Context and Challenge

Demographic changes and the Syrian refugee crisis are placing increased pressure on the environment. The deterioration of environmental quality in the Southern West Bank is alarming, partly due to pollution caused by random dumpsites. Such uncontrolled, unmonitored landfills create a serious public health and environmental hazard. In particular, the Yatta dumpsite has been used over the past 20 years. It presents an array of environmental, social and medical problems, namely: the dumpsite is open, counts large number of waste pickers, including children and students. Furthermore, it lacks any means of protection for the waste pickers, who also lack the awareness of the health risks that this occupation involves.
The key objectives of the Project are to:

- Improve Solid Waste Management in Hebron and Bethlehem governorates;
- Reduce the risks of environmental pollution, especially the contamination of water resources;
- Achieve the envisaged social benefits and public health improvements;
- Improve air quality by minimizing the emissions from the random dumpsites and landfills (notably from burning waste).

### Actions and Outcomes

- Before the start of the project, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was carried out by a joint venture between local and international reputable consultants in order to assess the involvement of waste pickers in the dismantling of the Yatta dumpling site and to establish adequate compensation for them, while redirecting them toward different work opportunities.

- Establishment of a new waste sorting and recycling center and organization of a waste sorting encouragement initiative comprehending a waste recycling exhibition;
- Alternative work opportunities found for former waste pickers and Yatta’s herdsmen after the dismantling of the Yatta dumpsite (e.g.: small enterprises, projects for farmers);
- Working conditions have been improved through suitable work wear and safety equipment, medical inspections and vaccinations;

### Outcomes:

- **Improved governance**: public health measures have been improved through the establishment of medical education days, inspections and vaccinations, and the provision of first aid facilities.

- **Sustained local livelihoods**: the project has helped former waste pickers of the Yatta’s dumpsite finding alternatives jobs, allowing them to continue supporting their families adequately.

- **Improved environmental responsibility**: the project comprised activities to sensitize target populations on environmental issues, such as recycling and health measures for waste pickers. It has also reduced the risks of environmental pollution.
Lessons Learned and Follow up

Challenges and risks
The political uncertainty in the Palestinian Territories always poses high risks for sustainability. The dependency on donor funding, which is gradually reducing, and the limited private sector growth create high risks on employment and poverty. As a result the ability of people to pay for services and consequently the ability of municipalities to maintain the build infrastructure and the delivery of acceptable solid waste collection and disposal services are at risk.

Key Ingredients of success:
- Strong Client’s leadership and close and effective support from the WB and donor community in a “fragile state”;
- Converting social and environmental safeguard requirements from binding constraints to a positive opportunity for social inclusion and economic development;
- Promoting more efficient use of the new sanitary landfill through recycling, composting, and exploiting economic/commercial opportunities through effective use of pilots;
- Building and maintaining an effective and highly supportive donor coalition, that can help ensure sustainability;
- Building and strengthening local institutions that will help ensure the sustainability of the project;
- Attracting the international private sector to participate in the management of the new waste management infrastructure and assets;
- Promoting public awareness through programs of information, participation, and complaints redress using popular information technology and social media such as Facebook, as well as visits to schools, and local workshops and seminars;
- Attracting qualified young graduates, including young women, to join in the development and management of the SWM sector.

Innovative aspects
This project featured many innovations that were led by the JSC-H&B. This includes the best practice of handling the aspects related to vulnerable people’s livelihoods, the engagement with the private sector under such challenging environment, investing in waste recovery in terms of waste separation, composting and recycling of plastic and paper and cardboard, etc. Lessons from this project have already been incorporated in the design of the World Bank’s financed Gaza Solid Waste Management Project which is currently under implementation. Lessons are also being shared globally with other World Bank teams working on Solid Waste Management.
Recommendations for scaling up on replication

In order to scale up the program, it would be possible to venture into a new level of involvement that would include benefiting from the landfill gas to generate electricity, benefiting from the largest landfill site that was rehabilitated and closed towards installing solar panels that could generate electricity to local communities as well as the possibility of supplying a small scale industrial estate that could generate much needed jobs to the poorest communities in the Southern West Bank.

Technical Arrangements

Collaborations:
✓ Landowners of the landfill site or the lands in proximity and of the random dumpsites in Bethlehem and Hebron;
✓ Dutch DHV Consultants BV company and Palestinian Hydrology Group (for the Design and ESIA);
✓ The World Bank;
✓ Involvement of waste pickers working at the Yatta dumpsite comprised a Local Committee.

Resources:
✓ Funding amount: USD 37.5 million
✓ Human resources: World Bank and Donors staff, JSC-H&B staff, municipal staff, consultants, contractors, private sector operator, and NGOs staff.
✓ Sources of funding: The World Bank, Bank administered Global Partnership for Out-Put-Based Aide (GPOBA), IFC, European Union, USAID, Italy, IsDB, UNDP, and other international funders.