The Palestinian Territories (PTs), consisting of the West Bank and Gaza, is one of the poorest regions in the Middle East. Australia’s development cooperation is a tangible demonstration of our longstanding support for the Middle East peace process.

Strategic direction
Australia has a long history of supporting Palestinians. Our development cooperation focuses on inclusive economic growth and basic services for refugees in the PTs and the region. Our Aid Investment Plan aligns with the Palestinian Authority’s (PA) National Policy Agenda. Our work in the agriculture sector contributes towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), particularly achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Key features of Australia’s development cooperation in the PTs include:
- the Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement Phase 3 (AMENCA 3) to improve the competitiveness of the agriculture sector through Australian and local NGOs;
- funding for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the PTs to support humanitarian needs; and
- support to the UN’s Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to assist Palestinian refugees access quality basic services in the PTs and across the region.

In 2018-19, Australia plans to provide ten Australia Awards scholarships to students from the PTs.

Program highlights
- Australian funding to UNRWA contributed to universal primary education for 526,000 Palestinian refugee students (half girls) and humanitarian assistance to more than 1.4 million Palestinian refugees in the 2017-2018 school year.
- Since 2016, more than 7,000 women reported economic empowerment and equitable roles in the agriculture sector, and more than 23,000 farmers have reported increased incomes with support from AMENCA 3.
- Australia has provided scholarships for 78 students (including 22 women) since 2012, which has helped build public sector management skills within the PA.

For more detail:
- Australia’s Aid Investment Plan for the Palestinian Territories 2015-19