

Office energy storage palestine

Securing access to affordable, secure, and sustainable energy in the West Bank and Gaza is central to improving the lives of Palestinians and supporting economic growth. The OQ works with the parties, the international community, and the private sector to advance the energy sector in line with the goals of the Palestinian Authority and toward the United Nations Sustainable development goals. Work is conducted across the sector with a focus on the Gas for Gaza (G4G) project, renewable energy, and electricity infrastructure.

Continued investment in domestic generation and diversifying energy imports is essential. This includes replacing diesel with natural gas as a transition toward a cleaner energy mix, including solar photovoltaic energy (PV). This will help reduce the sector's carbon intensity and energy costs while helping address climate change and improving the financial sustainability of the sector. Given the current sector dynamics, Palestinians face some of the highest electricity costs in the region.

As the cheapest bulk energy supply to Gaza, natural gas will enable electricity generation at less than one-third the cost of current retail rates, thus improving the financial viability of Gaza's energy sector. In addition, transitioning to natural gas will reduce Palestinian carbon emissions by 6% which will help contribute to regional efforts to help mitigate climate change.

The OQ also supports the development of the Gaza Marine gas field. Once developed, the Gaza Marine gas field will significantly enhance Palestinian energy independence and improve its fiscal position by generating revenues in excess of 5 billion USD over the gas field's lifetime.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) energy is the core of the OQ's renewable energy workstream. It can supplement the base electricity supply and improve the sustainability of the Palestinian energy sector. As a clean energy source, solar PV can help the Palestinian Authority (PA) meet its international climate obligations, including emissions goals set under the 2014 Paris Agreement. It can also support the financial sustainability of the sector by reducing the average electricity costs.

In the West Bank, the OQ is working closely with the PA and in coordination with the GoI to advance Palestinian renewable energy, notably in Area C. This will directly support the PA's vision of achieving 630 MW of solar PV in the West Bank and 70 MW in Gaza while also improving the PA's fiscal situation through reduced net lending and lower cost energy access.

In Gaza, the OQ supported the PA in 2023 by identifying the grid's capacity to absorb renewable energy and defining how to incorporate more utility-scale solar PV projects. This followed a pre-feasibility study previously completed by the OQ in support of the PA that enabled partner organizations to implement a solar PV site at the Khan Younis Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The OQ supports efforts to advance the electricity grid in Gaza and the West Bank to help improve electricity imports from various sources (e.g. Israel, Egyptian, and Jordan) as well as improve transmission and distribution within the territory. Importing high voltage electricity at competitive tariffs from Israel, Egypt, and Jordan can reduce energy deficits, reduce net lending, and improve the supply diversification. Improving the existing power purchase agreements and fully energizing the West Bank substations can also yield several benefits for both parties.

Meeting the energy needs of all Palestinians will require a diverse set of energy supplies into both Gaza and the West Bank. Below are possible scenarios for both Gaza and the West Bank that consider the growing energy demand and various initiatives which are under development.

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the effects of rising temperatures and water scarcity continue to grow. The PA's 2021 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) affirm the PA's commitment to participating in the global effort to limit carbon emissions. It also acknowledges that Palestinian annual emissions are 0.9 tCO₂ per capita, compared to a global average of 4.8 tCO₂ per capita.

For the energy sector, the 2021 NDCs targets include upgrading the Palestinian electricity grid to enable more renewable energy by 2030, with 20-33% of electricity being generated from renewable energy by 2040. It also includes improving energy efficiency by 20% across all sectors by 2035, reducing electricity imports and promoting green buildings as an energy efficiency measure.

The OQ remains committed to supporting the PA to reach its NDC targets. The initiatives above support decarbonization through lower carbon fuels, a more robust grid, and more renewable energy.

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