



**World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé**

FIFTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Provisional agenda item 30

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**Health conditions of, and assistance to, the
Arab population in the occupied Arab territories,
including Palestine**

At the request of Israel, the Director-General has the honour to transmit to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly the attached report by the Ministry of Health of Israel.¹

¹ See Annex.

ANNEX

**COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ISRAELI
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE PALESTINIAN HEALTH AUTHORITY
1997-1998**

1. The Palestinian Health Authority has managed the health and medical systems in the West Bank for the last three-and-a-half years and in the Gaza Strip for the past four years. The good relations and the fruitful cooperation between the Israeli Ministry of Health and the Palestinian Health Authority which have been established in the past and intensified throughout the years, prove to be stable and efficient due to the goodwill of the two parties and the persistent direct contacts and dialogue. The continuous dialogue and cooperation on the various issues in the fields of health and medicine have been performed and promoted by the activities of the joint professional committees described below.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, INCLUDING PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

2. This committee deals with:

- (a) public health issues common to both sides (like AIDS, emergence of tuberculosis, brucellosis, rabies, influenza, meningitis and outbreaks or epidemics of various infectious diseases);
- (b) exchange of medical information and statistical reports, including data on infectious and noninfectious diseases;
- (c) disease prevention and early detection projects;
- (d) coordination of common policy on immunization.

3. The Palestinian Health Authority maintains the high standards of immunization that existed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip prior to the transfer of powers and responsibilities from Israel to the Palestinian Health Authority. The decrease in the infant mortality rate from about 100-150 deaths per thousand live births in 1992 to 25 deaths per thousand live births in 1997 is being maintained by the Palestinian Health Authority.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

4. This committee deals with:

- (a) measures to ensure quality effectiveness and safety of drugs and pharmaceuticals produced in Israel and in the Palestinian autonomous areas;
- (b) regulations for transportation of drugs between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
- (c) regulations regarding donations and importation of drugs and pharmaceuticals, in accordance with the economic agreements between the two parties.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOOD CONTROL

5. This committee is responsible for ensuring good manufacturing practices for manufactured and imported food on both sides.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL

6. This committee deals with the evaluation and determination of needs for various training programmes, and the planning and organization of courses, workshops and postgraduate studies.

7. Eight physicians from the West Bank are at present being trained as residents in various clinical specialties at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, and one physician is participating in the course for a Master's degree in public health at the school of public health. Eleven physicians, administrators and paramedical officials from Gaza are following a six-month training programme at the Ichilov-Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv. (Thirty trainees have already completed their studies in the former similar three programmes.)

8. Twenty physicians and administrators from the West Bank have been trained in a three-month course in topics of medical management and health services administration. Twenty-three physicians and nurses from the West Bank have been trained in a one-month intensive course at the Trauma Center of the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem.

9. Many study days, seminars and workshops have been held for Palestinian physicians, nurses, paramedical officials, health workers and medical administrators in the following topics: primary community health care, hospital administration, immunization system, viral diseases, AIDS, gynaecology and obstetrics, cardiology, mental health, drug and substance abuse prevention, and dental health care.

10. Negotiations have recently been opened between the two parties for the establishment of two more joint committees: the Joint Committee on Environmental Health, and the Joint Committee on Dental Medicine and Oral Health Care.

ADDITIONAL FIELDS OF ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN COOPERATION

Referral of Palestinian patients to Israeli hospitals for hospitalization and ambulatory care

11. Complementary medical service in Israel is needed because of the lack of certain facilities in the areas of the Palestinian autonomy. About 4000 patients from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been hospitalized in Israel during the last year. About 8500 patients from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been referred to Israel for ambulatory procedures and therapeutic care.

12. Referral of Palestinian patients continues regularly, although no official contracts have been signed yet between the Palestinian Health Authority and Israeli hospitals. The Palestinian Health Authority is a guarantor of all payments for complementary medical care in Israel according to the regulations and procedures agreed upon by the two parties. Free movement of Palestinian patients and ambulances between the autonomous areas and Israel as well as in the districts of the West Bank is ensured by the appropriate administrative action of the Israel coordination offices.

Cooperation between Magen-David-Adom of Israel and the Palestinian Red Crescent

13. Twenty-four Palestinian ambulance drivers have graduated from a course of first aid and emergency medicine, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Drugs and immunization supplies

14. The Palestinian Health Authority purchases drugs and immunization supplies from “SAREL Company-Supplies and Services for Medicine Ltd”, the same source from which the Israeli Ministry of Health purchases these products.

Israeli-Palestinian joint projects developed by the Economic Cooperation Foundation

15. Israeli-Palestinian projects have developed jointly in the spheres of primary health care, occupational medicine rehabilitation and postgraduate training. These projects are carried out and supervised by the Economic Cooperation Foundation.

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