

Municipal Profile: NABLUS



Photo: Citizens at entrance of Nablus Municipality

About the Municipality: Nablus is a Palestinian cultural and commercial center about 50 km north of Jerusalem in the West Bank with a population of over 125,000. It is one of the oldest cities in the world; its historic city center boasts archaeological sites from the 1st century. In addition, it is known for producing the most delicious Palestinian sweets, including *kunafeh*, the *nabulsi* soap industry, and famous poets from the Tuqan family.

In 2013, CHF and Nablus Municipality began a long-term partnership under the Local Government & Infrastructure program (LGI) funded by USAID. This partnership will support the municipality’s ability to further meet the needs of its citizens in a transparent and effective manner.

Center for Governance Excellence: In line with the strategy of the Palestinian local governance sector, CHF’s partnership with Nablus will focus on three key areas – **community participation, service delivery, and leadership development** – to support the municipality’s vision of being a responsive, efficient, and effective center for governance excellence. Under these areas, LGI’s main interventions will include:

Key Interventions	Expected Outcomes
Community Infrastructure: Indoor Sports Complex (2015)	With a contribution of around 40% of all costs from the Nablus municipality, this state-of-the-art Indoor Sports Complex will provide four floors of courts for volleyball, basketball, handball and indoor soccer, billiards, table tennis, fitness areas, and a theatre with over 2,000 seats.
Urban & Physical Planning (2014)	Development of GIS systems paired with street naming and numbering plans will enhance the municipality’s ability to plan urban development and geospatially map projects.
Online service delivery through e-municipality (2014)	The introduction of e-municipality will enable citizens to access municipal services online, easing congestion at the municipality and reducing time spent accessing services.
Municipal Strategic Corporate Plan (2013)	Based on a new municipal capacity assessment tool, the municipality will develop a plan that outlines how the municipality will address its institutional development priorities.
Enhanced internal audit approaches (2013)	An enhanced internal audit unit will ensure that the municipality adheres to required procurement, financial, and administrative regulations, while also enhancing transparency and accountability of the municipality to citizens.
Streamlined procurement procedures and database (2013)	This intervention will focus on updating procurement procedures to be more efficient and transparent, and also develop a procurement database to institutionalize new procurement procedures and templates.

Mayor Ghassan Shakka: “Our mandate [as a municipality] is to serve our citizens and achieve economic and social security in line with our national policies... Currently we are trying to provide the city with new services such as hotels, sport complexes, and we will continue to focus on children and youth because they are the future...”



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