



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

RESILIENCE AMIDST ADVERSITY



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PICA – The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency

IsDB – Islamic Development Bank

OIC – Organization of Islamic Cooperation

SSTrC – South-South and Triangular Cooperation

PRRRT – Palestinian Rapid Response & Rescue Team

PBC – Palestine Broadcasting Corporation

SVG – Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

SDG – Sustainable Development Goal

NDS – National Development Strategy

UNOSSC – United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

TOSSD – The Total Official Support for Sustainable Development

GPI – Global Partnership Initiative

MoU – Memorandum of Understanding

APRM – The African Peer Review Mechanism

UNDP – United Nations Office for Development

IOFS – Islamic Organization for Food Security

SESRIC – The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries

IFPA – International Fresh Produce Association

PCRS – The Palestinian Red Crescent Society

AFAD – Turkiye’s Disaster and Emergency Management Authority

UNHCR – United Nations High Commission for Refugees

LIST OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & EXPATRIATES.....	4
FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	6
PICA AT A GLANCE	8
GLOBAL OUTREACH IN 2023	12
TOGETHER IN IMPROVING LIVES	14
TOGETHER IN TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS	22
TOGETHER IN UPLIFTING HUMAN CAPITAL.....	25
TOGETHER IN INVIGORATING PARTNERSHIPS.....	26
SIGNED MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.....	28
TOGETHER IN TACKLING HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES.....	34
MOVING FORWARD.....	38

Foreword by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, I am pleased to present the annual report of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) for 2023. Despite facing numerous obstacles, PICA has remained steadfast in its commitment to fostering international cooperation and advancing the interests of Palestine on the global stage. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, we have made significant strides in promoting South-South Cooperation, enhancing education and healthcare, and advocating for Palestinian rights worldwide.

In 2023, PICA continued to strengthen ties with our international partners, working closely with governments, NGOs, and international organizations to implement projects and initiatives that benefit the Global South. From humanitarian aid to capacity-building programs, our efforts have focused on empowering the vulnerable and laying the foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable future.

While the challenges facing Palestine are complex and multifaceted, and despite the most difficult circumstances Palestine is



currently facing, we renew our commitment to promote South-South and Triangular cooperation and contribute effectively to international efforts in realizing UN SDGs and the UN 2030 Agenda for development so that no one is left behind. In the face of adversity, we are committed to leveraging the power of cooperation and solidarity to overcome obstacles and build a better tomorrow for all.

Looking ahead, PICA will redouble its efforts to expand its network of partners, mobilize resources, and implement innovative

solutions to address the pressing needs of our globe. Together, we will continue to strive for a just and equitable world where the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people are realized.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all our partners and stakeholders for their relentless commitment and support. With determination and unity, I am confident that we will achieve our shared goals and secure a brighter future for generations to come.

Dr. Varsen Aghabekian Shaheen

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Resilience Amidst Adversity

While this annual report focuses on PICA's achievements in 2023, I must acknowledge the difficult time we are witnessing since the onset of the Israeli aggression and genocidal war against our people throughout the occupied territories of the State of Palestine, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip. The ongoing Israeli aggression has killed more than 31,000 Palestinians, displaced more than 1.7 million and destroyed more than 65,000 housing units.

As Director General, in my mind, there has been no greater challenge than to overcome how our year has ended with a groundless and unprecedented war. Our resilience is certainly being tested as we move into a challenging year ahead. However, I must reaffirm that we remain committed as ever to our mandate as the main public diplomacy tool of the State of Palestine and a national

coordinator for Triangular and South-South cooperation.

As we turn the page on 2023, I can say that the first three quarters have been eventful. Our efforts encompassed a wide range of thematic areas, reflecting a rich and resourceful Palestinian society, not only capable of bringing benefit to its own people, but also sharing experience and knowledge with others. We have completed successful programs in health as a fundamental pillar of our work, food security, media and education. Our global reach compassed a vast area of the Global South including the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Latin America and soon in the Pacific.

Nevertheless, our commitment to humanitarian aid is unwavering. The year 2023 witnessed natural disasters in our



brotherly countries of Turkiye, Syria and Libya. We proudly deployed our rapid response and rescue team to Turkiye and Syria after the deadly earthquake and to Derna after the devastating floods to ensure the immediate response and humanitarian aid.

Across all efforts, we remained guided by the 2030 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, under the framework of South-South and Triangular cooperation, aiming at securing a sustainable and inclusive future and ensuring that no one is left behind. This report takes you through PICA's 2023 achievements and contributions to the international efforts in the field of development and humanitarian cooperation, enhancing the role of Palestine as an agent of positive change in the world.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize our resilience amidst adversity. 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 country of the south 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.

Ambassador Imad Al-Zuhairi
Minister's Assistant for International Cooperation
Director General



PICA AT A GLANCE

VISION

A resilient world united by solidarity through development..

MISSION

We deliver proven humanitarian and development solutions to other countries and promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) in the process of making substantial contributions to humanitarian relief, sharing good practices and promoting SSTrC. PICA plays a vital role in exercising solidarity on international

level by executing bilateral, triangular, 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 including through Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Reverse Linkage Mechanisms.



PRRRT relief mission in Malatya, Turkiye.

WHO WE ARE?

The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), established by a presidential decree by President Mahmoud Abbas in January 2016, is the main public diplomacy tool of the State of Palestine and works as a national coordinator for South-South and North-South Cooperation.

PICA transfers Palestinian know-how 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.

Guided by a vision of solidarity through development, the State of Palestine seeks to mobilize its skilled human resources to provide technical assistance to support partner countries in responding to crises and tackling development challenges with the

aim of promoting South South Cooperation and realizing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to work towards this vision, PICA was created as the development cooperation arm of Palestinian foreign policy with specific attention given to support developing countries across and beyond the Arab region.

WHAT WE DO

Technical Cooperation & Knowledge-sharing

The resilience of Palestine, and Palestinian technical experts, is unparalleled. Irrespective of the thematic/sectoral profession – doctors, nurses, professors, engineers, business entrepreneurs, agricultural experts etc. and under different circumstances – the realities of the operating environment in Palestine leads to the ability to work ‘anywhere’. PICA, as opposed to most development cooperation agencies, can draw from a national resource pool of people who are not only used to, but 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. For the experts that PICA deploys, business as usual has never been an option

so adaptability is an indispensable part of their skill set.

Relief & Rapid Humanitarian 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. PRRRT provides specialized trained individuals to intervene regionally and worldwide in the following areas: pre-hospital services (emergency medical response and ambulance services), medical treatment, research and rescue, shelter and non-food items, water and sanitation, psychosocial support.

Investment Opportunities & Private Sector Engagement

PICA considers the private sector a fundamental partner in its strategies and development programs and believes that partnering with the private sector should always be in accordance with the

global efforts aimed at achieving a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable world by 2030. 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 wide range of signed agreements and cooperation frameworks with local, regional and international partners.

Policy Leadership

Based on its own experiences, PICA provides 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 the IsDB and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) roadmap formulation as well as promoting resilience and the Humanitarian-Development nexus and development effectiveness.

Rooted in these four thematic pillars of PICA capacity, support is deployed based on demand from partner countries. Lessons from initial PICA engagements at country level guide and further shape the core offer

of specialized expertise that has proven to work effectively in practices.

HOW WE DO IT

PICA offers know-how and human capital rooted in the Palestinian experience. PICA has a deployable capacity with ability to perform under unusual circumstances and familiarity to operate in crisis-affected environments. Additionally, PICA draws upon the potential of the Palestinian diaspora which is equal in size to the population of the State of Palestine. The diaspora community has highly skilled individuals; resource persons who speak a range of diverse languages, has local cultural knowledge, and has the potential to mobilize financial contributions in the form of Public Private Partnerships.

VALUES

Adaptability

Credibility







Impact

Partnership

Responsiveness

GLOBAL OUTREACH IN 2023



-  GRENADA
-  CARIBBEAN
-  GUINEA
-  LIBYA
-  URUGUAY
-  SYRIA



- LEBANON
- ZIMBABWE
- MAURITANIA
- SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
- DJIBOUTI
- TURKIYE

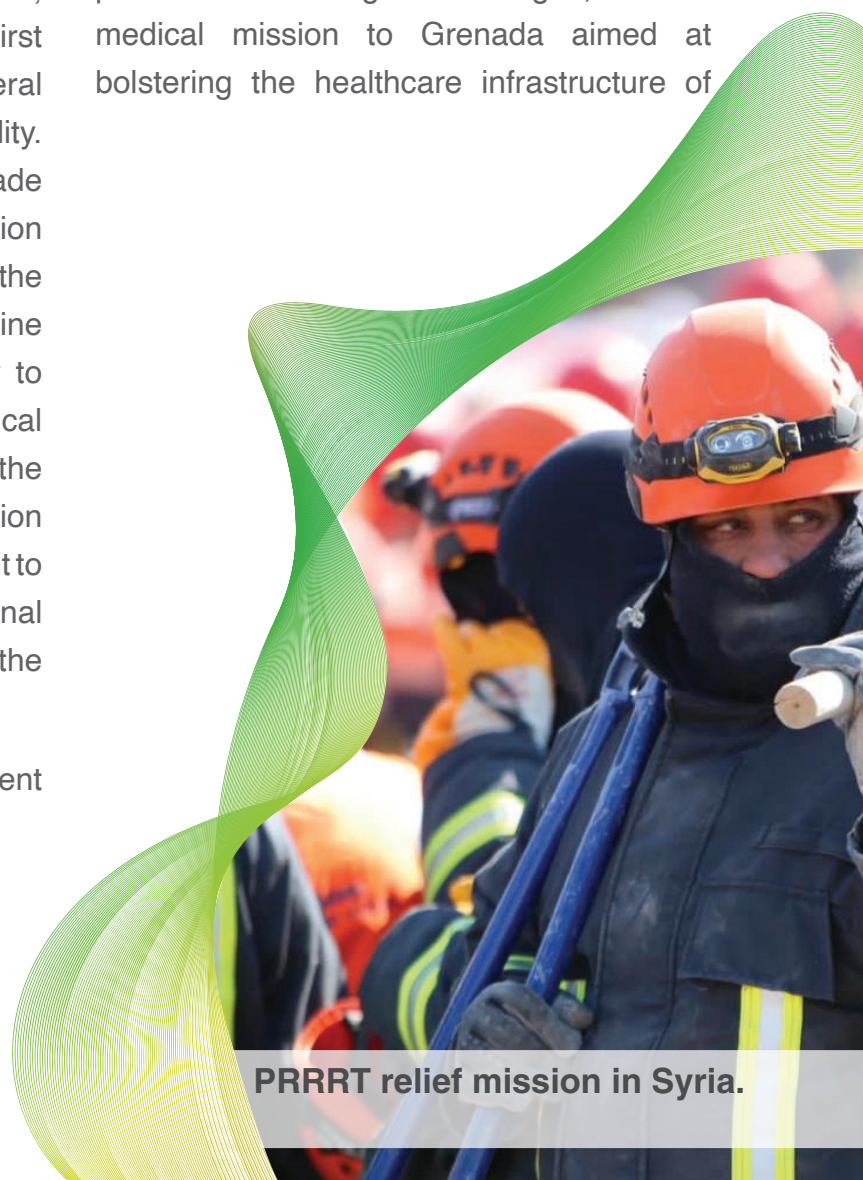
TOGETHER IN IMPROVING LIVES

GRENADA

In an unprecedented and commendable effort to extend its humanitarian outreach, PICA successfully conducted its First Medical Program at St. George General Hospital, Grenada's premier health facility. This groundbreaking initiative was made possible through a synergistic collaboration with the Ministries of Health and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in both Palestine and Grenada, the Palestinian Embassy to the Caribbean, The Palestinian Medical Association-Jerusalem Center, and the Official Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC). This initiative stands as a testament to PICA's commitment to fostering international cooperation and solidarity, especially in the health sector.

Aligned with the Sustainable Development

Goal (SDG3) to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages, PICA's medical mission to Grenada aimed at bolstering the healthcare infrastructure of





St. George General Hospital. The hospital, crucial for the well-being of Grenada's population, urgently required support in terms of medical equipment, supplies, medicines, and professional staff.

The deployed medical team, consisting of experts across various specializations, including General Surgeons,

Anaesthesiologists, Ophthalmic Surgeons, Urologists, Breast Oncoplastic Surgeons, Traumatologists, and dedicated nurses, integrated seamlessly into the hospital's departments. Their expertise facilitated a significant impact on the hospital's capacity to deliver essential surgical and medical services.

Throughout the week-long mission, the team accomplished a total of 47 surgeries and conducted screenings and evaluations for over 150 patients. This contribution not only alleviated the immediate healthcare challenges but also set a precedent for future medical missions and the importance of international medical collaboration.

In addition to these surgical interventions, more than 250 patients benefited from screenings and evaluations, highlighting the mission's broad scope and its significant contribution to health care in Saint Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG).



PICA`S BROADER IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Beyond the medical mission, PICA has been actively involved in various projects across the Caribbean, focusing on Disaster Management, direct involvement in hospitals, Medical Emergency Evacuations, and Emergency Services Management. These efforts are part of a broader initiative to support development in agriculture, media, education, information technology, water management, and other critical sectors. Through these diversified projects, PICA aims to strengthen resilience, enhance development, and foster a spirit of cooperation and mutual support among nations.

SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

PICA embarked on the third phase of its development cooperation program in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a direct outcome of the cooperation agreements signed between the parties in 2017, and as a contribution to promote the global SDGs. In full cooperation with the MOH in Palestine



The first corneal transplantation program in Guinea.



& Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in both Countries, The Palestinian Embassy to the Caribbean, The Palestinian Medical Association-Jerusalem Center, and The Official Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation PBC. Aiming to Achieve UN SDG3 through a collaborative effort targeting the promotion of well-being in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and focusing on ways both SVG and Palestine can work together on mutual issues of importance and strengthening the bonds of friendship with SVG.

The cornerstone of this phase was the execution of a significant number of medical operations pre-agreed upon with the Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment in SVG. The program extended beyond surgeries, encompassing the training of local medical staff and the daily diagnosis of patients, thereby contributing comprehensively to the local healthcare system's capacity building.

Palestinian medical professionals, including General Surgeons, Anesthesiologists, Ophthalmic Surgeons, Urologists, Breast Oncoplastic Surgeons, Traumatologists, and dedicated nurses, were deployed across two main governmental hospitals: the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital in Kingstown and the Modern Medical and Diagnostic Centre in Georgetown. Activities also extended to the Stubbs polyclinic, demonstrating the mission's wide-reaching impact on the health and well-being of the SVG community.

Working under challenging conditions, the Palestinian team conducted 44 surgeries, reflecting a commendable level of dedication and skill. In addition to these surgical interventions, more than 250 patients benefited from screenings and evaluations, highlighting the mission's broad scope and its significant contribution to health care in SVG.

GUINEA

As part of PICA's development strategy in the Republic of Guinea, and as a second phase of the medical program that started in the country in 2019, PICA implemented the first corneal transplantation program in the history of the Republic of Guinea. A specialized medical team performed transplant operations for 19 patients at the International Clinic in Conakry. The mission also included holding a scientific medical conference for corneal transplantation, which was attended by a number of Arab ministers, ambassadors, and Guinean doctors, and the medical team organized a medical day that included theoretical lectures on cornea transplantation.

The first corneal transplantation program in the Republic of Guinea had four main prominent outputs:

- Transplantation of 19 corneas for Guinean patients.
- Building the capacities of Guinean doctors practically in this field through their presence in operations.
- Holding a medical conference, which had a role in introducing PICA and its fields of work.
- Discussing the horizon of future cooperation by meeting with a number of ministers to define goals and priorities.



Corneal transplantation program in Lebanon.

DJIBOUTI

PICA, in collaboration with the IsDB and the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH), undertook the initiative titled «Implementing Cataract Surgeries in Djibouti» in 2023 as part of South-South cooperation, utilizing the Reverse Linkage mechanism of the IsDB. This health-focused endeavor, aligned with SDG3 - Good Health & Well-Being, aimed to address the pressing issue of cataracts in rural areas of Djibouti. Through the implementation of surgeries for 230 patients

and the empowerment of local otologists, the project sought to strengthen the health system in Djibouti while restoring sight for individuals in need. Operating under the Reverse Linkage framework, the program's beneficiaries included the Djibouti Ministry of Health and the public at large, stepping towards enhanced healthcare accessibility and improved well-being in the region.



The first corneal transplantation program in Guinea.

LEBANON

In December 2022, PICA conducted its first medical program at Al Hamshari hospital, which aimed to conduct cornea transplant surgeries. Following this successful mission, we received an official request to conduct additional programs at Al Hamashari hospital in different medical specializations based on the medical needs. After an assessment, we identified needs in the pediatric, vascular, knee & hip replacement fields. Therefore, PICA decided to launch “Al Wafa’a” campaign to support the medical needs in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, through deploying medical delegations on a quarterly basis to support the medical needs in the hospitals.

This mission in Lebanon can be summarized in the following activities:

- Conducting technical visits to Al Hamshari hospital to prepare for the surgeries.
- Meeting with the director general of Al Hamshari hospital and the medical crew.
- Following up medical checkups after the surgeries were conducted to all the patients in order to monitor their medical status.
- Conducting visits to the Haifa hospital (Burj Al Barajneh RC) & Tal Al Z’atar

hospital (Al Rashediyeh RC) to assess their medical needs & discuss future potential cooperation.

- The main outputs of this mission were:
- PICA surgeons performed hundreds of medical screenings and examinations to choose the patients for the surgeries.
- Conducting 66 surgeries in the pediatric, vascular and knee & hip replacement field.
- Providing medical consultations to the doctors at the medical departments during the mission.
- Conducting a training session to transfer the Palestinian knowledge in the anesthesia domain.



ZIMBABWE

PICA, Angel of Hope Foundation, Ministry of Health and Childcare in Zimbabwe, Ministry of Health in Palestine and Palestinian Embassy to Zimbabwe created a cataract surgery eye camp in Zimbabwe. This program was implemented upon an official request from the Foundation of Hope office led by the first lady of Zimbabwe to implement cataract

surgeries in a joint eye camp between Palestinian and Zimbabwean medical teams at Pariranyatwa group of hospitals. Both teams operated on 300 patients, using phacoemulsification, small incision and extra capsular extractions techniques. The medical team was established from three different Palestinian local health organizations (Beithjala Hospital, AlMuhtasib Hospital and Hugo Chavez Hospital).



Cataract surgery eye camp in Harare, Zimbabwe.

TOGETHER IN TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS

MAURITANIA

Building upon the foundation of a long-term project, PICA, in collaboration with the IsDB and the Ministries of Agriculture in Palestine and Mauritania, remains steadfast in its commitment to empower Mauritania through the cultivation of Palestinian agricultural expertise. The goal is to achieve SDG2 through a collaborative effort aimed at ensuring food security in Mauritania.

This strategic initiative encompasses a diverse range of activities planned within the framework of the overarching project. A significant component of this phase involves the implementation of «Regional Study Tours» for agricultural experts from Mauritania to Palestine. As part of this initiative, a delegation of agricultural experts from Mauritania visited Palestine to leverage Palestinian agricultural know-how, with a specific focus on supporting the value chain of vegetable agriculture in Mauritania.

The program emphasizes the transfer of Palestinian knowledge to enhance the entire value chain, promoting sustainable practices and contributing to the broader goal of achieving food security and prosperity in Mauritania.

The delegation conducted visits to several Palestinian cities, including Ramallah, Tubas, Hebron, and Bethlehem.

During their visit, the Mauritanian delegation engaged in a series of interactive sessions, workshops, and in-field demonstrations facilitated by experienced Palestinian agricultural experts. The aim was to transfer knowledge, share best practices, and explore sustainable agricultural techniques adaptable to Mauritania's unique climate and agricultural landscape. The visit aimed to foster innovation exchange, strengthen bilateral relations as directed by H.E President Mahmoud Abbas, and build the capacity of Mauritania's agricultural sector.

Through hands-on experiences, technology sharing, and networking with Palestinian counterparts, the delegation sought to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 2 - Zero Hunger, working towards a resilient and secure food supply chain in Mauritania.

Sustainable Collaboration: Initiating an Agricultural Project for Zero Hunger in Mauritania: Mauritania and Palestine’s longstanding friendship forms the foundation for an exciting and enduring partnership. Continued collaboration is anticipated in agriculture, technology, environment, health, and other shared interests. The focus is on addressing mutual challenges and fostering bonds of friendship through practical initiatives. Together, the aim is to build a strong and mutually beneficial partnership for the prosperity and well-being of both nations. Initiating an agricultural project to extend solidarity to the fraternal people of Mauritania, the objective is to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) – Zero Hunger. This framework outlines a collaborative effort to enhance agricultural practices, ensuring sustainable food security and prosperity for the people of Mauritania.

Beneficiaries: The primary beneficiaries of this initiative are the fraternal people of Mauritania. Through strategic agricultural interventions, the goal is to empower local communities, improve livelihoods, and contribute to the overarching goal of eliminating hunger and malnutrition. The project seeks to bring about positive and lasting changes in the lives of the Mauritanian people.



The installation of seven boreholes in Harare, Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE

This mission was implemented in cooperation with the ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development in Zimbabwe, as part of the National Development Strategy (NDS1), which aims for a prosperous and empowered upper-middle-income society by 2030.

PICA successfully completed the installation of seven boreholes in rural areas surrounding the capital, Harare. The inauguration and handover ceremony took place on August 9th, 2023.

These boreholes have significantly enhanced the quality of life for local residents, addressing various aspects of their well-being including human, social, and economic conditions. By providing access to clean water, they serve as a critical measure for health protection, mitigating the risk of disease outbreaks caused by contaminated

water sources. Moreover, they play a pivotal role in fostering economic opportunities within these communities.

These boreholes were established in Epworth south, Epworth north, Churu Farm, Southlea Park and Chegutu.

PICA is committed to empowering communities and fostering sustainable development across Zimbabwe and the family of the Global South. Aiming at easing the life challenges of the Zimbabwean villagers, representing more than just a source of water, they also signify hope.



Cataract surgery eye camp in Harare, Zimbabwe.

TOGETHER IN UPLIFTING HUMAN CAPITAL

ZIMBABWE

PICA, Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services and the Palestinian Embassy to Zimbabwe conducted a media capacity building program for the benefit of Zimbabwean media officers. This program was implemented upon an official request from the Zimbabwean government, to conduct a training program for the benefit of

media officers from different governmental and official entities. Six Palestinian experts in the period of 10 days delivered the following topics conducted the program: media ethics, digital storytelling (shooting, production and directing), elections management campaigns, investigative journalism and the responsible use of social media platforms, benefitting 350+ trainees.

TOGETHER IN INVIGORATING PARTNERSHIPS



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

PICA signed an agreement with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in 2018. The agreement aims at providing a framework for cooperation, support and facilitation of the joint work between the two parties in development areas that are within their interests and priorities and serve the achievement of the international development goals. In 2023, the strategic partnership between PICA and the UNOSSC continues to act as an active framework for South-South knowledge sharing and a strategy aimed at strengthening the status of PICA in the international arena.

The Islamic Development Bank

In September 2016, PICA signed a significant strategic partnership with the IsDB in virtue of which the financial institution engaged to support PICA's development activity. This strategic partnership has evolved in 2023 to



The signing of an executive protocol to facilitate the implementation of programs in Libya.

include development programs under the IsDB's Reverse Linkage mechanism. PICA's ongoing programs with the IsDB include Mauritania, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Djibouti and Chile.

PICA also provides mindful leadership in the international development policy arena, contributing in a strategic way to international development policy-making. It mainly contributes, with its policy leadership, to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s

strategic roadmaps as well as promoting resilience, the humanitarian-development nexus and development effectiveness.

The Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Framework

The TOSSD responds to the need for a comprehensive measure of support to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries. Many countries and multilateral organizations track the support they provide to promote sustainable development in developing countries.

TOSSD is a statistical framework agreed by a large, diverse group of countries and organizations. It aims to ensure a coherent, comparable, unified system to track SDG-related investments. TOSSD informs development planning, SDG monitoring and helps identify priorities to finance sustainable development.

We added PICA's input in the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) framework. We believe it is a great comprehensive measure of support combines qualitative and a great focus on quantitative data, to report PICA's South-South and Triangular cooperation projects to advance this shared international statistical framework, and foster greater collaboration with our partners. It will be published in mid-March in TOSSD official website.

The Global Partnership Initiative (GPI)

We Renewed PICA's Membership of the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Cooperation.



SIGNED MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

LIBYA

An executive protocol was signed to facilitate the implementation and follow-up of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the State of Palestine and the State of Libya.

The primary aim of this protocol is to transfer knowledge and expertise from Palestine to Libya, thereby supporting Libya's development and capacity-building efforts in several key areas, including interior and security, health, agriculture, communications, higher education, and information technology.

PICA will implement the protocol with the competent authorities as part of its regional and international cooperation initiatives that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, emphasizing the commitment of both countries to work towards achieving these global targets.



URUGUAY

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the State of Palestine and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay represented by both PICA and The Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI). The formalization of this MOU signifies mutual dedication to cultivate a robust camaraderie by deploying Palestinian human expertise particularly in the fields of agriculture and entrepreneurship to formulate and execute developmental strategies and programs in Uruguay as well as foster mutual growth and progress.



The signing of an executive protocol to facilitate the implementation of programs in Libya.

ATTENDED

The Second Africa High-Level Forum of South-South & Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development 17-19 January 2023, Kampala, Uganda.

The State of Palestine, represented by the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency “PICA”, participated in The Second Africa High Level Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation SSTRC, and The African Exhibition on South-South and Triangular Cooperation organized on the margins of Africa High-Level Forum for Sustainable Development in Kampala from 17 - 19 January 2023. Seeking to present innovative initiatives and programs adopted by different partners and African countries to implement Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, Following the successful Global Expo on South- South Cooperation in Bangkok Thailand.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Islamic Development Bank (IsB), UNDP, UNOSSC, and the Government of Uganda, organized the forum. Different development partners including Asian and Latin American countries were invited to share their initiatives and relevant projects implemented with African countries. Aiming not only to bring African countries together to share experiences, innovate solutions on continental challenges, but also to leverage Africa’s connections & partnerships across the global south in Asia, Latin America, and Middle East.

The APRM exhibition, therefore, offered a continental expose for countries and development partners to share recent collaborative initiatives for promoting sustainable development at local and continental levels. Further, initiatives focus on the highlighted SDGs and Agenda 2063 Aspirations.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Annual Ministerial Meeting on the National Development Planning Community of Practice 10-11 September 2023, Cairo, Egypt.

The State of Palestine, represented by the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency “PICA”, participated in the APRM Annual Ministerial Meeting on the National Development Planning Community of Practice. Aiming to Address governance-oriented policies to implement Agenda 2063: the Africa we want and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Organized in partnership with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Planning and Development of Egypt, in Cairo. The opening remarks was represented by the following key speakers: Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat, Mme. Nardos Bekele- Thomas, CEO, AUDA- NEPAD / UNECA, Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and political affairs and APRM chair of Focal points of Sierra Leone, Dr. Hala El-Said, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Egypt, H.E Amb. Ashraf Swelam, Assistant Minister of Foreign

Affairs, Chair, and Focal Point to APRM, Egypt.

The growing interlinkages between peace-development and governance in Africa requires a holistic approach of addressing sustaining peace from a developmental perspective. Therefore, the annual meeting of the APRM Community of Practice on national development planning addressed key priorities and progress of African



countries to execute national development plans especially after the COVID-19.

Furthermore, it offered a regional platform for development partners and countries present some impactful and innovative tools to tackle persistent challenges including poverty alleviation, food security and policy coherence for sustainable development aspects. The meeting hence emphasizes peace- development -governance nexus

in national planning to enrich dialogue between African countries on incorporating early warning framework into national development plans especially short to medium term development plans in pursuant of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development are worthy to be shared.

Best Practices on Promoting the Utilization of Integrated and Digital Technologies in Social Protection Systems in the OIC Countries, 12-13 September, Ankara, Turkiye.

In the framework of promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, to achieve solidarity and support coordination between countries of the South. PICA participated in a workshop organized by its long-term international partner, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) that was held in Ankara- Türkiye, between 12-13 September 2023. The Workshop focused on creating partnerships to implement the best practices on promoting the utilization of integrated and digital technologies in social protection systems in the OIC countries. During the workshop, PICA delivered a presentation explaining the digital side of the social protection systems and presented its previous, current and upcoming projects that target development goals around the world.

The IOFS 6th General Assembly in Doha, Qatar, on 3 October 2023

The Palestinian International Cooperation



PRRRT relief mission in Derna, Libya.

Agency attended The IOFS 6th General Assembly in Doha, Qatar, on 3 October 2023, represented by the Ambassador Imad Zuhairi.

Representatives from 40 IOFS Member States and 13 observers, attended the General Assembly.

The 6th General Assembly of the IOFS was organized in conjunction with the 9th Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Food Security. The outcomes of the ministerial conference are:

- a. The admission of four new IOFS Member States, namely, Gabon, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen. Those four new members signed the IOFS Statute during the OIC's 9th Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Food Security on 2 October 2023.
- b. The General Assembly adopted 12 resolutions, enumerating commitments and proposed programs for the IOFS in its effort to make an impact on the global stage in the pursuit of food security.
- c. The General Assembly also elected H.E. Ambassador Askar Musinov as the new Director-General of IOFS, succeeding H.E. Prof. Yerlan Baidaulet, who just concluded his term of office. H.E. Ambassador Askar Mussinov, a Kazakh diplomat, was previously the Assistant Secretary-General of OIC for Science and Technology.

d. The Qatari Government granted 2 million USD to IOFS to strengthen the organization's programs.

e. The 7th General Assembly of the IOFS will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2024.

The General Assembly included several panels which tackled different panels related to the food security.

1. Media Panel: the panel highlighted the



crucial role of media in ensuring food security. The panel also emphasized the integral relationship between media and food security, including harnessing stronger relationships among media outlets, think tanks, international organizations, and government institutions. The panel also identified challenges within food systems and issued recommendations to enhance the media's role in food security.

2. Sub-Forum 1 on Engaging Civil Society against Food Insecurity: the Sub-Forum discussed the importance of civil society organization's involvement in combating food insecurity. Topics discussed during this Sub-Forum include gender empowerment in agriculture, urbanization's impact on food security, and the role of youth in shaping the future of food security.
3. Sub-Forum 2: Advancing Agri-tech for Sustainable Food Security. The Sub-Forum discussed the crucial role of technology in advancing agricultural productivity and food supply stability. The Sub-Forum discussed topics, among others, on water management technologies, organic farming, emerging technologies in food production, and policy framework in Agri-tech.
4. Sub-Forum 3: IFPA – Enhancing Intra-OIC Food Markets. The Sub Forum discussed strategies and measures to strengthen food markets within the OIC Member States. Particular emphasis was given to enhancing trade and cooperation to support more robust food security. The Sub-Forum also discussed national food sector development, investments in the food industry, and Agri-food projects across the OIC countries.



PRRRT relief mission in Malatya, Turkiye.

TOGETHER IN TACKLING HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

EARTHQUAKE IN SYRIA AND TURKIYE

On 6 February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Southern Turkiye, and Northern and Western Syria, followed by a 7.5 magnitude aftershock. The earthquake caused a widespread damage of an estimated area of 350,000 km². An estimated number of 14 million people were affected.

The Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team (PRRRT) headed to Turkiye and Syria to join the international rescue efforts to help people in the devastated regions. The PRRRT consists of personnel from the Palestinian Civil Defense, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PCRS) and the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Supervised by PICA, the team had been able to intervene in the very first rescue efforts in the devastated areas.

SYRIA

The earthquake that struck the region in Syria and Turkiye increased the difficult situation that Syria has experienced during the 12 years since 2011. The number of displaced people in Syria estimated at more than 250,000-300,000 within the areas under the control of the regime and outside it. Displaced people distributed among a large group of shelters that suffer from poor living conditions and lack of food and medicine. Despite the limited possibilities for direct and immediate travel, the PRRRT arrived in Syria immediately beside other teams including Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Russia and Belarus.

Within the framework of the urgent intervention efforts of the State of Palestine in Syria, specifically the governorates of Latakia and Aleppo, the most prominent roles included the following:

1. Purchasing and distributing 500

mattresses and 500 covers to shelter centers in Aleppo and Latakia.

2. Participating in distributing and storing 5,000 special food parcels in Al-Nairab camp.
3. Providing psychological help, with the support of the ambulance officers and the PCRS/Syria Branch. Psychological support included implementing activities for 1.140 affected children within the framework of alleviating their suffering, stress management activities for more than 30 service providers in the association, individual sessions for 12 affected people and psychological relief activities for 120 families. The main areas included Officers' Club, Sports City, and Ewaa Charity School in Ramel Refugee Camp, as well as Al-Nairab and Handarat Refugee Camps.

4. Providing medical treatment to hundreds of patients in asylum centers and Aleppo Hospital, and providing ambulance and emergency services in shelter centers and medical points.
5. Providing first aid treatment for emergency cases and working on the shift system in ambulances.
6. Dispensing medications to patients in medical clinics and shelter centers, in addition to donating blood pressure and diabetes devices.
7. Leading dozens of surgical operations in the fields of orthopaedics, gynaecology, obstetrics, neurology, and others at Aleppo Hospital.

Furthermore, the mission included search and rescue operations in Jableh and Latakia carried out by the Palestinian Civil Defense crew.



PRRRT relief mission in Malatya, Turkiye.

TURKIYE

The PRRRT headed to Malatya, South-Est Turkiye, to participate in the relief and rescue operations in this area. The team consisted of 30 members including Civil Defense personnel, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Ministry of Health and the PBC.

The PRRRT engaged in three prominent activities; search and rescue operations, mainly carried out by the Civil Defense crew, psychological support for displaced people, and building tents and distributing food parcels by the PCRS.

PICA's immediate intervention in the district of Malatya played a crucial role in alleviating the suffering caused by displacement. According to the UNHCR, Turkiye hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. Thus, the earthquake compounded the already dire situation in the area beset with the refugee crisis affecting Syrian refugees and humanitarian organizations supporting Syrians through cross-border humanitarian operations, causing heightened vulnerabilities among Syrian refugees in Turkiye.

In its efforts to reduce heightened vulnerabilities, the PRRRT was able to:

1. Build more than 350 tents in Adiyaman and Malatya for displaced people.
2. Package and distribute hundreds of food parcels.
3. Provide psychological support for

more than 500 children in displaced accommodation centers.

4. Provide medical treatment for displaced families in accommodation centers.

In cooperation with Turkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the PRRRT engaged in search and rescue operations in Malatya. The operations resulted in the evacuation of dozens of bodies from under the rubble

FLOOD IN LIBYA DERNA

The Derna dam collapses were the catastrophic failures of two dams in Derna, Libya on the night of 10–11 September 2023, in the aftermath of Storm Daniel. The dam collapses released an estimated 30 million cubic meters (39 million cubic yards) of water, causing flooding downstream as the Wadi Derna overflowed its banks. The floods partially destroyed the city of Derna. As of 18 September, estimates for the number of casualties range from 5,300 to 20,000 people

The Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team worked in coordination and collaboration with the Embassy of Palestine in Tripoli, Its Consulate General in Benghazi

city, and the representatives of the Palestinian community and political factions in Libya. The PRRRT included 22 search and rescue specialists who provided humanitarian assistance to those affected by the disaster. Moreover, the State of Palestine provided more than 20 tons of food and humanitarian aid to the Libyan authorities.

”Despite the occupation, Palestine is capable of playing its role on the international stage. Our team’s mission stems from us being able to relate closely to the suffering of others, given that we live under Israeli occupation and its policies.”

The team’s travel was hindered by the lack of direct flights and the team was delayed by a few days given that their overall travel time was more than 30 hours. However, the team was glad to finally arrive and be part of alleviating some effects of this disaster on the afflicted Libyan people.



PRRRT relief mission in Syria.

MOVING FORWARD

While this year has introduced unprecedented challenges to the people of Occupied Palestine, it has also accentuated the importance of resilience, agility, and solidarity. As an organization deeply rooted in resilience and agility, PICA recognizes that the road ahead is fraught with obstacles, but it is precisely during these trying times that our mission becomes even more critical. With unwavering determination, PICA remains steadfast in its resolve to navigate through the aftermath of the challenges and emerge stronger and more resilient than ever before.

One of PICA's strengths lies in its ability to adapt swiftly to changing circumstances.

The agility ingrained within the organization allows us to pivot its strategies and resources to address the most pressing needs of the affected communities. Whether it is providing immediate humanitarian aid, or offering long-term development assistance, PICA stands ready to mobilize its efforts where they are needed most to serve communities of friendly & brotherly countries.

Furthermore, PICA understands the importance of collaboration and partnership in times of crisis. By forging strong alliances with local and international stakeholders, PICA can leverage collective resources



The first corneal transplantation program in Guinea.



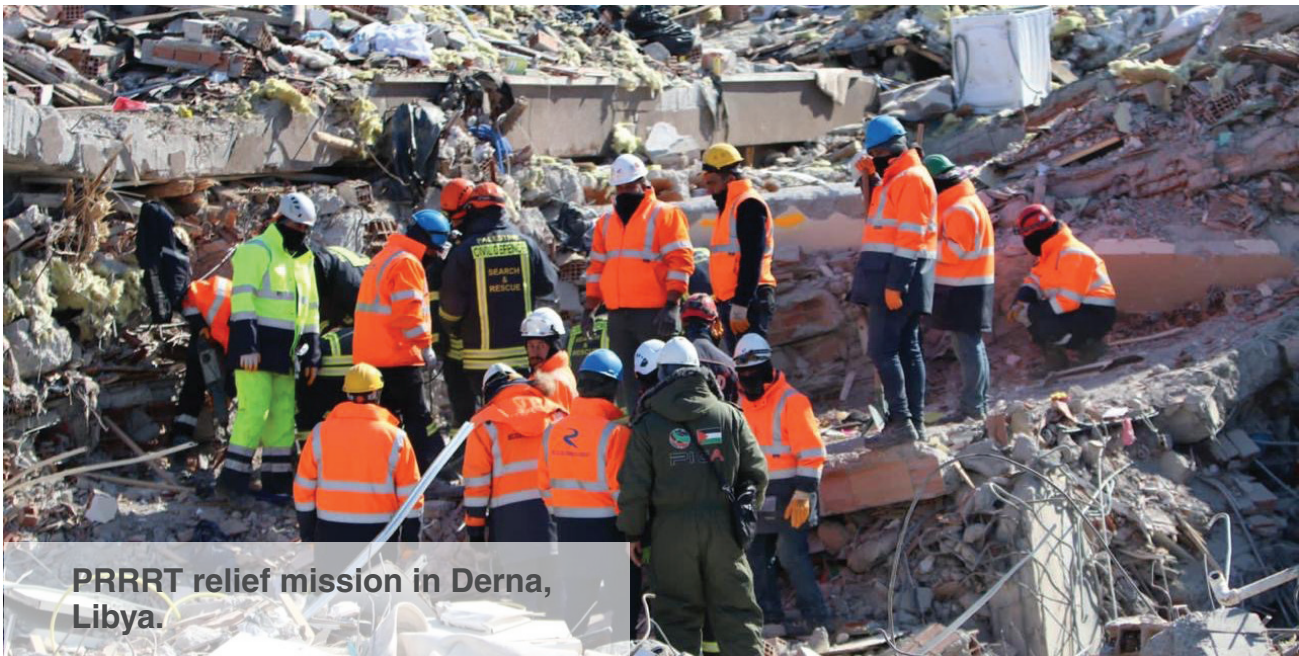
The signing of an executive protocol to facilitate the implementation of programs in Libya.

and expertise to maximize its impact on the ground. Through collaborative initiatives, PICA can amplify its reach and effectiveness, ensuring that no community is left behind in the path to recovery and resilience.

Moreover, PICA recognizes that the journey towards recovery is not a linear process and requires long-term commitment and perseverance. As such, PICA is committed to providing sustained support to the people, not only in the immediate aftermath of the conflict but also in the months and years to come. By investing in sustainable development initiatives, PICA

lays the groundwork for a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

In the face of adversity, PICA remains guided by its core values of solidarity and empowerment. By empowering local communities to participate actively in their own recovery and development processes, PICA fosters a sense of ownership and resilience that transcends the immediate challenges posed by the conflict. Through capacity-building initiatives, skill development programs, and community-driven projects, PICA empowers individuals and communities to rebuild their lives and thrive in the face of adversity.



PRRRT relief mission in Derna, Libya.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

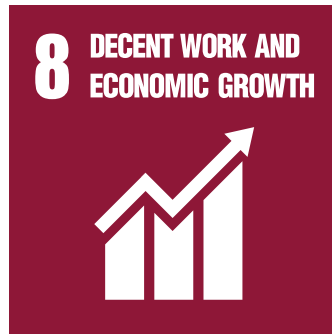




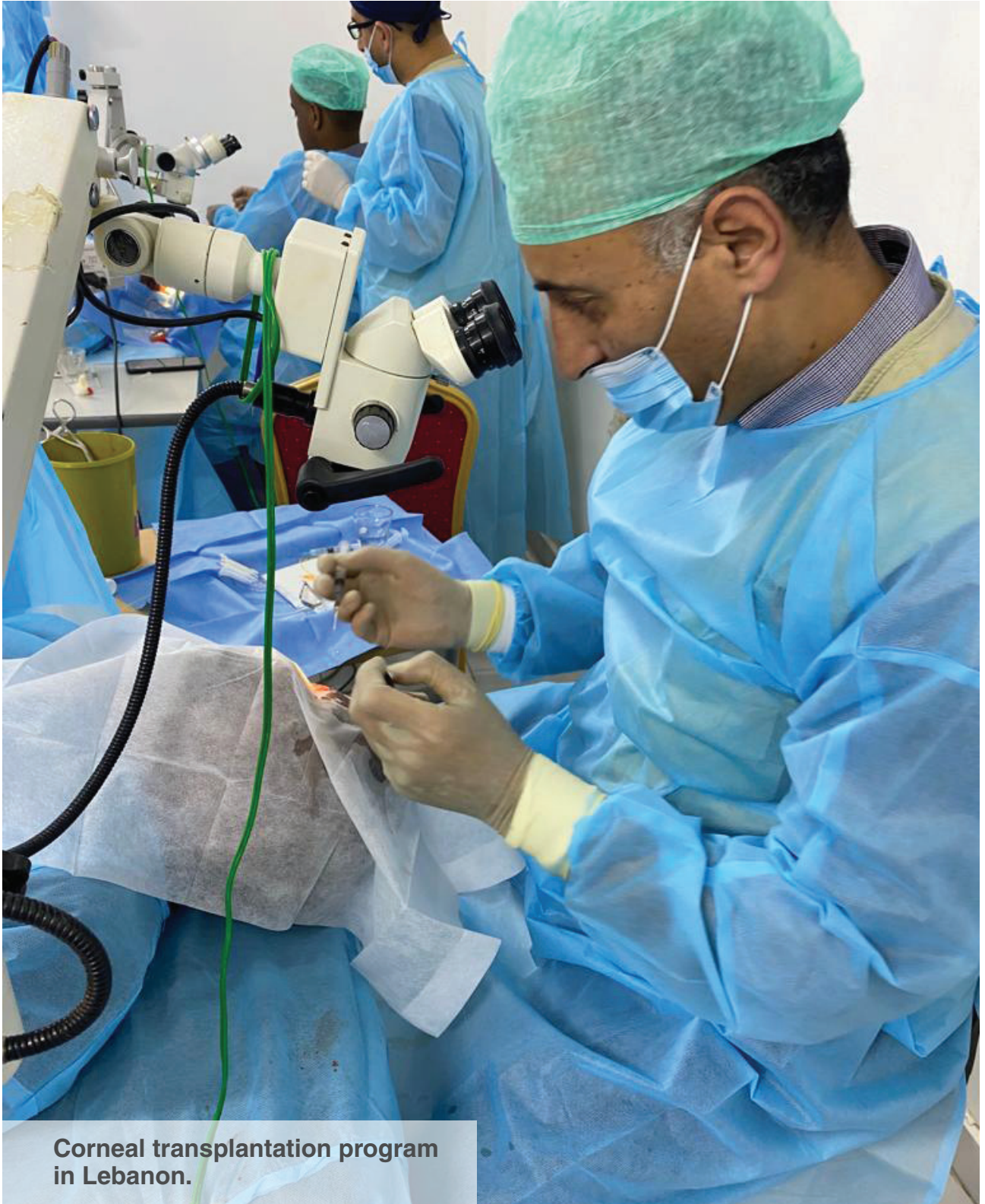
LOCAL PARTNERS:











**Corneal transplantation program
in Lebanon.**



Cataract surgery eye camp in Harare, Zimbabwe.



Media capacity building program in Harare, Zimbabwe.



The installation of seven boreholes in Harare, Zimbabwe.



**Media capacity building program
in Harare, Zimbabwe.**



Cataract surgery eye camp in Harare, Zimbabwe.



PRRRT relief mission in Malatya, Turkiye.



The first corneal transplantation program in Guinea.



PRRRT relief mission in Derna, Libya.



The installation of seven boreholes in Harare, Zimbabwe.



The first corneal transplantation program in Guinea.



PRRRT relief mission in Malatya, Turkiye.



PRRRT relief mission in Derna, Libya

شكراً



النرويج



الجزائر



إسبانيا



الإمارات



الأردن



فرنسا



تركيا



تونس



إيطاليا



الولايات
المتحدة



هولندا



قطر



فلسطين

