



Documentation

German Palestinian Municipal Partnership Workshop

Ramallah and Bethlehem
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Workshop Schedule

1st part Mövenpick Hotel, Ramallah

09:00 – 09:30 **Opening remarks GIZ and Service Agency Communities in One World:**

Introduction of GIZ Programmes “Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programme (LGP)” and “Future for Palestine (FfP)” and of the Engagement Global Programme “Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)” by Ulrich Nitschke (GIZ) and Ulrich Held (SKEW)

09:30 – 11:30 **Mayors’ Panel:**

Opportunities and challenges of partnerships between German and Palestinian municipalities – What can we learn from each other?

Moderation: Dr. Albrecht Schröter, Lord Mayor City of Jena

11:30 – 12:45 Journey from Ramallah to Bethlehem

2nd part Jacir Palace Hotel, Bethlehem

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:30 Working group session with seven working groups

17:30 – 18:15 Flashlights from the working groups and sum up

18:15 – 18:30 Conclusion of the workshop

19:00 Dinner



I Objectives

The workshop had the following objectives:

- Strengthening of sustainable local development
- Establishment of new partnerships and consolidation of existing partnerships
- Development of common project ideas for the new partnerships

II Opening Remarks GIZ and Service Agency Communities in One World



Ulrich Nitschke, Head of Programmes Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programme /LGP, Future for Palestine/ FFP, Chairperson MENA-Sector Network Governance, GIZ Palestine

Ulrich Held, Deputy Director of the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global and leader of the team for municipal partnerships

Introduction of GIZ Programmes “Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programme (LGP)” and “Future for Palestine (FFP)” by Ulrich Nitschke (GIZ)

“The GIZ Local Governance and Civil Society Development Programme has been working in recent years with great pleasure on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in cooperation with the Service Agency Communities in One World and certain German and Palestinian municipalities.

When we started in 2010 there were six active cooperations, today we have 12 and today at the round table on the strengthening of these cooperations a lot of interested mayors from both sides are sitting.

Municipal co-operation with the objectives of strengthening local democracy, improving services, enhancing extended citizens' participation and promoting local economy belongs from my point of view to the core of the German development cooperation.

When I was asked to build up the Service Agency Communities in One World on behalf on the federal, state and local authorities 12 years ago one of our objectives was to strengthen the exchange of expertise at local level worldwide and to establish local authorities as partners for the German development cooperation.



Today we have reached this goal. Even in fragile states such partnerships are on their way to make visible contributions to the development of municipalities.

With the Palestinian territories it is not that simple. Everything is interpreted immediately as a political statement and can be misunderstood by the existing German-Israeli coope-rations too. Your presence today shows that it is possible to summon up the courage for public debates and I wish us and all of you a fruitful dialogue for the strengthening of local democracy!”

Introduction of the Engagement Global Programme “Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)” by Ulrich Held (SKEW)

“Our workshop aims to help establish and deepen partnerships between German and Palestinian municipalities. These partnerships are important for development, and for peace. They will allow us to build on the solidarity and mutual understanding shown here by taking it back to the citizens in our municipalities, and allowing it to grow international-ly. This is an important and commendable task, especially in times of frequent conflict.

In the field of partnership work we would like to help establish and extend German-Palestinian municipal partnerships.

We would like to support you over the next three years (2015 – 2017). Our support could include the following measures:

- Financial and technical support for one international meeting of a German-Palestinian network per year, which would be held in one of your municipalities. We could imagine that this network meeting would be held on alternate years in Germany and in Palestine.
- Financing of one bilateral working meeting per year for each individual partnership, for purposes of project planning and sharing expertise. This would also involve the exchange of local authority experts.
- Training on regional issues and intercultural training for the German actors, to improve mutual understanding.
- Incorporation of the German-Palestinian partnerships into our second conference on ‘Municipal partnerships with Asia’, which is scheduled for 2017. This would allow us to evaluate the progress made by that point, and present it in a wider setting in Germany.

This is your network! We look forward to hearing your ideas, and would be glad to support you in implementing your partnership projects.



Background Information to Engagement Global and Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW)

Engagement Global is a not-for-profit company, funded and commissioned by the German Government. It is part of Germany's apparatus for official development cooperation. Engagement Global brings together all the programmes that support the development activities of German citizens, German non-governmental organisations and municipalities.

The SKEW also falls under the umbrella of Engagement Global and strengthen the capacities of local actors in Germany in four key thematic areas:

- 1) the globally sustainable municipality as a local contribution to the post- 2015 agenda
- 2) fair procurement as a municipal contribution to fair trade
- 3) migration and development at the local level
- 4) international municipal relations and partnership work.

In all these areas, the instruments we use are information work, networking, advisory services, training and funding.”

III Mayors' Panel

Moderation: Dr. Albrecht Schröter, Lord Mayor City of Jena



from left to right: Sulieman Abdullah Al-Assa (Mayor of Al Ubiedyeh), Dr. Albrecht Schröter (Mayor of Jena), Ghassan Shakaa (Mayor of Nablus), Hani Hayek (Mayor of Beit Sahour), Dr. Peter Kurz (Mayor of Mannheim), Mutie Diebes (Mayor of Zababdeh), Abdel Aziz Wahdan (Mayor of Tayasier), Ulrich Nitschke (GIZ Palestine), Ulrich Held (Service Agency Communities in One World)

Opportunities and challenges of partnerships between German and Palestinian municipalities – What can we learn from each other?

Dr. Albrecht Schröter took up the suggestions of Dr. Peter Kurz, Mayor City of Mannheim, for a road map to work conceptually on the issue “How could a German-Palestinian network contribute to the building of a democratic Palestinian state e.g. by strengthening local authorities?”, to develop supporting structures for municipal partnerships and to exchange best-practice examples of cooperation projects and summed up the discussion as follows:



0) There is a strong interest on the German side in a German-Palestinian municipal partnership. The German Association of Cities will continue its efforts to win additional German cities for partnerships.

1) The requests from Palestinian municipalities will be collected regularly by all partners and the Service Agency Communities in one World will inform the German Association of Cities. On the base of a questionnaire a dossier for interested German cities will be prepared.

2) In cooperation with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) the City of Jena will organize a follow-up German-Palestinian Municipal Partnership Meeting in the second or third quarter of 2015 in Jena. This meeting should include a rather smaller number of participants of both Palestinian and German side.

3) A timetable and plan for the future German-Palestinian municipal partnership should be developed there and afterwards discussed in Palestine through APLA. The plan of cooperation should include questions of 1) state building/national level, 2) possible structures of support for bilateral cooperation/local level and 3) exchange of best-practice examples.

4) In a German-Palestinian municipal partnership meeting in Palestine probably at the end of 2015 the discussion on the plan of cooperation should be followed up. There the paper is supposed to be presented to and to be discussed with a larger circle of Palestinian mayors and council members.

5) A German-Palestinian municipal partnership network should be set up in Germany in cooperation with SKEW and GIZ. The network should be build on reliable structures and regular meetings once or twice a year.

IV Overview Working Groups

WG #1: youth policy in the Bethlehem region

WG #2: economic development in the Bethlehem Region in particular with regard to improving the tourism infrastructure

WG #3: sludge digestion on the future wastewater treatment plant in Hebron in order to produce energy

WG #4: vocational training for craftsmen in the Zababdeh region

WG #5: solid waste management in the Bethlehem region

WG #6: Nuremberg-Nablus cooperation

WG #7: Wittenberg-Taybeh cooperation



Results Working Group # 1: youth policy in the Bethlehem region

Attendees: representatives of the municipalities of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Doha, Battir, Al Ubeidiya, Al Khader, Cologne and the Hanover region

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 relationships 2 private youth centers (run by NGOs) 3 lands & spaces 4 educated youth 5 common interests 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 no recognition by local government 2 sustainability 3 missing youth centers (public) 4 funds 5 centralization of private centers in big cities 6 lack of support for projects in areas that are under Israeli control. 7 lack of acceptance of the ideas and needs of youth by adults and decision makers
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 workshop 2 youth exchange 3 municipal assistance 4 video conferences as a first step of acquaintance to start cooperation 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 no funds 2 A,B,C areas (Battir) 3 municipal assistance 4 private projects ask for a lot of money

Solutions:

- Networking (local, regional, national and international)
- Contact municipalities & ministry of local governance to have an official act
- Structure & funds for a known period of time
- raising awareness through campaigns of the youth council, rights, activities and importance
- more local and international participation for youth in conferences and international exchange programs (representatives of the local youth councils should be part of official delegations when attending international conferences)



Results Working Group # 2: economic development in the Bethlehem Region in particular with regard to improving the tourism infrastructure

Attendees: representatives of the municipalities of Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Doha, Battir, Al Ubeidiya, Al Khader, Cologne, Bergisch Gladbach, Jena, Xanten

General information on tourism in the Bethlehem region

- In addition to the Church of Nativity and Battir the Bethlehem region has two further potential UNESCO world heritage sites (four altogether).
- There are some 80 attractive tourist sites in the Bethlehem region.
- 66 percent of the people in the Bethlehem region live from tourism. Tourism is the key economic pillar.
- 11 / 12 new hotels have been built in Bethlehem during the last 2 years.
- Overnight stays are around 60 percent. However, all the profit goes to the private sector whereas the municipalities, in charge of providing local services and sustaining the infrastructure, get nothing.

To be developed and/or improved:

- income generating mechanisms for the municipalities themselves, e.g. by introducing a tax for tourists which is common in many European cities
- note: Further details shall be explored and elaborated in the exchange of experts between the B. and European municipalities. The Cologne example is not really applicable.
- cultural and landscape routes (in addition to religious sites) which unite the Bethlehem region municipalities.
- Local tourism plans – in close cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism
- tourism infrastructure (e.g. “enjoyable streets”) and the “service culture” of hotel and restaurant staff.
- communication between the public and private sector in the field of tourism. A structured communication does hardly exist at the moment.

Action Plan:

- 1. Establishment of tourism units in Bethlehem region municipalities, following the example of Bethlehem
- 2. Three day joint study tour to German twin cities; main topics: regional, inter-municipal cooperation in the field of tourism, cooperation between public and private sector, marketing strategies, tourism tax etc.



- 3. Marketing
 - a) Internet
 - b) tour of selected German tour operators to Bethlehem region in order to show them the cultural and natural richness of this region, the ideal place for visiting all interesting sites in the Holy Land - and also much cheaper than e.g. West-Jerusalem.

Results Working Group # 3: sludge digestion on the future wastewater treatment plant in Hebron in order to produce energy

Attendees: Adel Yasin (Director of wastewater department, Palestinian Water Authority), Marwan Akhdar (Head of Health Department, Hebron), Alexander Mauritz (Managing Director Wastewater Department City of Mannheim).

Digestion already decided for Hebron, start-up end of 2017

No experiences in:

- staff management
- trouble shooting
- safety measurements
- daily operation

Expectations for support:

- Staff training
- Institutional structure
- Safety procedures
- Guidelines for maintenance and operation
- Best practice for monitoring and recording

Agreements

- Maintaining contact
- Supporting advice in developing an organizational structure by the city of Mannheim
- Visit of Adel Yasin and Marwan Akhdar to Mannheim in 2015 to get a first personal impression of the personnel structure of the wastewater treatment plant in Mannheim

Results Working Group # 4: vocational training for craftsmen in the Zababdeh region

Attendees: i.a. Dr. Johannes Kramer, Middle East Initiative Bielefeld, Mutie Diebes, Mayor of Zababdeh, Abdel-Aziz Wahdan, Mayor of Tayasier



Reflections of the working group on the offer of a handicraft education centre in Bielefeld of training of the trainers for craftsmen in the Zababdeh region

- 1) capacity building of current craftsmen within Jenin region by training groups in Germany to return back for local training program
- 2) to have effective results for the local training by those trainers we should have a qualified training centre equipped with at least the basic training equipment
- 3) criteria for choosing trainees: to be handled by crafts industrial affairs section of municipalities i.e. Jenin Municipality
- 4) According to law each craft man should have a licence for his craft i.e. should be qualified, current situation: majority do not have one
- 5) expected results:
 - create qualified staff
 - follow standards of security and specifications of each craft
 - improve quality of outcome
 - develop economic situation
 - encourage big demand on vocational study from school graduates

Alternative:

In case of facing difficulties in building a centre, there is a program for training craftspeople in Jenin area settled in Zababdeh for people from Jenin area by Lutheran Swedish Vocational Training Centre in Jerusalem

Results Working Group # 5: solid waste management in the Bethlehem region

Attendees: Georg and Barbara Kuroпка from Sandersdorf-Brehna (moderators) and 20 representatives of the Bethlehem region

- Solid waste should be regarded as economic factor
- 50 % of the solid waste in the Bethlehem region are biological wastes and should be composted in order to reduce the waste going to landfills
- End products of the composting (humus and soil conditioner) should be sold
- The composting plant in the Bethlehem region should be centrally located and easily accessible
- Composting requires waste separation
- First step separate storage of bio-waste at landfills
- Next steps separation of metal, glass, paper, plastic and building rubble
- Needs companies for the further processing of these materials



- The processing of the building rubble could remain in the hands of the local authorities. The crushed rubble could be used for the road construction.
- Important question: How can I get people to separate solid waste?
- Further step: establishment of a working group concerning the development of a joint concept for composting of organic waste in the Bethlehem region

Results Working Group # 6: Cooperation Nuremberg-Nablus

Attendees: i.a. Ghassan W. Shakaa, Mayor of Nablus, Dr. Norbert Schürgers, Director of the Department for International Affairs, City of Nuremberg

Important notice: There is no contract between the two cities, so it is hard to discuss about cooperation projects.

Possible fields of cooperation

- Founding a partnership committee
- Garbage management (collection and disposal) → highest priority
- Youth exchange
- Powering women's rights
- Education/University (exchange of professors and students) → building a committee
- Healthcare (exchange of doctors and training)
- Tourism (establishing an information system for sights) → building a joint venture
- Organizing trips for citizens to the twin cities/living in Palestinian families (and the other way round)
- Cultural exchange of musicians etc.
- Fire brigade (sending (used) equipment to Nablus)
- Bilateral visits of the mayors and experts, esp. The chamber of commerce (IHK)
- Exchange of journalists

Results Working Group # 7: Cooperation Wittenberg-Taybeh

Attendees: i.a. Eckhard Naumann, Mayor of Wittenberg, Joachim Richter, member of the city council city of Wittenberg and chairman of the partnerships committee

Problem constellation in Palestine at local level is rather complex.

Nevertheless there is the clear intention on both sides to continue the talks and to promote the municipal partnership in the respective city council.

To avoid disappointments and false expectations in the next meeting(s) the following questions should be discussed:

- What do we expect from each other and this municipal partnership?
- What can we really do? What is feasible? (the city of Wittenberg has only limited financial and administrative resources)



V List of participants

Nr.	Surname	Name	Municipality/ Organisation
1	Abdel Fatah	Dana	GIZ Palestine
2	Abu Araa	Jamal	Aqaba
3	Abu Hafhish	Ahmad	
4	Abu Khalil	Maher	Jifna
5	Abu Sarhan	Maher	Al Obeidieh
6	Ahn	Randra	
7	Al Assa	Sliman	Al Obeidieh
8	Al Azzeh	Younis	Al Khader
9	Al Dibis	Ibrahim	Al Doha
10	Al Hayek	Hani	Beit Sahour
11	Allati	Usama	Beit Sahour
12	Al Sayeh	Ziad	Bethlehem
13	Amer	Vera	Jena/ Beit Jala
14	Aqel	Rawhi	Atara
15	Baboun	Vera	Bethlehem
16	Bader	Akram	Battir
17	Barakat	Nadim	Taybeh



18	Bazzar	Hisham	
19	Bettenhäuser	Matthias	Jena
20	Bürger	Christian	Service Agency Communities in One World
21	Dekker	Stephan	Bergisch Gladbach
22	Dibs	Ibrahim	Al Doha
23	Diebes	Mutie	Zababdeh
24	Dolah	Ribhi	Beitunia
25	Eismann	Doreen	Service Agency Communities in One World
26	Gaber	Urwa	Tayasier
27	Ghattas	Carmen	Bethlehem
28	Ghoury	Emile	GIZ Palestine
29	Groß	Rainer	Xanten
30	Hannonah	Jamil	Beit Sahour
31	Held	Ulrich	Service Agency Communities in One World
32	Hesse	Silvia	Hanover
33	Ibayat	Ratib	Al Obeidieh
34	Ismail	Issa	Al Khader
35	Issa	Mohammad	Al Khader



36	Juha	Issa	Beit Jala
37	Klietz	Georg	Nuremberg
38	Kopala	Omer	
39	Kramer	Johannes	Bielefeld
40	Kuropka	Barbara	Sandersdorf-Brehna
41	Kuropka	Georg	Sandersdorf-Brehna
42	Kurz	Peter	Mannheim
43	Linse	David	Mannheim
44	Mahboub	Khaled	Al Doha
45	Majdobebeh	Mohamad	Beitunia
46	Manoly	Hanan	Beit Sahour
47	Marcos	Anton	Bethlehem
48	Masri	Rami	Nuremberg
49	Mauritz	Alexander	Mannheim
50	Muammar	Itidal	Battir
51	Müller	Carsten	Jena
52	Murra	Barhoom	Bethlehem
53	Nasser	Michel	Battir
54	Naumann	Eckhard	Wittenberg
55	Nitschke	Ulrich	GIZ Palestine



56	Owaineh	Wisam	Battir
57	Qarala	Jaab	Bethlehem
58	Ritter	Eberhard	Xanten
59	Richter	Joachim	Wittenberg
60	Salah	Khaled	Al Doha
61	Salman	Nael	Beit Jala
62	Schöning	Petra	Service Agency Communities in One World
63	Schröter	Albrecht	Jena
64	Schürgers	Norbert	Nuremberg
65	Seifert	Bernd	Cologne
66	Shakaa	Ghassan	Nablus
67	Shami	Mai	Battir
68	Sim'an	Nadim	Beit Jala
69	Wahdan	Abdel-Aziz	Tayasier
70	Wolf	Frieder	Cologne
71	Zawara	Mohammad	
72	Ziepert	Friedemann	Jena

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