

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



THE PALESTINIAN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AGENCY/PICA

A young boy is smiling broadly, looking towards the camera. He is holding a clear glass jar with both hands. He is shirtless. Behind him, a person wearing military-style camouflage pants and a blue shirt is partially visible. The background is a light-colored wall with a grid pattern. The entire image has a blue tint.

**FROM A RECIPIENT COUNTRY TO
A PLATFORM FOR STRATEGIC
GROWTH**



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AFTERWORD



“ Within solidarity through development and partnerships framework, we will continue to work towards realizing UN 2030 agenda and its SDGs and to promote South-South, North-South and Triangular cooperation.”

H.E President Mahmoud Abbas
32nd African Union Summit, Addis Ababa.

foreword

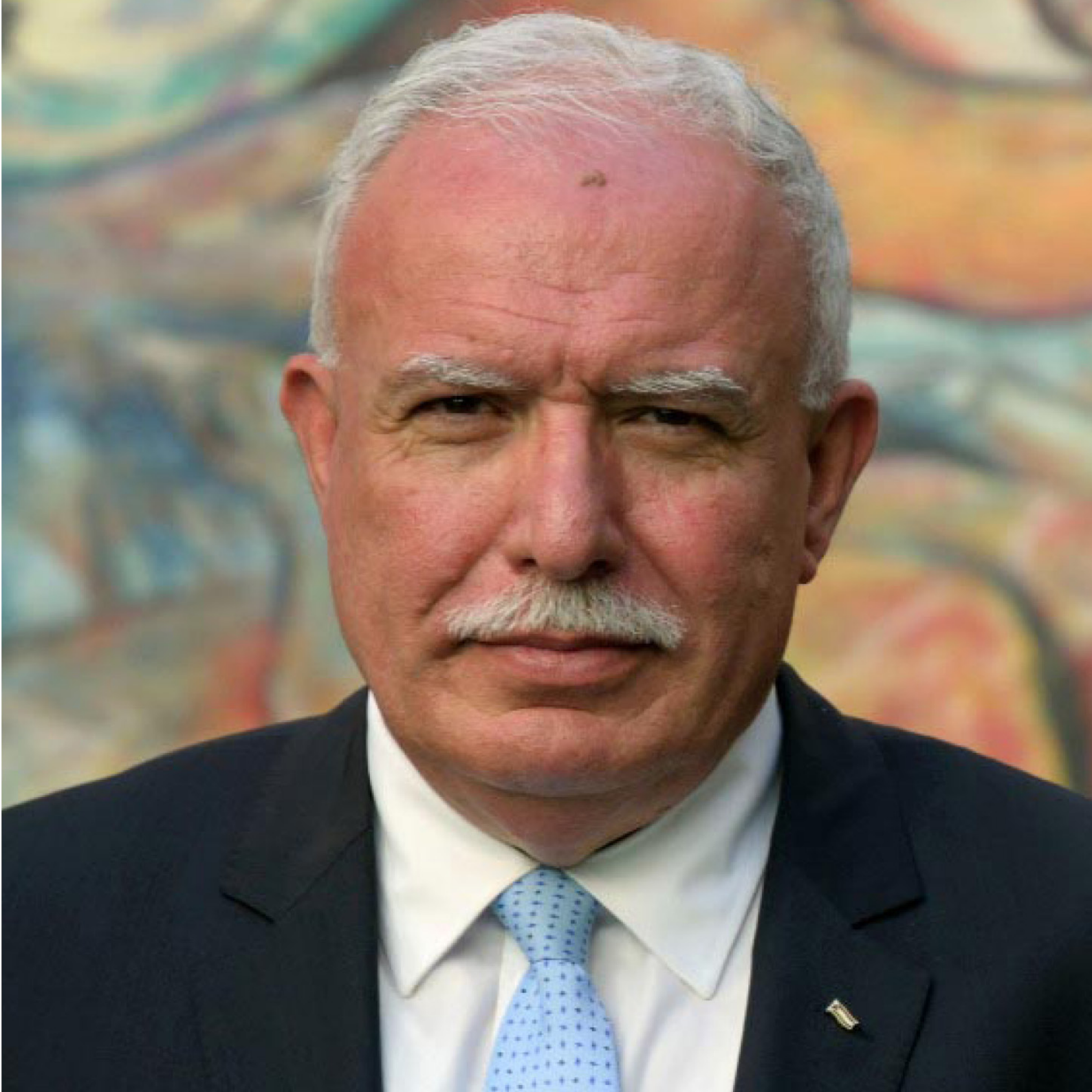
Since its establishment in 2016, the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) has served as a public diplomacy tool adjunct to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, guided by the principle of “solidarity through development for a more resilient world”. Thus, PICA fulfills its main objective of providing development assistance, technical and knowhow support to different countries worldwide. Precisely, PICA seeks to mobilize its skilled human resources to provide technical assistance to support partner countries in responding to crises and tackling development challenges, aiming at promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation while realizing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Palestine has placed itself on the world map not only from a political perspective, but also as a country that adopts development agenda and policies based on the idea of solidarity through development. We are proud to reiterate the readiness of the Palestinian diplomacy with all its arms and national institutions to effectively promote SDGs and UN 2030 agenda. PICA represents a reflection of the Palestinian people’s responsibility and human values and virtues. This responsibility stems from our deep belief in expressing gratitude and appreciation for the support provided by the international community to the State of Palestine over the years.

Through providing technical and humanitarian assistance and mobilizing Palestinian expertise and knowledge in different areas of comparative advantage, PICA contributes to enhancing solidarity with Palestine and builds bridges with countries of the world. PICA uses the Palestinian knowhow skills from inside the occupied territories of the State of Palestine and the diaspora to promote SDGs at national, regional and international levels. Thus, South-South and Triangular Cooperation is complementary rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation, which continues to be one main channel for international development cooperation.

We firmly believe that South-South cooperation offers opportunities and supports our efforts to promote international cooperation to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan. PICA is the voice of friendship, solidarity and human values, reflecting our long-term commitment to the promotion of a more just and equitable world, aiming at creating bridges, fusing channels and bringing hearts closer, leaving no one behind.

H.E. Dr. Riad Malki
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates
Chairman of the board





Preface

This report presents a synopsis of PICA main achievements in the year of 2019. During the past few years, PICA has endeavored to convey messages to the rest of the world, expressing Palestine's ability as emerging country to provide assistance to countries and peoples in need. With the blessings of H.E President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, the establishment of PICA inaugurates a new chapter of contemporary Palestinian history filled with hope and giving. This is evident through the implementation of national policies in the field of international cooperation, sustainable development, and sharpening the Palestinian expertise inside the Palestinian territories and in the diaspora, representing Palestinian people internationally.

Despite considerable challenges, PICA has reflected the Palestinian development strategy through international actions in a large number of countries and provided assistance as much as possible. This vision is an implementation of H.E President Mahmoud Abbas' instructions to show solidarity and provide assistance within available resources. Under the guidance of the Palestinian leadership and in accordance with the Palestinian vision, PICA sheds light on Palestine from a different perspective in order to complete the integrated national strategy of the Palestinian institutions, including the Ministry of Education, Health, Agriculture, Economy, Culture, Information, Technology and others.

In addition, PICA aims at reflecting the principle of investing in the cadres and institutions of the State of Palestine despite all challenges and obstacles. In line with our current and future vision, we signed and developed long-term strategic agreements and partnerships with international, regional and local institutions, in addition to expanding PICA staff and integrating young Palestinian expertise of different disciplines to achieve PICA vision and objectives. Palestine is not a donor country in the traditional sense and it is difficult at the present time to be so as a result of decades of occupation and deprivation in various fields of development on a deliberate basis. Therefore, PICA seeks to enhance social and international development through the exchange of expertise, using Palestinian knowhow skills in multiple sectors and engaging in a dynamic exchange of good practices rather than a traditional donor-recipient relationship.

Mr. Imad Al-Zuhairi
PICA Director General

ABOUT US





The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), established by a Presidential decree by President Mahmoud Abbas on January 2016, is the main public diplomacy tool of the State of Palestine, and the national coordinator for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). PICA transfers Palestinian knowhow to countries of the South, in the form of development and technical assistance. Its creation is guided by a national responsibility towards the international community and is an expression of gratitude and appreciation for the support given to the State of Palestine over the years.

Importantly, PICA maximizes knowledge sharing, enriches development cooperation, contributes to international development process of the South and enhances the role of Palestine as an agent of positive change in the world. Palestine is honored to capitalize on its contributions to the international efforts in the field of development and humanitarian cooperation, aiming to participate in realizing UN 2030 agenda and its SDGs.

OUR VISION & MISSION



OUR VISION

We aspire to contribute to a resilient world united by solidarity through development by forging a new humanitarian-development partnership between the State of Palestine and other developing countries, anchored in sharing and co-creating proven solutions for building resilience.

OUR MISSION

We deliver proven humanitarian and development solutions to other developing countries and promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the process of making substantial contributions to humanitarian relief, sharing good practices and promoting SSTC.

PICA plays a vital role in exercising solidarity on international level by executing bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral cooperation initiatives leading to improved living standards and strengthening resilience across the world. Thus, PICA contributes directly to advancing 2030 agenda and its SDGs, in cooperation with local, regional and international partners.



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?



WE PROMOTE PALESTINAIN IDENTITY

PICA promotes Palestinian identity internationally, and provides a new plan based on sharing expertise through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

WE MERELY DEPEND ON PALESTINIAN EXPERTISE

We were established based on a Palestinian desire to harness human and institutional resources and expertise to provide technical support and solidarity for international development cooperation. Thus, we deploy qualified Palestinian experts to provide technical support and contribute to international development cooperation and assistance programs.

WE AIM TO BRING 2030 AGENDA TO LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

PICA has developed a framework of international cooperation for development by implementing cooperation programs in line with SSTC principles and the UN 2030 agenda. All PICA working areas aim to contribute to the global development agenda, each field aims at accomplishing a specific SDG.



🌐 WE HAVE A CULTURE OF ADAPTABILITY

The resilience of Palestine, and Palestinian technical experts, is unparalleled. Irrespective of the thematic/sectoral profession, the realities of the operating environment in Palestine leads to the ability to work anywhere. PICA draws from a national resource pool of people who are not only used to, but also have turned the necessity of being able to deliver anywhere into a science and an art that is refined not only during missions but also at home between missions.

🌐 WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIPS

We blend Palestinian experts from renowned academic institutions, associations, unions, NGOs and public and private sectors, allowing a rich exchange and sharing of knowledge in the missions and programs that we implement. Such programs and missions are implemented in full cooperation with our local, regional and international partners.

🌐 WE ARE ACCESSIBLE

As PICA depends in its entirety on a wide range of expertise inside the State of Palestine and in the diaspora, supported by a wide range of partners, we are always accessible and open to all types of partnerships that allow us to promote 2030 agenda and its SDGs.



A group of people in blue scrubs and masks are gathered around a cow in a field, possibly performing a procedure or examination. The scene is outdoors with a wooden fence in the background.

PICA VALUES

Partners

Innova

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PICA PILLARS

01

TECHNICAL
COOPERATION AND
KNOWLEDGE-SHARING



02

RELIEF AND
HUMANITARIAN FAST
RESPONSES



03

PUBLIC-PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIPS AND
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



04

POLICY LEADERSHIP





TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

PICA, as opposed to most development cooperation agencies, relies entirely in its missions, programs and activities on the Palestinian human resources and knowhow skills to provide technical cooperation and share knowledge. Technical cooperation and knowledge sharing include but not limited to the following areas: health, agriculture, energy, statistics, engineering, education, media training and others.

RELIEF AND HUMANITARIAN FAST RESPONSES

Based on PICA vision to engage in post natural disaster response and intervention operations and as part of the international civil protection mechanism, PICA has established Palestine Rapid Response and Rescue team (PRRRT) in 2017. The team is comprised of specialized doctors, rescuers, emergency medical technicians, civil defense members, and humanitarian relief and shelter experts.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PICA seeks to create robust partnerships with the Palestinian private sector (from within the State of Palestine as well as the diaspora communities) in order to initiate and implement strategic projects across different geographical locations and economic industries. These projects aim to improve the well-being and socio-economic conditions in targeted countries - benefiting from a considerable number of signed agreements and cooperation frameworks with local, regional and international partners.

POLICY LEADERSHIP














Based on its own experiences, PICA provides thought leadership in the international development policy arena, contributing in a limited but strategic way to international development policy-making. It mainly contributes with its policy leadership to regional and international development plans as well as promoting resilience and the humanitarian-development nexus and effectiveness – with particular emphasis on SSTC.

WHERE WE SERVED IN 2019



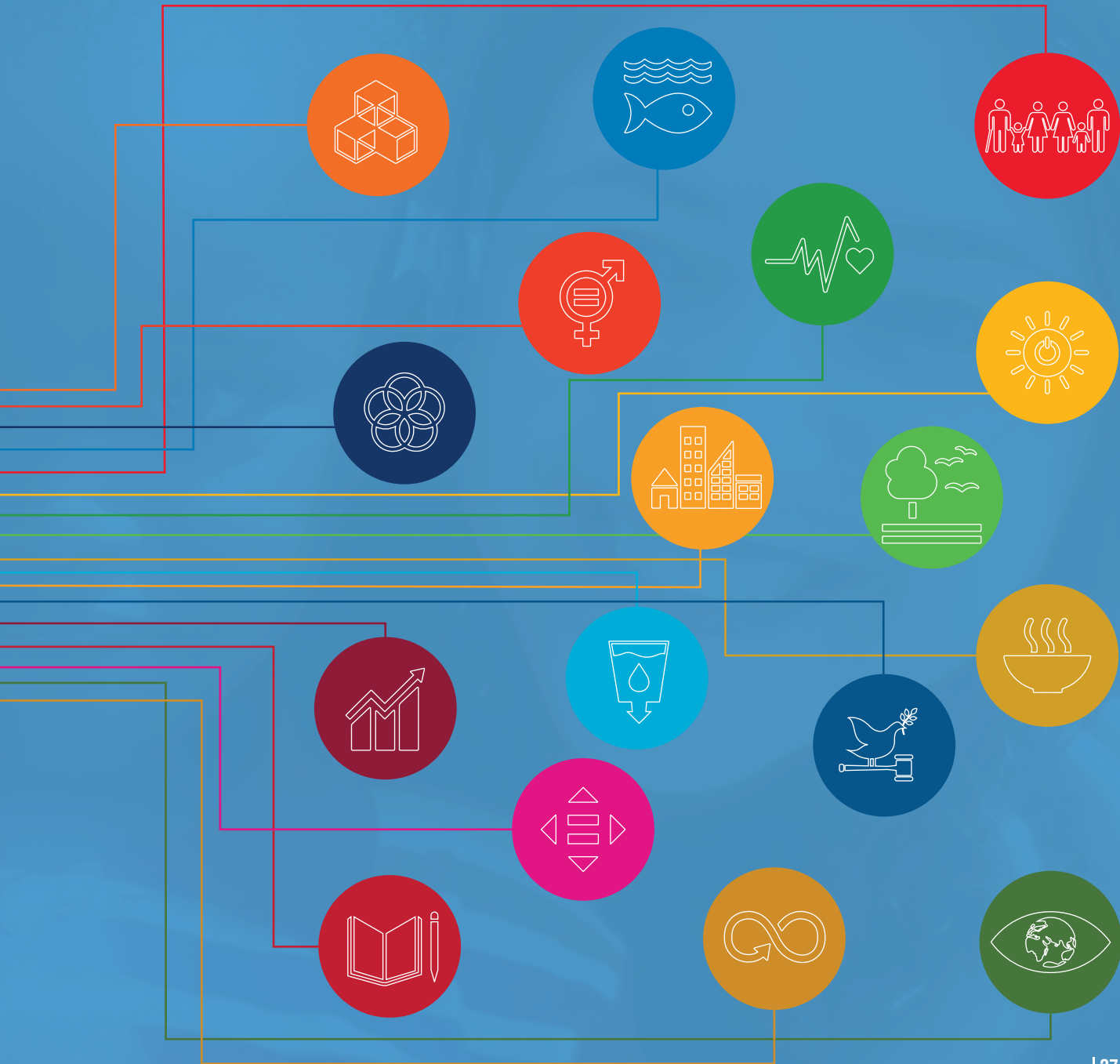


List of countries

-  Bangladesh
-  Botswana
-  COTE D'IVOIRE
-  Kenya
-  Lesotho
-  Mali
-  Mauritania
-  Namibia
-  Nicaragua
-  El Salvador
-  Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines
-  Zimbabwe
-  Chad

2019 MISSIONS





BANGLADESH



This mission aimed at providing development assistance and technical support in the field of Agriculture. A delegation of technical experts in the field of land, soil and plant protection was dispatched to Bangladesh to carry out a program of cooperation.



Life on Land



BOTSWANA



- Providing specialized training in the vascular field including Anatomy of the arterial and venous systems, acute ischemia, arterial hypertrophy, venous thromboembolism and more.
- Providing a specialized training in the emergency field such as Chest, abdomen, head, neck, back, pelvic and limb trauma, and more.
- Providing specialized training in the burn-care field such as treatment and care of basic burns, preliminary examinations, assessment, classification and treatment of burn injuries, and more.

This mission aimed at supporting, enhancing and strengthening the capabilities of Botswana's medical staff in different fields of emergency, trauma and burns, through:

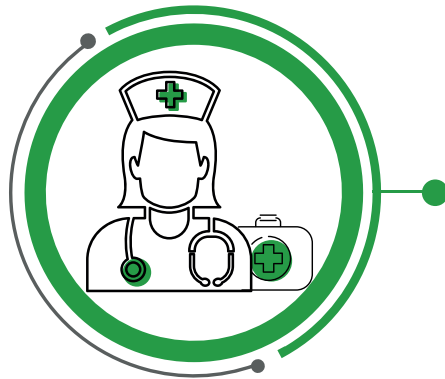


Good Health and Well-Being

Palestinian doctors provided a specialized training in the fields of emergency, vascular and burn care for:



12 DOCTORS



25 NURSES &
MEDICAL
EMERGENCY
TECHNICIANS





COTE D'IVOIRE

This mission aimed at supporting the ongoing efforts of the Ivorian Government to empower radio staff working in rural areas and to improve their skills and knowledge to respond to the challenges they face on a professional level.

During the mission, a capacity-building program in the field of media was provided for 40 employees from different cities in Cote D'Ivoire working with different radio agencies in rural areas.



Quality Education





KENYA

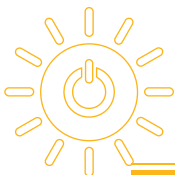
This mission aimed at providing solar energy systems to generate electricity and provide water for more than 350 children and installing solar system for 5 schools.



5 SCHOOLS



350 CHILDREN



Affordable and Clean Energy





LESOTHO



This mission aimed at supporting the ongoing efforts of the Government of Lesotho in empowering their staff in the field of IT to deal with the rising challenges linked to network security and to improve their knowledge on topics such as DNS and 365 exchange.

PICA conducted a capacity-building program that targeted 70 IT specialists in 22 different ministries including staff from the parliament, judiciary system and the police. The participants increased their theoretical and practical knowledge on different techniques linked to network security, DNS and 365 exchange.





This mission aimed at supporting the ongoing efforts of the Malian Government to introduce and enhance the technological functions in the employees' daily work through specialized capacity development programs. This was done through building the capacities of 50 Malian journalists and media professionals and conducting a training program about media in two different schools: ESTM and Ecole Superior de Journalism et des Sciences de la communication. We also provided a two-day social media workshop to 44 office managers and social media experts working for the government, in addition to introducing e-governance to 52 general secretaries and Deputy Minister.



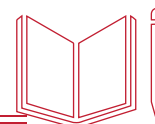
44

OFFICE
MANAGERS
AND SOCIAL
MEDIA
EXPERTS



52

GENERAL
SECRETARIES





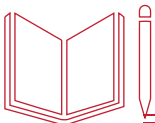
MAURITANIA

This mission aimed at implementing a training course for 40 trainees on business plan contents.



40

TRAINEES



Quality Education





In May 2019, the President of Namibia declared the state of emergency over drought conditions in the country. According to government estimates, around 556,000 people (close to one in five Namibians and almost half of whom are children) were affected by the drought. Following this declaration, PICA planned to deploy water and drought experts to transfer the Palestinian knowledge and expertise to their Namibian counterparts to form a strategy to overcome the current challenges.



Clean Water and Sanitation



NICARAGUA

Through the deployment of the Palestinian human capacities and experts in the field of agriculture, this mission aimed at implementing developmental agenda in the strategic agricultural development programs for the third time in Nicaragua. PICA was able to reach out and train more than 150 agricultural engineers and veterinarians as well as agricultural entrepreneurs.



Life on Land



150

AGRICULTURAL
ENGINEERS

THE 5 TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDED:

- Small scale aquaponic production and silage making (20 participants).
- Home made food manufacturing (50 participants).
- Cultivated under greenhouses and vegetable grafting (30 participants).
- The biosecurity risk analysis and in the laboratory (30 participants).
- Artificial insemination in cattle, sheep and goat (20 participants).





EL SALVADOR

The aim of this mission is to transfer the Palestinian agricultural knowledge and expertise to the Republic of El Salvador through capacity building programs to over 100 veterinarians, agricultural engineers and governmental agricultural officials. The main scope is to provide new agricultural interventions that elevate the qualitative and quantitative agricultural aspects of the El Salvador agricultural sector. PICA was able to reach out and train 100 agricultural engineers and veterinarians as well as agricultural entrepreneurs.





100

AGRICULTURAL
ENGINEERS

THE 5 TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDED:

- Small scale aquaponic production and silage making (10 participants).
- Home made food manufacturing (30 participants).
- Cultivated under greenhouses and vegetable grafting (30 participants).
- The biosecurity risk analysis and in the laboratory (10 participants).
- Artificial insemination in cattle, sheep and goat (20 participants).





SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

This mission aimed at enhancing the medical and agricultural sectors in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Caribbean by transferring Palestinian knowhow, as a contribution to promote the global SDGs.

During the mission, more than 47 surgeries were performed; more than 250 patients were diagnosed and provided with medical treatment. Around 50 patients a day were provided with 225 medicines, that support a safe and effective treatment for the infectious and chronic diseases at the Milton Cato Memorial hospital pharmacy.



Good Health and Well-Being



47

SURGERIES



250

PATIENTS



225

MEDICINES





This mission aimed at providing a capacity-building training that targeted the Zimbabwean broadcasting corporation (ZBC), and was conducted through a six-day specialized course provided by three Palestinian media experts to improve the performance of the editorial and technical aspects of ZBC staff. The training identified the challenges facing the ZBC, and provided a set of in-principle recommendations on TV production and digital media basics starting with newsgathering and news writing fundamentals, and ending up with writing to pictures, production process, and producing a full news bulletin.

The training targeted 114 participants included: senior executives and news editors.



Quality Education





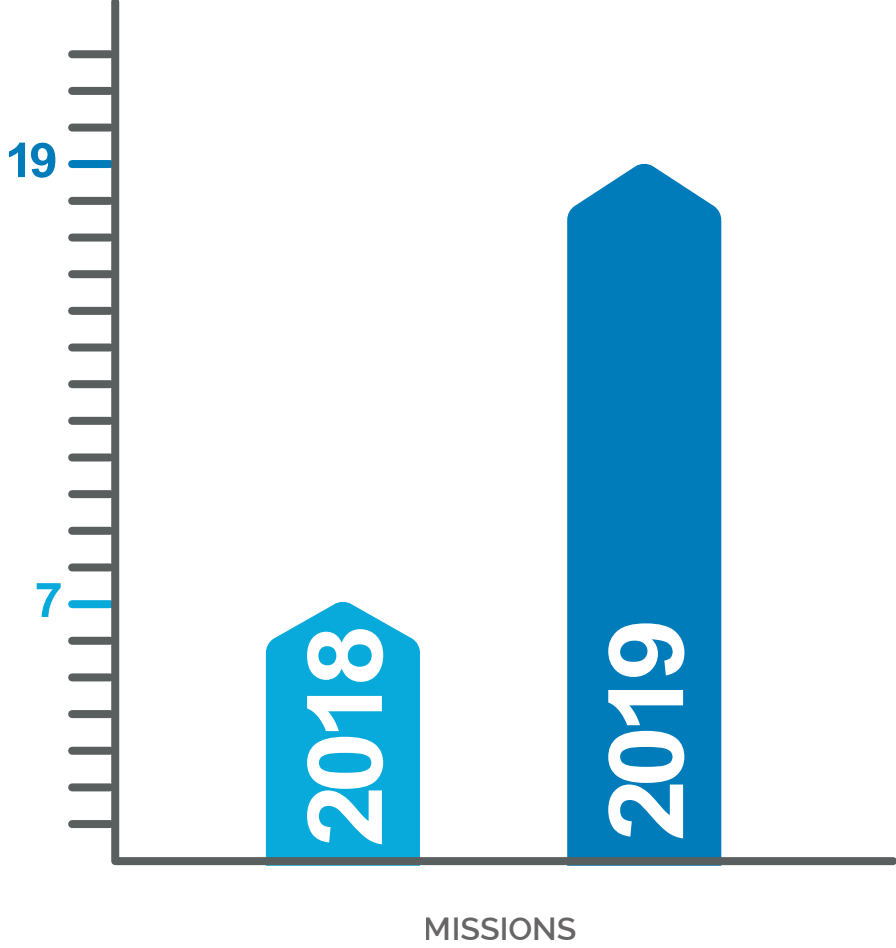
This mission aimed at providing healthcare services free of charge for thousands of people who have vision impairment or poor vision due to cataract in the Islamic world, especially in Africa, in the target countries of the Alliance to Fight Avoidable Blindness.

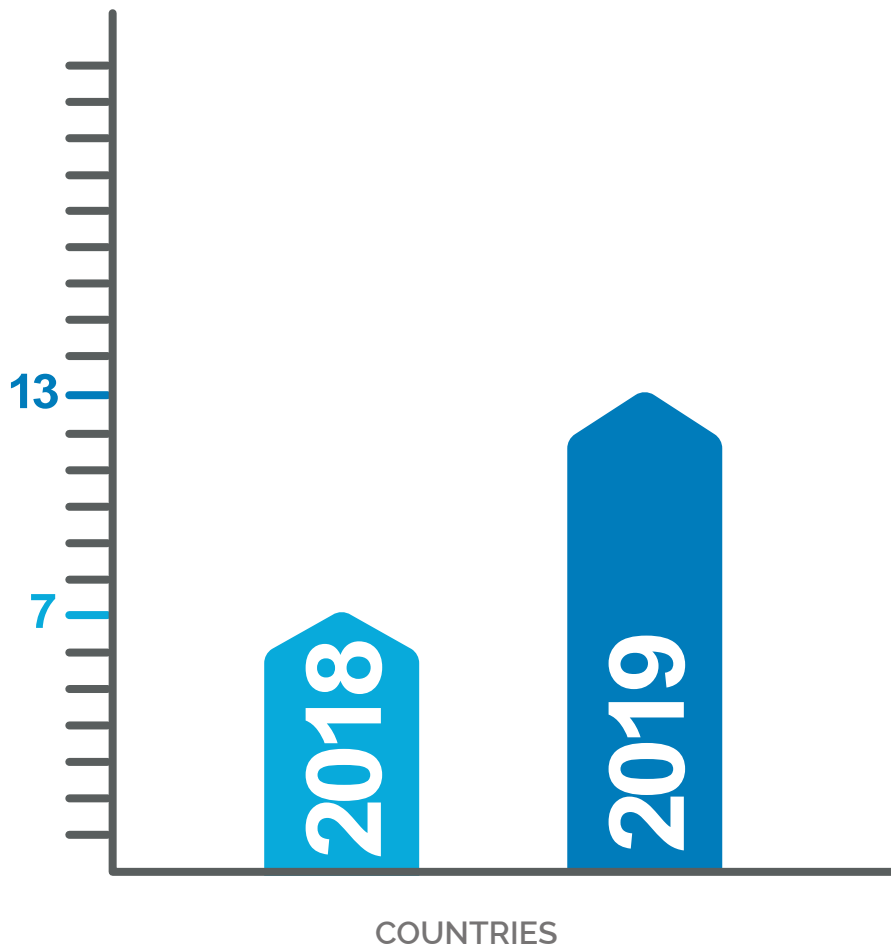
During the mission, 1,016 cataract surgeries were performed, in addition to providing post-surgery treatment eye drops and medical glasses, in full cooperation with Nadi Al-Bassar and ATCT.





PICA MISSIONS IN 2018 VS 2019





WHAT OUR BENEFICIARIES SAY



Chika Makanye

Emergency Medical Nurse/ Botswana

"I am very thankful to have had such an opportunity to be trained on vascular trauma care and emergency field. I have learnt that no matter how hard the injury could be, you always have a chance to rescue a life by making an effort with the right experience.

THANK YOU PALESTINE !"



Sidi Altayyeb Beddi AlMustafa

Chairman of the Mauritanian Students Forum
Abroad/ Mauritania

"In this training presented by PICA, I have learnt the different aspects of entrepreneurship; How to transfer the project from theory to practice. And much more!"



Ricardo Somarriba

Owner of a sheep farm Managua/ Nicaragua

"Sheep sector is still exploited economically in my country. With good knowledge and management of which PICA had offered, it provided us with the correct methods to reach our goals.

And with this cooperation, not only we gained intense knowledge, but also strong friendships."





Khalil Rababaa

Media expert at Wafa News Agency
Participated in a media training mission in Mali

"This mission was an epitome of volunteering, sharing and giving. I extend my sincere thanks to PICA for giving us the confidence in sharing our experiences and strengthening relations with friendly countries by representing our beloved Palestine."

Dr Raed al Saeed

Vascular surgeon at Beit Jala hospital
Participated in medical training mission in Botswana

"Our trip to the Republic of Botswana was wonderful and special, sharing science and medicine with our fellow doctors there proves that Palestinians are distinct wherever they are."



Dr. Tamer Al-Khatib

Energy expert at An-Najah University

Participated in development missions in Mauritania and Kenya

"Through PICA, we have managed to prepared international in-depth studies on the use of solar energy systems to rehabilitate oases, as well as designing and implementing solar energy systems for electricity generation, water pumping and heating in children's schools located in remote and unserved areas. I work with PICA because it managed to put a smile on the faces of thousands of people. they knew Palestine through these missions and appreciated us."



Dr. Suhail Sultan

Media expert at poluytecnic Palestine University

Participated in Social Entrepreneurship Training program in Mauritania

"The Social Entrepreneurship Training Program which was held in Mauritania during August 2019 addressed aspects such as entrepreneurial ideas, idea screening and selection, how to conduct market research and feasibility along the lines of technical/operational and financial elements. These aspects would do well in the effort to create jobs and economically empower Mauritanian youth. The implemented training program, as part of PICA South-South Collaboration, emphasized Palestinian knowledge and expertise which can be made available to other countries and areas."



INTERNATION



AL PARTNERS





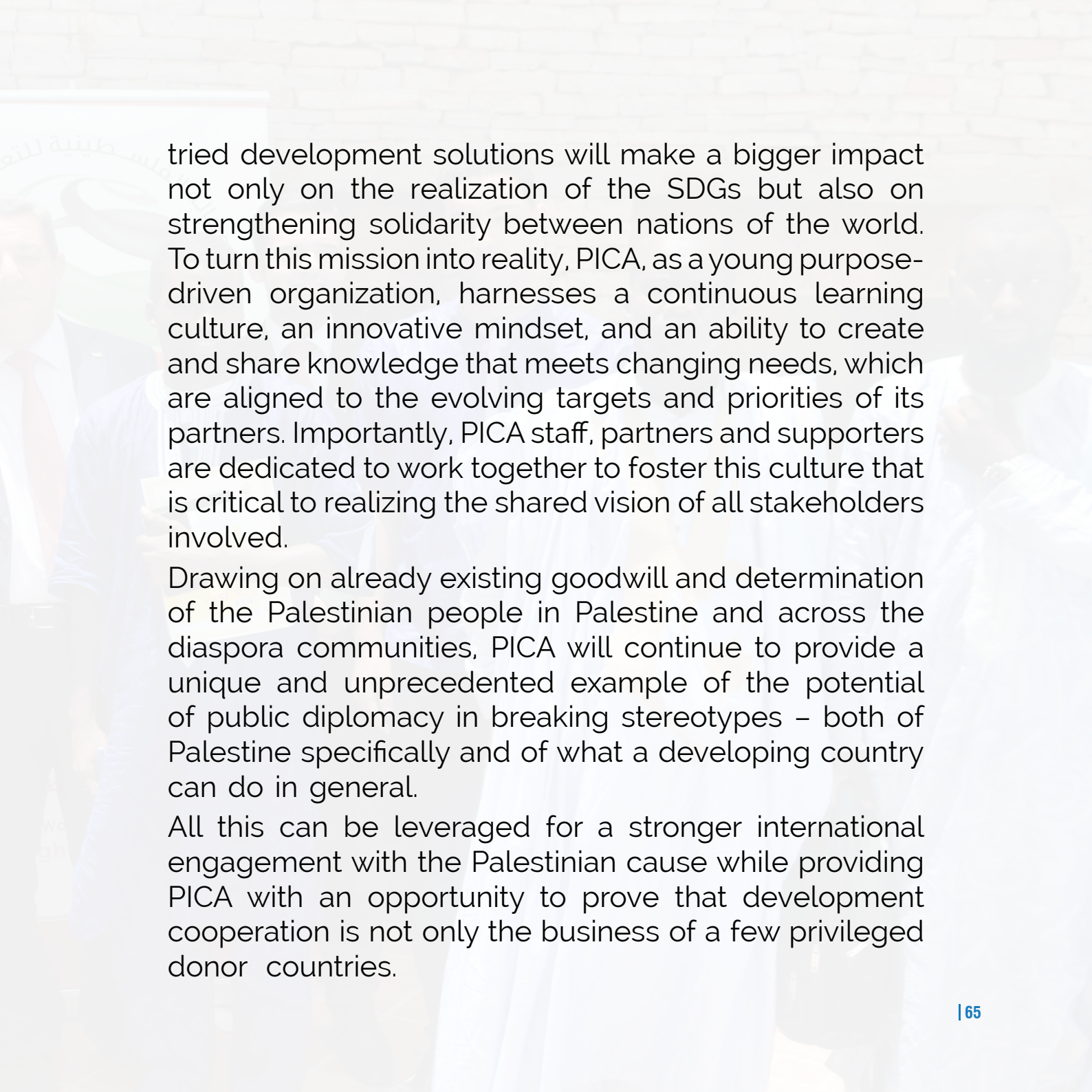
ARTNERS



AFTERWORD

Guided by a vision of “solidarity through development for a more resilient world,” the State of Palestine, through the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) aims to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation while realizing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). PICA works on shaping a partnership-driven approach that focuses both on technical assistance and connecting existing and emerging capacities through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This approach, which integrates partnerships, innovation and knowledge exchange as key pillars, is designed to enable PICA to achieve rapid gains; while maximizing cost effectiveness and stimulating local ownership and sustainability.


Because the agency was established on the back of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its new paradigm for development, it has an exceptional opportunity to leapfrog several stages of development approaches. As PICA continues to solidify and expand the coverage of its delivery (both thematic and geographic), its tested and



tried development solutions will make a bigger impact not only on the realization of the SDGs but also on strengthening solidarity between nations of the world. To turn this mission into reality, PICA, as a young purpose-driven organization, harnesses a continuous learning culture, an innovative mindset, and an ability to create and share knowledge that meets changing needs, which are aligned to the evolving targets and priorities of its partners. Importantly, PICA staff, partners and supporters are dedicated to work together to foster this culture that is critical to realizing the shared vision of all stakeholders involved.

Drawing on already existing goodwill and determination of the Palestinian people in Palestine and across the diaspora communities, PICA will continue to provide a unique and unprecedented example of the potential of public diplomacy in breaking stereotypes – both of Palestine specifically and of what a developing country can do in general.

All this can be leveraged for a stronger international engagement with the Palestinian cause while providing PICA with an opportunity to prove that development cooperation is not only the business of a few privileged donor countries.

A group of five diverse women standing outdoors in front of trees, overlaid with a blue tint. The women are smiling and dressed in various styles of clothing, including patterned dresses, a white top, and a red patterned top. The background shows lush greenery and a light-colored wall.

Together, we work tirelessly to promote the Palestinian presence globally through synergies of cooperative and sustainable actions, leaving no one behind.

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