

**NATIONAL LAND COALITION of PALESTINE**

**NLC STRATEGIC APPROACHES**

**July 2024**

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## Abbreviations

ILC	International Land Coalition
NLC	National Land Coalition
AAA	Arab Agronomists Association
PFU	Palestinian farmers Union
ACAD	Arab center for agricultural development
PARC	Agriculture Development Association
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEPA	Centre for Environmental Policy Advocacy
DLN	District Land Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

# NLC Palestine Strategic approaches

## Context

In Palestine, land is not only a natural resource and a foundation for livelihoods – it is central to identity and self-determination. Yet decades of occupation, settlement expansion and land confiscation have left Palestinians with diminishing control over their territories and natural resources. The West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem – together comprising the Palestinian territories – have been fragmented by a network of Israeli settlements, bypass roads and military zones. Nearly one-third of the West Bank is now under Israeli settler infrastructure, with over 200 settlements, 170 post settlements and around one 800 thousand settlers present.

Under the Oslo Accords, the West Bank was divided into Areas A, B, and C. Area C, which constitutes over 60% of the West Bank and contains the majority of its agricultural land and water sources, is affected by Israeli control. Palestinians face severe restrictions in accessing and cultivating this land: groundwater reserves in Area C are largely reserved for settlements, while only a fraction of arable land is currently usable by Palestinian farmers.

This has had a devastating effect on land management, land governance and agriculture sector, which once accounted for over 50% of GDP but now contributes only 7%. Farmers are unable to access or invest in their land, leading to rising poverty, food insecurity, and high unemployment – especially among youth and women. The lack of access to land and natural resources is both a development barrier and a human rights concern, threatening Palestinians' ability to sustain their livelihoods and communities.

In response, civil-society organisations across Palestine have mobilised to support affected communities, defend land rights and challenge systems of exclusion. Yet the scale and complexity of the crisis require coordinated, inclusive and sustained action. The **Palestinian National Land Coalition** – a multi-stakeholder platform led by civil-society organisations affiliated to the **International Land Coalition (ILC)** – aims to advance people-centred land governance rooted in human rights and dialogue between civil society and public institutions, while referencing internationally-recognised goals and frameworks on poverty, hunger, climate action and gender equality.

## Network

The Palestinian National Land Coalition, through both its most immediate network and the relationships with other partners, is capable of bringing together a variety of perspectives and scales into its actions.

It is supported by the ILC, and it is now composed of five local civil-society members: Arab Agronomists Association (AAA), Arab Centre for Agricultural Development (ACAD), Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC), Palestinian Farmers' Union (PFU), Voluntary Initiative for the Preservation of Traditional Agriculture (SHARAKA). These organisations are well-rooted in

the territories; thus, they carry a wealth of connections that allows the National Land Coalition to reach extensively throughout the landscape.

The platform can also count on a wider network, comprising for instance regional organisations that work in Palestine (such as the Arab group for the Protection of Nature – APN) and, potentially, international and multilateral members of the ILC with their own national programmes and projects.

## Theory of change

**Goal:** Palestinian people enjoy security of land rights, access and use, in order to build a peaceful society.

The goal emphasises that, while achieving peace as such is not in the capabilities of the National Land Coalition, secure and just land rights are nevertheless a component of peaceful societies.

The National Land Coalition will work towards the goal by adopting three thematic lenses: **(1)** human rights “land and natural resources access and use”, **(2)** livelihood, food security and sustainable food system, and **(3)** democratic participation “policies, awareness and advocacy”.

In combination, these Strategic Objectives approach land rights from different angles, trying to capture their multidimensional nature and to influence their state and implementation through different channels. In particular and as illustrated below, each Strategic Objective is supported by areas of action that are designed to be complementary to each other.

### *Objective 1: A human-rights-based approach to land issues is realised in Palestine.*

**Action Area 1.1:** Participate in land and natural resources **data and monitoring** initiatives to act as an observatory on the state of policies/standards, and their implementation, on land and natural resources issues and the related human-rights dimensions that they affect.

**Action Area 1.2:** Identify and participate in **advocacy spaces** where human rights can be championed as a catalyst for land and natural resources rights.

The Actions Areas under Objective 1 are complementary because they combine a monitoring component with a more proactive approach, aiming to create a reinforcing feedback loop based on which these two lines of work inform each other.

### *Objective 2: Palestinians count on secure and sustain access to land for livelihood, food security and sustainable food system.*

**Action Area 2.1:** Provide **immediate support** to people who face land displacement (Legal, emergency aid, livelihood packages, etc ...).

**Action Area 2.2:** Leverage **development issues** (e.g. economic empowerment, sustainable agriculture and food system, climate change adaptation actions, land and agricultural water management and use, rural youth capacity-building, women’s land rights) to catalyse support from a diverse range of stakeholders.

The Actions Areas under Objective 2 are complementary as they tackle distinct but equally important time horizons: support to people affected by displacement addresses immediate needs, while the focus on development matters strives to ensure that living on and from land remains a viable option for the long-term future.

***Objective 3:** The National Land Coalition becomes a recognised and sustainable platform for government – civil society dialogue on land issues, opening up spaces for democratic participation<sup>1</sup> on the topic.*

**Action Area 3.1:** Strengthen relationships with **local and central authorities**, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Palestinian Land Authority and local authorities.

**Action Area 3.2:** Build **civil-society engagement**, especially through local consultations across the various Governorates.

**Action Area 3.3:** Engage with **international donors and agencies** both in the sustainability/land space, and in the civil-society empowerment space.

The Action Areas under Objective 3 are complementary on two different levels: in terms of constituencies, Action Area 3.1 targets public institutions while Action Area 3.2 targets civil society, thus ensuring that overall the National Land Coalition is able to bring at the same table the different types of actors that are needed for a truly participatory dialogue; in terms of scale, Action Areas 3.1 and 3.2 focus on domestic actors while Action Area 3.3 keeps a space open for international commitments.

## Governance

The National Land Coalition will be led by a Steering Committee, currently consisting of the following organisations: [AAA, ACAD, PFU and PARC]. The National Land Coalition's Secretariat is hosted by AAA. The governance and operations of the platform are supported by a National Land Coalition's Facilitator, recruited by the host.

The Steering Committee meets quarterly and when needed with the Secretariat to review quarterly financial reports and advancement of work plans. It will also meet according to needs and in urgent cases. The duties of the Steering Committee are:

- Guiding the Secretariat on the operationalization of the platform's work plan.
- Assessing the performance of the Secretariat and the host organisation, including the platform's Facilitator.
- Providing oversight for monitoring and implementation of the work plan.
- Recommending replication of best practices.
- Approving work plans, budgets, progress and monitoring reports.
- Representing the platform on emerging issues.
- Assisting in resource mobilization.

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<sup>1</sup> Not to be confused with democracy as a form of government, which sits beyond the scope of the National Land Coalition.

- Providing strategic direction and development of guidelines.

The Secretariat runs the day-to-day platform functioning with the financial and administrative assistance of the host organization, and reports to the platform's Steering Committee. The Secretariat is responsible for the formulation of work plans and budget, for implementation of activities, for organising governance meetings, for maintaining a Monitoring & Evaluation system and for maintaining strategic relationships on behalf of the platform.

## Stakeholder mapping

The current organisations making up the membership of the National Land Coalition have already been able to establish significant connections with various stakeholders, while others can be engaged in the upcoming phases. These encompass other national civil-society organisations, governmental authorities, international and multilateral agencies, private actors and other strategic partners.

**National civil-society organisations:** LRC, JLAC, NRC, ARIJ.

**Governmental authorities:** Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Local Authorities, Palestinian Land Authority, Land and Water Settlement Commission, Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission, Ministry of environment.

**International/multilateral ILC members:** World Bank, IFAD, FAO, Oxfam, GLTN, We Effect, UN Women, GEF/UNDP.

**Other potential strategic partners:** Governmental agencies of specific countries (The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, EU, Spain, Italy), Norwegian People's Aid, UN-Habitat.

## Resource mobilisation approach

The National Land Coalition of Palestine will adopt a **strategic, multi-tiered approach** to resource mobilization, ensuring the long-term sustainability of its work and the achievement of its goals. The approach focuses on building trust-based partnerships, aligning with donor priorities, and diversifying funding sources.

### 1- Strategic Engagement with Donors and Development Partners

- Proactively engage with international donors, bilateral aid agencies, UN bodies, FAO, IFAD, ILC and development banks aligned with land rights and land development “supporting and encouraging women to access to finance to invest in their lands”, human rights, sustainable development, and civil society empowerment.
- Continuous communication with funders and partners through the implementation of research studies in the field of land rights and land development, publishing quarterly newspaper about the network's activities and achievements, and submitting proposals to partners and funders to achieve the network's goals.

- Present evidence-based proposals and success stories highlighting the Coalition's impact and alignment with global frameworks (e.g. SDGs, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure).

## **2- Diversification of Funding Sources**

- Tap into diverse funding streams, including:
  - International development grants.
  - Regional philanthropic foundations and NGOs.
  - Government funding from allied countries.
  - (International Social banks) initiatives aligned with sustainability and human rights.
  - Finding core fund for coming years for NLC hub to enable its team and organizations to work together based on its strategy and to secure more funding and to effeminate more in Palestine society

## **3- Strengthening Internal Capacities**

- Develop the Secretariat's capacity in proposal writing, donor reporting, financial accountability, and communications to maintain donor confidence and meet international standards.
- Establish a centralized database of potential donors, application cycles, and proposal tracking in cooperation with ILC.
- WORKING on creating sustainable hub for NLC in Palestine in cooperation with ILC

## **4- Coalition-Based Fundraising**

- Leverage the collective strength of Coalition members to submit joint funding proposals.
- Promote synergy between member organizations to co-implement projects, share resources, and avoid duplication.
- Collect information by NLC organization in aspect of governance, women land rights and youth land rights --etc

## **5-Visibility and Communication**

- Enhance the Coalition's visibility through storytelling, impact documentation, and digital platforms.
- Regularly share reports, success stories, and testimonials to build credibility and attract interest.

## **6- Sustainability-Oriented Resource Use**

- Ensure that resources are mobilized are strategically allocated to high-impact, scalable, and community-driven interventions.
- Prioritize co-financing, in-kind support, and cost-sharing models to maximize reach.

## Core Values

The following values are essential for NLC Palestine:

1. Politically impartial and non-discriminatory (race, religion, gender)
2. Non-violent defense of the rights and interests of Palestinians.
3. Democratic, transparency practices and respect of law.
4. Adopting a proactive approach towards social inclusion.

## Security Methodology.

### Assumptions underlying the strategic approaches:

- Palestinians in marginalized areas are not furtherly dispossessed of their political status and eviction campaigns are not indiscriminately carried through.
- The needed institutional endorsement from the Palestinian Authorities (MOLG, MoA, MoSD, Mo Economy ...etc) is provided to create a conducive environment for the sustainability of the NLC strategics approaches achievements.
- Active involvement of NLC Palestine team.
- Local councils and local civil society organisations are fully integrated in the action and willing to actively engage.
- Activities can be implemented in a safe environment

### Risks

- Political situation in Palestine, roads closures and interdiction of movement between the different areas in Palestine were existing a concentration of radical settlements and settlers.
- Conflicts among the communities' members lead to field coordination with NLC. To prevent conflicts, the NLC will valorize the role of community leaders in the selection of the areas and assure the transparency of the decision as well as the accountability of the involved actors.

The table below presents the potential risks identified by the NLC working team. The estimation of the probability of occurrence and its impact, as well as proposed mitigation strategies.

**Table of risk map**

Risks	Risk level (H, M, L)	Likelihood	Risk Mitigation measure
Israeli's military restrictions do not allow free travel to the	M	Low	Flexibility during actions implementation and resume to

targeted marginalize villages.			contingency plan actions, based on continuity business measures.
Unstable security situation in Palestine	High	High	NLC members already have their staff in all the Palestinians governorates, and they can move easily to the targeted locations to cover the actions with less risks.
Low level of participation among NLC stakeholders and partners	Low	Low	Identification of key persons willing to cooperate in adopting mobilization and communication strategies
Absence of reliable quality data	Medium	Medium	Complement a triangulation with various data sources.
Actions time may not match with the socio-political situation time to carry out the work.	Medium	Low	Preliminary agreement on a feasible timeline and involvement of consultation stakeholders and partners at early stage

**End**