licensing and construction control, water supply, electricity supply, sewage management, collection and disposal of solid waste, etc.

Demonstrating the State of Palestine's commitment to achieving sustainable development, it published the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018; it also published a progress report for the years 2018-2019, and is currently preparing the issuance of the second VNR. The VNR aims to provide detailed information about the status of Palestine's path towards implementing and achieving the SDGs to be presented to the international community at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). With this review and Palestine's first presentation at the HLPF, the government of Palestine strived to shed light on the challenges affecting Palestine's ability to meet its international commitment to achieve the SDGs and to actively participate in the ongoing global dialogue amongst all participating nations towards shared vision, mutual learning and strong partnerships to achieve the SDGs. The review assessed the situation surrounding the implementation of the SDGs in Palestine, focusing on the challenges as they stand, catering to each individual goal and its relevance to the Palestinian context. Owing to the particularly unique reality of the State of Palestine and its people under Israeli military occupation, the review highlighted the importance of localizing the SDGs to suit Palestine's particular political and socioeconomic context.

The external constraints and challenges of the occupation policies and practices have no doubt severely affected the State of Palestine's capacity to provide adequate and quality services to its population. Nonetheless, undeterred by the exceptionally challenging environment of pursuing the attainment of the SDGs under occupation, the Palestinian government is committed to achieving a better and dignified life, to strengthen the resilience of its population, and to contribute to the well-being of humanity. As such, the review highlighted the steps the Palestinian government have taken to create an enabling environment for the localization and integration of the SDGs into national and cross-sectorial strategies. From day one, the Palestinian government ensured the adoption of global agendas. Also, the National Policy Agenda 2017 – 2022 and cross-sectorial strategies were developed taking into account global priorities, including the sustainable development goals and targets that fit with the Palestinian development priorities for the next six years.

Therefore, key objectives of the VNR review are:

- Document goal-by-goal status of the SDGs in Palestine;
- Highlight the challenges that undermine the pursuit of the SDGs;
- Present the localization of the SDGs into national policy agenda 2017-2022, sectorial and cross-sectorial national strategies;
- Highlight innovative responses and interventions that the Palestinian government have undertaken despite the confines of the occupation;
- Enhance stakeholders' engagement in the follow-up and implementation of the SDGs;
- Support the creation of a developmental roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs in Palestine.

Moreover, along with the efforts made by the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) in localizing SDGs, the preparation of this VLR is timely as it takes into account building on the achievements made by the Palestinian government in setting up SDGs frameworks, including indicators, means of verifications, and coordination structures. It also builds on APLA's efforts in representing the interests of Palestinian Local Government Units (LGUs) before national platforms.

The Ramallah Voluntary Local Review 2024

This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) reflects the city's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing local actions tailored to Ramallah's unique sociopolitical context. The VLR of the city of Ramallah is supported by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund. This is a collaboration between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and Ramallah Municipality towards the implementation of a project titled "2030 Agenda Sub-Fund Fostering COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation through local action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African countries (April 2022–June 2025)".

1.2.1 Methodology of preparing the VLR

Upon inception, a steering committee was formed to provide an overall guidance to the VLR process as well as establish strong linkages between national and local efforts in localization of SDGs. The committee consists of representatives from the Office the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Local Government (MOLG), Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), Ramallah Municipality, and UN-Habitat. The committee has endorsed the methodology of preparing the VLR and provided technical assistance to the Ramallah Municipality and the VLR consultant. The leadership of Ramallah Municipality, supported by the VLR consultant, has also introduced the VLR and its preparation methodology before the municipality's management team consisting of the heads of departments and units.

The preparatory phase focused on literature review and mapping of main data sets and GIS analysis at city level. Main documents reviewed are: Ramallah's Strategic Plan (2023-2026), Ramallah Resilience Strategy (2050), Spatial Development Strategic Framework (SDSF) for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (2030), PCBS SDG portal, Status Report of SDG 11, VLR manuals, State of Palestine's national priorities, local government sector strategy, APLA's SDGs localization plan, etc.

Since widescale community consultations have just been concluded by the Ramallah Municipality as part of preparing the new Ramallah's Strategic Plan (2023-2026), the VLR process built on the main strategic priorities identified as part of the four main domains: infrastructure and environment, economic development, social development and governance. The same step was applied regarding the findings of the Ramallah Resilience Strategy (2050). All in all, Ramallah strategic priorities were aligned with two national priorities as per the National Policy Agenda (2017-2022), namely 'Improve local government units' responsiveness' and 'Foster sustainable development', and with three priorities of the local government sector strategy, namely 'Improve financial resources of local government units', 'Support quality urban growth', and 'Improve capacity of Local Government Units' (see Figure 2).

After establishing alignment between strategic priorities per domain as per the SDSF (see Table 1), Ramallah's Strategic Plan (see Table 2), and Ramallah's Resilience Plan (see Table 3), Ramallah Municipality management team was divided into four sub-groups. Each sub-group reviewed the strategic priorities, aligned priorities with SDGs and selected the most relevant SDG targets and indicators that took into consideration the closest relevancy to municipality work based on actual focus and mandate, and the availability of data reflective of selected indicators.

Figure 1: A meeting on June 8, 2024 with management team discussing the selection of SDGs and Indicators
Source: Ramallah Municipality

The Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) was also utilized to widen the list of most relevant indicators. After obtaining relevant data, the UMF spreadsheet was updated to indicate data availability from various sources, e.g. PCBS, Ramallah Municipality, UN-Habitat and others. For indicators that accurate data was not available or cannot be obtained within the VLR timeline were excluded. It is worth noting here that UN-Habitat embarked on updating SDG 11 indicators in partnership with PCBS, and the city of Ramallah was one of the cities that were piloted as part of this project. Accordingly, this VLR referred to the PCBS-UN-Habitat project on SDG 11. After completing the surveying of data that corresponds to selected SDGs and indicators, the updated list was presented before the Ramallah Municipality management team and discussed the data source, values, quality and format, and obtained collective endorsement.

As part of stakeholder engagement, a list of stakeholders was prepared per domain so as to discuss main priorities, challenges and proposed recommendations. A total of 15 meetings and interviews were conducted with several stakeholders:

CATEGORY	SECTOR / ORGANIZATION
National and governorate bodies	Ministry of Local Government, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Office of Prime Minister, Environment Quality Authority, Police, and local officials (e.g. cooperation unit of Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Beitunia municipalities and directorate of education)
CSOs	Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Green Building Council, churches, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities
Private sector	Real estate developers' association
Individuals	Citizens, investors and youth council

Prior to finalizing the VLR report, a "Discussion Papers" report was drafted that listed the selected SDGs, associated indicators and relevant data, and documented views of various stakeholders. The report was reviewed by the Ramallah Municipality, UN-Habitat HQ as well as by members of the steering committee, and modifications were done accordingly. Finally, the report was endorsed by the steering committee.

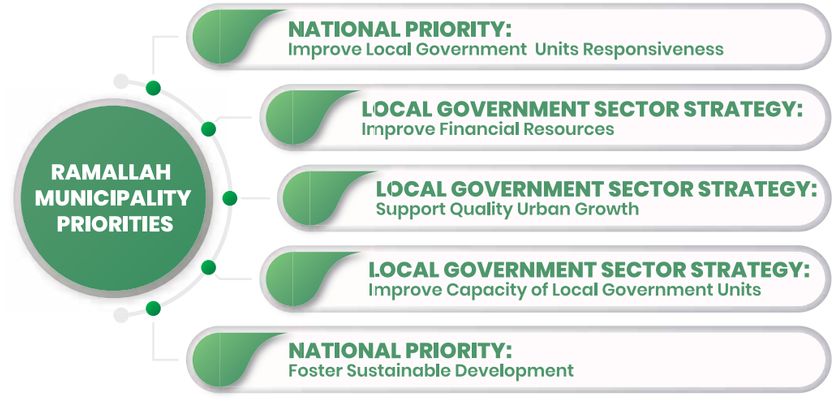


Figure 2: Preliminary linkages of Ramallah Municipality priorities

Table 1: Alignment of priorities as per SDSF for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate with SDGs

DOMAIN AS PER SDSF FOR RAMALLAH AND AL-BIREH GOVERNORATE (2030)	SDGS
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT: Public transport, comprehensive traffic plan; comprehensive urban development, increase share of electricity from renewable sources, reduce loss in water network	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES; 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION; 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Ring road, development of agriculture sector, provide new industrial area, reduce unemployment	2 ZERO HUNGER; 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Develop health and education infrastructure	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING; 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
GOVERNANCE: Improve financial capacity, capacity-building of municipalities, urban performance monitoring system, improve coordination among adjacent municipalities	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS; 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Table 2: Alignment of priorities of Ramallah's Strategic Plan (2023-2026) with SDGs

Table 3: Alignment of priorities of Ramallah's Resilience Plan (2050) with SDGs

1.2.2 An overview of the structure of the VLR report

The report consists of a presentation of the status of **six SDGs** (4, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 17) and **30 indicators.** Under each SDG, the following will be presented: a general overview, the selected targets and indicators and the status of each indicator, recommendations, and implementation plan (short-term, medium-term and long-term).

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	**Target 4.4** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	**SDG Indicator 4.4.1** Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill
	Target 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	**SDG Indicator 4.7.1** Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment
	Target 4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	**SDG Indicator 4.a.1** Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	**Target 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	**SDG Indicator 8.3.1** Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex
	Target 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	**SDG Indicator 8.8.1** Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status
	Target 8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	**SDG Indicator 8.9.1** Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate
	Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	**SDG Indicator 8.10.1** (a) number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**Target 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	**SDG Indicator 11.1.1** Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**Target 11.2** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	**SDG Indicator 11.2.1** Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
	Target 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries	**SDG Indicator 11.3.1** Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
	Target 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	**SDG Indicator 11.3.2** Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
	Target 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities	**SDG Indicator 11.4.1** Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/ municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/ investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	**Target 11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management **Target 11.b** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels	**SDG Indicator 11.7.1** Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities **UMF-61 Indicator** Open space for culture SDG Indicator 11.6.1 proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities **SDG Indicator 11.b.2** Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies and UMF-74 Indicator Local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**Target 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	**SDG Indicator 13.1.3** Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
13 CLIMATE ACTION	**Target 13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning **Target 13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	**SDG Indicator 13.2.2** Total greenhouse gas emissions per year **SDG 13.3.1** Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	**Target 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels **Target 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels	**SDG Indicator 16.6.2** Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services **SDG Indicator 16.7.1** Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups **SDG Indicator 16.7.2** Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group **UMF-68 Indicator** Utilization of e-governance and digital governance tools

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	**Target 17.1** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	**SDG Indicator 17.1.2** Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes
	Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	**SDG Indicator 17.3.1** Additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources
	Target 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries Technology	**SDG Indicator 17.5.1** Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries
	Target 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	**SDG Indicator 17.8.1** Proportion of individuals using the Internet
	Target 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	**SDG Indicator 17.14.1** Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development
	Target 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on	**SDG Indicator 17.17.1** Amount in Unites States dollars committed to public–private partnerships for infrastructure

SDGs	TARGETS	INDICATORS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships Data, monitoring and accountability **Target 17.18** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	**SDG Indicator 17.18.1** Statistical capacity indicator for sustainable development goal monitoring

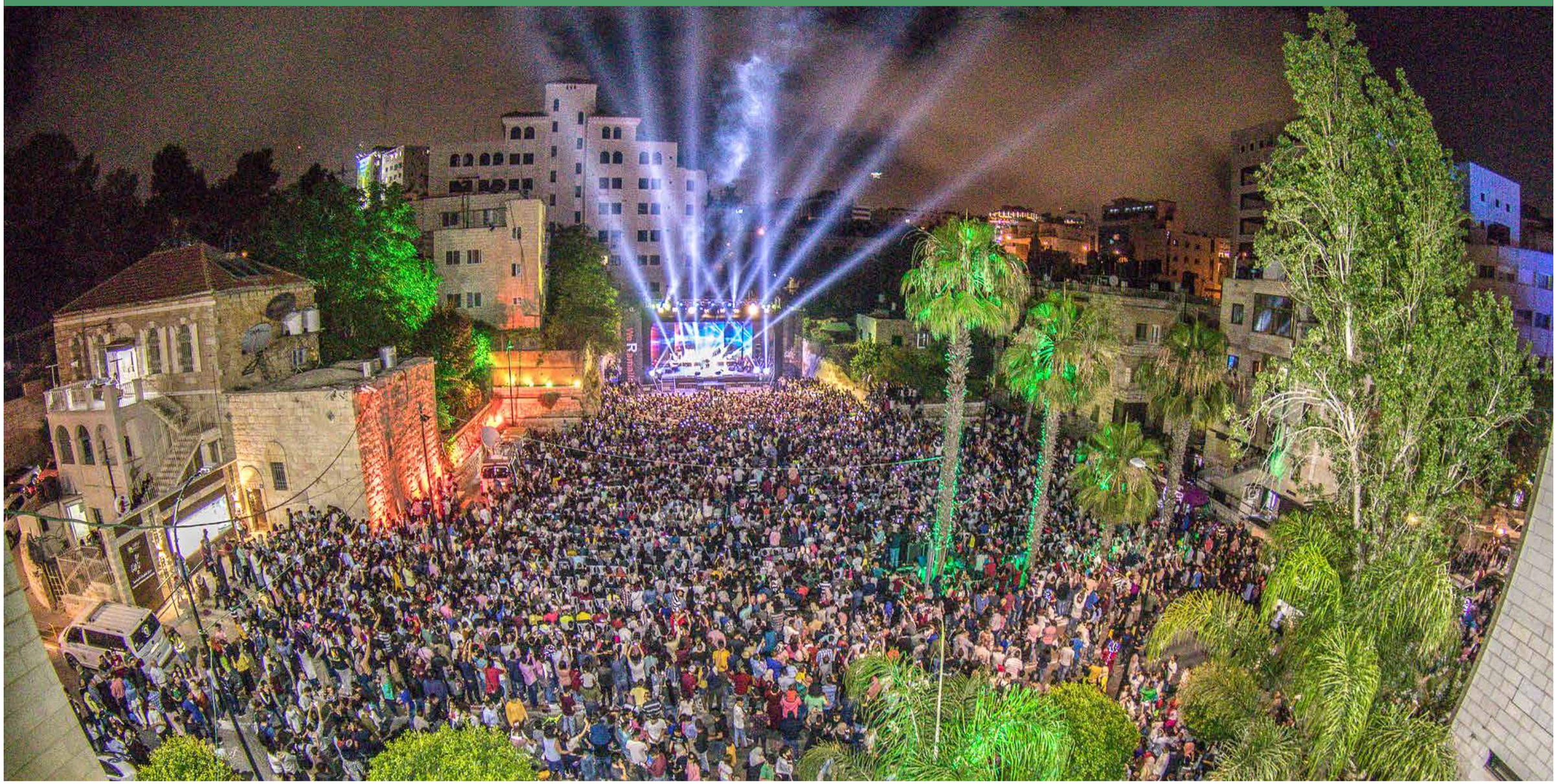
Progress of each indicator is reflected with a color, according to the below code:

ON-TRACK	PROGRESS NEEDED	LIMITED PROGRESS	DETERIORATION

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	13 CLIMATE ACTION	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
4.4.1	8.3.1	11.1.1	13.1.3	16.6.2	17.1.2
4.7.1	8.5.2	11.2.1	13.2.2	16.7.1	17.3.1
a.4	8.8.1	11.3.1	13.3.1	16.7.2	17.5.1
	8.9.1	11.3.2		UMF-68	17.8.1
	8.10.1	11.4.1			17.14.1
		11.7.1			17.17.1
		UMF-61			17.18.1
		b.2.11			
		11.6.1			

CHAPTER 2:
THE CITY OF RAMALLAH



Introduction

Ramallah, located in the central West Bank approximately 10 kilometres north of Jerusalem, is a city known for its vibrant atmosphere, cultural richness, and political significance. With a population of around 76,300,[1] Ramallah serves as a bustling urban centre, attracting residents and visitors alike. The city blends its historical heritage seamlessly with modern developments, making it a hub for business and entertainment.

Figure 3: The West Bank and Gaza
Source: Ramallah Municipality

The name "Ramallah" derives from the Aramaic "Ram," meaning high ground, a term found throughout various locales in Palestine. The addition of "Allah," by Arabs, transformed it to "Ram-Allah." Established in the late 16th century by an Arab tribe, Ramallah was originally a village or wooded area settled by the Haddadin clan in the 1500s. Over the centuries, it evolved from an agricultural village to a prominent upscale destination by the early 20th century. Today, Ramallah serves as a crucial political hub, hosting numerous governmental and diplomatic entities. Its proximity to Jerusalem and strategic location in the West Bank underscore its significance as a centre for both local and international engagement.

Covering a total area of 18,600 dunums, Ramallah has witnessed consistent population growth despite geopolitical challenges. From a population of 4,582 in 1922, which decreased from 1912 figures due to post-World War I migration, the numbers rose to 8,000 by 1945 and surged to 26,225 in 1952, spurred by the influx of Palestinian refugees after the 1948 war and forcible displacements of Palestinians from historical Palestine. The population peaked at 32,278 just before the 1967 war but dropped to 25,171 following displacements caused by the war. (Ramallah Municipality, n.d.)

Ramallah's rich history is evidenced by millennia of habitation, blending its ancient heritage seamlessly with contemporary developments. The city centre boasts modern architecture and a bustling array of shops, restaurants, and cultural venues, establishing it as a dynamic hub for business and entertainment. The city's vibrant arts scene, characterized by galleries, theatres, music venues, and annual cultural festivals, celebrates its rich traditions. Despite its urban modernity, Ramallah retains a strong sense of community, with local markets, cafes, and family-run businesses integral to daily life.

Known for its welcoming spirit, Ramallah provides a hospitable environment for Palestinian citizens moving from other cities and villages. Strategically situated in the central West Bank, Ramallah is a pivotal gateway for travel and commerce, lying close to key Palestinian cities like Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nablus. This central position not only highlights its role as a political and economic epicentre but also as a cultural and touristic magnet.

1-According to Ramallah Municipality, the population of Ramallah City is 76,300. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) is projecting the population number to be 44,765 in 2024.

Comparison with other cities

This section provides a comparative analysis of Ramallah City in relation to other Palestinian cities by examining key demographic and economic indicators. This comparison aims to highlight Ramallah's unique characteristics and its role within the wider Palestinian urban context. By assessing factors such as population density, growth rates, and economic stability, one can gain insights into how Ramallah compares and contrasts with its neighbouring cities, offering a clearer view of its strategic importance and developmental challenges.

Figure 4: The city of Ramallah
Source: *Ramallah Municipality (2024)*

2.2.1 Population and demographics

This subsection provides an analysis of the population dynamics of Ramallah City in comparison with other Palestinian urban centres (see Table 4). It details population figures, growth rates, and age distributions to illustrate Ramallah's demographic context.

Ramallah's demographic profile presents a dynamic urban centre with an average population density of 792 persons per square kilometre, which is higher than many other Palestinian cities (except for Jerusalem). The city's population growth rate stands at 2.13 per cent, indicating consistent expansion and its growing appeal as a residential and migration destination. The median age in Ramallah is 21.4 years, reflecting a young population that is slightly older than in other major Palestinian cities. The gender distribution is nearly even, with a male-to-female ratio of 1.02.

Table 4: Demographic statistics comparison among selected Palestinian cities

City (Governorate)	Population Density	Growth Rate	Median Age	Male - Female Ratio
Nablus	701	1.91%	21.1	1.03
Hebron	420	2.58%	17.9	1.04
Jerusalem	1,365	N/A	20.5	1.07
Bethlehem	362	2.13%	21.2	1.04
Ramallah	792	2.13%	21.4	1.02

Source: PCBS (2022)

2.2.2 Economy

In terms of employment and poverty, Ramallah is comparatively better off than other Palestinian cities. The city boasts lower unemployment rates, with 7.3 per cent for males and 18.9 per cent for females, as shown in Table 5. Additionally, the poverty rate in Ramallah stands at 9.7 per cent, which is nearly the lowest among Palestinian governorates. (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, 2017) These figures indicate Ramallah's relative economic stability within the Occupied Palestinian Territory.[2]

2 - The terms "Palestine" and "Occupied Palestinian Territory" are used interchangeably in this document, depending on the context. These terms refer to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Table 5: Economics statistics comparison among Palestinian cities

City (Governorate)	Unemployment Rate (Males)	Unemployment Rate (Females)	Poverty
Nablus	12.1%	25.8%	16.6%
Hebron	14.8%	24.9%	20.3%
Jerusalem	4.3%	18.4%	N/A.
Bethlehem	21.1%	29.1%	9.4%
Ramallah	7.3%	18.9%	9.7%

Source: PCBS (2022)

2.3

Opportunities and threats in Ramallah

In this section, a spatial analysis of the city's current situation and future potential is presented. This analysis focuses on two primary aspects: threats that hinder the city's development and opportunities that can be leveraged for sustainable growth. The threats include geopolitical challenges, such as Area C (see Figure 4) restrictions, the presence of Israeli settlements, the separation wall, and the limitations imposed by other geopolitical constructs, including bypass roads, outposts, etc. Despite these challenges, the SDSF for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate identifies numerous opportunities within the city's reach, such as proposed infrastructure projects, cultural and recreational initiatives, and developments in health, transportation and utilities. These opportunities, outlined in the SDSF for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (AJPAL, 2020)"City-region Plan" (2030), offer Ramallah the potential to achieve sustainable urban development and improve the quality of life for its residents. By understanding and addressing these factors, the city can work towards a more resilient, equitable and vibrant future.

2.3.1 Threats

Ramallah City faces a series of significant challenges due to its geographical and political context. Area C (see Figure 5) imposes constraints on development and planning in the northern side, hindering the city's growth and access to essential resources. Located between two cities, Al-Bireh and Beitunia, the presence of Area C around these two cities adds constraints on Ramallah as well. The presence of Israeli settlements creates political and social tensions that restrict the city's ability to expand and integrate with surrounding areas. The separation wall in the southern part of the city acts as a physical barrier, dividing surrounding communities and limiting residents' access.

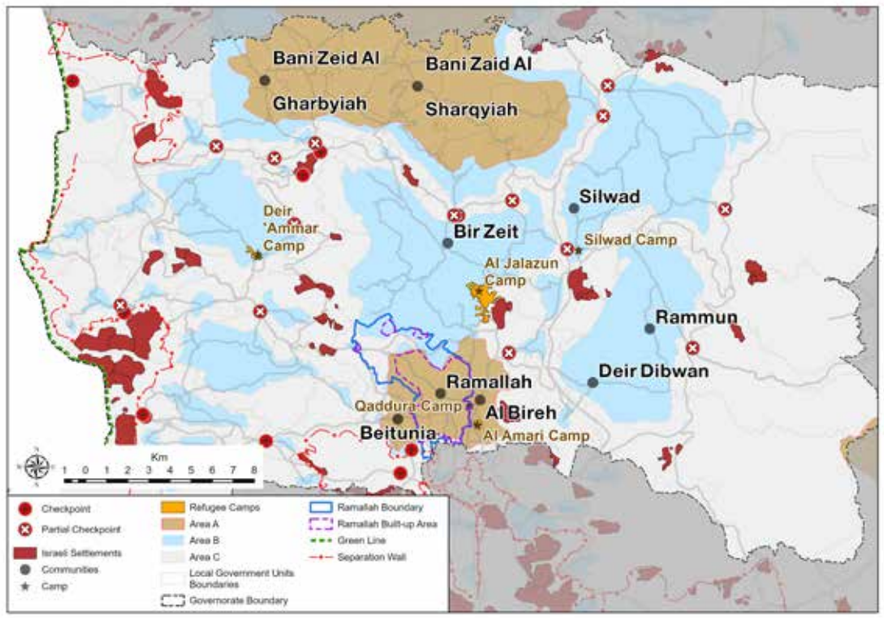


Figure 5: Threats of Ramallah City
Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

The geopolitical division of the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, as outlined in the 1995 Oslo Accords, is as follows: Area A comprises 11.2 per cent of the total area, Area B encompasses 24.5 per cent, and Area C, which is under full Israeli control, covers 64.3 per cent. This division allocates 35.7 per cent of the land to Areas A and B combined, which are under the administrative jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, as shown in Figure 4. Such fragmentation results in a development pattern that is insufficient to support the required urban expansion in the foreseeable future.

2.3.2 Opportunities

Despite these challenges, Ramallah City has numerous opportunities for sustainable development, as outlined in the City-region Plan for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. The city can benefit from projects, such as the rehabilitation of hospitals and new health centres that can enhance health-care access and quality for residents. Additionally, the proposed schools can expand educational opportunities for all ages.

Other key projects include the development of a proposed public transport complex, which can create a more comprehensive and efficient public transport system. Proposed police stations are expected to improve safety and security, while proposed landfills can enhance waste management systems for a cleaner, more sustainable city. Culture centres and nature reserves can promote cultural heritage, community engagement, and biodiversity preservation.

Furthermore, the city can focus on improving energy infrastructure through the development of power transfer stations, as well as boosting food security and rural livelihoods by promoting the development of agricultural areas. Additionally, projects, such as the wastewater treatment plant and proposed water tank, can support sustainable water management. The rehabilitation of pumping stations can improve water distribution efficiency, and the proposed light rail line can reduce traffic congestion and promote sustainable transportation, as shown in Figure 6.

By strategically addressing these opportunities, Ramallah City can overcome its threats and work towards achieving a resilient urban environment that serves the needs of its residents while preserving its natural and cultural heritage.

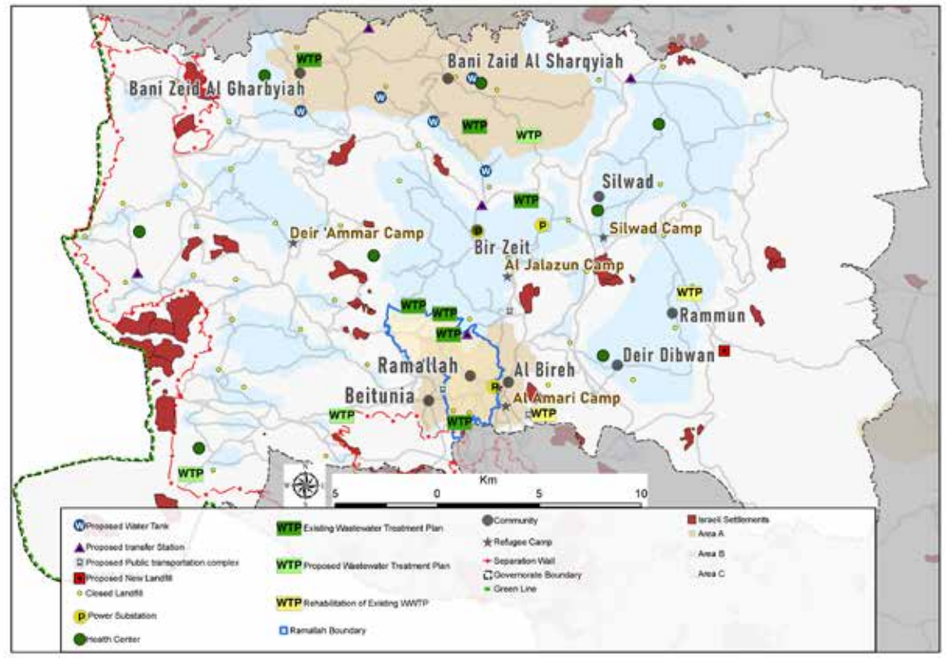
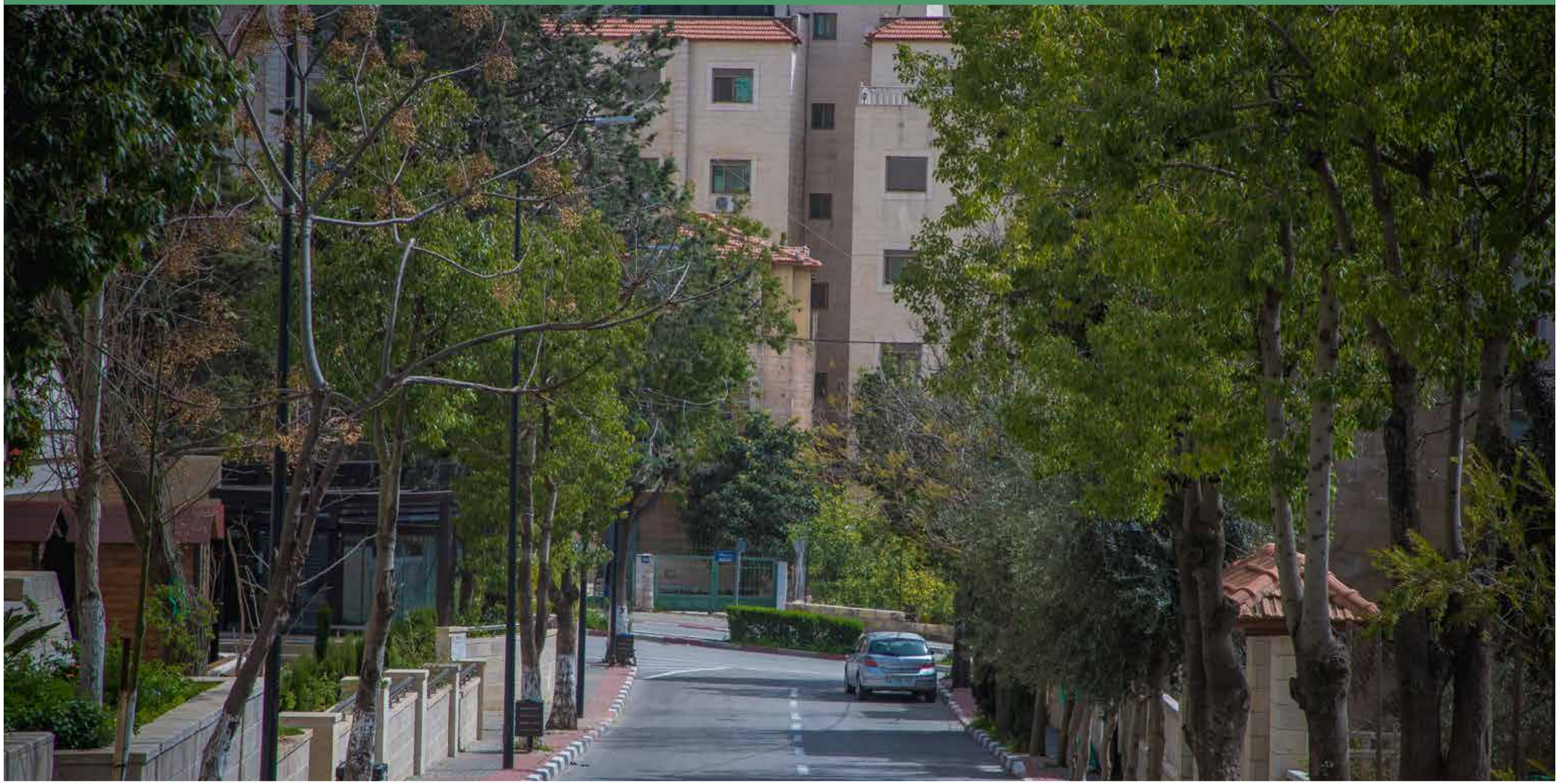


Figure 6: Opportunities of Ramallah city

CHAPTER 3:
PROGRESS OF SDGs IN RAMALLAH



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 4: EDUCATION

3.1 SDG 4

3.1.1 Background

Education is a crucial component of community development in Ramallah, with significant emphasis placed by both national and local authorities on providing high-quality educational services. This section delves into Ramallah's educational landscape and its alignment with SDG indicators, emphasizing the municipality's crucial role in facilitating access to educational opportunities for all its residents. According to data from the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Directorate of Education, primary schools account for 45 per cent of all educational institutions, with 65 per cent of these being public, 26 per cent private, and the remaining 9 per cent managed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Secondary schools, on the other hand, constitute 55 per cent of the total, with 79 per cent government-operated and 21 per cent privately run (PCBS, Distribution of Secondary Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate, for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023, 2023; PCBS, Distribution of Basic Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate, for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023, 2023).

Additionally, primary school students make up 79 per cent of the student body in the governorate, while secondary school students represent 21 per cent (PCBS, Distribution of Secondary Stage Students in Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate and sex for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023, 2023; PCBS, Distribution of Basic Stage Students in Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate and sex for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023, 2023).

3.1.2 School accessibility in Ramallah City

In the city, there are 33 schools: 12 public schools, 19 private schools, and 2 UNRWA schools. Based on the Ramallah Municipality's geo-spacial data Ramallah City offers commendable access to schools, with 81 per cent of its area featuring educational facilities within a 10-minute walking distance. This proximity ensures that the majority of residents can conveniently access schooling close to their homes. Notably, 89 per cent of the city's population is able to reach a school within just a 10-minute walk as shown in Figure 7.

At the neighbourhood level, accessibility to schools varies, though many areas benefit from nearly complete coverage. Based on the geo-spacial analysis conducted on the city as part of this VLR, neighbourhoods like Al Ithaa, Ein Misbah, City Center, Old City, Qadoura, and Al Jadwal enjoy close to 100 per cent coverage in terms of both area and population served. Other neighbourhoods also exhibit high accessibility, with Ein Munjid at 97 per cent, Al Masyoun at 94 per cent, and Al Tireh at 93 per cent.

Conversely, some areas of Ramallah City face challenges with school accessibility. Al Masayef, Birzeit, and the Industrial neighbourhoods have lower coverage rates, with 79 per cent, 64 per cent, and 27 per cent, respectively. In stark contrast, neighbourhoods such as Al Narjes, Al Rihan, Diplomatic, and Al Wad lack school access within a 10-minute walking distance, indicating critical areas for future developmental focus.

These insights highlight Ramallah City's successful efforts in providing broad access to educational facilities while also identifying specific areas where enhanced planning and development are necessary to ensure equitable educational access across the entire city.

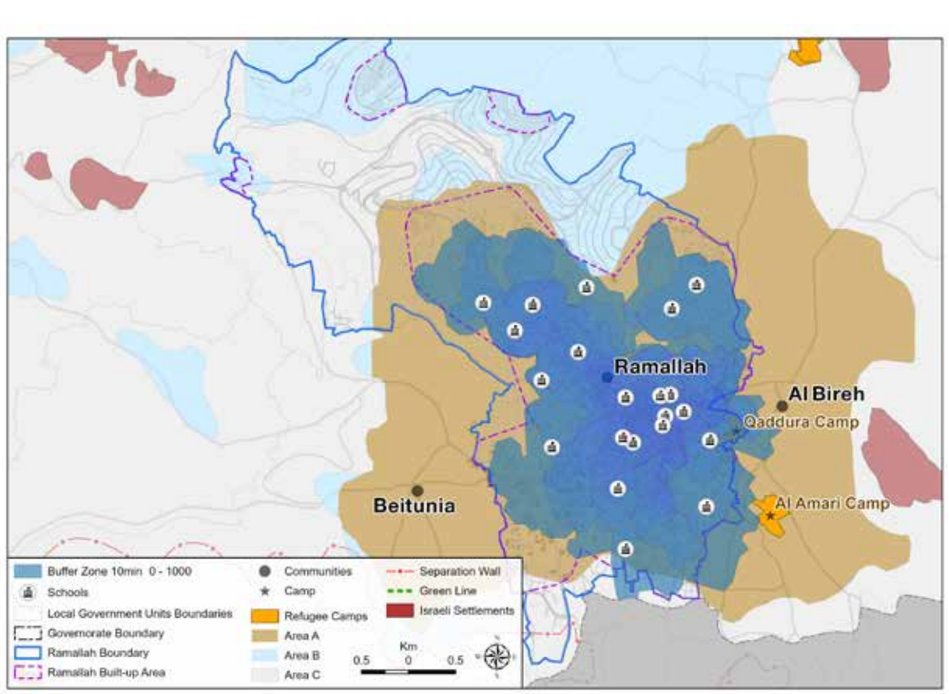


Figure 7: Schools accessibility in Ramallah City
Source: UN-Habitat (2024)

3.1.3 Governmental and city-level statistics

This section highlights key educational statistics for Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, offering insights into the strengths and areas for improvement within its educational system (Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2024)

School distribution based on gender:
Of the 271 schools in the governorate, 27 per cent serve male students exclusively, 28 per cent serve female students exclusively, and 45 per cent are co-educational. This diverse mix highlights the commitment to inclusive education (MoE, 2019).

Enrollment and school types:
Within Ramallah, 13,699 students – 52 per cent female and 48 per cent male – are enrolled in 33 schools. The city's educational institutions include 19 private schools, 12 public schools, and 2 UNRWA-administered schools, reflecting a varied educational offering.

Classroom dynamics:
The average classroom size is 25.3 students, with 1.7 square metres per student. UNRWA schools have a higher ratio of 34.9 students per class. The governorate boasts the lowest dropout rate in Palestine at just 0.6 per cent.

Teacher resources:
With 5,987 teachers, Ramallah has the second-largest educational workforce in the West Bank, maintaining an average student-to-teacher ratio of 18.1, which supports effective teaching and manageable class sizes.

Infrastructure and facilities:
A significant majority of schools (83 per cent) have science labs, 82.7 per cent have computer labs, and 86.7 per cent contain libraries. Nearly all schools (97.4 per cent) are connected to the water and internet networks, and 98.5 per cent have electricity. However, only 52.8 per cent of schools are equipped with accessible toilets for disabled students, marking an area for targeted improvement.

These statistics not only demonstrate the robust infrastructure and dedicated educational efforts in Ramallah but also identify critical areas where enhancements can support the goal for more inclusive and comprehensive educational access.

3.1.4 Selected SDG 4 targets and indicators

SDG Target 4.4

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG Indicator 4.4.1

Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill

ICT SKILL	SCORE GOVERNORATE LEVEL SCORE WEST BANK LEVEL	
Copying or moving a file or folder	2018	79%
	2019	76.6%
Using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document	2018	74%
	2019	69.7%
Sending e-mails with attached files (e.g. document, picture, video)	2018	72%
	2019	66.7%
Using basic arithmetic formulas in a spreadsheet	2018	34%
	2019	40.4%
Connecting and installing new devices (e.g. a modem, camera, printer)	2018	37%
	2019	40.4%

3.1 SDG 4

ICT SKILL	SCORE GOVERNORATE LEVEL SCORE WEST BANK LEVEL	
Finding, downloading, installing and configuring software	2018	54%
	2019	23.6%
Creating electronic presentations with presentation software (including images, sound, video or charts)	2018	50%
	2019	32.1%
Transferring files between a computer and other devices	2018	49%
	2019	55.3%
Writing a computer program using a specialized programming language	2018	26%
	2019	17.7%

Source: PCBS (2018 and 2019)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT **PROGRESS IS NEEDED**

MoEHE handles the assessment of educational impact and curriculum, but Ramallah Municipality recognizes the importance of specific data and assessments for efficient resource allocation and identification of educational gaps. Based on the definition of SDG 4.4.1, data available to score the nine ICT skills are available at the governorate level, not the city level. The PCBS believes the governorate level scores may be referenced to reflect the city level indicator, considering that public and private schools use the same curricula.

Based on a focus group with the Ramallah Municipality's Youth Council conducted as part of this VLR, students are not fully satisfied with the existing ICT curricula. Feedback received highlighted a strong interest among young people in advanced technologies and dissatisfaction with the current ICT education quality, citing outdated curriculum and insufficient emphasis on its importance. This is supported by the relatively low scores of the indicator related to more advanced IT criteria. Approximately 70 per cent of youth interviewed criticized the teaching quality, while 85 per cent pointed out inadequacies in school IT infrastructure, including malfunctioning computer labs and smart boards. Moreover, when asked whether they are aware of community centers or municipality-managed programs that may offer ICT learning opportunity, majority of youth was not aware of any of these learning opportunities. Youth also said that their public and private schools do not disseminate information about existing learning opportunities in the city.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

In response to the fact that the existing ICT curricula is not up to date with the current level of ICT education, e.g. applications development, data analysis, artificial intelligence, etc., Ramallah Municipality is fostering links between education and entrepreneurship to support a vibrant startup ecosystem. This includes plans for a new entrepreneurship centre that has garnered significant interest from local youth, aiming to address the technological gaps in existing educational settings.

Further enhancing this initiative, in April 2024, Ramallah Municipality entered into a partnership agreement (Ramallah Municipality, Ramallah Municipality signs a memorandum agreement with Al Nayzak Foundation, 2024) with Al Nayzak to develop a 4,000-square-metre science and technology hub on municipal land. This project will equip the city's youth with cutting-edge facilities and technologies to foster research, innovation and entrepreneurship, tackling local and global challenges through advanced technological solutions.

Target 4.7

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

SDG Indicator 4.7.1

Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment

This indicator assesses the Palestinian government's efforts to integrate citizenship and sustainable development into educational policies, curricula, teacher training, and student assessments. Based on its mandate and as MoEHE oversees curriculum development and implementation, evaluating progress at the national level is essential. Table 6 summarizes the national assessment for this indicator (UNESCWA, Palestine SDG Monitor (Goal 4), 2020).

3.1 SDG 4

Table 6: National assessment of SDG Indicator 4.7.1

SUB-INDICATOR	ASSESSMENT
Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in curricula	0.708
Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in national education policies	0.875
Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in student assessment	0.833
Extent to which global citizenship education and education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in teacher education	0.800

Source: PCBS (2020)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT **ON TRACK**

The assessment of sub-indicators shows effective mainstreaming of global citizenship education and education for sustainable development across the education system. The curricula substantially integrate these themes, reflecting a dedicated effort to embed them into the educational framework. National policies robustly support this integration, and student assessments demonstrate a thorough evaluation of understanding these concepts. Teacher education programmes, scoring 0.800, indicates strong efforts to equip educators with skills necessary for imparting these principles effectively. Overall, this highlights a strong commitment to nurturing informed and responsible global citizens.

The national assessment may be utilized to reflect city level assessment because the government is primarily responsible about policies, curricula, student assessment and teacher education. In doing so, the government implements standard procedures across these sub-indicators.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah Municipality implements various cultural extra curriculum activities that directly impact these sub-indicators, mainly the last two, in partnership with MOHE, private schools, UNRWA and CSOs specializing in culture, human rights and community development.

Citizenships is not only instilled via school curricula, community campaigns and cultural activities organized by the municipality offer a unique opportunity for both teachers and students to augment their learning and teaching tools inside schools.

Additionally, Ramallah Municipality recognizes the importance of citizenship in education. Beyond government curricula, Ramallah Municipality facilitates a variety of extracurricular activities aimed at enriching student experiences with practical learning in citizenship, such as excursions and volunteering. To enhance this, Ramallah Municipality plans to collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop targeted programmes that integrate active citizenship education into the daily activities of students, building on and expanding the reach of the existing City Youth Council initiatives.

***Figure 8:** Youth municipal council organized by Ramallah Municipality*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

SDG Target 4.1

Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG Indicator 4.a

Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service

3.1 SDG 4

SUB-INDICATOR	SCORE
Schools provided with electricity	100%
Schools provided with internet	90%
Schools provided with computers	88%
Schools' infrastructure suitable for students with disabilities	N/A
Schools provided with drinking water	90%
Schools equipped with latrine facilities	94%
Schools equipped with hand washing facilities	94%

Source: MoEHE (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT **ON TRACK**

While 98.5 per cent of schools in the governorate have electricity, in the city, all 33 schools have an uninterrupted power and water supply, ensuring reliable electricity and water for educational activities. Furthermore, 30 schools receive a daily supply of fresh water. However, three schools do not receive water on regular bases. 31 schools are equipped with adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. Regarding academic resources, 27 schools have science labs, although five are partially equipped, and 29 schools feature computer labs, with three of these partially equipped. Additionally, internet connectivity is available in 30 schools, supporting digital learning and research activities. Regarding Schools' infrastructure suitable for students with disabilities, data in unavailable.

While city-level data provided by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for the year of 2024 shows good progress on most of the sub-indicators, data of few sub-indicators, namely, schools provided with internet and computers for educational purposes, shows little progress. However, officials at the MoEHE, when consulted during the VLR, stated that schools at the city level are equipped with all equipment and facilities based on indicator 4.a.1.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

In Palestine, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) is primarily responsible for the oversight of schools, including the management of teachers and staff, who are considered public employees, as well as curriculum development. However, Ramallah Municipality is responsible for construction and rehabilitation of schools in the city. For example, Ramallah Municipality annually allocates approximately NIS 12,500,000 (around USD 3.4 million) to build and enhance schools within its jurisdiction, in close coordination with the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Directorate of Education. Additionally, some schools receive supplemental funding from various donors (Projects, 2024).

The selection of school sites in Ramallah is a coordinated effort with the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Directorate of Education. This collaboration ensures that new schools meet strategic educational needs and planning objectives. The directorate, using its expertise in educational management, determines the necessity for new facilities across different educational levels and gauges demand from neighbouring cities like Beitunia and Al-Bireh. Ramallah Municipality then matches these needs with available municipal land, considering accessibility and proximity to public transportation to ensure ease of access. Schools in Ramallah are strategically distributed to optimize accessibility and address the concentrated areas of the population effectively. They are ideally positioned near major roads and public transport routes, enabling easy commutes for both students and staff. The central and eastern parts of the city, which reflect historic growth patterns and current urban development, house the majority of educational facilities. As development progresses in the city's western parts, plans are in place to expand educational services there to support the increasing residential growth. This distribution strategy underscores Ramallah's commitment to providing equitable and quality education for all its residents.

Moreover, Ramallah Municipality is committed to alleviating traffic congestion in the city and its major neighbourhoods by strategically locating schools in newly developed areas that meet accessibility standards. Recently, the municipality inaugurated two new educational facilities to enhance the city's educational infrastructure. The first, situated in the Al-Jadwal Basin adjacent to Ziyad Abu Ain School (Ramallah Municipality, New school construction project, 2023), occupies a 4,565-square-metre plot designed to expand the network of model schools within the municipality. The Ramallah Elementary Mixed School, a five-storey building, includes 15 classrooms, a kindergarten, a multipurpose hall, library rooms, laboratories, and administrative offices, along with service and health rooms. It also features essential external amenities like car parking spaces, courtyards, playgrounds, and retaining walls to enhance the school environment (see Figure 9).

3.1 SDG 4

Figure 9: *The Ramallah Elementary Mixed School*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

Additionally, Ramallah Municipality established the Chinese School (PEP, 2021), a three-storey secondary institution built on a 5,480-square-metre site. This school is equipped with 15 classrooms, administrative offices, a library, computer and science labs, a multipurpose hall, and an art room (see Figure 10). The municipality has also equipped the school with smart tools for online education, smart boards and heating system. Its outdoor facilities include public squares, a playground, a car parking lot, a water well, and landscaped green areas, all designed to be accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. These projects demonstrate the municipality's proactive approach to managing the increasing population density and fulfilling the educational needs of the community, while adhering to the standards set by the MoEHE

Figure 10: *The Chinese School*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

Figure 11: *A computer lab provided by Ramallah Municipality*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

Figure 12: *A science lab provided by Ramallah Municipality*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

3.1.5 What is needed to make further progress in SDG 4

Enhance partnerships: Strengthen collaborations with public, private and UNRWA-managed schools to engage more students in Ramallah Municipality-organized community campaigns and educational activities, enriching their cultural and educational experiences.

Quality of basic services: Improve availability and quality of basic services in all schools with a special focus on WASH facilities, computer lab, and infrastructure for students with disabilities.

Access to new facilities: Provide youth and students access to the newly established Entrepreneurship Center and Ramallah City for Science and Technology, both initiatives aimed at fostering innovation and technical skills.

Teacher training: Develop initiatives to improve IT education by enhancing the teaching capacity through ongoing training programmes. This involves collaboration with the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Directorate of Education to utilize resources from the Entrepreneurship Center, equipping teachers with modern pedagogical techniques and technology.

Legal and civic education: Partner with NGOs focusing on youth to create programmes that deepen young citizens' understanding of legal processes, rights and responsibilities, integrating these themes into their everyday learning.

3.1.6 Implementation plan

Short term (1-2 years)

1. Establish a multidisciplinary working group: Form a team with representatives from Ramallah Municipality, educational bodies, and youth-centred NGOs to craft a strategy for active citizenship education.

2. Launch civic engagement campaigns: Conduct awareness campaigns and workshops for educators, students and parents that underscore the importance of civic engagement and responsible citizenship.

3. Improve quality of basic services in existing schools: Upgrade WASH facilities, provide adequate number of computers for educational purposes and support MOEHE in improving infrastructure for improved access of students with disabilities.

Medium term (3-5 years)

1. Curriculum integration: Embed active learning modules within the school curriculums that focus on real-world applications and community projects.

2. Expand educational facilities: Broaden the scope and capacity of the Entrepreneurship Center and Ramallah City for Science and Technology to serve more students, enhancing experiential learning opportunities.

Long term (5+ years)

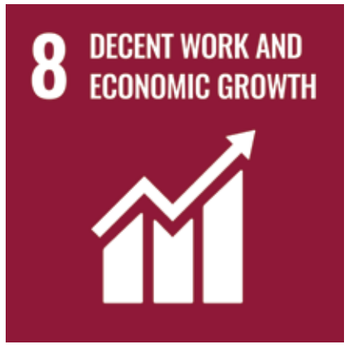
1. Assess and adapt educational initiatives: Regularly evaluate the impact of educational programmes and make necessary adjustments based on feedback to continually improve outcomes.

2. Enhance collaborative efforts: Strengthen ties with national and international partners to share insights and best practices, thereby enriching the citizenship education programmes and supporting youth development.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 8: ECONOMY

3.2 SDG 8



3.2.1 Background

SDG 8 focuses on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, ensuring productive employment, and providing decent work for all. In Palestine, the economy is diversified across multiple sectors, each contributing significantly to the overall development. This section explores the economic landscape of Palestine with a specific focus on Ramallah City. It examines the key sectors, distribution of establishments, legal frameworks, and employment trends that define the economic environment of Ramallah.

The economic activity in Palestine is diverse, with wholesale and retail trade, along with vehicle maintenance, representing the largest sector at 51.3 per cent of the economy. Manufacturing is also significant, accounting for 12.5 per cent of economic activity, while the services, hospitality, and food sectors also make notable contributions (PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017 - Final Results (Establishments Report), 2018). In the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, which hosts 10.3 per cent of all Palestinian establishments totaling 15,850, most businesses are privately owned, reflecting a strong entrepreneurial spirit. Sole proprietorship is the predominant legal form among these establishments (Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

Specifically, within the governorate, 7,023 establishments are involved in whole sale and retail trade and vehicle maintenance, making it the largest economic sector. The hospitality sector is also prominent, having the most establishments of any sector in Palestine. Manufacturing plays a key role, with 1,868 establishments driving production and employment. The governorate employs a total of 63,113 individuals, with males making up 74.4 per cent of the workforce. However, it also has the highest proportion of female workers in comparison to other Palestinian governorates, underscoring progress toward gender inclusivity in the workforce. Chamber of Commerce and Industry data shows that there are 5,537 registered members (i.e. business owners) in the governorate, spread across various economic sectors (see Figure 13).

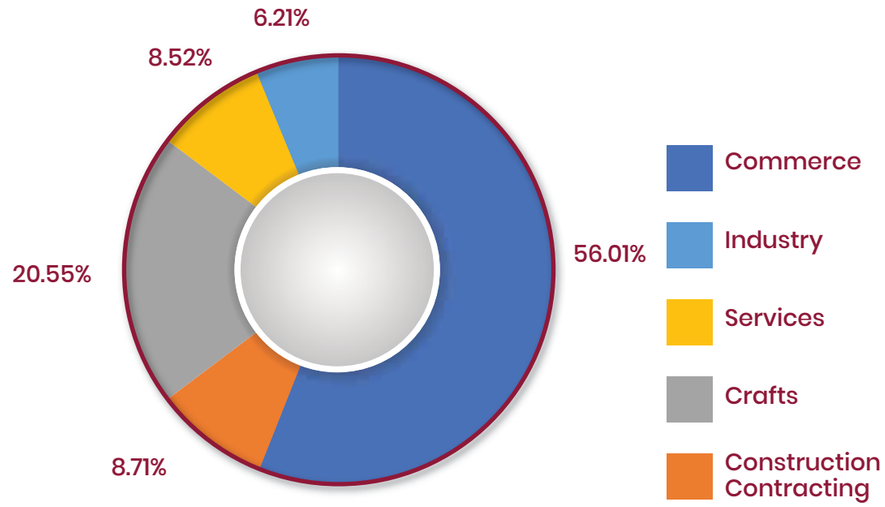


Figure 13: *Distribution of economic registered members*
Source: *Ramallah and Al-Bireh chamber of commerce and industry*

The majority of economic entities registered with the chamber are small and micro enterprises. However, detailed financial information and employee counts for these businesses are not available. Focusing on the distribution of these establishments, the General Director of the Chamber notes that 35 per cent are located in Ramallah, totaling 1,938 establishments. A similar proportion is based in the neighboring city of Al-Bireh, while the remaining 30 per cent are spread throughout other parts of the governorate.

Lacking specific city-level data on economic activity and establishments within Ramallah, several stakeholders interviewed suggest that the city holds a comparative advantage as a tourist and entertainment hub. Additionally, Ramallah hosts governmental complexes, ministries, the office of the prime minister, major corporations, and regional branches of commercial banks.

3.2.2 Local economic development strategies

In order to strengthen the municipality's vision of local economic development as shown in the newly developed strategic plan, the specific role should be perceived within the local (city boundaries), regional (governorate) and national levels, as follows:

Local level

- **Community engagement:** act as the primary liaison for business owners looking to expand, new entrepreneurs, educational institutions, residents, and potential investors.
- **Investment leadership:** coordinate with key stakeholders to align immediate and future investment needs and opportunities.
- **Streamlining processes:** expedite development approvals and permitting to encourage business growth.
- **Marketing support:** provide marketing assistance through the local economic development office to boost business visibility.
- **Workforce development:** identify and implement settlement services for new employees and employers, such as job fairs or temporary office spaces.
- **Financial incentives:** offer deferrals on off-site levies for developers and access to funding for feasibility studies or research projects.

Governorate level

- **Regional planning:** advance land-use and transportation planning to support economic and infrastructure development.
- **Economic alliances:** support regional economic development alliances to enhance rural economic growth and establish stronger urban-rural linkages.
- **Resource management:** manage the development of renewable and non-renewable resources effectively.
- **Disaster preparedness:** implement community disaster preparedness and recovery strategies to promote resilience.
- **Government collaboration:** facilitate procurement opportunities for businesses at the governorate/cluster/territorial level and invest in health and education systems.

National level

- **International relations:** establish trade agreements and operate trade offices abroad to boost international trade and investment.
- **Investment security:** promote foreign direct investments that safeguard national economic security.
- **Local support:** support economic development programmes and services for local communities.
- **Intellectual property:** protect intellectual property rights to foster innovation.
- **National infrastructure:** invest in a national transportation network to ensure efficient movement of goods and services, enhancing economic connectivity.

These strategies outline a comprehensive approach to fostering local economic vitality, aiming to integrate municipal actions within broader regional and national frameworks to achieve SDG 8.

As one informant explained, the outdated zoning laws are prohibiting real estate developers from increasing their investment in residential and commercial sectors. These laws and regulations are often compounded with internal bureaucratic procedures that prolong the time needed to issue licenses for new projects. While the price of land inside the city boundaries increases at higher rates over time, Ramallah Municipality should have the ability to modify the existing zoning procedures to allow developers to build buildings of higher floors. This would have a direct impact on the reduction of the price of apartments, as the price of land is usually 30 per cent of the total apartment cost. While noting that citizens and businessmen and businesswomen prefer to live and invest in Ramallah because of the services provided by the municipality, another informant indicated that many large companies are leaving the city and new businesses prefer to build their offices and warehouses outside the city because of the artificial land scarcity associated with the prevailing geopolitical divisions and the high price of land classified as industrial or commercial. Besides traffic, congestion in the absence of ring and circular roads is considered a significant challenge facing companies specialized in distribution or transportation.

Interviewed as part of the VLR report, the general director of Ramallah and Al-Bireh Chamber of Commerce and Industry reiterated the need to formulate and adhere to governorate-level plans that include investments for the benefit of the entire municipality. For example, there should be a solid waste dumping site for the governorate, land designated for tradeshows and a new industrial zone. The latter will contribute to resolving the traffic congestion in both neighbouring cities: Ramallah and Al-Bireh. A collaborative approach involving all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, trade unions, and government agencies, is crucial. Currently, Ramallah Municipality doesn't organize an economic development platform that discusses economic challenges, agrees on developmental objectives and harmonized action plan. This platform should focus on forming strategic partnerships to streamline business processes, enhance infrastructure, and foster a more attractive investment environment. Such a collaborative framework aims to support Ramallah's growth as a vibrant economic centre aligned with the SDGs.

3.2 SDG 8

3.2.3 Selected SDG 8 targets and indicators

SDG Target 8.3

Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

SDG Indicator 8.3.1

Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

National Indicator	Score	Male	Female
2023	66.0%	N/A	N/A
2022	66.7%	69.2%	44.0%
2021	67.1%	68.5%	38.0%
2020	65.7%	67.0%	35.8%
2019	69.1%	69.3%	41.8%

Source: PCBS (2019-2023)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT **LIMITED PROGRESS**

While the definition of the indicator is to present the share of employment which is classified as informal employment in the total economy, a higher percentage of informal employment indicates a larger proportion of the workforce is engaged in unregulated, often precarious jobs. This can suggest economic challenges, limited job opportunities in the formal sector, or a lack of government oversight. The informal economy in Palestine accounts for over 50 per cent of the total economy which is considered high (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.).

According to PCBS, two-thirds of the informal employment is concentrated in construction activities, commerce, restaurants and hotels activities. However, city-specific data on informal employment by sector and gender is not available. Instead, national statistics provided by PCBS can be used as a proxy to infer the situation at the city level. This inference is supported by the fact that the governorate witnessed a notable increase in construction of central government and private sector buildings and investments, considering the fact that the governorate scored in 2022 the third place in the number of building permits after Nablus and Hebron governorates, the largest governorates in terms of population (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). Also, the governorate has the largest number of hotels and labor (880 employees working in 25 hotels) (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). The national indicator of the West Bank part of Palestine in the first three quarters of 2023 is 66 per cent, 66.7 per cent in 2022, and 67.1 per cent in 2021 (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.).

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Notwithstanding the fact that reduction of informal employment is a collective national responsibility, municipalities can play a crucial role. Municipalities, through its urban planning and development, partnerships and collaborations and municipal procedures, can incentivize informal workers and entrepreneurs to switch to formal employment, and hence foster economic growth in cities. Ramallah municipality is in the process of formulating an inclusive economic development strategy that considers the needs and interests of all major stakeholders. Improvement of infrastructure is a corner stone of this strategy; also, the municipality is striving to improve the quality and efficiency of public transportation in partnership with the municipalities of Al-Bireh and Beitunia.

***Figure 14:** Souk Al Harajeh, organized by the Ramallah Municipality, takes place on select Fridays during the summer*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

On the other hand, Ramallah Municipality actively pursues initiatives to stimulate economic growth. A key annual event, Souk al Harjeh, attracts thousands from across Palestine, showcasing products from various microbusinesses (see Figure 14). Other notable initiatives

3.2 SDG 8

include the designation of food truck streets to support young entrepreneurs and organization of the weekly farmers' market. Currently, 90 people, of which 10 are females, are running food trucks around the city (see Figure 15). As for the weekly farmers' market, it is organized in public areas that provide small farmers from the city and rural areas with access to local market. In 2024, 18 farmers, 11 females and 7 males, sold their produce in the market (see Figure 16).

***Figure 15:** Food trucks in the city*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

***Figure 16:** Farmers' market in the city*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

Another strategic initiative is the establishment of a new innovation hub providing office spaces and capacity building and accelerating programs to startups and entrepreneurs (see Figure 17). The center is fully funded by the municipality with a total cost of USD 590,000.

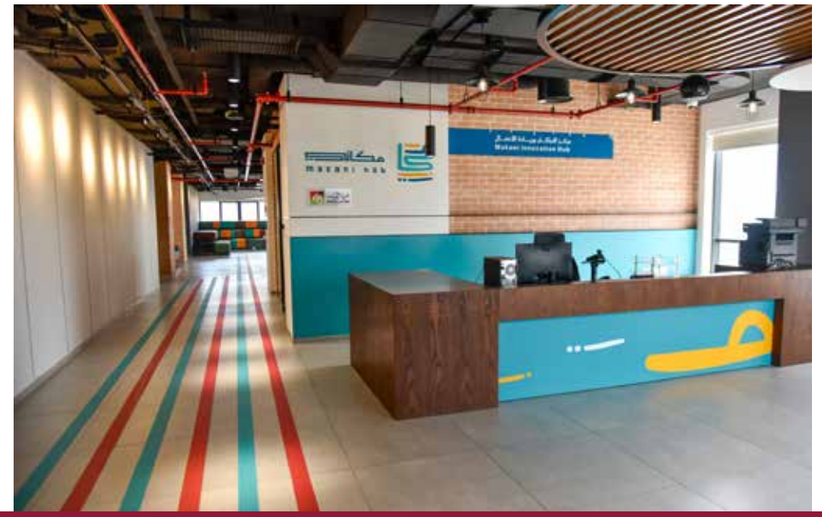


***Figure 17:** The new entrepreneurship centre operated by the municipality at Ramallah City complex*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

The municipality recognizes the crucial role local governance plays in enhancing economic vitality within legislative constraints (IMFG, 2022). Efforts include offering financial incentives, establishing Business Improvement Areas, and collaborating on regional development plans and transportation initiatives. Ramallah Municipality has a vital role to play in spurring economic growth and reducing unemployment rates of its residents. The municipality's classical role should be perceived from an economic perspective as well. This entails providing support to existing and new businesses in order to increase the city's attractiveness as well as increasing the demand for labour. While the existing local government law limits the ability of local government units to initiate strategic local economic development projects, e.g. Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs), Ramallah Municipality is well-positioned to contribute to initiatives aimed at revising the outdated local government law under the leadership of the Ministry of Local Government and the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA). This update would empower municipalities to address the increasing multisectoral requirements of urban residents effectively.

3.2 SDG 8

SDG Target 8.5

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

SDG Indicator 8.5.2

Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Ramallah Governorate Indicator	Year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
	Unemployment	17.0%	16.4%	13.1%	18.9%	18.8%	16.6%	20.3%
	Unemployment	7.3%	7.1%	8.9%	7.3%	14.2%	15.1%	14.3%

Source: PCBS (2022)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT | **ON TRACK**

In 2022, unemployment rate across Palestine stood at 24.4 per cent (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). In the West Bank, it was lower at 13.1 per cent, while Gaza reported a significantly higher rate of 45.3 per cent (UNDP, 2024).[3] In comparison to the national figures, Ramallah demonstrates significantly lower unemployment rates. For males, the unemployment rate in Ramallah in 2022 stands at 7.3 per cent, notably lower than the national average of 20.3 per cent. Similarly, for females, Ramallah reports an unemployment rate of 17.0 per cent, which is considerably lower than the national average of 40.4 per cent (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). These comparatively lower unemployment rates in Ramallah suggest a relatively healthier employment environment within the city compared to the national average.

3- With the ongoing war in Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics reported in 2023 that the Palestinian economy experienced a significant downturn, losing an estimated 8.7 per cent of its real GDP in 2023. Losses are projected to escalate to 25.8 per cent in the first six months of 2024, equivalent to USD 6.9 billion compared to pre-war projections for 2023 and 2024. If the war persists, the GDP loss could reach 29 per cent (USD 7.6 billion) by the ninth month of 2024. The war has impacted all economic sectors, with the construction industry suffering the most, recording a 75.2 per cent decline. All household categories have been impacted, with the middle class suffering the most. Their consumption is estimated to have declined by 35.6 per cent after six months of war, potentially reaching a 38.6 per cent reduction by the ninth month. Should the war last nine months, the poverty rate is projected to increase from 38.8 per cent to 60.7 per cent, pushing a significant portion of the middle class below the poverty line and adding an estimated 1.86 million people to the poverty count.

Unemployment rates in 2022 vary by age group, with national data indicating the highest rates among youth aged 18-19 at 36.4 per cent and 20-29 at 35.1 per cent. These rates decrease with age, dropping to 8.3 per cent for those aged 60 and above (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.). When factoring in disability, the unemployment rate for those aged 15-29 is significantly high at 35.0 per cent, which then reduces to 17.7 per cent for ages 30-59 and 8.4 per cent for ages 60 and above. These figures provide insight into the national unemployment landscape and can be used as a proxy to gauge the situation at the city level. The high unemployment rates among youth and adults aged 18-29 suggest a clear need to offer more sustainable and formal job opportunities, and this can only be done via aggressive and focused policies to attract new businesses in the city in various sectors.

SDG Target 8.8

Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

SDG Indicator 8.8.1

Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status

Source: Ramallah Municipality

RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR | **N/A**

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT | **LIMITED PROGRESS**

The construction sector in Ramallah City has seen a steady growth, but this has not been accompanied by improvements in licensing, occupational health, and safety regulations. Consequently, as confirmed by stakeholders interviewed as part of this VLR, a high rate of largely undocumented incidents has occurred, ranging from minor injuries and chemical spills to significant pollution events and occasional fatalities. Many residents work on construction sites inside Israel proper, where injuries and fatalities are common. Despite the Ministry of Labor's responsibility for overseeing compliance with labour laws, resource constraints hinder effective monitoring. The fact that data related to fatal and non-fatal injuries in the city does not exist reflects a gap that require immediate attention by the Ramallah Municipality and other national parties. This is also supported by the fact that businesses are required by law to obtain yearly registration, and the municipality conducts yearly inspections on business for compliance purposes.

3.2 SDG 8

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Despite challenges in documentation of occupational incidents, and to address these challenges, Ramallah Municipality has implemented in 2023 new licensing procedures and guidelines for construction firms. Future enhancements will include:

Reviewing safety protocols: Update safety and health guidelines for construction workers, drawing on successful enforcement strategies from other cities, including Amman, noting that the prevailing building law is the Jordanian law.
Enhancing municipal oversight: Increase the focus on agreements, licensing and education about safe work practices.
Mandating insurance: Require construction companies to insure workers against job-related risks.
Strengthening partnerships: Ramallah Municipality to collaborate more closely with the Ministry of Labor to enforce labour laws effectively.
Educating stakeholders: Raise awareness among contractors and workers about their legal rights and responsibilities through initiatives led by the Public Safety Committee at the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate level.
Improving monitoring systems: Develop a more robust monitoring system featuring well-trained inspectors, a new incident reporting system, and smart electronic monitoring to ensure timely follow-up on corrective and preventative actions. This system will be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders by Ramallah Municipality.

SDG Target 8.9

By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG Indicator 8.9.1

Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

Table 7: GDP proportion (time series) in the West Bank

YEAR	% OF TOURISM GDP
2015	1.7
2016	2.2
2017	2.6
2018	2.5
2019	2.9
2020	0.7

Source: PCBS (2021)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT **ON TRACK**

City-level data related to tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate is not available. However, the national-level indicator shows a fluctuation of contribution of tourism to GDP over the years, between 2015 and 2020 (UNESCWA, Palestine SDG Monitor (Goal 8), 2020) (see Table 7). The primary reason for this is the direct influence of the political and security conditions in Palestine on both local and international tourism across all cities in the West Bank. Additionally, the tourism sector has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to travel restrictions, border closures, lockdown measures, and fear of contagion. These factors post 2019 have led to a significant decline in international travel, resulting in reduced tourism activities, hotel closures, event cancellations, and loss of revenue for businesses reliant on tourism.

3.2 SDG 8

Figure 18: The yearly Christmas tree-lighting event attracting thousands of Palestinians and international visitors
Source: Ramallah Municipality

The ongoing war in the Gaza Strip has had more catastrophic repercussions. The war led to a sharp decline in all economic indicators, including hotel tourism activity. Not only the number of international tourists declined but also the number of local tourists and visitors to Ramallah declined due to the increased number of Israeli military checkpoints, roadblocks and Israeli settlers' attacks. The decline in hotel tourism activity is represented by a sharp decline in the number of hotel guests in the fourth quarter of 2023, which amounted to a total of 23,182 guests compared to a total of 157,367 guests during the fourth quarter of 2022 with a decrease of 85.3%. In addition, the total overnight stays in Palestinian hotels decreased in the same comparative quarters to reach 76,847 overnight stays in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to 440,606 overnight stays in the fourth quarter of 2022 with a decrease of 82.3% (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, n.d.).

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Aiming at providing quality services to visitors and tourists in the city, Ramallah Municipality has launched the Ramallah Tourist Information Center that shares information related to city history, cultural activities, facilities, etc. with visitors and tourists.

The preservation of the cultural heritage of the city including its old houses is considered a cornerstone of maintaining an attractive city for local and international tourism. Also, the zoning regulations aims at improving quality and access of commercial areas, including availability of car parking lots.

SDG Target 8.10

Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG Indicator 8.10.1

(a) number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Ramallah City Indicator		
	Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults	148.3
	Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	32.2

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT **ON TRACK**

Ramallah City is home for all banks, including their headquarters, operating in Palestine. The municipality, via its zoning and planning procedures, aims at facilitating access to finance as much as possible by licensing bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) at various markets and neighbourhoods. It also aims at reducing traffic near physical branches located in crowded areas. This indicator assesses financial inclusion through the availability of financial services, as measured by the number of commercial bank branches and ATMs per 100,000 adults. In the context of Ramallah City, these indicators provide insight into the accessibility of banking services for the adult population.

Based on geo-spacial data received from the Ramallah Municipality, the estimated figures for Ramallah City indicate a proximity of **148.3 commercial bank branches and 32.2 ATMs per 100,000 adults.** A high density of bank branches can facilitate easier access to banking services, including loans, deposits, and other financial products, contributing to economic development and financial stability. Similarly, the availability of ATMs is essential for providing convenient access to cash and other banking services, particularly in urban environments. The presence of ATMs supports the day-to-day financial transactions of residents, making financial services more accessible.

When comparing this indicator in Ramallah City with the Western Asia and Northern Africa regions, the differences in the availability of banking services are significant. In Ramallah, the estimated numbers of bank branches are considerably higher than the regional averages, which stand at 10 bank branches and 37.6 ATMs per 100,000 adults (see Figure 19).

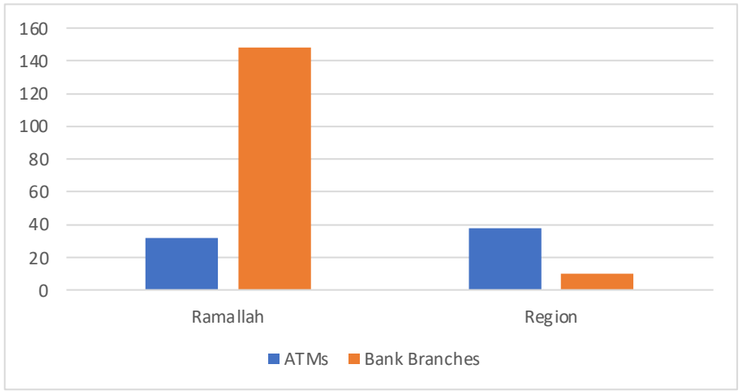


Figure 19: Comparison of SDG Indicator 8.10.1 between Ramallah City and the region
Source: UN-Habitat (2024)

The notably higher numbers in Ramallah City suggest a well-established banking infrastructure and potentially greater financial accessibility for residents. This level of service availability can support economic development and enhance financial inclusion across the city. However, the lower density of ATMs compared to the regional average indicates a possible area for improvement. Increasing the number of ATMs in Ramallah City could further improve access to cash and other financial services for the city's residents.

Economic data infrastructure for informed decisions

Facing global challenges in availability of economic data at city level, Ramallah Municipality can capitalize on its unique capabilities to develop a comprehensive data collection system in partnership with key local and national organizations, including the PCBS, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Ministry of Economy. This collaborative initiative will cover essential aspects of the city's economy, integrating relevant indicators from the Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) adapted to Ramallah's specific context. By accessing and analysing this data, Ramallah Municipality can pinpoint gaps, opportunities, and the overall economic status, crucial for assessing income levels and employment capacity. Enhanced understanding of economic dynamics will allow Ramallah Municipality to design local economic development strategies that are specifically tailored to meet the city's needs, moving away from generic projects. Critical data points to be monitored include unemployment rates by gender, the city's GDP contribution, mortgage rates relative to total income, the percentage of youth not engaged in education, employment, or training, annual GDP growth rates, and the share of small and micro enterprises in the total industrial value added.

3.2.4 What is needed to male further progress in SDG 8

Modernize local government laws: Lead efforts under the leadership of MoLG and APLA to streamline licensing for construction projects and investments, fostering collaboration with the private sector on key infrastructure initiatives.

Inclusive urban planning: Work closely with corporations, establishments, and trade unions to develop a focused economic development strategy, enhancing the city's appeal for investments in service and manufacturing sectors. Also, consider the needs of informal workers in urban planning and development.

Investment attraction: Take an active role in attracting new investments and offering incentives to encourage business retention in the city.

Infrastructure improvements: Invest in infrastructure development to alleviate traffic congestion and support economic activities. This includes expanding roads, improving public transportation, and enhancing utility services, which can help reduce operating costs for businesses and make Ramallah more attractive for investments.

Industrial zone expansion: Extend the existing industrial zone and establish a new zone near the city on accessible roads, in partnership with neighbouring cities and towns.

Work injuries: Improve monitoring mechanisms of businesses in all sectors regarding fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, and take adequate measures to reduce and mitigate injuries.

Simplify regulations: Streamline bureaucratic processes for businesses to register and operate formally, and implement policies to reduce licensing costs for young entrepreneurs.

Startup guidance: Direct startups towards addressing city-wide challenges in health, transportation, telecommunication, climate change, and environmental sectors, and provide training, technical assistance, and access to finance for informal entrepreneurs.

Capacity-building: Strengthen Ramallah Municipality's capability in economic leadership by hiring business-oriented professionals and enhancing data collection and analysis.

Access to finance: Incentivize banks to increase the number of ATMs across all neighbourhoods so as to reduce traffic in bank branches as well as provide e-services to all citizens.

3.2.5 Implementation plan:

Short term (1-2 years)

1. Review and identify modernization needs within local government laws and propose amendments.

2. Form a task force including government officials, industry experts, and community stakeholders to draft a law modernization plan that focus on increasing municipal revenues by tapping in on land-based financing, including developer exaction, property taxation, etc.

3. Initiate awareness campaigns to educate and gather feedback from citizens and businesses on proposed legal changes.

4. collect basic economic data at city level, such as unemployment by sex, age groups and level of education, number, size and capital of SMEs by sector, contribution of city economy to national GDP, etc.

Medium term (3-5 years)

1. Establishing an investment arm or corporation to manage all the municipality investments.

2. Submit proposed legal amendments for legislative review and approval, noting the freeze on the Palestinian Legislative Council work since 2007.

3. Start implementing modernization measures, such as streamlining licensing processes, increasing transparency, and bolstering accountability.

4. Regularly monitor the implementation and address any arising challenges.

Long term (5+ years)

1. Assess the effects of the modernized laws on economic development, investment attraction, and job creation.

2. Continually review and update the laws to address evolving economic needs and challenges.

3. Seek further collaborative opportunities with neighbouring cities and towns for regional economic development and integration.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

3.3 SDG 11

3.3.1 Background

SDG 11 is crucial for Ramallah, a rapidly expanding urban centre in the West Bank. As one of Palestine's fastest-growing cities, Ramallah embodies the vibrancy and complexity of urban life, marked by bustling streets and diverse neighbourhoods. However, the city faces challenges, including rapid population growth, inadequate infrastructure, political instability, environmental issues, and socioeconomic disparities. SDG 11 provides a strategic framework to guide Ramallah towards sustainable urban development, aiming to foster an inclusive, resilient and environmentally conscious city that ensures livability, equity and sustainability for all its residents.

Navigating political complexities

SDG 11 is particularly pertinent to Ramallah, addressing the city's broad spectrum of challenges and opportunities. The protracted Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, compounded by political, health, and socio-economic crises, has triggered a fiscal emergency at both national and local levels, threatening progress on this SDG 11 goal. The Oslo Agreement's land classifications (Areas A, B, and C) and the discriminatory planning regime have severely restricted urban and rural expansion, particularly impacting cities like Ramallah, which are prohibited from expanding into Area C by the Israeli occupation. The ongoing Ramallah Municipality plans to expand its master plan on Area C land have not been realized.

Amid rapid urbanization, with over 77 per cent of Palestinians living in urban areas in 2020, cities face significant pressures (UN-Habitat, 2021). This is exacerbated by increasing Israeli military incursions, which often result in the destruction of infrastructure and personal property in Ramallah. Additionally, heightened military checkpoints have escalated transportation costs of solid waste, forcing Ramallah Municipality to adopt a temporary local dumping site. These challenges necessitate a resilient and innovative approach from Ramallah Municipality to navigate and overcome these adversities.

3.3.2 Prioritized SDG indicators and stakeholder insights

Due to the variety of its indicators, several stakeholders were interviewed as part of reporting on SDG 11. As a result to the main issues identified via the strategic planning process held in May 2023 and the subsequent consultations held as part of the VLR process with the Ramallah Municipality management team, ten indicators were highlighted as a priority and were corelated with SDG 11 relevant indicators. Table 8 shows the main issues and priorities extracted from the stakeholder consultations process.

Table 8: Stakeholders' insights for SDG 11

MAIN ISSUES	MAIN PRIORITIES
Existing infrastructure does not meet the city's growing needs	Upgrade and expand existing infrastructure.
Limited public facilities, e.g. parks, playgrounds, community centers, ...etc.	Upgrade and increase public facilities.
Limited financial resources required for strategic infrastructure projects (e.g. circular road, connecting roads, public transportation, etc.)	Increase and diversify financial resources from various sectors.
Outdated current environmental bylaws, with limited enforcement regarding environmental and health pollutants	Upgrade solid waste management system according to international standards.
Weak public transportation system	Develop sustainable public transportation in collaboration with adjacent urban centres.
Weak adherence to traffic rules and weak capacity of monitoring procedures	Improve adherence to traffic rules.
Weak coordination with neighbouring municipalities and village councils regarding infrastructure, transportation, wastewater, ...etc.	Improve coordination bodies that were institutionalized.
Inadequate building codes related to car parking in buildings	Review of existing building codes related to car parking for all types of buildings.
Slow decision-making process regarding licensing of new projects and lack of flexibility and innovation regarding new and large construction projects	Expedite decision-making process and clarify procedures related to licensing new projects in coordination with relevant stakeholders.

3.3 SDG 11

MAIN ISSUES	MAIN PRIORITIES
Slow process of zoning new areas inside city boundaries to expand real estate development and contribute to economic development	Expedite the process of zoning new areas.
Increase in prices of housing units and price of land	Review building codes and licensing requirements to allow for vertical expansions that will reduce price of housing units.
Absence of municipal incentives or subsidies to foster cooperative affordable housing	Review of licensing procedures (e.g. payment of prior fees, basic infrastructure, etc.) to support new affordable housing projects.
High prices and scarcity of available land in the industrial zone, causing existing (of expansion plans) and new businesses to refrain from investing in the city	Expand the zoning of the existing industrial area and plan for a new zone in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities to offer affordable spaces for start-ups, youth and other micro and small and micro enterprises

3.3.3 Neighbourhood functionality analysis

During the VLR discussion with Ramallah Municipality, one of the emerging issues was the need to establish a functional definition for the neighbourhoods in Ramallah City as spatially defined units, with their own systems of functional and social networks. This is essential to support the sustainable urban development of the city and its surroundings. The principles of sustainable neighbourhood planning are crucial for creating vibrant, inclusive and resilient urban areas. These principles revolve around the efficient use of space, fostering community, and promoting diverse uses within neighbourhoods. This approach focuses on five main principles (UN-Habitat, A new strategy of sustainable neighbourhood planning: five principles, 2024):

1. **Adequate space for streets and efficient street network:** The street network should occupy at least 30 per cent of the land, with a density of 18 km of street length per km². This ensures connectivity and mobility for residents, creating a walkable and accessible environment.
2. **High density:** With a target of at least 15,000 people per km², or 150 people per hectare, this principle supports efficient land use and promotes sustainable transportation options.
3. **Mixed land use:** At least 40 per cent of floor space should be allocated for economic use, promoting economic activity and job opportunities within neighbourhoods and reducing the need for long commutes.
4. **Social mix:** A variety of housing options catering to different income levels and types of tenures helps create a diverse and inclusive community. Between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of residential floor area should be allocated for low-cost housing.
5. **Limited land-use specialization:** Single-function blocks or neighbourhoods should be limited to less than 10 per cent of the total area to foster mixed-use development and avoid overly specialized zones.

By adhering to these principles, sustainable neighbourhood planning aims to create lively, equitable and environmentally friendly urban areas that enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Principle 1: ***Adequate space for streets and efficient street network***
One of the key principles of sustainable neighbourhood planning is ensuring adequate space for streets and an efficient street network. This principle is essential for providing residents with mobility options and connectivity throughout their community. Examining the proportions of road coverage and road lengths per square kilometre in various neighbourhoods provides insights into how well each area aligns with this principle, as shown in Figure 20.

Percentage of road area:

- **Old City** stands out as the neighbourhood with the highest percentage of road area, boasting 29.8 per cent road coverage. This indicates strong connectivity and accessibility in the area.
- **Al Narjws, Diplomatic, Al Jadwal and Al Masayef** follow closely behind, each with road coverage ranging from 25.7 per cent to 26.8 per cent. These areas demonstrate a strong focus on facilitating movement and access.
- **Al Wad and Al Rihan** have the lowest percentages, 7.2 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively, suggesting limited street space and potential challenges in mobility.

Length of roads per km²:

- **Old City** once again leads, with a road length of 27.5 km per km², indicating a dense network of streets that enhances walkability and access for residents.
- **City Center, Qadoura and Ein Misbah** also show good road lengths, ranging from 19.7 km to 21.2 km per km². This robust street network can improve transportation options and connectivity.
- **Al Rihan and Al Wad** lag behind, with road lengths of 4.3 km and 3.8 km per km², respectively. This may suggest limitations in the overall transportation network in these areas.

This data provides insights into the effectiveness of the street networks across various neighbourhoods. Areas with higher road area percentages and lengths per km² typically offer better connectivity, walkability, and access for residents. It is important for sustainable planning to aim for balanced and efficient street networks across all neighbourhoods.

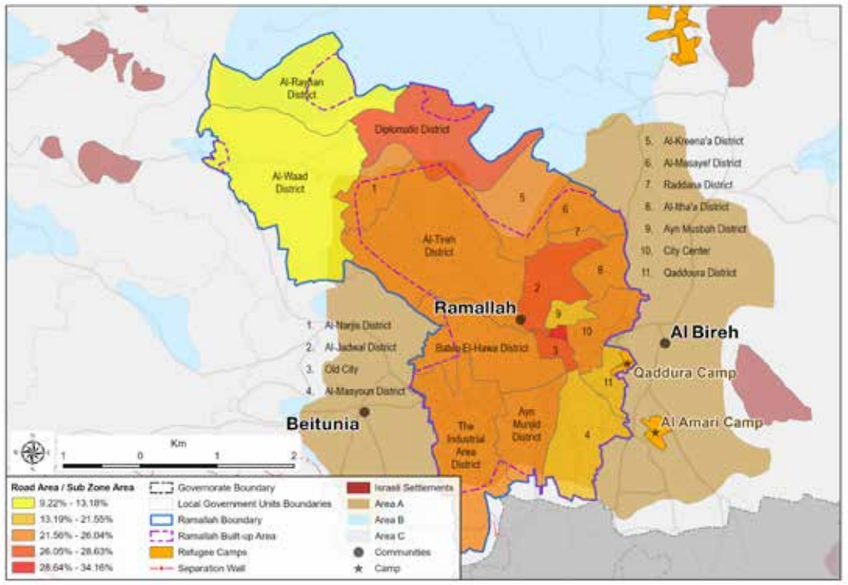


Figure 20: Principle 1 analysis (road area network)
Source: Ramallah Municipality

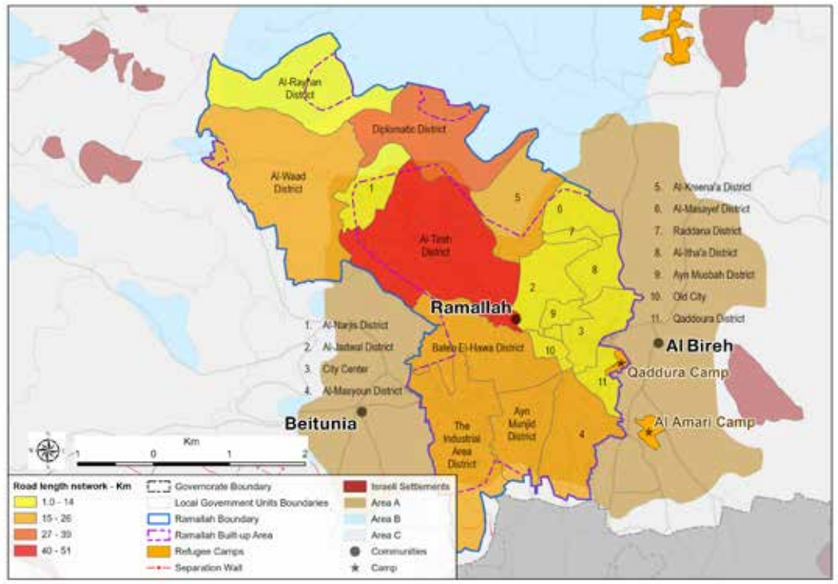


Figure 21: Principle 1 analysis (road length network)
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Principle 2: *High density*

High density is an essential aspect of sustainable neighbourhood planning, ensuring efficient land use and supporting the viability of public transportation and local services. The population per area data for different neighbourhoods highlights significant variation in density across the region:

- **Ein Misbah, Old City** and **Al Itha'a** have the highest population density per unit area. This indicates a highly populated neighbourhood, which can be beneficial for sustaining local businesses and transportation networks.
- **Qadoura** and **Al Tireh** also exhibit relatively high population densities, supporting the trend of concentrated living and potentially vibrant community life.
- **Baten El-Hawa** and **Al Masayef** have moderate population densities, which may support a balance between urban amenities and residential space.
- On the lower end, **City Center** and **Birzeit University housing** display lower population densities, which could reflect a different urban layout or more open spaces within these areas.
- **Al Wad, Al Krena and Diplomatic** have significantly lower population densities, with Al Wad having only one person per unit area. These neighbourhoods may face challenges in sustaining local amenities or services due to the sparse population.

The variation in population density across neighbourhoods influences urban planning strategies and the distribution of resources and services. Achieving an optimal density ensures efficient land use and fosters vibrant, sustainable communities.

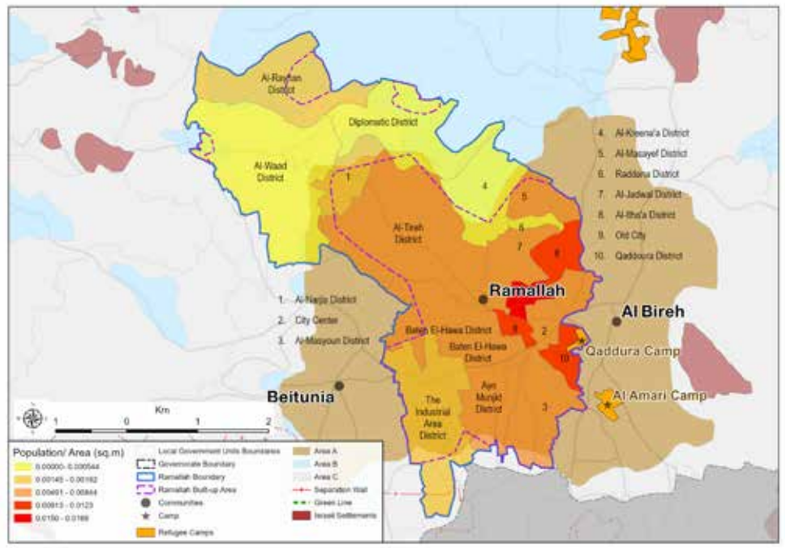


Figure 22: Principle 2 analysis (population densities)
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Principle 3: ***Mixed land use***
Mixed land-use is a key aspect of sustainable neighbourhood planning, promoting economic diversity and community vibrancy. Examining land use across neighbourhoods shows variations in residential, economic and public service allocations. Two scenarios offer different perspectives on land-use allocation. The first scenario looks at land use without considering floor area, providing a broad overview of how space is distributed for various functions, such as residential, economic, public service, and future development. The second scenario uses data from only 27 per cent of buildings with floor area and use information, offering a detailed view of space allocation within buildings.

Without considering floor area:
- **Al Narjes** and **Ein Munjid** are heavily residential (64 per cent and 68 per cent), with limited economic activity.
- **The Industrial Area** is heavily economic (79 per cent), whereas **Old City** and **City Center** have a balanced allocation of economic and residential spaces.
- **Al Wad** and **Al Rihan** stand out with their high percentage of future development areas.

Considering only 27 per cent of buildings with floor area data:
- **Qadoura** and **Al Krena** demonstrate more balanced mixed-use, with significant economic floor space.
- **City Center** and **Old City** focus more on residential and public service uses.
- **Ein Munjid** and **Al Wad** remain entirely residential.

Comparing the two scenarios, the data from 27 per cent of buildings does not provide a realistic picture of the actual land-use situation across neighbourhoods, as it may overlook crucial aspects of existing economic and public service spaces. In conclusion, a careful balance between economic and residential areas is essential for creating sustainable neighbourhoods.

Principle 4: ***Social mix***
Social mix is a fundamental aspect of sustainable neighbourhood planning that promotes inclusivity by providing diverse housing options across different income levels and tenures. This principle aims to create cohesive communities that can accommodate a variety of residents, fostering equity and social integration.

However, calculating the extent of social mix within neighbourhoods is challenging due to the limited availability of data on housing types, price ranges, and tenures. Without comprehensive information on residential floor area distribution, the actual proportions of different housing types within neighbourhoods remain unclear.

Principle 5: ***Limited land-use specialization***
Limited land-use specialization aims to create mixed-use neighbourhoods that avoid single-function blocks or areas. This diversity supports a wide range of activities, fostering vibrant, multifunctional spaces that cater to different needs and preferences. Examining the distribution of land use across neighbourhoods provides insights into the variety and balance of different functions within each area:
- Most neighbourhoods exhibit extensive commercial use, often exceeding the 10 per cent limit. **Al Narjes** (33 per cent), **Qadoura** (36 per cent) and **Al Masayef** (19 per cent) all surpass the threshold, indicating potential imbalances in land-use specialization.
- Other neighbourhoods, such as **City Center** and **Old City**, show a diverse mix of uses across commercial, public utility, and other functions, while maintaining non-residential use within the 10 per cent limit.
- **Industrial** is an outlier, with 72 per cent of its land dedicated to industrial use. This exceeds the 10 per cent threshold and suggests a need for greater diversification in this area.

These neighbourhoods showcase the benefits of limited land-use specialization, which can encourage diverse and vibrant communities. While some areas, such as the Industrial area, could benefit from a more balanced mix, other neighbourhoods demonstrate successful integration of different functions within their spaces except for commercial use. This principle is crucial for creating inclusive and sustainable urban environments.

Agglomeration of the five principles
The evaluation of neighbourhoods based on the five principles of sustainable neighbourhood planning provides insight into the overall performance of each area. The scoring rates each neighbourhood out of a possible 3 points for each principle or subprinciple. The total score, out of a possible 15, reflects the neighbourhood's adherence to sustainable urban planning goals (see Figure 23).

Key insights:
- **High performers: Al Ithaa, Al Jadwal, Al Tireh, City Center** and **Old City** scored a total of 12 and 11 points, respectively. This strong adherence to sustainable neighbourhood planning principles is particularly significant in **City Center** and **Old City**, where historical built environments have been seamlessly integrated with modern planning concepts. These areas combine efficient street networks, high density, and balanced land use while retaining their unique cultural and historical heritage. Such a successful blend of tradition and modern

planning demonstrates how older neighbourhoods can serve as models for future development.

- **Mid-range performers:** Several neighbourhoods, including **Ein Munjid, Al Masyoun, Al Krena** and **Al Masayef**, scored between 9 and 10 points. These areas generally perform well but may have specific areas for improvement to fully adhere to the planning principles.

- **Low performers: Al Rihan** and **Al Wad** scored the lowest (5 points each), indicating challenges in meeting sustainable neighbourhood planning principles. These areas may require targeted interventions to improve their performance, particularly in terms of street network efficiency and mixed land use.

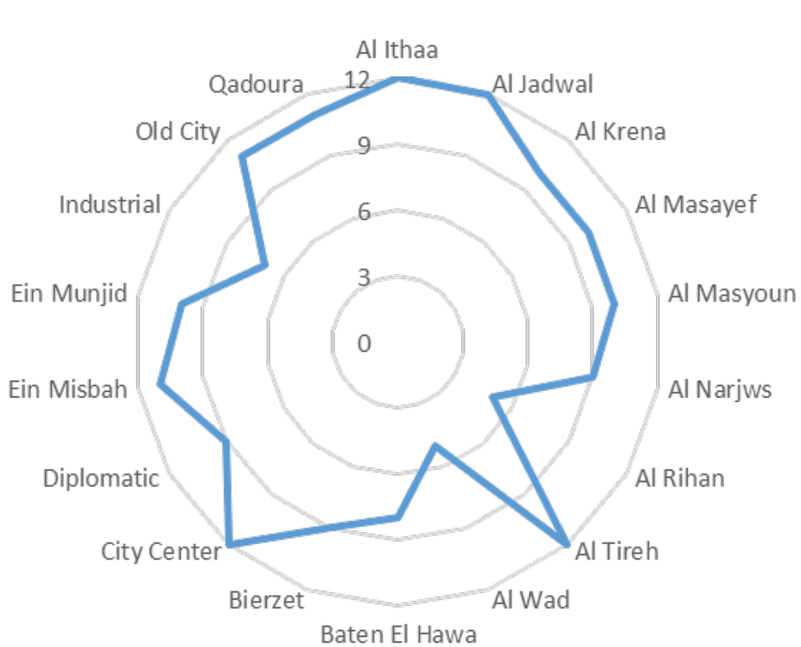


Figure 23: Neighbourhood scores of the 5 principles
Source: UN-Habitat (2024)

3.3.4 Selected SDG 8 targets and indicators

3.3.4.1 Addressing affordable housing

SDG Target 11

By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

SDG Indicator 11.1.1

Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

Source: UN-Habitat (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
NATIONAL INDICATOR	3.9

A calculated city-level score will be considered for this indicator while noting that affordable housing is also considered a national priority. Supporting affordable and safe housing was listed as a policy intervention as part of the national policy of "Meeting the basic needs of our communities" (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics). Although precise city-level data is unavailable, an approximation can be made by considering Qaddoura Camp, a refugee camp located within the city boundaries but not recognized by UNRWA, as representative of low living conditions. According to the population statistics provided by PCBS, Qaddoura Camp presents approximately **1.4 per cent** of the urban population in Ramallah City. On the other hand, when considering the area of neighbourhoods defined by Ramallah Municipality, the proportion rises to approximately **3.9 per cent** of the urban population. In comparison, according to PCBS, the national score of SDG 11.1.1 is 19.5 (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics). This is due to the fact that around 690,000 Palestinian refugees live in 27 refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza (The Negotiations Affairs Department).

As part of stakeholder consultations and aimed at exploring the issue of affordable housing in Ramallah, two case studies involving cooperative housing initiatives were examined. These projects were spearheaded by the Latin Patriarch and the Roman Catholic Church. The Latin Patriarch has completed several projects, including two in Ramallah, providing homes for 51 families (approximately 250 individuals) on Waqf land. These homes are offered to low-income families rent-free, with the Patriarch covering regular maintenance. However, the Patriarch interviewed as part of the VLR noted that the municipality did not provide assistance that could reduce construction costs or allow for greater building density. It was suggested by the Patriarch that Ramallah Municipality should develop clear policies to support such initiatives, possibly including subsidies for essential infrastructure like roads and sewage, and facilitating easier terms with utility providers.

Conversely in another case, the Roman Catholic Church has built two housing projects totaling 66 units for around 330 people. Church officials suggested that Ramallah Municipality could help by deferring upfront cash payments required at the start of construction. They also proposed land swaps with Ramallah Municipality to relocate some schools from crowded areas to more suitable locations on the city's outskirts.

While these local insights are valuable, the national perspective on affordable housing should also be considered, emphasizing its priority status across the country. The President of the Union of Real Estate Developers indicated that a flexibility by Ramallah Municipality in licensing and zoning requirements would contribute to the reduction of the overall cost of construction. This is particularly important considering that available land for construction of residential buildings is becoming scarce in the city and very expensive. For example, adding additional floors to buildings would reduce overall costs of buildings by 30 per cent.

3.3.4.2 Traffic management and safety initiatives

SDG Target 11.2

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

SDG Indicator 11.2.1

Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Source: PCBS (2022)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS IS NEEDED
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	83.4%

This indicator assesses the proportion of the population that has convenient access to public transport within 10 minutes of walking. According to PCBS data of 2022, the results for Ramallah City suggest a significant disparity in access across different neighbourhoods. From a **population** perspective, 83 per cent of Ramallah City's population lives within a 10-minute walking distance of public transport routes. In terms of **area,** 56 per cent of Ramallah City is within a 10-minute walk of public transport routes. Notably, neighbourhoods such as Qadoura, Al Masyoun, Ein Misbah, City Center and Old City all have 100 per cent proximity to public transport, ensuring easy access for residents. On the other hand, neighbourhoods such as Al Rihan, Al Krena and Diplomatic have minimal access, with only 1 per cent, 1 per cent and 3 per cent proximity, respectively. These three neighbourhoods are most suited to witness an increase in population over the next decade.

These findings reveal a stark difference in access to public transport across Ramallah City, with most of the central and established neighbourhoods enjoying excellent proximity, while the outer neighbourhoods lag significantly behind. Addressing this disparity is critical to achieving sustainable urban development and ensuring equitable access to transportation for all residents.

Due to lack of available data, it is challenging to assess access to public transport based on sex, age and persons with disabilities, which may mask potential inequities in transportation access among different demographic groups. The assessment of Ramallah City's population with convenient access to public transport and the extent of the urban area served by public transport highlights some encouraging findings when compared to regional and global averages. In Ramallah City, 85 per cent of the population lives within 10 minutes of walking from a public transport route. This is considerably higher than the average for the Western Asia and Northern Africa region, where only 36.1 per cent of the population has convenient access to public transport. Globally, Ramallah City also outperforms the average of 51.6 per cent of the population having convenient access, suggesting a strong network of public transport routes available to most residents.

3.3 SDG 11

Regarding the urban area served by public transport, Ramallah City again surpasses both regional and global averages. Of Ramallah City's urban area, 56 per cent is within 10 minutes of walking to public transport, more than double the regional average of 24.5 per cent and significantly higher than the global average of 37 per cent).

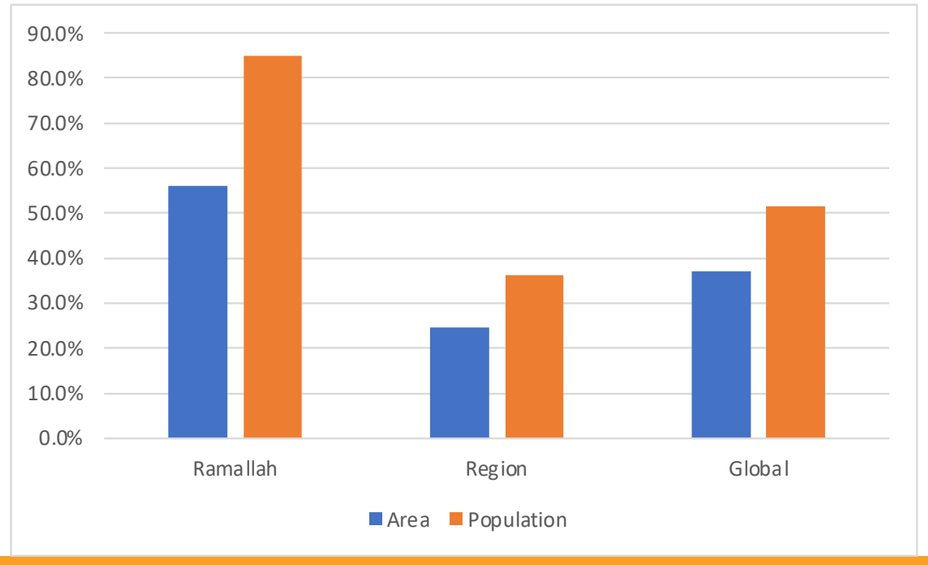


Figure 24: Ramallah's standing across the region and global values for SDG Indicator 11.2.1
Source: UN-Habitat (2024)

These results suggest that Ramallah City is ahead of both the regional and global benchmarks for providing convenient access to public transport, both in terms of population and urban area coverage. This is a positive sign of progress toward creating a more sustainable and accessible city for its residents. However, there is still room for improvement in certain neighbourhoods, such as Al Rihan, Diplomatic and Al Krena, where access remains minimal.

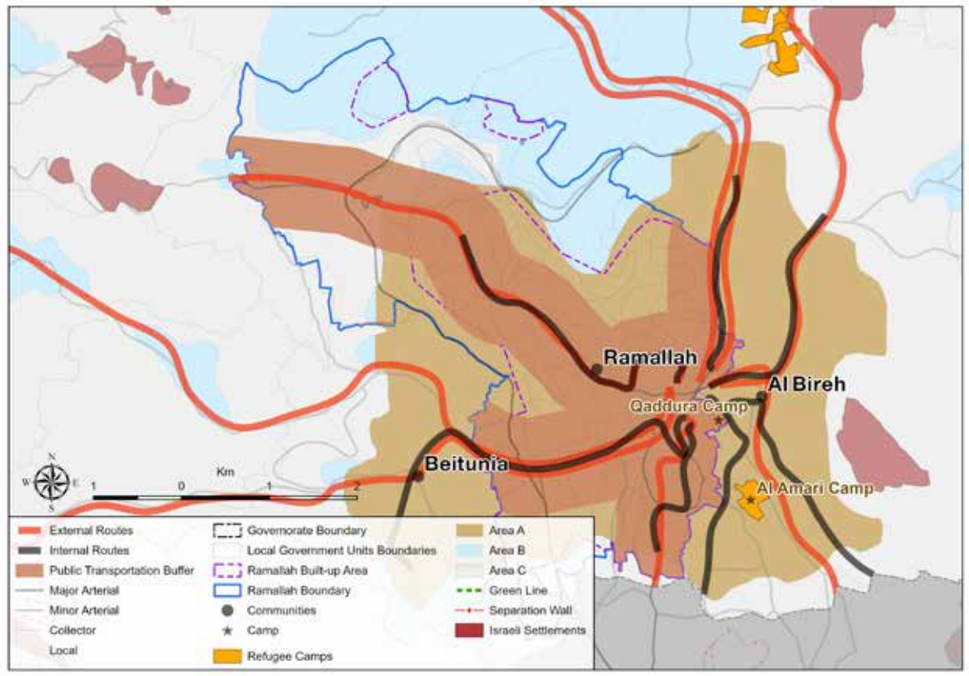


Figure 25: Analysis of public transport accessibility in Ramallah City
Source: Ramallah Municipality

3.3 SDG 11

The high number of private vehicles in Ramallah is considered an environmental as well as transportation challenge. In Palestine, there are a total of 466,948 registered vehicles, with 76.6 per cent classified as private vehicles. The Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate has the highest vehicle count of nearly 30 per cent, of which 82.5 per cent are private vehicles (PCBS, Number of Licensed Road Vehicles in Palestine* by Region, Governorate and Type of Vehicle,2022, 2023). Furthermore, this governorate witnessed the highest number of new vehicle registrations in 2022, totaling 14,174, which accounts for 38.7 per cent of the total new registrations in Palestine (PCBS, Number of New Registered Road Vehicles in Palestine* by Region, Governorate and Type of Vehicle,2022, 2023). While having the largest number of vehicles in Palestine, the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate recorded 3,753 traffic accidents, 19 per cent of the total number of accidents in Palestine, representing the highest number of traffic accidents as well. In terms of traffic accidents with injuries, the governorate recorded 784 accidents in 2022 (PCBS, Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties in Palestine by Governorate and Month, 2022, 2022), representing 13 per cent of total accidents with injuries in Palestine. According to the Palestinian police, 60 per cent of accidents are estimated to be in the city of Ramallah. Accordingly, the death rate due to road traffic injuries, SDG 3.6.1 is 5.8 fatalities/100,000 capita. (Jaber, Profile of Pedestrian Crashes in Nablus Governorate, 2019).

Figure 26: Traffic at the city centre
Source: Ramallah Municipality

In a 2020 traffic study by Ramallah Municipality, it was found that 12,000 vehicles enter the city during peak morning hours (7:30-8:30) (Ramallah Municipality, Each one of us has a role to play in solving the problem of traffic congestion, 2020). These vehicles arrive from different entrances ranging between 2,300 from the east to 3,700 from the south. The increase in volume of vehicles entering the city is due to various reasons, and the weak presence of effective public transportation structure is one of them.

Figure 27:Indoor car parking at municipality-owned Ramallah City complex in the city centre
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Figure 28:The municipality building car parking
Source: Ramallah Municipality

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

To accommodate the increasing vehicle volume, the municipality is implementing short-term and medium-term traffic plans, organizing traffic flow at key intersections, constructing new roads, constructing indoor and outdoor car parkings in various locations that are also sensitive to persons with disabilities, and promoting alternative transportation to lessen dependence on private vehicles.

As part of Ramallah Municipality's plans of construction of new roads, a circular road has been designed to reduce traffic pressure in the old city by connecting the western parts, including the industrial area, to northern cities and towns. This new circular road will revitalize the new zones within the city boundary and contribute to economic development. In addition to the financial obstacles facing the project, many sections of the road are located in Area C, where Israeli occupation authorities do not allow any construction.

Regarding improvement of public transportation, the municipality has licensed public transportation locations around city center to facilitate transportation of citizens from inside and outside the city. In another major and strategic step, the municipalities of Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Bietunia are currently exploring the set-up of a partnership with a private operator to manage eco-friendly fleet of vehicles that is expected to improve quality and efficiency of public transportation as well as reduce air pollution. (please see SDG Indicator 17.17.1 for more details).

3.3.4.3 Land and urban planning targets and indicators

SDG Target 11.3

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

SDG Indicator 11.3.1

Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Source: PCBS (2022)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK

RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	PERIOD	RATIO
	2012-2017	2.275
	2017-2022	0.791

This indicator assesses the relationship between land consumption rate and population growth rate, reflecting the pace at which land is being utilized relative to population expansion. The ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate for the period 2012-2017 is 2.275, whereas the ratio for the period 2017-2022 is 0.791. Reasons for the decline in ratio are unclear. Several reasons can attribute to reduction of the ratio, e.g. drop in demand for residential and commercial buildings and therefore drop in real estate development, increase in real estate prices that leads citizens to live in nearby cities and village, scarcity of land suitable for real estate development, etc. The increase in the ratio of land consumption rate and population growth rate in the adjacent city of Al-Bireh from 2.27 in 2012-2017 to 4.27 in 2017-2022, and the slight drop in the rate in the adcajent city of Betunia from 2.66 to 2.41 for the same periods may suggest that demand for land and for housing at cheaper prices is the main reasons for the drop in the rate in Ramallah. (Palestinian Central ureau of Statistics, 2022).

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

While currently there are no specific strategies being implemented by Ramallah Municipality to tackle the need for a balanced land consumption rate and population growth rate, the primary strategies being implemented are land use planning and zoning and compact urban development, mainly development of dense, walkable neighborhoods around public transportation routes, and establishment of clear boundaries for urban expansion.

SDG Target 11.3

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

SDG Indicator 11.3.2

Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS IS NEEDED
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	N/A

Following the criteria for assessing this indicator, in Ramallah Municipality, structures exist that allow civil society participation, but they are only partially direct, and such structures do not meet regularly.

3.3 SDG 11

The latest Strategic Development Strategy 2023-2026 for Ramallah City was formulated after an extensive consultation process with various community groups and citizens (women, youth, people with disabilities, etc.). A total of 14 committees in four main domains were formed as follows:

Table 9: The committees for each domain for establishing the Strategic Development Strategy 2023-2026 for Ramallah City

DOMAIN	COMMITTEES
Environment and Infrastructure	Transportation
	Environment, climate change and public health
	Infrastructure: Energy, ICT, water, wastewater and solid waste
Local Economic Development	Economy and investment
	Tourism and entertainment
Social Development	Youth and women
	Education
	Culture
	Senior citizens
	People with disability
Good Governance	Urban planning
	Good governance
	Digitization
	Communication and local and international networking

Figure 29:Strategic planning workshop in 2023 with the participation of citizens, CSOs and the private sector
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

The participants' commitment and quality input were instrumental in shaping the objectives of the new strategy after thorough analysis of issues, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for each domain and respective sub-domains. Participants were from various backgrounds (e.g. civil society, private sector, public sector, retired people, etc.). The gender distribution of participants across domains was as shown in Figure 24.

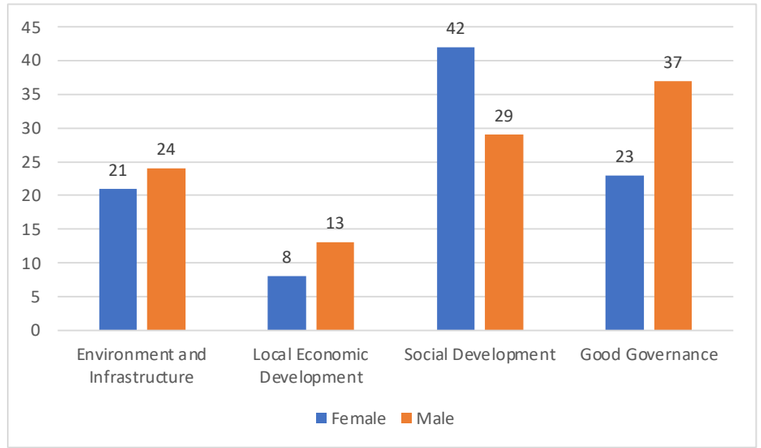


Figure 30: Participants by gender and domains for Strategic Development Strategy 2023-2026 for Ramallah City committees
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

3.3 SDG 11

The recent elections in the local government sector have played a crucial role in revitalizing community engagement and updating assessments of community needs. The current municipal council, elected in 2021, includes 33.3 per cent female representatives and was formed from a selection of three out of five competing lists, ensuring mixed representation. However, there currently exists no structured mechanism for the regular and democratic participation of civil society in urban planning and management.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

In addition to participation of citizens and civil society organizations during the strategic planning process, the municipality organizes public town hall meetings to listen to citizens' needs and issues as well as share municipality's plans related to these issues.

SDG Target 11.4

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

SDG Indicator 11.4.1

Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)

Source: *Ramallah Municipality (2024)*

RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	NIS 15.3/INHABITANT, EQUIVALENT TO USD 4.2/INHABITANT
STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK

Due to the lack of precise city-level data for SDG Indicator 11.4.1, an alternative indicator, **UMF-58**, Expenditure on Heritage, was employed. This indicator measures expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage. The methodology involves disaggregating expenditure by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed, World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional, local/municipal), type of expenditure (capital, operating), and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector, sponsorship).

Figure 31: *Conservation of old houses in the city*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Based on consultations with Ramallah Municipality management team and various stakeholders, conservation of cultural and natural heritage stands as a top priority for Ramallah Municipality and its residents, reflecting a profound commitment deeply entrenched in the resilience of the Palestinian people among challenging circumstances, including the Israeli occupation. The community of Ramallah actively supports the Ramallah Municipality's endeavors in preserving the city's natural and cultural legacy. Corporate social responsibility plays a significant role in bolstering key initiatives, exemplified by prominent programmes like the Wein Ala Ramallah festival and Souk Al Harajah. Additionally, numerous local and international CSOs and NGOs contribute to cultural activities.

In 2022 and 2023, local contributions (both corporate and organizational) amounted to NIS 1,006,916 (USD 275,867) in support of various activities, and NIS 153,649 (USD 42,096) came from international partners. Hence, the total contribution to cultural heritage was NIS 1,160,565 (USD 317,963). This reflects the collective investment from both public and private sources in safeguarding the rich cultural and natural heritage within the city.

3.3 SDG 11

SDG Target 11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

SDG Indicator 11.7.1

Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

Source: PCBS (2022)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS IS NEEDED
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	17.53%

According to PCBS data of 2022, Ramallah City's performance in SDG Indicator 11.7.1 stands at **17.53 per cent,** indicating a relatively lower allocation compared to other Palestinian cities. This is due to the low percentage of open spaces (0.67 per cent), such as parks, while the share of roads is acceptable (16.86 per cent) compared to other cities (see Figure 28). Unfortunately, data breakdown by sex, age and persons with disabilities is unavailable.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah City does have four public parks and 16 neighbourhood parks, attracting a total of 276,000 visitors annually. Public parks are also dispersed around the city which maximize access by citizens from all neighbourhoods. Despite this, efforts to enhance public recreational spaces remain essential for fostering community well-being and promoting inclusive urban environments.

Figure 32: Park of Nations at Ramallah City
Source: Ramallah Municipality

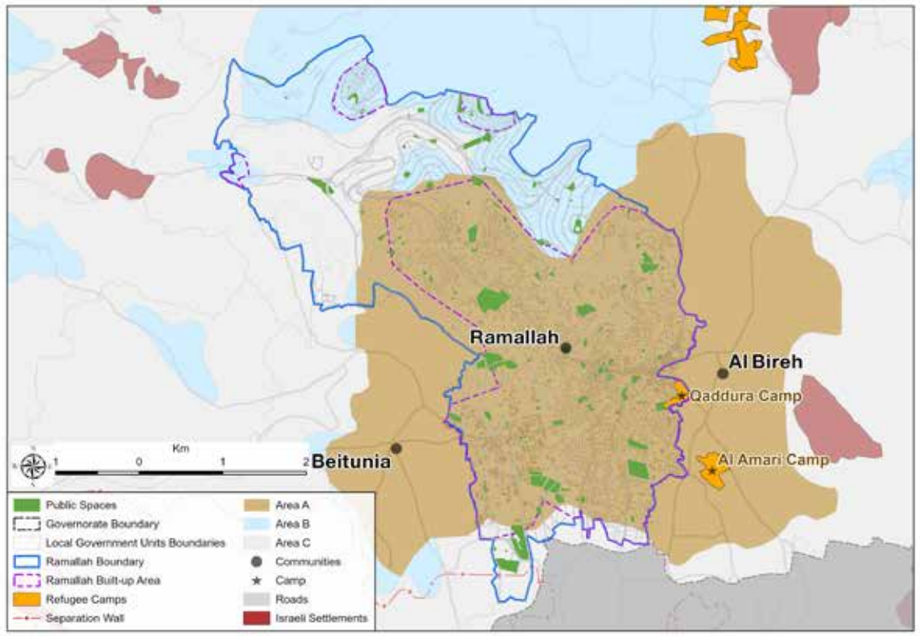


Figure 33: Analysis of SDG Indicator 11.7.1: open spaces are outside the blue line
Source: Ramallah Municipality

SDG Target 11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

UMF-61 Indicator

Open space for culture

Source: Ramallah Municipality

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	905,574.6 SQM

3.3 SDG 11

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Culture is one of the main cornerstones of the city that is characterized by open, optimistic and progressive city. Culture is integral to a resilient, inclusive and sustainable city, and Ramallah Municipality avails many of its facilities as well as open spaces in the city for cultural events. A cultural policy has been formulated for the city in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments' (UCLG) Culture 21. For years, Ramallah Municipality has been implementing various cultural activities that are attended by Palestinians from all over Palestine as well as by tourists.

"***Ramallah defines itself as a welcoming, open and diverse place, which has been enriched through the arrival and settling of diverse groups throughout history. As expressed in its motto, "We Ramallah", everyone is part of the city. Diversity and culture are also central to the future that Ramallah wants to build***" *(Cultural Policy Ramallah Municipality).*

The cultural life and good activities and supportive cultural services provided by the municipality are the two main reasons for the city's increased attractiveness. The municipality has availed many public venues in various locations in the city to hold various events. The city's main events are Wein ala Ramallah festival, Souk Al Harajeh, Holy Fire march, lighting of Christmas tree and Eid crescent, outdoor cinema festival. Also, the Ramallah Municipality has actively engaged with Gaza solidarity events and organized a major event to thank South Africa for its support to Palestinians, a fundraising campaign in partnership with Al-Bireh and Beitunia municipalities, etc.

Figure 34: *Souk Al Harajeh organized yearly by the Ramallah Municipality on the main street next to municipality building*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

Figure 35: *A cultural event at the municipality's open theatre during Souk Al Harajeh*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

Figure 36: *A theatre performance for children in the Ottoman park*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

3.3 SDG 11

The main venues and spaces open for cultural activities are the main municipality main theatre, municipality roads, municipality car parking, Ottoman court, cultural palace (indoor and outdoor), Mandela square, old city, public parks, Ramallah public library yard, etc. In commemoration of Shireen Abu Akleh, the *Al Jazeera* correspondent who was shot and killed by Israeli forces in Jenin on 11 May 2022, a media museum will be built in the city.

Figure 37: The design of the Shireen Abu Akleh media museum
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Figure 38: A public event organized by the Ramallah Municipality in partnership with CSOs at Mandela Square, thanking South Africa for its support to the Palestinian people. **Source:** *Ramallah Municipality*

Based on the geo-spatial analysis conducted as part of the VLR all this cultural infrastructure is accessible to residents as they are dispersed around the city within a travel distance of 15 minutes. Therefore, this reflects an excellent rating of UMF-55 (Proportion of population with access to cultural infrastructure). While recognizing the challenges related to measuring the intangible, albeit the most important, components of culture, Ramallah Municipality may utilize additional UMF indicators to measure frequently as part of reinforcing the impact of Ramallah Municipality's cultural programmes. Examples of these indicators are culture for social cohesion (UMF-53) and cultural knowledge (UMF-54) (UN-Habitat, The Global Urban Monitoring Framework, 2022).

SDG Target 11.b

By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

SDG Indicator 11.b.2

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

UMF-74 Indicator
Local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK

RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR		
	Ramallah Municipality adopts and implements a local disaster risk reduction strategy	YES

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

According to PCBS, 68.8 per cent of local authorities in the West Bank has and applies DRR strategies aligned with the national DRR strategy. (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2019). After joining the 100 Resilient Cities Network in 2020, Ramallah Municipality launched Resilient Ramallah 2050 (Ramallah Municipality, Resilient Ramallah 2050, 2020). As in all Palestinian cities, the city of Ramallah faced huge challenges as a result of the military occupation, enduring Israeli control over vital resources, such as land, water and natural reserves, as

well as restrictions on borders and interconnectivity among Palestinian communities. To enhance the city of Ramallah's ability to face these challenges, the municipality partnered with local and international partners to develop the resilience strategy, which includes institutional, legal, environmental, economic and social dimensions. Dozens of local partners participated in developing the vision of the city of Ramallah, ***"an optimistic, sustainable, and inclusive city, proud of its culture, and in control of its destiny,"*** supported by three strategic directions: regaining control over the city's resources, strengthening citizen-responsive governance, and maximizing the exploitation of its potential. The strategy includes 11 objectives and 37 interventions.

Several actions of the strategy were based on mapping disaster vulnerability, including at-risk groups, for Ramallah and its surroundings. This is based in analysing how risks are distributed spatially across the city that would aid the broader integrated disaster management actions and aligns with several of the Global Goals under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, e.g. establish an effective early warning system for a variety of risks and hazards. The overall planned monitoring system of the Ramallah Municipality will also build on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, City Resilient Framework, UMF, and SDGs.

3.3.4.4 Solid waste and wastewater indicators

SDG Target 11.6

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

SDG Indicator 11.6.1

proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities" in the UN SDG framework.

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	100%

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah's indicator for SDG 11.6.1 reveals a commendable achievement, with 100 per cent of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of the total municipal waste generated, underscoring the city's effective waste management practices.

According to municipal records, the city collects approximately 100 tons of solid waste daily, all of which is efficiently managed, being transferred to the official dumping site in Jenin, located 90 km away from Ramallah. However, recent Israeli military restrictions, including the establishment of additional checkpoints and road closures, have directly disrupted waste transportation, leading to increased costs and occasional trucking halts. Despite efforts to designate a new dumping site in Rammun, east of Ramallah for municipalities and village councils in the governorate, Israeli objections due to its location in Area C have stalled progress. The current transportation cost is NIS 80 (USD 23) per ton, whereas the proposed site in Rammun would cost NIS 30 (USD 8) per ton, which would significantly reduce expenses for Ramallah Municipality. Furthermore, road closures have forced municipalities, including Ramallah Municipality, to resort to abandoned sites for waste disposal, which would entail negative environmental externalities.

Regarding the Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated (SDG 6.3.1), and based on municipal data by 2023, Ramallah Municipality has made significant progress in wastewater management, connecting 80 per cent of households to the treatment network. Despite these advances, 35 per cent of wastewater remains untreated.

RAMALLAH INDICATOR – DOMESTIC	80%
RAMALLAH INDICATOR – INDUSTRIAL	75%

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

The municipality is expanding the network and build a new wastewater treatment plant with a total budget of USD 4.8 million to achieve full household connectivity by 2024 and aims to treat 100 per cent of wastewater within the next five years. Additionally, municipal regulations require industrial establishments with high pollutant discharge, such as pharmaceutical and chemical companies, to handle their own wastewater treatment. These companies must separate oil from other materials to align with domestic wastewater standards.

Figure 39: The new wastewater treatment plant located west of the city
Source: Ramallah Municipality

In terms of wastewater quantities, 2,400 cm/day are connected to the network and treated, while 2,000 cm/day are connected but untreated, and 1,000 cm/day remain unconnected and untreated. A key challenge faced by Ramallah Municipality is the influx of wastewater from adjacent urban centres, notably Beitunia, adding 700-1,000 cm of discharge to the network daily. While Ramallah Municipality typically upgrades treatment unit capacities before connecting remaining households, substantial financial resources are consistently required to align station capacities with city and adjacent centre population growth. This necessitates either installing additional stations in neighbouring centres to alleviate pressure on Ramallah stations or collaborating on constructing new central stations. The engineering department at Ramallah Municipality emphasizes that the primary objective of wastewater treatment is environmental, as utilizing treated water for agriculture is currently unfeasible, although Ramallah Municipality uses it to irrigate street plants and circles and in road construction. It was highlighted that wastewater treatment costs 1.73 times more than fresh water due to increased transportation and treatment expenses. However, due to scarcity of fresh water resulting from climate change and Israeli control over supply of fresh water, Ramallah Municipality should consider the feasibility of supplying certain industries in the city and the governorate with treated water to free up more freshwater resources for residential use. In parallel, the Ramallah Municipality, and considering its role as chairman of board of directors of the Jerusalem Water Undertaking, should address the issue of loss of fresh water in residential network estimated at 30 per cent.

Figure 40: Irrigation of plants by treated wastewater at main streets
Source: Ramallah Municipality

3.3.5 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 11

Regional collaboration: Ramallah Municipality and neighbouring municipalities should implement large-scale projects in transportation, industrial development, trade shows, and sports and cultural initiatives.

Affordable housing: Develop specific policies and regulations to promote affordable housing.

Zoning efficiency: Accelerate the zoning process within city boundaries to meet the rising demands across various sectors, e.g. housing, economy, etc, and modernize zoning procedures to allow for higher-density building projects to address the issue of land scarcity, reduce housing and office space costs, and accommodate more businesses within the city.

Real estate development: Simplify procedural requirements to enhance a balanced real estate growth.

Waste management: Collaborate with adjacent cities to establish a new dumping site, considering suitable technical solutions to treat solid waste, e.g. waste-to-energy or others, to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

Water management: Address the issue of 30 per cent water leakage in collaboration with Jerusalem Water Undertaking, prioritizing the reduction of freshwater losses.

Industrial water use: Assess the feasibility to increase the consumption of treated water in industrial sectors to free up more freshwater resources for residential use.

Traffic safety: Develop a mobile app with the Palestinian Police and insurance companies to record traffic accidents, aiding in road design and safety improvements.

Urban greenery: Allocate funds for the creation and maintenance of urban green spaces, improving quality of life, biodiversity and climate resilience.

Public transportation: Expand and enhance public transportation to reduce congestion, pollution and carbon emissions, while improving accessibility for all residents, particularly in AL Rihan, Diplomatic and Al Krena neighbourhoods.

3.3.6 Implementation plan

Short term (1-2 years)

1. Form a joint planning committee with neighbouring municipalities to coordinate infrastructure and planning.

2. Partner with the Palestinian Police and insurance companies to develop and launch a traffic accident analysis mobile application.

3. Collaborate with urban planners to define neighbourhood boundaries in Ramallah based on demographic and infrastructural considerations.

4. Develop tailored zoning plans that address the specific needs of each neighbourhood, including housing, commercial areas, and public amenities.

5. Review and adjust building codes and zoning regulations to support the development of affordable housing, including vertical expansions to make better use of the existing land.

Medium term (3-5 years)

1. Initiate joint projects with adjacent municipalities in key areas, such as public transportation, connecting roads, wastewater treatment, economic sectors, and cultural facilities.

2. Streamline zoning regulations to speed up the approval of new developments.

3. Coordinate closely with APLA and MOLG to update zoning regulations to meet cities' growing demand while reducing overall cost of housing, commercial and economic investments.

4. Implement water loss reduction initiatives with Jerusalem Water Undertaking.

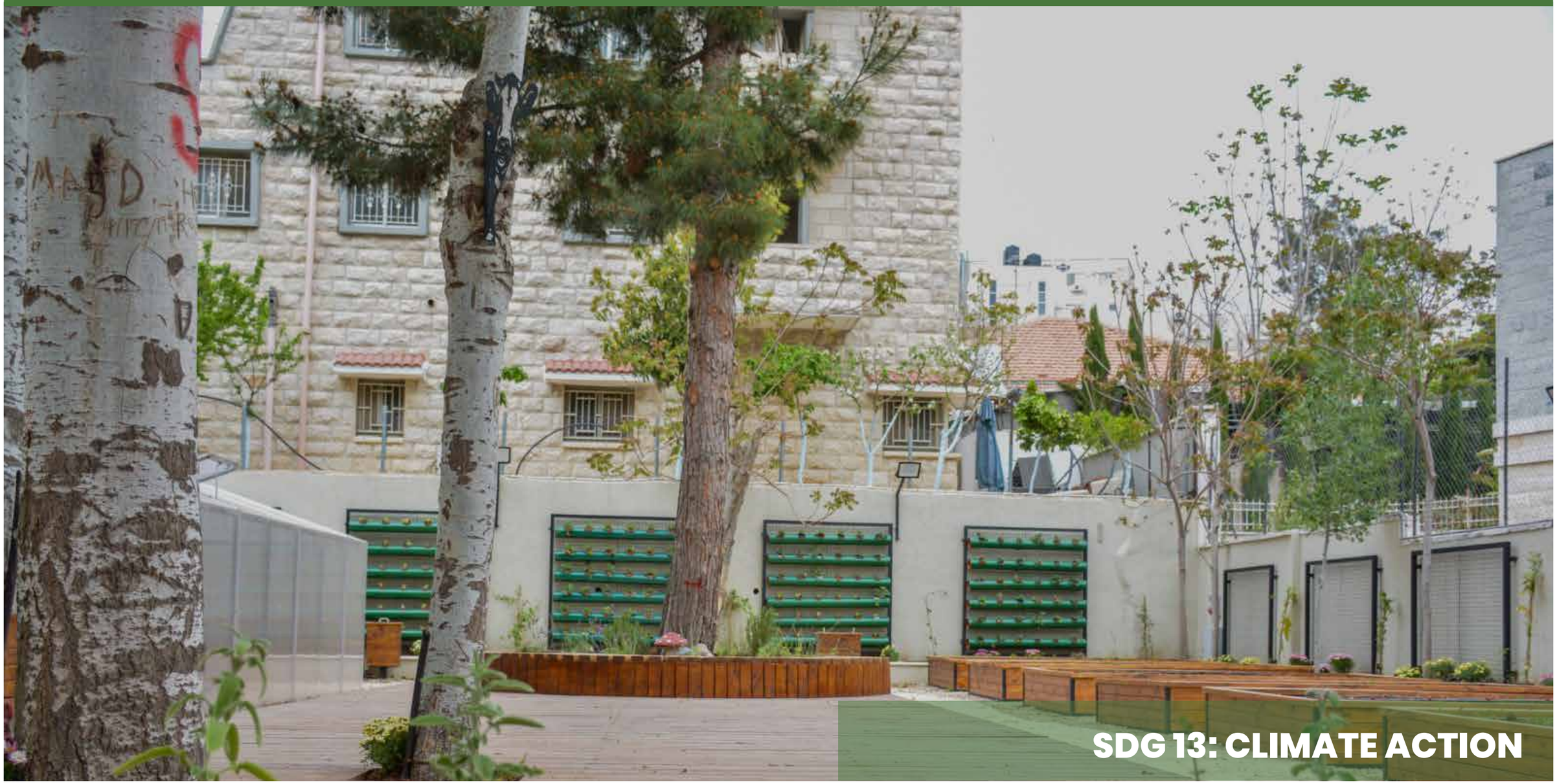
Long term (5+ years)

1. Identify and establish a new regional dumping site with potential waste-to-energy solutions or other solutions.

2. Encourage industrial use of treated water through incentives and regulations to conserve freshwater.

3. Invest in and maintain urban green spaces across Ramallah to enhance environmental sustainability and city livability.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

3.4 SDG 13

3.4.1 Background

In Palestine, climate change has been increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as droughts, heatwaves and floods. Since the 1960s, average temperatures in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have risen, with a notable increase of 1°C between the periods 1960-1991 and 1991-2020. This warming trend has led to significant agricultural disruptions, including a severe drought in 2005 that drastically affected crop yields and a heatwave in 2010 that reduced olive production by 20 per cent (The World Bank Group, 2023). These droughts compromise economic resilience by increasing import dependence, depleting savings, and exacerbating food insecurity. Additionally, average rainfall has slightly decreased over the past 50 years, becoming more volatile, leading to flash floods that now pose a growing threat across 65 per cent of the West Bank, particularly in the northwest.

Palestine's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) (Authority, n.d.) prioritizes adaptation due to the country's minimal contribution to global emissions, focusing on an adaptation-mitigation nexus despite the challenges of prolonged occupation. The NDC report highlights the urban and infrastructure sector as highly vulnerable, emphasizing the need for disaster risk management and climate-resilient transport infrastructure. From 2006 to 2021, Palestine's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions nearly doubled to approximately 5.3 million metric tons of CO equivalent, with the energy, transportation and waste management sectors as the main contributors. The NDC aims for a 17.5 per cent reduction in emissions by 2040 compared to business-as-usual levels. The geopolitical context complicates achieving these targets, especially with energy dependence on imports, predominantly from Israel. In 2020, Palestine's energy mix was composed of 65 per cent oil, 24 per cent coal and others, and 11 per cent renewables.

Adaptation challenges are exacerbated by the ongoing political situation, limiting capabilities and funding to address climate impacts on urban areas and vulnerable populations. The National Adaptation Plan (Authority, n.d.) identifies 12 sectors as highly vulnerable, with implementation plans developed for sectors like agriculture, energy and transport. Urban centres in Palestine, including Ramallah, face increased climate sensitivity due to rapid urbanization and inadequate infrastructure, making adaptation a critical yet challenging task that requires specialized expertise, technology, and capacity development. Moreover, international climate funding often favours mitigation over adaptation, adding another layer of complexity to addressing climate challenges in Ramallah and other Palestinian cities and communities.

Ramallah, located in the central West Bank at an elevation of 880 metres, faces its own climate-related risks. While not as susceptible to flooding and drought as the Gaza Strip or eastern West Bank, Ramallah is expected to see an increase in days with temperatures exceeding 35°C (World Bank, 2023). This rise in temperature is likely to impact labour productivity and increase heat-related illnesses, putting additional strain on health systems. Despite Ramallah's limited reliance on agriculture, climate change threatens the availability of water resources crucial to its water-intensive sectors, such as recreation, food and hospitality. A World Bank study notes that "about 10 percent of firms in the West Bank and Gaza report having already experienced monetary losses due to extreme weather events such as storms, floods, droughts, and landslides" (World Bank, 2023).

To address these challenges and mitigate the impact of stormwater, the Green Building Council highlights, based on an interview with its executive director, the urgent need to enhance the capacity of Ramallah's drainage systems to manage increased volumes of stormwater effectively.

3.4.2 Main issues and priorities pertaining to SDG 13

Climate change impacts and responses in Ramallah

The significant impacts of climate change in Ramallah include increased electricity demand for air conditioning and heating, as well as challenges to the drainage systems. The Green Building Council suggested utilizing municipal land and facilities, such as the cultural palace's car parking and cemetery, for installing photovoltaic panels to boost the municipality's renewable energy usage. It also emphasized the need to expand green and shaded areas using plants with low water absorption to combat heat waves.

Further, the Green Building Council recommends revising building codes to include mandatory energy insulation measures in buildings to decrease energy consumption and enhance citizen awareness of insulation benefits, especially when purchasing new apartments. In response, the municipality has committed to increasing its renewable energy share to 40 per cent by installing solar panels on municipal buildings and replacing streetlights with energy-saving LED lights.

Institutional coordination for environmental management

Stakeholders interviewed as part of the VLR highlighted the need for a clear delineation of roles among various government bodies – including the Ministry of Local Government, the police, the

3.4 SDG 13

Environment Quality Authority (EQA), and the judiciary – in handling environmental violations. EQA discussed the potential for municipalities to actively engage in environmental and climate change initiatives. The importance of expanding the use of renewable energy and reducing the carbon footprint of municipal operations was also underscored during stakeholder consultations, such as through vehicle fleets, wastewater management, and public area maintenance.

Although municipalities currently lack the legal mandate to monitor adherence to environmental standards within economic establishments, a task that falls to the EQA, it is noted that Ramallah Municipality could implement a local remote sensing system to monitor air quality. It is also mentioned by EQA and others that ongoing updates to the EQA's industry checklist for licensing, will require municipal support for effective implementation.

Table 10: Issues and priorities of SDG 13

MAIN ISSUES	MAIN PRIORITIES
Increase in damages on streets, retaining walls and other infrastructure due to heavy stormwater	Improve capacity of infrastructure to cope with stormwater. Increase green areas around residential and commercial buildings to increase stormwater absorption.
Extreme urban heat during summer	Increase the number and size of green areas and increase the number of trees in main streets and public areas.
Increase in demand for energy due to extreme heat and cold	Promote green buildings to save on electricity expenses.

3.4.3 SDG 13 targets and indicators

SDG Target 13.1

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

SDG Indicator 13.1.3

Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	100%

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah Municipality has committed substantial time and resources to enhancing its resilience and adaptability to environmental challenges, climate-related risks, and natural disasters through the implementation of the Ramallah Resilient Strategy 2050 (Ramallah Municipality, Resilient Ramallah 2050, 2020). Developed collaboratively by various internal and external stakeholders, this strategy aligns with a unified vision to maximize benefits that could not be achieved individually. The strategy outlines 37 tangible and interlinked actions aimed at building resilience, accompanied by detailed implementation plans. These actions include developing the capacity of Ramallah Municipality, expanding network partnerships, and mobilizing necessary resources. One of the key initiatives includes mapping disaster vulnerability for Ramallah and its surrounding areas to assess the spatial relationships between major shocks and residents' vulnerability. This mapping will enhance disaster management capabilities. Additionally, Ramallah Municipality is setting up a disaster response centre that will include an advanced early warning system capable of addressing both predictable and unpredictable events.

The actions within this strategy are consistent with both national and international disaster risk reduction frameworks. The Palestinian National Disaster Risk Management (PalDRM) leads and coordinates national efforts, ensuring alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Ramallah Municipality's resilience strategy and its execution conform to these broader disaster management standards, reflecting a strong commitment to safeguarding the community against diverse risks.

The Municipal Development and Lending Fund, following a directive from the Ministry of Local Government, has implemented a new procedure requiring that municipalities receiving support for social infrastructure projects incorporate disaster risk reduction components into their Strategic Development and Investment Plans. This integration aims to enhance community resilience and ensure sustainable development across supported projects.

SDG Target 13.2

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

SDG Indicator 13.2.2

Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Source: PCBS (2021)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
NATIONAL INDICATOR	5.26

3.4 SDG 13

From 2006 to 2021, Palestine's GHG emissions nearly doubled to approximately 5.26 million metric tons of CO_2 equivalent, with the energy, transportation and waste management sectors as the main contributors.

Table 11: GHG emissions in Palestine in time series

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
GHG	2.74	2.71	2.62	3.03	3.28	3.23	3.38	3.61	4.62	4.50	4.65	4.78	4.53	4.88	4.83	5.26

Source: PCBS (2022)

***Figure 41:** Photovoltaic panels installed on the municipality's rooftop*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

In 2022, in collaboration with Clima-Med's Acting for Climate in South Mediterranean initiative, Ramallah Municipality unveiled its Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP). This comprehensive plan resulted from a meticulous assessment of Ramallah Municipality's infrastructure and operations. SEACAP, which serves both as a strategic planning document and a practical tool for municipal operations, outlines the city's climate action framework, setting measurable objectives to achieve by 2040. These objectives are based on a Baseline Emissions Inventory and an evaluation of climate adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable energy requirements (SEACAP, 2022). The assessment revealed that buildings, equipment and facilities collectively contribute to 48 per cent of the total share of GHG emissions, followed by emissions from solid waste management landfills (SWM), as shown in Figure 42.

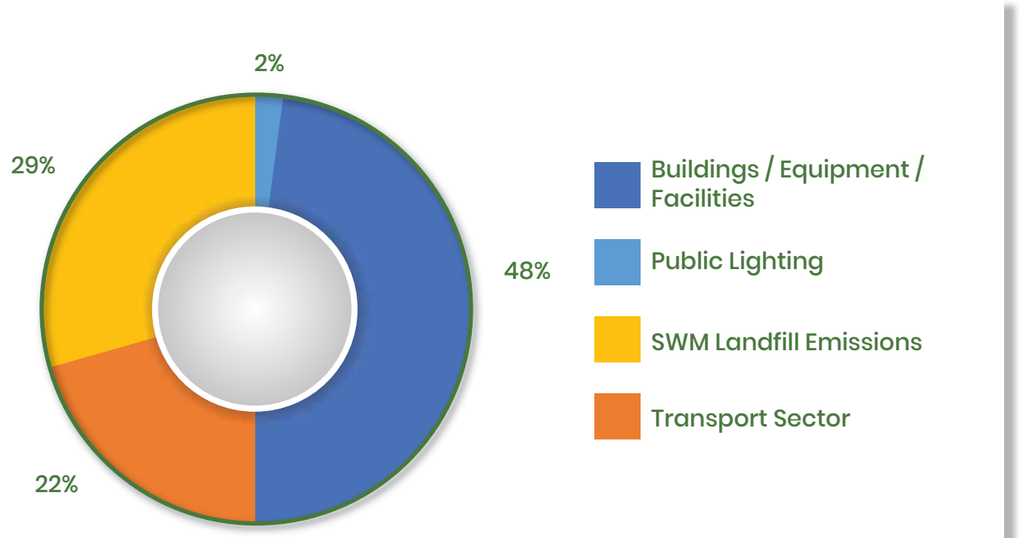


***Figure 42:** Share of GHG emissions by source*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality's Sustainability Energy Access and Climate Action Plan*

As for GHG emissions by building type, the assessment indicated that residential buildings contribute to 92 per cent of the total emissions of buildings, while municipal and tertiary buildings contribute with 2 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively (see Figure 43).

3.4 SDG 13

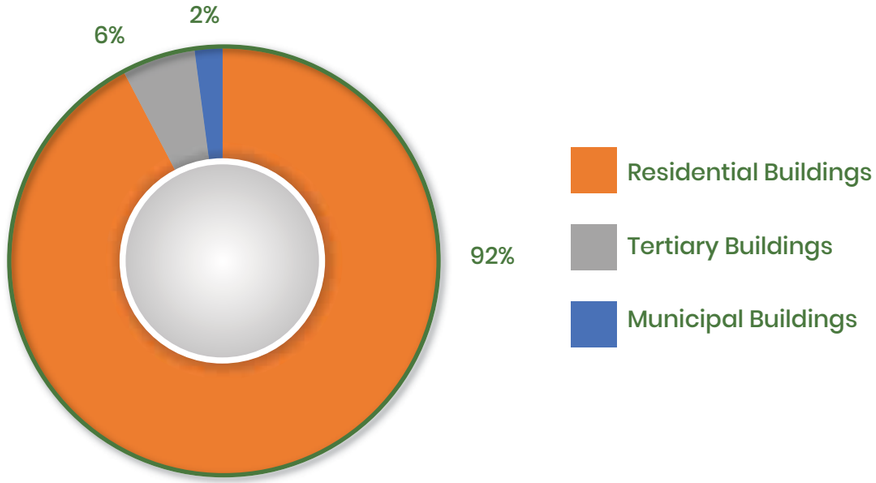


Figure 43: Share of GHG emissions by building type
Source: Ramallah Municipality's Sustainability Energy Access and Climate Action Plan

Finally, the transportation sector ranks third in its share of total GHG emissions; and the assessment showed that private cars and trucks constitute 92 per cent of the share of emissions by transport type (see Figure 44).

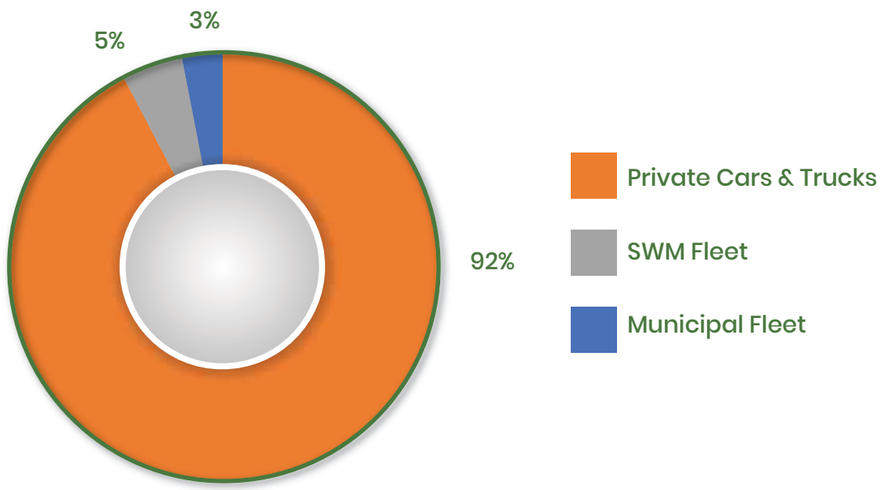


Figure 44: Share of GHG emissions by transport type
Source: Ramallah Municipality's Sustainability Energy Access and Climate Action Plan

SDG Target 13.3

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

SDG 13.3.1

Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR – STUDENTS	5000
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR – SCHOOLS	20
STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK

This SDG indicator evaluates the integration of global citizenship education and education for sustainable development into various aspects of the education system, including national policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessment. In Ramallah City, the indicators for students and schools stand at 5,000 and 20, respectively, indicating the number of students potentially benefiting from these educational initiatives.

Figure 45: Environment competition among city schools organized by Ramallah Municipality
Source: Ramallah Municipality

3.4 SDG 13

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah Municipality has been implementing "health and environment friendly schools," a wide environmental awareness programme in partnerships with all schools in the city. The programme includes, inter alia, awareness sessions and workshops with students and teachers, environmental competitions, voluntary campaigns, etc. The latest activity in April 2023 was the environment protection project that aims at incentivizing students to propose initiatives to address environmental challenges by targeting students from the 9th and 10th grades. After receiving theoretical orientation, students developed project models that could be implemented to address such challenges.

Figure 45: Youth voluntary campaigns organized by Ramallah Municipality
Source: Ramallah Municipality

3.4.4 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 13

Building Code amendments: Revise the Building Code to prioritize natural spaces in residential, commercial and public areas to improve rainwater absorption and mitigate flood risks.

Risk mitigation in Building Codes: Incorporate energy insulation and saving and risk mitigation measures into building codes and enhance citizen awareness about these specifications and their benefits.

Stormwater drainage system upgrade: Enhance the capacity of stormwater drainage systems to handle increased flow and mitigate flooding.

Green and shaded areas: Increase the presence of green and naturally shaded spaces in public areas and ensure strict compliance across various sectors.

Air quality monitoring: Install remote sensing systems to monitor air quality in industrial and crowded areas.

Environmental education: Expand initiatives like the "health and environment friendly schools" programme to raise climate change, sustainability, and disaster risk reduction awareness among students and teachers.

Greenhouse gas emissions: Expedite existing plans to implement electric public transportation system to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector, and offer incentives to switch to EV vehicles.

3.4.5 Implementation plan

Short term (1-2 years)

1. Organize stakeholder meetings with spatial planners, architects and environmental experts to update the Building Code to include green infrastructure and energy insulation.

2. Designate priority areas for establishing green and shaded spaces in public settings, collaborating with landscape architects and community groups to implement these projects.

Medium term (3-5 years)

1. Upgrade and expand the stormwater drainage system to enhance its capacity and resilience against extreme weather events.

2. Deploy remote sensing systems for air quality monitoring in industrial zones and densely populated areas, working with environmental agencies to analyse pollution data and implement corrective actions.

3. Offer zoning incentives and charging stations in municipality car parking to foster adoption of EV vehicles

Long term (5+ years)

1. Integrate climate change, sustainability, and disaster risk reduction topics into educational curriculums at all levels, forging partnerships with educational institutions for programme development.

2. Strengthen inter-agency coordination to enforce updated Building Code, zoning regulations, and environmental standards, focusing on rigorous monitoring and compliance in the construction, industrial and transportation sectors.

3. Implement a green public transportation system.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG 16: PROMOTE JUST, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

3.5 SDG 16

3.5.1 Background

Local government units, such as municipalities and village councils, are crucial in fostering just, peaceful and inclusive societies. In the Palestinian context, municipalities like Hebron (established in 1868), Nablus (1869) and Ramallah (1908) exemplify resilience under Israeli occupation. During the last few years, these municipalities have played an increasingly vital role in providing basic services due to numerous challenges facing the Palestinian Authority. These challenges include fiscal constraints due to withheld customs revenues by Israel and a significant decline in donor support.

Furthermore, democratic representation has been reinforced through the recent 2021 local government elections, where municipal councils were elected based on mixed representation from three out of five competing lists. This local electoral progress occurs against the backdrop of repeatedly postponed national presidential and legislative elections, underscoring the critical role of municipalities in maintaining governance and public services.

3.5.2 Main issues and priorities

According to the definition of the Goal and since it does not include external factors, as the Israeli occupation in the case of Palestine, the city of Ramallah does not face any form of violence and homicides; abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children; illicit financial and arms flows and any form of organized crime. Also, public records issued by the Independent Commission of Human Rights and the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission have not reported any corruption or bribery cases against Ramallah Municipality. Since its occupation by Israel in 1967, the city – as all Palestinian cities, refugee camps and villages – has been under continuous incursions by the Israeli forces killing and injuring citizens as well as demolishing public and private assets.

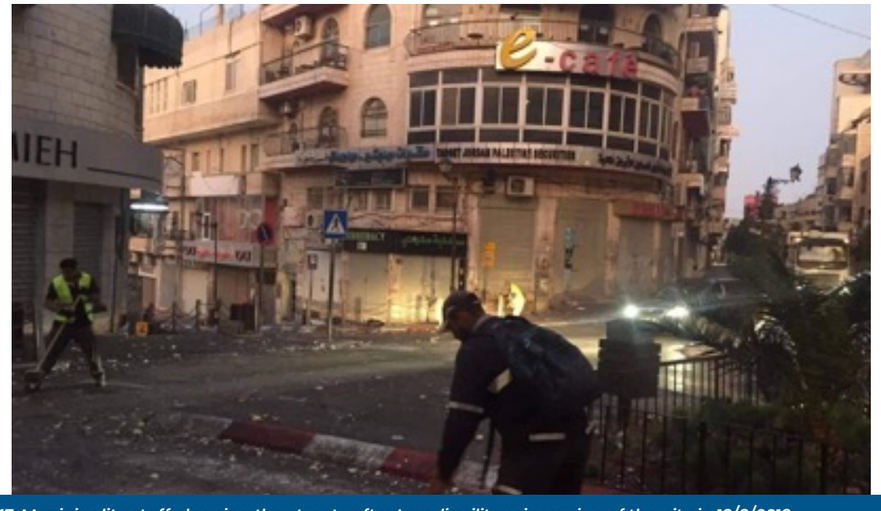


Figure 47: Municipality staff cleaning the streets after Israeli military incursion of the city in 19/9/2019
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Table 12: Main issues and priorities of SDG 16

MAIN ISSUES	MAIN PRIORITIES
Slow decision-making process	Engage with private sector, investors and other groups to discuss bottlenecks openly and agree on ways to address them.
Vision gap between the elected city council and management level	Design effective induction programs for newly elected city council members and strengthen planning and monitoring session between the two levels and with citizens.
Weak infrastructure (streets, public toilets, community centre, etc.) and inadequate services for senior citizens and people with disabilities	Improve city infrastructure and accessibility, and improve and diversify services provided by Ramallah Municipality community centres, and advocate with the Ministry of Social Development to provide adequate support and services.
Low participation level of youth in municipality-related consultations (e.g. strategic planning, voluntary campaigns, etc.)	Engage with youth in a proactive way and mobilize various groups in all neighbourhoods.

3.5 SDG 16

Figure 48: A public election debate among competing lists during municipal elections in 2017
Source: Ramallah Municipality 2017

On the other hand, Ramallah Municipality has invested a lot of resources and concentrated efforts in strengthening community engagement during various phases (e.g. strategic planning, neighbourhood committees, projects identifications, public forums, etc.). It has also utilized electronic means to reach citizens via social media, a complaints system, a designated application, etc.

Figure 49: A public forum with the Ramallah Municipality's mayor and city council at the main city hall
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Figure 50: A public forum with youth (60 per cent female) held with the Ramallah Municipality's mayor and city council at the main city hall. ***Source:*** *Ramallah Municipality 2017*

In Palestine in 2022, 65.7 per cent of the population uses social media, with a gender distribution of 51.4 per cent females and 48.6 per cent males. The most popular platforms are Facebook (92 per cent), WhatsApp (90 per cent), YouTube (81 per cent), Instagram (67 per cent), Snapchat (40 per cent), TikTok (38 per cent), Telegram (37 per cent), X (26 per cent) and LinkedIn (17 per cent). Notably, 67.3 per cent of users access social media primarily from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m (IPoke, 2022).

Ramallah Municipality engages with the community through four main social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube. According to data from Ramallah Municipality in 2023, the followers count for these platforms are as follows: Facebook leads with 143,000 followers, followed by Instagram with 11,600, YouTube with 948, and X with 603. Facebook and Instagram are the most actively used platforms. While the number of followers on Facebook and Instagram are significant relative to the population of Ramallah, it is unclear whether all followers are city residents, a key factor for effective community engagement.

Currently and based on a rapid assessment on social media platforms, Ramallah Municipality's social media strategy focuses mainly on disseminating information, with less emphasis on engaging specific user groups. However, several stakeholders interviewed confirmed that the customer service centre is well-managed and provides quality in-person services to citizens. By leveraging this centre, Ramallah Municipality could enhance resident engagement, better identify community needs, and evaluate the effectiveness of its services.

Moreover, Ramallah Municipality has invested a lot of resources in improving sports facilities in the city that contribute to multiple SDGs. Sports is important for ensuring healthy lives and

3.5 SDG 16

promoting well-being for all at all ages (SDG 3). It is also important to foster inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning (SDG 4). Physical activities and sport are necessary for a comprehensive education and exposure to sport's key values, including teamwork, fair play, respect of the rules and others, cooperation, discipline and tolerance, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5). Therefore, sport contribute to making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11) by promoting inclusion of people with disabilities, and promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies (SDG 16).

Regarding its contribution to SDG 16, sport can be used as a meaningful tool for the prevention of conflict and the promotion of long-lasting peace, since sport and its universality have the ability to transcend cultures. In its contribution towards peace, sport often provides safe environments at the grassroots and community levels, at which participants are brought together in the pursuit of common goals and interests; learn values of respect, tolerance and fair play; and develop social competencies. As a common denominator and shared passion, sport can build bridges between communities regardless of their cultural differences or political divisions. In times of conflict or instability, sporting activities can provide participants with a sense of normalcy. In this regard, Ramallah Municipality has invested significant resources to increase the size and variety of sports facilities. One of the main milestones was the construction of Ramallah Recreation Center that offers indoor and outdoor playgrounds and facilities for football, basketball, volleyball and table tennis. It is worth noting here that the Ramallah Recreation Center was availed as an emergency place during Covid-19 pandemic, as well as it was recently used in late 2023 as a shelter for Gaza workers who were refused to go back to Gaza by the Israeli army post October 7, 2023.

***Figure 51:** The indoor playground at the Ramallah Recreation Center*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

Another major milestone will be the new sport village, works for which have just begun, and the project will cost USD 2.35 million, 60 per cent of which will be financed by the Ramallah Municipality. The village will include modern facilities and playgrounds, such as a football field, pentagonal playground, tennis court, green areas, car parking and other sports and public facilities. This project is expected to significantly improve the attractiveness of the city not only at the local and national levels, but also at the international level, which will be contributing to SDG 17 by building strong global partnerships committed to the use of sport for sustainable development.

***Figure 52:** The design of the new sports village*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

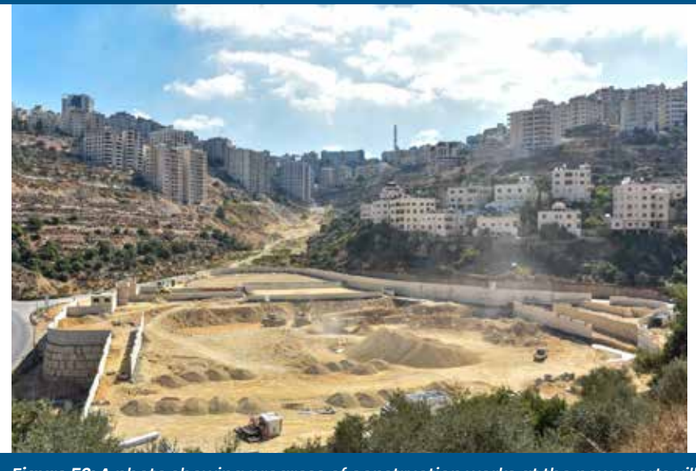


***Figure 53:** A photo showing progress of construction works at the new sports village*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

3.5 SDG 16

3.5.3 SDG 16 targets and indicators

SDG Target 16.6

Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

SDG 16.6.2

Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	LIMITED PROGRESS
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	N/A

Data reflecting the proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services does not exist for Ramallah Municipality. A recent survey conducted by Ramallah Municipality's main community centre, Muntada Al Khibrat (Ramallah Municipality, Muntada Al Khibrat, 2024), showed that members' engagement is high. The absence of clear metrics that monitor population's satisfaction regarding various municipal services necessitates the establishment of a robust monitoring system that reports to senior management and city councils, as well as publicly publishes the results on regular bases.

Figure 54: *Citizens paying yearly taxes at city hall*
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

As part of its action plan for 2025, the Ramallah Municipality is planning to conduct a comprehensive satisfaction survey with a focus on assessing citizens' views and level of satisfaction in their experience with services provided by and decision making within the muncipality. The survey will be designed based on the neighbourhood analysis conducted as part of this VLR so as to provide geographical, gender and age projections of the survey. Also, the municipality is planning to upgrade the existing e-services platform in order to generate timely reports of the number of electronic based requests and complaints along with the response and satisfaction rates.

SDG Target 16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

SDG Indicator 16.7.1

Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	
CITY COUNCIL - % FEMALE	33%
CITY COUNCIL - % MALE	67%
% STAFF FEMALE	12%
% STAFF MALE	88%
MANAGEMENT TEAM - % STAFF FEMALE	62%
MANAGEMENT TEAM - % STAFF MALE	38%

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS IS NEEDED

Based on data received from Ramallah Municipality, among the total workforce (549 employees) in 2023, females constitute 12 per cent, while people with disabilities form 3 per cent, all of whom are males. However, within the city council, 5 out of 15 elected members (33 per cent) are females, indicating a higher representation compared to the overall workforce. Additionally, 62 per cent of the Ramallah Municipality management team consists of females. To promote gender

equality and inclusivity, there is a need to increase the overall number of female staff, particularly those with disabilities. Moreover, efforts should focus on further enhancing female representation within the city council.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah Municipality employs various human resources strategies so as to create a more inclusive and equitable workplace that attracts, retains, and promotes female talent. Regarding recruitment and hiring, the municipality maintains gender-neutral job descriptions, forms diverse hiring panels and implements flexible work arrangements for female employees. The municipality also pays attention to retention and advancement of feemale employees by providing leadership development programs, fair and equal compensation and benefits, and adherance to local labor law. Finally, the municipality pays a lot of attention on improving the workplace cutlure on continuous bases by providing regular training on diversity and inclusion, implementing a zero-tolerance policy for harrasment and discrimination, maintaining open communication channels to address concerns and issues, and celebrating women's achievements.

SDG Target 16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

SDG Indicator 16.7.2

Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	LIMITED PROGRESS
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	N/A

The PCBS published in 2023 the data related to the indicator, and classified by the region, sex and locality, as per the following table:

Table 13: National level proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive

YEAR	REGION			SEX		LOCALITY TYPE		
	Palestine	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Males	Females	Urban	Rural	Camp
2018	43.7%	47.6%	38.1%	45.7%	41.5%	42.2%	50.7%	46.2%
2021	33.5%	34.6%	32%	36.4%	30.5%	32.9%	36.0%	35.1%
2023	21.0%	22.7%	18.5%	20.8%	21.2%	21.3%	20.0%	20.3%

Source: PCBS (2023)

While the nearest approximation to Ramallah would be the data reflective of the urban setting, i.e. 42.2 per cent in 2018, 32.9 per cent in 2021, and 21.3 per cent in 2023, a more focused value should be calculated at city level, and therefore, the value at city level was recorded as 'Not Available'. The downward national trend (from 43.7 per cent in 2018 to 21.0 per cent in 2023) puts significant pressure on local government units in Palestine to improve service delivery, and hence improve proportion of citizens who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive.

Ramallah Municipality lacks a quantitative value for this indicator. Although a rapid public survey was designed as part of this VLR for this indicator, it was not possible to conduct it due to the ongoing political situation. Several informants were consulted regarding this indicator as part of the VLR development process. As the range of decision-making issues/services are wide, the general view is that the level of responsiveness of some services is higher than others. The majority believes that the management team of the municipality is highly professional, and none believe that the decision-making process within the municipality is steered with any bias. Some investors who were consulted as part of this VLR believe that the decision-making process is rigid and slow, and that decision makers at the level of the city council or management team do not seem to be flexible or supportive of new project ideas. Also, some believe that

the majority of city council members lack engineering or construction background, which adds further delays in the decision-making process. Others note that the overall intent of the city council regarding support to new ideas and investments is often inconsistent with the procedural level in the management team.

Finally, based on minutes of meetings of strategic planning sub-committees, senior citizens and people with disabilities have been complaining about the weak infrastructure in the city. For example, many streets have narrow or inappropriate pavements and potholes. In certain areas, shops block pavements with goods. Also, they complain that the city lacks adequate community services for entertainment (e.g. accessible parks, community centres, etc.), as well as day care and senior homes. The existing centres run by CSOs are not adequate, according to them. It was known that during the preparations of this VLR the Ramallah Federation has embarked on a new project to build a high-quality home for senior citizens.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

As mentioned in 16.6.2, and as part of its action plan for 2025, the Ramallah Municipality is planning to conduct a comprehensive satisfaction survey with a focus on assessing citizens' views and level of satisfaction in their experience with services provided by and decision making within the muncipality. The survey will be designed based on the neighbourhood analysis conducted as part of this VLR so as to provide geographical, gender and age projections of the survey.

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	Ramallah Municipality has self-service portal(s) (official e-government portal) for residents to make payments to the municipality
	100%

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah Municipality has made significant efforts in utilizing technology to improve accessibility of citizens, visitors and businesses to various services and resources. Ramallah Municipality has launched the "Smart Ramallah" initiative in partnership with the government and private sector. The initiative is based on six main pillars: smart infrastructure, smart governance, smart education, smart economy, smart mobility and smart environment. Notable achievements exist in the following areas:

Electronic management: that provides Ramallah Municipality staff with a comprehensive computerized system, electronic mail system channel of the municipality, interactive digital applications of GIS, vehicle remote monitoring, live broadcast of main intersections, and electronic and virtual meetings.

Electronic services for citizens: consisting of electronic services gateway www.ramallah.ps/eServices (e.g. request of services, enquiring about a service, submission of complaints and suggestions, and direct communication with the municipality), interactive digital applications of GIS for citizens and visitors, electronic GIS-based questionnaires and surveys, and electronic payment systems.

Smart applications: mobile app, prepaid on-street parking, virtual touring of the city, virtual visits to main monuments in the city (www.ramallah.ps/VRamallah), and field-based data collection apps (GIS collector).

Digital communication: including main website (www.ramallah.ps), social media (Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and WhatsApp), email, SMS and voice message system, digital advertising boards, and livestreaming.

Digital empowerment: by providing free Wi-Fi in all Ramallah Municipality facilities, public parks and main streets.

IT infrastructure: providing smart education tools and digital platforms for teacher-student-parent interaction in government-supervised schools; postal symbolling of streets and buildings, including naming of all streets and circles,

symbolizing all buildings internally (i.e. for more than one housing units or establishment) and externally, adding postal symbols for each unit, linking postal codes with pictures of all buildings, and street navigation service.

3.5.4 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 16

Annual satisfaction surveys: Conduct comprehensive annual surveys to gauge citizen satisfaction across all municipal services, including perceptions on inclusiveness in decision-making processes.

Enhance IT capacity: Upgrade IT systems to improve the efficiency of online services, enabling timely generation of reports on citizen satisfaction and complaints.

Transparency in reporting: Ensure all survey results and assessments are publicly available.

Independent assessments: Perform annual independent internal reviews focused on responsiveness and complaints management.

Strategic social media management: Enhance the use of social media as a key platform for engaging diverse community groups, especially the youth, to better represent citizen needs and priorities.

Staffing: increase the number of full-time staff females and persons with disabilities.

3.5.5 Implementation plan

Short term (1-2 years)

1. Conduct a needs assessment to identify gaps in community engagement and transparency practices.

2. Organize town hall meetings or community forums in each neighbourhood to solicit feedback on local issues and priorities.

3. Develop and launch an open data portal on the municipality's website to facilitate public access to essential information and documents.

4. increase public use of e-payment system of various systems to increase public satisfaction, increase payment rates, and reduce operation cost.

Medium term (3-5 years)

1. Set up neighbourhood advisory boards with members representing a wide range of demographic groups to ensure inclusive representation.

2. Roll out training programmes for municipal staff to enhance skills in transparency, accountability, and effective community engagement.

Long term (5+ years)

1. Advocate for the passage of laws or regulations that require financial disclosures by elected officials and senior municipal staff.

2. Regularly evaluate the impact of transparency and accountability initiatives through audits and continuous citizen feedback surveys, adjusting strategies as necessary to enhance effectiveness and public trust.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS

3.6 SDG 17

3.6.1 Background

As a result to the overall political situation and the COVID-19 crisis, the Palestinian Authority has faced severe fiscal challenges, leading to drastic reductions in financial support for local government units, including Ramallah Municipality. Development aid to the Palestinian Authority has plummeted from USD 2 billion, or 27 per cent of GDP in 2008, to less than 3 per cent of GDP in 2022. The conflict in Ukraine has further diverted donor attention, significantly impacting development support across all Palestinian sectors. Additionally, the recent Israeli devastating war in Gaza have destabilized security and economic conditions throughout the West Bank, including Ramallah. Concurrently, in a significant policy shift, the Palestinian Authority has begun allowing selected municipalities to directly collect property taxes, moving away from the previous practice of central government collection, which was inconsistent with local government law. Ramallah Municipality was among the municipalities included in the first pilot phase to directly collect property taxation in 2023.

3.6.2 Main issues and priorities

Ramallah Municipality actively engages in partnerships both locally and internationally, collaborating with public entities, private sector organizations, and CSOs. Locally, the municipality works with Palestinian CSOs primarily on cultural and educational initiatives. For instance, it has conducted various cultural activities (including education, music and folklore), in collaboration with city-based cultural organizations. Internationally, Ramallah Municipality is an active participant in forums, such as the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and has established twinning agreements with **50 cities** worldwide. These partnerships aim to advocate for Palestinian rights to freedom, justice and equality, and to highlight the developmental and urban challenges faced by Ramallah under Israeli military occupation. Additionally, these agreements provide Ramallah with valuable opportunities for knowledge and experience exchange, enhancing its learning from cities across the globe.

Table 14: Main issues and priorities of SDG 17

MAIN ISSUES	MAIN PRIORITIES
The current local government law limits municipal development mandate	Strengthen partnership with APLA to advocate for a reform of existing law to provide municipalities with the ability to contribute to socioeconomic development and improve financial stability.
Weak availability of an environment that attracts investments	Improve the overall environment that attracts new investments by specifying priority domains based on social local investments.
Ambiguity about the optimum relationship, shared values and contractual relationship between the private sector and the municipality	Formulate enabling policies and procedures that foster partnerships and investments in sustainable development projects. Develop new investment tools for individuals and corporations (e.g. bonds).
Weak vision regarding partnerships with the private sector	Engage with the private sector and improve the level of responsiveness and incentive schemes.
Heavy reliance on donor-funded projects	Increase the share of local organic revenues in funding projects by widening the collection base horizontally and improve effective partnerships.

Moreover, Ramallah Municipality is well-known for its active citizens in the diaspora. The American Federation of Ramallah is a strong and active organization that organizes American citizens of Ramallah origin to support various programmes in Ramallah (AFRP, 2023). Ramallah Foundation is one of the programmes of the Federation that funded major successive expansions of the Ramallah government hospital, known today as Palestine Medical Complex. In addition, the foundation established a scholarship programme for qualified, needy Ramallah and Palestinian students. This programme is now run in conjunction with the Ramallah Federation Scholarship Program. Lastly, the foundation owns an Old Age Facility, which is being run by the Women's Arab Union of Ramallah, Palestine. In 2023, the foundation broke ground on a new state-of-the-art Senior Citizens' Home, with an estimated cost of USD 5 million.

Figure 55: The new Senior Citizens' Home
Source: Ramallah Municipality

Figure 56: Signing of a twinning agreement with Sofia Municipality on 18/6/2022
Source: Ramallah Municipality

3.6.3 Strategic partnerships and international collaboration

As Ramallah continues to grow, it leverages strategic partnerships to support its development and resilience goals. Collaborations with neighbouring cities like Al-Bireh and Beitunia enhance regional sustainability and ensure local voices are integrated into decision-making, promoting inclusivity and mutual benefits. The municipality is also an active member at the board of directors of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) that represents the interests of Palestinian local authorities as well as advocates for their rights.

Internationally, Ramallah is active in networks, such as the 100 Resilient Cities, benefiting from global expertise and innovative practices in resilience. The city has established twinning relationships with 50 cities, facilitating spatial planning, cultural exchanges, and improvements in environmental sustainability and public health.

Examples of twinning successes:

- **Toulouse, France:** Upgrades to the Al-Tireh Water Treatment Plant and innovative projects converting sludge to agricultural resources.
- **Bordeaux, France:** Enhancements to local tourism through the development of the Ramallah Tourism Center and integration with the Palestine Heritage Trail.
- **Epinay-sur-Seine, France:** Modernization of sewage systems and cultural exchanges, enriching the community's infrastructure and cultural diversity.
- **Seville, Spain, and Oxford, UK:** Investments in advanced water management systems and educational exchanges, boosting infrastructure and cultural understanding.
- **Liège, Belgium, and Lublin, Poland:** Cultural and sports engagements, and governance exchanges, strengthening community ties and administrative practices.
- **Toluca, Mexico:** Collaboration on cultural festivals and technical support, showcasing creative partnerships.

Engagement in international networks:

- **Metropolis and UCLG:** Membership in these global networks enhances urban governance and development, providing policy frameworks and facilitating international cooperation and advocacy.
- The city of Ramallah has worked in coordination with Greater Irbid Municipality (Jordan) and the city of Ennour (Tunisia). Exchanges on VLRs and SDG Localization in the Arab States region have been done, including the participation of Ramallah city officials in the Arab States Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in 2023, the participation in the Agadir VLR Launch event and the Regional VNR-VLR Studio during the Irbid Multistakeholder Dialogue

(February 2024). Ramallah has also been connected with other cities globally working on VLRs, such as in the VLR Technical Exchange Workshop.

- **Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI):** These platforms enable Ramallah to adopt and share sustainable urban development practices aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).
- **Cities With Nature and Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP):** Participation supports environmental sustainability, impacting SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).
- **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization (WeGO):** These networks advance technological and environmental initiatives for smart, resilient cities.

Figure 57: Participation of Ramallah Municipality at the World Urban Forum 11 in Poland from 26-30 June 2024
Source: *Ramallah Municipality*

Ramallah's proactive engagement in these international forums and twinning initiatives not only brings global insights to local projects but also positions the city as an active participant in worldwide discussions on sustainable development.

3.6.4 SDG 17 targets and indicators

SDG target 17.1

Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG Indicator 17.1.2

Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

RAMALLAH INDICATOR	66%

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2023)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK

The Ramallah Municipality budget of 2022 indicated that total revenues from taxes and fees are NIS 80,376,360 (USD 22 million), which represents 66 per cent of the total budget (Ramallah Municipality, Ramallah Municipality Budget 2022, 2022). Donor-funded projects represent 18 per cent, which is considered acceptable. The Ramallah Municipality administers a well-functioning tax administration system that increases tax revenue and reduce tax evasion, and therefore making it possible to rely more on domestic taxes. Also, the tax and fees system is considered to be fair and equitable, that avoids excessive burdens on low-income households and businesses. At the same time, the municipality continuously improves the efficiency of tax administraition that reduces adminnistrative and transaction costs by utilizing e-payments and other means. While total registered taxes and fees increased in 2023 and 2024 by 19.3 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively, the percentage of actual payment of taxes and fees by citizens in 2022, 2023 and 2024 are 72 per cent, 69 per cent and 57 per cent respectively. Moreover, the fact that percentage of payment of taxes and fees during the first month of each year in 2022, 2023 and 2024 are 43.3 per cent, 43.8 per cent and 41.4 per cent respectively signal a strong commitment and belongingness by citizens. (Ramallah Municipality, 2024)

Moreover, the city of Ramallah is well-known for its strong community contribution. Based on financial data provided by Ramallah Municipality, NIS 16,228,325 (USD 4.5 million) were provided by private and corporate donations as well as from the Palestinian government. The largest of these donations was an individual contribution of NIS 14,000,000 (USD 3.84 million) to build a new school. Private and corporate donations in support of cultural activities in the city are also high, as indicated in SDG 11.

On the other hand, according to an analytical study of local government units' revenues and expenditures done by the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) in partnership with APLA and the United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP), and funded by the Swedish International Development Agency and the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Ramallah Municipality

3.6 SDG 17

has shown improvement in terms of both its revenues and receivables. Municipality data for the period 2018-2022 shows that revenues have increased, especially post pandemic. At the same time, receivables, e.g. fees, taxes, fines, revenues from commercial and non-commercial activities, etc. have also increased (see Figure 51). Compared to other municipalities, the average collection period, a financial metric that affects liquidity, is 206 days, which is classified as the best rate among local government units in Palestine. (Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute, 2024).

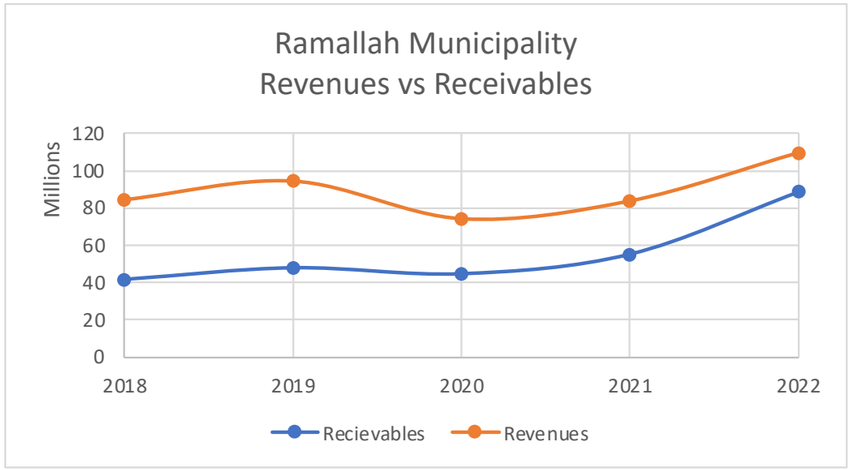
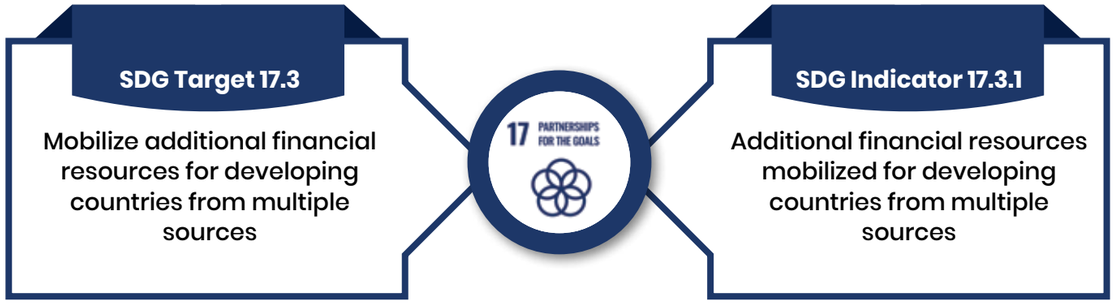


Figure 58: Ramallah Municipality revenues vrs receivables
Source: MAS (2024)

Finally, it is recommended that Ramallah Municipality utilizes additional financial metrics and monitoring tools in order to monitor its autonomy in decision-making and resources management. The UMF offers various indicators, and one important indicator is financial autonomy (UMF-73), which would provide Ramallah Municipality with an idea about its discretion in deciding on its priorities out of its total finances.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Since the overall political and economic situation in Palestine is affecting citizens' ability to pay municipal taxes and fees, Ramallah Municipality is planning to diversify its revenue base by expanding its partnership with the private sector as well as collect new types of fees for new sectors that were not levied before.



Source: Ramallah Municipality (2023)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	NIS 32,481,000 (USD 8.9 MILLION

Palestinian local governments face challenges in fiscal sustainability, ability to sustainably meet citizen needs, limited local government resources and capabilities, and an inadequate legal framework, which leads to suboptimal service provision and poor management of resources. Also, local government units do not have the financial autonomy to determine rates for their services and different revenue sources. The Palestinian Authority's intergovernmental finance system is very limited and irregular. There are no regular grants or transfers from the central government to supplement the shortages of local government units' own revenue sources. Unlike other governments, the Palestinian Authority does not provide conditional or equalization grants for local government units to address financial imbalances. In order to deal with these challenges, including the effects of the overall macroeconmic conditions and political instability, municipalities strive to access additional sources of funding to to maintain a sustainable fiscal position, ensuring that their revenue sources are sufficient to cover their expenditures over the long term. As mentioned in SDG 17.1.2, the Ramallah Municipality maintains strong relations with various donors and partners, and pursues a robust fund-raising strategy. Donor-funded projects represent 18 per cent of total budget.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Concentrated networking and fund-raising activities implemented by Ramallah Municipality have resulted into fulfilment of various important projects. Several donor-funded projects in all sectors, e.g. culture, wastewater, parks, etc., were implemented in Ramallah during 2020 and 2023. Table 13 presents the types of implemented projects, and sources and amounts of funding.

3.6 SDG 17

Table 15: Ramallah's projects and funding (2020-2023)

PROJECT	SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT IN USD $
Shirin Abu Aqleh Museum	Al Jazeera news network	4 million
Tourism information centre	UNDP/PAPP	101,643
Qaddoura Park	GCF	61,150
Launch of music strategy	UNESCO	52,000
Solid waste equipment	GCF	136,100
Upgrading of wastewater treatment unit	Toulouse city	137,170
Municipality archive	MDLF	37,000
Wastewater network	The Andalusian Municipality Fund for International Solidarity (FAMSI) and Bordou municipality	37,822
Al Nahda pavement	MDLF	49,000

Source: Ramallah Municipality

SDG Target 17.5

Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG Indicator 17.5.1

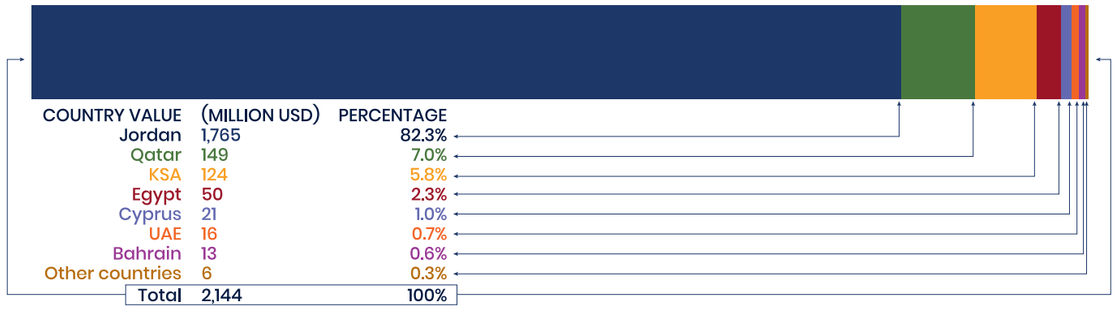
Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries

Source: PCBS (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	LIMITED PROGRESS
RAMALLAH CITY INDICATOR	N/A

While the Palestinian Authority has made significant progress in reducing the systemic barriers to FDI in Palestine, e.g. legal barriers, intellectual property issues, anti-money laundering regulation, sanctions, and political and contextual risk, etc., net FDI in the oPt is 1.2% of GDP, which is low compared with other countries in the region, including, 4.4% in Israel, 2.3% in Jordan, 2.6% in Lebanon.(The World Bank, n.d.) According to the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) and PCBS, total FDI in Palestine for 2022 (the latest year on record) totalled USD 2,144 million, almost entirely from Arab states (see Table 15). Investments from Jordan constitute the largest share of FDI, USD 1,765 million (82.3%), followed by Qatar (7.0%) and Saudi Arabia (5.8%). Anecdotally, KIIs indicate that the Palestinian diaspora plays an outsize role in FDI, particularly from Jordan. FDI in Palestine represents 58% of total foreign investments; foreign portfolio investment (FPI) is USD 856 million (23%); and other investments (e.g. loans, collateral, and other liabilities) amount to USD 693 million (19%) (Palestinian Central Beurau of Statistics, 2022).

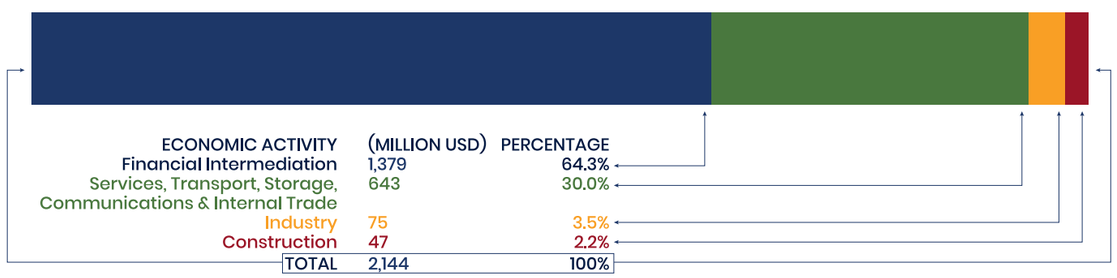
Table 16: International sources of FDI in Palestine



Source: PCBS (2022)

The vast majority of investment is concentrated in low-friction sectors that have limited physical footprints and minimal exposure to underwriting risk. Financial intermediation (e.g., banking) is the largest single economic sector for FDI, at USD 1,379 million (64.3%) (see Table 16). It is followed by services, transport, storage, communications, and internal trade at USD 643 million (30%). Industry and construction attract limited FDI (5.7%). Regarding the location of investments, headquarters of nine of the largest banks and insurance companies in Palestine are located in Ramallah. Also, major distribution and manufacturing companies, e.g. food, beverages, tobacco, etc., are located in the industrial zone.

Table 17: FDI in Palestine by sector



Source: PCBS (2022)

3.6 SDG 17

Currently, there are few mechanisms/instruments in place in Palestine that mitigiate political risks, namely AFD's Proparco (France), the World Bank's MIGA, and the US Development Finance Corporation (DFC), formerly the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). However, data is not available regarding the investments and businesses supported by these mechanisms in the city of Ramallah.

Ramallah Municipality currently lacks specific instruments or policies to directly encourage and attract foreign direct investments. Based on stakeholders interviewed as part of this VLR, opinions vary on the role of municipalities in investment promotion; some argue that it is outside their purview, while others believe municipalities are vital in supporting national efforts to prepare supportive schemes and infrastructure that align local urban policies with national objectives. Although Ramallah's existing networks and twinning agreements with partner cities could potentially facilitate investment connections, they currently lack explicit clauses or programmes to this effect.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

In alignment with national priorities, Ramallah Municipality is attempting to seek effective ways to attract foreign direct investments. Local government law limits the municipality's use of certain incentives like tax breaks, preferential treatment, and zoning adjustments. However, Ramallah can still support infrastructure needs, such as roads and wastewater systems. Notably as detailed in SDG 11, a shortage of industrial land within the city has led some large businesses to relocate their facilities to nearby areas like Beitunia, Surda and Ein Sinia, especially businesses that require large plots for storage or factories. Over the past decade, the scarcity of adequately sized industrial plots has driven land prices up by 50-70 per cent, according to the president of the real estate development association.

To preserve its competitive edge as an industrial and service hub, Ramallah Municipality is currently examining implementation of new policies and possibly expand the industrial area classification. This could involve partnerships with neighboring towns like Beitunia, Ein Arik or Surda to develop new industrial zones equipped with modern infrastructure and connected with main transportation lines. Moreover, the municipality is in the process of setting up an investment platform as part of the sustainable development unit aimed at facilitate investors' plans in the city.

SDG Target 17.8

Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG Indicator 17.8.1

Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Source: PCBS (2023)

RAMALLAH INDICATOR	91%
STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	ON TRACK

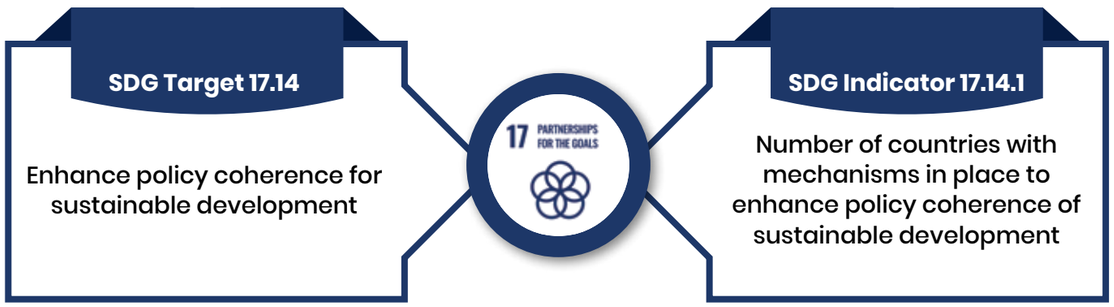
According to the socio-economic survey conducted by PCBS in 2018, the proportion of people 10 years and above who use the internet in Ramallah governorate is 66.4 per cent, 73.1 per cent for males and 59.4 per cent for females. At the national level, PCBS data for 2023 shows that the national value of Internet use in Palestine is 88.6 per cent of the population (10 years and above). In the West Bank, the percentage is 91.1 per cent, and in Gaza, the percentage is 79.8 per cent (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

While there is no specific data measuring the proportion of individuals using the Internet in the city of Ramallah, the proportion at the West Bank (91.1 per cent) may be considered as a proxy to the local level. According to the ICT survey of 2019, 72.3 per cent of males and 68.9 per cent of females above 18 years are using the Internet in Palestine (Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, 2019).

3.6 SDG 17

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

In its efforts to increase access of its citizens and visitors to the Internet, Ramallah Municipality has installed routers in various strategic locations that provide free Wi-Fi. This has facilitated access to city and municipality services, community engagement and economic development. It is estimated that thousands of citizens and visitors access the free WIFI on daily bases. Moreover, the municipality has updated its infrastructure related procedures to accommodate the growing demand by internet providers in the city to extend their internet network across all neighbourhoods.



Source: UN-Habitat (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	PROGRESS IS NEEDED
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	NO

Palestinian local government units (LGUs) confront significant challenges in fiscal sustainability, meeting citizen needs, resource management, and operating within an inadequate legal framework. These challenges contribute to suboptimal service provision and poor resource management. The Palestinian Local Authority Law assigns 27 comprehensive functions to LGUs that intersect with key ministry activities, such as health, education, water and electricity. These functions span utilities and infrastructure, physical planning, public health, social/cultural activities, administrative duties, and licensing of trade and businesses. However, despite this broad mandate, LGUs often find their practical responsibilities and authorities restricted, requiring frequent approvals from the Ministry of Local Government.

Legal ambiguities concerning roles and responsibilities further complicate governance, as the law does not distinguish between municipalities and village councils regarding structural, revenue and expenditure assignments, nor does it differentiate between mandatory and optional functions. This variability affects LGUs differently, particularly between larger and smaller municipalities and village councils. Additionally, conflicting laws and bylaws across sectors like energy, water and construction licensing exacerbate governance challenges.

While legally LGUs are independent entities with significant mandates and financial autonomy, in practice, they lack administrative and financial independence. The central government controls many aspects of their operations, including bylaws, budgets and personnel decisions. LGUs also lack the autonomy to set rates for services or manage their revenue sources effectively. The Palestinian Authority's intergovernmental finance system provides little regular support, with no consistent grants or transfers to offset LGUs' revenue shortfalls.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Despite the Palestinian Authority's commitment to the SDGs and its publication of the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report in 2018, the national consultation structure does not adequately represent LGUs. Although APLA has recently joined the SDG national consultation structure led by the Prime Minister's Office, enhanced engagement and empowerment of LGUs within these bodies are vital for improving national–local linkages and harmonizing priorities. Additionally, the lack of local-level data is a significant barrier to accurately representing local needs in national forums. The VLR process in Ramallah aims to strengthen policy coherence through the VNR process, and this VLR can represent a model for the rest of the LGUs to follow. The formulation process of this VLR was guided by a steering committee consisting of the Office of the Prime Minister (which is the official PA body responsible over producing VNR), the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, UN-Habitat, and Ramallah Municipality.

3.6 SDG 17

SDG Target 17.17

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG Indicator 17.17.1

Amount in Unites States dollars committed to public–private partnerships for infrastructure

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	LIMITED PROGRESS
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	USD 0

The lack of financial allocation for Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) by Ramallah Municipality suggests a delay in converting its commitments and policy intentions into actionable strategies for strengthening partnerships with the private sector. This situation highlights the need for clearly defined roles and responsibilities, effective and transparent use of public assets, a deeper understanding of governance, and the financial and risk management aspects of PPP projects. Additionally, innovative solutions are necessary to navigate legal and financial challenges. Nevertheless, Ramallah Municipality has supported an innovative business model based on a PPP small size modality. Aiming at preservation of the city's cultural heritage, Ramallah Municipality restored a 1904 house and partnered with a private operator headed by a female entrepreneur to run it as a boutique hotel. Farah Locanda is considered an iconic boutique hotel in the heart of the Old City of Ramallah (see Figure 31).

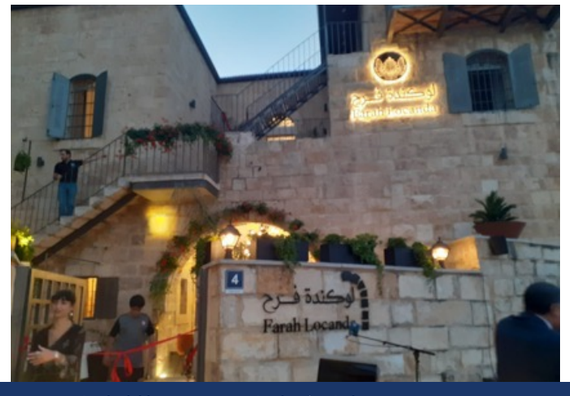


***Figure 59:** Locanda Farah, a renovated old house operated privately*
***Source:** Ramallah Municipality*

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

As a result to recent governmental interest in promoting PPP across Palestine, and the improvement of the legal framework governing PPP at the level of local government units, the Ramallah Municipality has expedited plans to partner with the private sectors across various sectors. New plans for expanding partnerships are being formulated focusing on utilization of municipality owned lands in public and private projects in several fields, e.g. public transportation, entertainement, car parking management, advertising, etc.

In September 2024, the municipality in partnership with the neighbouring municipalities of Al-Bireh, Beitunia, Surda and Abu Qash, has published a strategic call for interest to improve the quality of public transportation in Ramallah-AlBireh urban area by managing a modern and sustainable means of transportation based on a new master plan (Figure 51). The project is part of the "Integrated Cities and Urban Development Project – ICUD" funded by the World Bank (Ramallah Municipality, 2024).

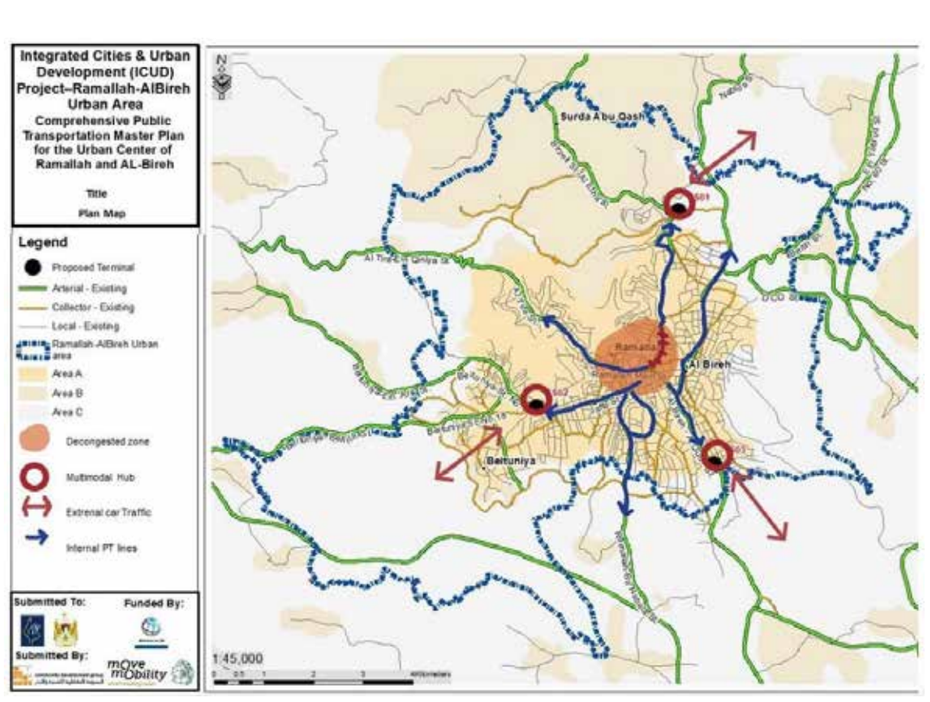


***Figure 60:** The comprehensive master plan for the urban center of Ramallah and Al-Bireh*
***Source:** MoLG (2022)*

3.6 SDG 17

In November 2024, the municipality has published details about all municipality owned parcels in the city and advertised calls to entrepreneurs and private sector to collect bussiness ideas that can be implemented on these parcels. As part of the calls, the municipality shared the details of 382 parcels with a total area of 727,000 sqm, representing around 4 per cent of the toal city area. As part of the first round of selection of business projects, the municipality received 17 applications; 7 projects were pre-qualified as part of phase 2, and three projects made it to the final phase.

As these discussions and plans evolve into actionable and mature projects, it is anticipated that Ramallah Municipality's learning curve at both the council and management levels will improve, enhancing future project planning and the identification of initiatives with the greatest social and financial impact.

SDG Target 17.18

By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG Indicator 17.18.1

Statistical capacity indicator for sustainable development goal monitoring

Source: Ramallah Municipality (2024)

STATUS OF ACHIEVEMENT	LIMITED PROGRESS
RAMALLAH INDICATOR	50%

The municipality's strategic plan for 2023-2026 lacks a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework at the impact level and does not explicitly connect to the SDGs or their specific targets and indicators. As a result to the consultations made during the VLR process, Ramallah Municipality has recognized the need to formulate impact targets and indicators and is currently in process of developing the strategic plan. It is important to note that UN-Habitat, in partnership with PCBS and The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), has initiated the Data For Now Initiative, focusing on SDG 11 indicators across several municipalities, including Ramallah. This initiative is expected to significantly enhance the municipality's ability to track and achieve important development goals related to the SDGs. The VLR process has been a useful practice to identify statistical gaps and to monitor local sustainable development in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, that takes into account harmonization of metadata and means of verification of data across local and national levels. Moreover, the VLR exercise has shown to the management team that certain types of data are needed to provide evident based analysis and reports to inform planning as well as measure impact of interventions. Finally, it was recognized by management that evident based analysis would improve the success rates of project proposals and fund raising in general.

What is being done by the Ramallah Municipality?

Ramallah Municipality has developed advanced GIS and IT systems designed to collect and analyse extensive data from various services, including fee payments, wastewater network coverage, and land availability. As outlined in SDG 16, the municipality is enhancing its monitoring and analytical capabilities to assess the impact of its services, such as environmental awareness programmes. Data requested as part of this VLR was easily provided suggesting a notable capacity. However, significant gaps remain in empirical data, notably in demographic details of the population, such as gender, age and disability status.

3.6.5 What is needed to make further progress on SDG 17

Enhance coordination: Strengthen collaboration with APLA to lead reforms in local government law.

Monitoring and evaluation: Develop a monitoring and evaluation system that includes key demographic and socioeconomic data, ensuring regular updates to reflect strategic progress.

PPP policy: Implement a clear, transparent and actionable PPP policy to stimulate investments and enhance service delivery.

Strategic financial management: Implement strategic financial improvement and resilient plan.

3.6.6 Implementation plan:

Short term (1-2 years)

1. Identify and engage key international partners, including government entities, NGOs and philanthropic organizations, establishing effective communication and collaboration channels.

2. Organize a series of meetings, either virtual or in-person, with international partners to discuss shared interests, priorities and collaborative opportunities.

3. Seek opportunities for Ramallah to participate in international forums and events to highlight its achievements and foster new partnerships.

4. Strengthen local and international partnerships to improve capacity of municipality to collect and analyze data based on strategic plans and SDGs on regular bases.

Medium term (3-5 years)

1. Expand twinning agreements with cities globally that face similar challenges, fostering shared solutions and mutual benefits.

2. Create multisectoral working groups or task forces, including government, civil society, academia, and the private sector, to tackle specific initiatives like sustainable development or youth empowerment.

3. Craft a detailed international engagement strategy with defined goals, targeted sectors, and metrics for success.

Long term (5+ years)

1. Strengthen the municipality's capacity to manage and sustain international relationships through dedicated staffing, resources and systematic tracking of collaborative efforts.

2. Conduct thorough evaluations of international partnerships' impact on local development, measuring outcomes, such as job creation, infrastructure enhancement, and community empowerment.

3. Implement projects and organizational plans to reduce reliance on donor funding and local taxes while increasing revenue base from various sources, via PPPs, direct investments, revenue from new taxes and fees, etc.

CHAPTER 4:
CONCLUSIONS AND LOOKING FORWARD

Final Conclusions and Looking Forward

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of Ramallah City highlights the city's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, showcasing progress across six key SDGs: Quality Education (SDG 4), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Climate Action (SDG 13), Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing Israeli occupation constraints, rapid urbanization, and limited resources, Ramallah has demonstrated resilience and innovation in localizing the SDGs.

Recognizing that the VLR of the city of Ramallah has not captured all initiatives and services provided by the municipality, it is worth noting that the initial screening of all municipal services showed that the municipality contributes directly and indirectly to the majority of SDGs. However, the process of prioritization of SDGs, indicators and data availability have resulted in focusing on the above mentioned six SDGs.

The formulation of the first VLR in Palestine by the city of Ramallah was a unique opportunity to reflect on where the city stands in terms of development in general, and sustainable development goals in specific. Through a comprehensive analysis of the various aspects covered in the report, it is evident that Ramallah has made significant progress in several key areas while also facing challenges that require attention.

Internally, the city of Ramallah realized the importance of data in strategic and operational planning and data-driven decision making by perceiving urban planning in a holistic approach that takes into consideration the relationships among various indicators such as poverty, education, economic development, infrastructure, inclusivity, etc. This would entail expanding the analytical framework to include neighboring cities, towns and villages that have direct impact on the city of Ramallah, and hence providing new collaborative development opportunities. At the same time, utilizing local SDG related data requires leveraging emerging technologies and improving collective capacities and institutional ownership within the municipality. Furthermore, fostering partnerships with academia, civil society, and the private sector will be crucial in driving innovation and knowledge-sharing to address complex urban challenges. One of the key strengths highlighted in the VLR is the city's commitment to promoting quality education, environmental sustainability and resilience. Initiatives such as the implementation of renewable energy sources, waste-water and solid-waste management strategies, and green infrastructure projects have positioned Ramallah as a pioneer in sustainable urban development in the country.

Furthermore, the city's efforts to enhance diversity, cultural and political identity, and social inclusivity and promote gender equality via a comprehensive cultural strategy have been commendable, fostering a more equitable and cohesive community. Prioritizing education by investing significant financial resources to build new quality educational facilities is also considered one of the main features of the city.

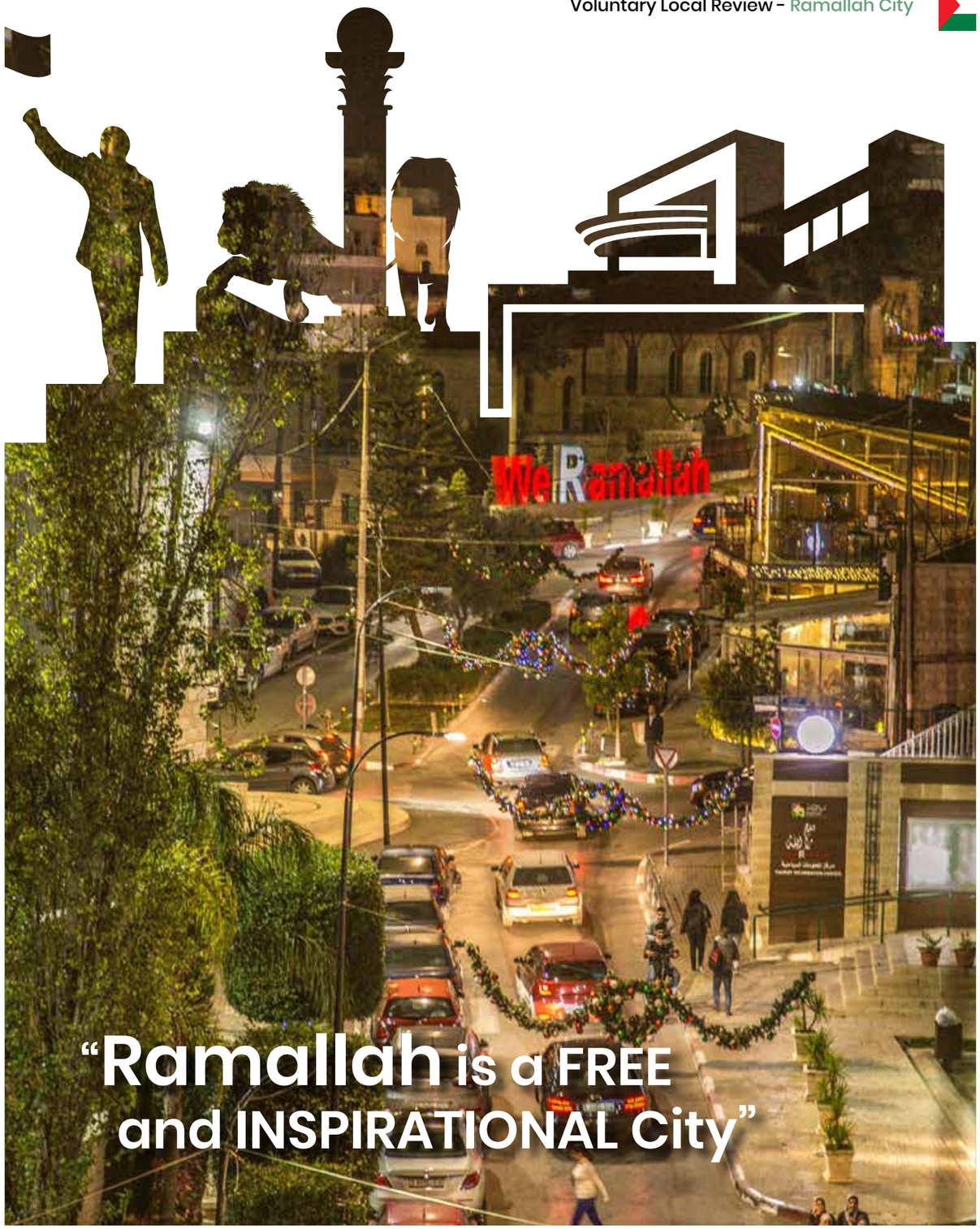
Despite these achievements, the VLR also sheds light on critical areas that demand short-term and long term attention. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure, limited access to affordable housing, limited municipal financial resources and high unemployment rates remain pressing challenges that need to be addressed through collaborative targeted policies and programs. Additionally, the report underlines the importance of enhancing governance structures, transparency, and accountability to ensure effective implementation of sustainable development initiatives in Ramallah. Notwithstanding the fact that the Israeli occupation continues to impact the lives of Palestinians, the current wave of Israeli atrocities and measures in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank is expected to continue without impunity. The resulting socio-economic effects on the lives of Palestinians will have a direct impact on local government units, including Ramallah municipality, and therefore, careful planning and risk mitigation must be adopted.

Moving forward, while the VLR was conceived as an important tool to align national development planning and local government development planning, the VLR process

proved the need to strengthen this vertical alignment between national planning and local government units aiming at augmenting impact and planning tailored public policies. It is also expected that future cycles of strategic and operational planning should take into consideration the selection of localized targets and impact and transformative indicators, as opposed to input indicators, as the base for effective monitoring and evaluation as well as strengthen accountability towards the city's citizens. At the same time, the city of Ramallah can transfer the experience gained throughout the VLR process to other Palestinian cities. Moreover, being an active member of UCLG and building on its VLR experience, the city of Ramallah would be expected to play an important role in supporting international efforts to improve the SDGs monitoring framework, strengthen and expand decentralized cooperation to mitigate changes in international official development assistance, and actively engage in formulation of the new development agenda post 2030.

Looking to the future, the VLR of Ramallah in 2024 serves as a valuable tool for assessing the progress made and identifying areas for improvement in the city's sustainable development journey. By building on its strengths, addressing its weaknesses, and embracing a collaborative and inclusive approach, Ramallah has the potential to emerge as a beacon of sustainable urban development in the region.

Widely known as an energetic, forward looking and responsive city, the city of Ramallah has over the past decades developed into an attractive city to live in because of the good services provided by its municipality, diversified culture, economic opportunities, etc. This VLR indicates a commitment by Ramallah municipality for continuous improvement of the lives of both the city's inhabitants and visitors, strengthened resilience and innovative and progressive thinking. The developmental vision of the city for the years 2023-2026 summarizes it all:



References

PCBS. (2023). *Distribution of Secondary Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate, for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/Secondary_Schools_en.html

PCBS. (2023). *Distribution of Basic Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate, for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/Basic_Schools_en.html

PCBS. (2018). *Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017 - Final Results (Establishments Report)*. Ramallah, Palestine. Retrieved from https://pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2384.pdf

IMFG. (2022). *The Municipal Role in Economic Development*. University of Toronto. Retrieved from https://imfg.munkschool.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/imfgwdw_no2_economicdevelopment_may_3_2022-1.pdf

UNDP. (2024). *Gaza War: Expected Socio-Economic Impacts on the State of Palestine.* Retrieved from https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/gaza-war-expected-socio-economic-impacts-state-palestine-0

UNESCWA. (2020). *Palestine SDG Monitor (Goal 8)*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://national.unescwa.org/multichart.aspx?country=State%20of%20Palestine&target=8.9

PCBS. (2024). *Goal # 11 : Sustainable Cities and Communities*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from Goal # 11 : Sustainable Cities and Communities

PCBS. (2023). *Number of Licensed Road Vehicles in Palestine* by Region, Governorate and Type of Vehicle,2022*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=2113

PCBS. (2022). *Number of New Registered Road Vehicles in Palestine* by Region, Governorate and Type of Vehicle,2022*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=2116

Jaber, A., & Al-Sahili, K. (2023). Severity of Pedestrian Crashes in Developing Countries: Analysis and Comparisons Using Decision Tree Techniques. *SAE International Journal of Transportation Safety, 11*(3), 307-320. doi:https://doi.org/10.4271/09-11-02-0008

PCBS. (2022). *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Casualties in Palestine by Governorate and Month, 2022*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=2417

Jaber, A. (2019). *Profile of Pedestrian Crashes in Nablus Governorate.* Nablus, Palestine: An-Najah National University. Retrieved from https://repository.najah.edu/items/c7aa1275-2cd1-4330-90c6-013b5de395bf

UN-Habitat. (2022). *The Global Urban Monitoring Framework*. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/08/the_global_urban_monitoring_framework_metadata.pdf

SEACAP. (2022). *Ramallah municipality – Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP)*. Retrieved from https://www.climamed.eu/wp-content/uploads/files/Final-Ramallah-18-Sep.pdf

AFRP. (2023). *Ramallah Foundation*. Retrieved from https://afrp.org/programs/ramallah-foundation/

AJPAL. (2020). *Spatial Development Strategic Framework: Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate (2030)*. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/spatial-development-strategic-framework-ramallah-and-al-bireh-governorate-2030

MoE. (2019). *Education Statistical Yearbook 2018/2019 (Schools and Kindergartens Statistics)*. Ramallah, Palestine: Ministry of Education. Retrieved from https://www.moe.pna.ps/uploads/2019-202018%السنوي20%الاحصائي20%الكتاب.pdf

PEP. (2021). *Education takes over the Chinese Secondary School for Boys from the Ramallah Municipality*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from Palestine Economy Portal: https://www.palestineeconomy.ps/ar/Article/18115

Ramallah Municipality. (2020). Each one of us has a role to play in solving the problem of traffic congestion. Ramallah, Palestine. Retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=405202493985642

Ramallah Municipality. (2024). *Muntada Al Khibrat*. Retrieved from https://www.ramallah.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=SZM75La2978035137aSZM75L

Ramallah Municipality. (2023). *New school construction project*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.ramallah.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=mtCMMNa6784095384amtCMMN

Ramallah Municipality. (2022). *Ramallah Municipality Budget 2022*. Retrieved from https://www.ramallah.ps/userfiles/server/AnnualR/budget2022.pdf

Ramallah Municipality. (2024). *Ramallah Municipality signs a memorandum agreement with Al Nayzak Foundation*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://shorter.me/4FUxl

Ramallah Municipality. (2020). *Resilient Ramallah 2050*. Ramallah, Palestine. Retrieved from https://www.ramallah.ps/userfiles/server/pdf/Ramallah%20Resilience%20Strategy%202050.pdf

World Bank. (2023). *West Bank and Gaza Country Climate and Development Report*. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/west-bank-and-gaza-country-climate-and-development-report

UNESCWA. (2020). *Palestine SDG Monitor (Goal 4)*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://national.unescwa.org/multichart.aspx?country=State+of+Palestine&target=4.7

PCBS. (2023). *Distribution of Secondary Stage Students in Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate and sex for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/Secondary_Students_en.html

PCBS. (2023). *Distribution of Basic Stage Students in Schools in Palestine by Supervising Authority, Region and Governorate and sex for Scholastic Years 2011/2012-2022/2023*. Retrieved 5 15, 2024, from https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/Basic_Students_en.html

UN-Habitat. (2024). *A new strategy of sustainable neighbourhood planning: five principles.* Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/download-manager-files/A%20New%20Strategy%20of%20Sustainable%20Neighbourhood%20Planning%20Five%20principles.pdf

Ramallah Municipality
Publications