

## BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO

# TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN the Occupied Palestinian Territory

International  
Labour  
Organization

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Social Protection Study Tour to Algeria



### History of Social Security Scheme in OPT

Home to 4.5 million Palestinians, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is in the process of rolling out its first comprehensive social security system to cover all private sector workers and their families.

Today, only public sector workers benefit from social protection benefits, while most private sector workers are effectively not covered in cases of maternity, workplace injury, or old age. According to official figures, private sector workers make up 66 per cent of the workforce, relative to 22 per cent in the public sector and 12 per cent in Israel and West Bank settlements.

With support from the International Labour Organization (ILO), the framework of the current social security system was developed in 2013 by the tripartite National Social Security Committee in consultation with workers' and employers' organizations, government officials, as well as other stakeholders. In order to ensure its efficacy in combating poverty as well as social exclusion, the system was modelled on an ILO actuarial evaluation which assessed the system's parameters and sustainability. In addition, the system is built on the Civil Servant Pension Scheme (Law of Public Retirement No. 7 of 2005), Labour Law No. 7 of 2000, the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) and international good practices.

### ILO Interventions to set up a comprehensive Social Security System

The OPT lacks a tripartite social security institution which could implement the new social security law and administer and deliver social insurance benefits to insured workers and their family members. Thus, the ILO is providing technical assistance to Palestinian tripartite stakeholders for the setting-up of a well-functioning administration, based on the internationally agreed principles of equality of rights, transparency and disclosure, sustainability, adequacy and good governance.

By supporting the implementation of an administrative structure to make the right to social protection a reality for Palestinians, the ILO is supporting the setting-up of social security operations, a critical step for the building of a sustainable social protection system. Moreover, ILO's support will be based on international

standards and worldwide comparable best practices. It will also promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), which adds new forms and actors of development cooperation, and all components of ILO's support will mainstream SSTC, through study tours, peer learning mechanisms and regional sharing of information. ILO's assistance will further contribute to the development of global knowledge, e.g. through a guide on the establishment of the social security administration that can be used in other countries, notably in those supported by ILO's Flagship Programme on Building Social protection Floors for All.

### ILO SSTC, Social Protection Study Tour to Algeria

(From 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017)

With the assistance of the ILO within the framework of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a study tour was arranged in December 2017 for members of the Palestinian Social Security Corporation (PSSC) to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MTESS) in Algeria as part of a strategic plan to develop the necessary knowledge and skills of the Board of Directors and key managers of the PSSC to be able to effectively implement the new Palestinian social security law and its social security schemes. South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as provided by the ILO has proven to be an important intervention modality for facilitating regional exchange but also helping to build the skills and knowledge of participants.



The ILO is already providing assistance on the establishment of the new social security system in the OPT and is also providing

assistance to the development of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and to the National Social Insurance Fund in Algeria.

The commitment of Algeria towards social change, promoting decent work and empowering impact to improve the labour conditions of the people have led to increasing the engagement level and cooperation with the ILO in recent years. SSTC is one of the top priorities for the Algerian Government and for the ILO as well. The aim of the Algerian Government is to promote horizontal cooperation in order to share South-South information and knowledge, the social protection Algerian experience and the benefits that can be gained from training in the field of social security while improving the good practice information peering and dissemination.

In this regard, the ILO and the Government of Algeria initiated in January 2016 a project aiming to support Algeria, in particular the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and its structures and the social partners - employers and workers - in their efforts to consolidate what has been done at national level in the areas of social dialogue and social protection, and to share its experience with countries of the region.



In light of this, the study visit aims to create a synergy between the new Palestinian Social Security Institution and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the National Social Insurance Fund, as well as the newly established School of Social Security, in Algeria.

The study tour group was headed by the Director General of PSSC and included four members of the Board of Directors and three key managers (legal, IT and human resources) of PSSC. Mr Mounir Kleibo, Representative of the ILO Office in Jerusalem and Mr. John Carter, ILO's international administration expert accompanied the participants during the study tour and attended the sessions of the study tour.

Prior to the study tour, a briefing information note was given to the participants to provide them with some key information on Algeria and its social protection system. (Recommended reading

to develop awareness). Participants were appreciative of the briefing notes.

The Director General of PSSC, in his opening address, highlighted the critical need to have closer ties with other countries such as Algeria to collaborate together on an effective social security system for Palestine.



In addition, he praised ILO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and the three study tours arranged for PSSC to Jordan, Algeria and Oman. He further mentioned that one of the main objectives of the study tour was to develop information sharing through formal memoranda of understanding between the involved countries assist the PSSC to effectively implement the new Palestinian social security law and its social security schemes, through e.g. sending technical experts to the OPT to help PSSC building up the new social security administration. In this regard, he highlighted the critical need to have closer ties with other countries, such as Algeria, to collaborate together on an effective social security system for the OPT.



Most of the presentations by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MTESS) experts were held at the new school for social security in Algiers. This school is regarded as the first school of its kind in the Arab and African countries. It has the dual supervision of MTESS and the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Its main mission is higher education scientific

research and technological development in the field of social security. The PSSC participants were impressed with the site and enjoyed the presentations at the school.

Rules and regulations for the social security programmes were discussed followed by high-level discussions and a visit to a branch office was arranged for the senior officials.

The PSSC participants felt that the duration and pace of the study tour was just right and that the general administration and management of the study tour were well-coordinated. Also, they mentioned that there was sufficient time for participants to ask questions. They highlighted that the presenters in Algeria were knowledgeable and well prepared. High level discussions took place after each meeting. The PSSC participants also pointed out that the visit to the branch office was well organized and that Algerian senior officials were present at all times.

The PSSC participants rated the study tour highly and expressed that:

- ❖ The study tour has fully met the stated objectives;
- ❖ The study tour improved their knowledge and skills to manage a social security institution and administer a social security system;
- ❖ The knowledge acquired will be very helpful in the implementation of the PSSC
- ❖ The visit to the branch office was effective and relevant;
- ❖ The study tour was a success for the Board of Directors and key managers.

The study tour proved to be an important intervention of the ILO's technical assistance. It improved considerably the knowledge and skills of the participants.



The ILO will ensure to continue providing technical assistance and support to PSSC, and to arrange further study tours in the near future.

## List of Participants

Name	Title
Mr BELAL THAWABI	Member of the Board of Directors of the Palestinian Social Security Society / Risk Committee - representing the Government
Mr ABED ALHAKIM MOHAMMAD ELI E'LAYAN	Member of the Board of Directors of PSSC / Audit Committee - representing workers
Mr NASFAT H A KHLIFASH	PSSC Board Member - NGO Representative
Mr MAJDI A ALSALEH	Member of PSSC Board - Representative of Professional Associations
Mr OSAMA K M HERZALLAH	Director General of the Palestinian Social Security Society
Ms BUTHAYNA ABDERAHIM AHMED KHALED	Director of the Legal Department of the Palestinian Social Security Society
Mr SAMEER T R MASRI	Head of Human Resources and Administration of the Palestinian Social Security Society
Mr SAMER ABU AISHEH	IT Manager of the Palestinian Social Security Corporation

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