



RESILIENT RAMALLAH 2050

RAMALLAH MUNICIPALITY

30 APRIL 2020 | SECOND RELEASE

*This report was conducted in light of the pandemic COVID-19 outbreak
The report is updated every 3-5 weeks*

Ramallah measures over COVID-19

The Government of Palestine GoP immediately declared a State of Emergency when the first cases in the State of Palestine were diagnosed on 5 March 2020 and launched robust national containment measures, supported by an evidence-based communications campaign to encourage citizens to protect themselves and follow government guidance. The Palestine Cabinet and Local Authorities took the needed measures to respond to national and local emergency plans accordingly. The President prolonged the emergency state for another 30 days on 3rd of April while the number of confirmed cases had reached more than 205 cases in Palestine on that day.



LOCKDOWN

- No movement between the Palestinian governorates.
- Banks to operate under emergency systems, provided that employees have their identity cards with them to and from the bank
- All the directorates of the ministries will be closed, except for the ministries of Health, Social Development, National Economy, and Civil Affairs.

QUARANTINE

- Compulsory 14-day quarantine, as of 10:00 pm March 22, 2020, except those working in healthcare centers, bakeries, pharmacies and grocery stores.
- Returning Palestinians must observe a 14-day quarantine at the Ministry of Health quarantine centers in each of the governorates.

PUBLIC LIFE

- The Palestinian National Security, the civil police and the rest of the security services will be deployed at the centers and entrances to cities and towns to maintain public order.
- Cancellation or postponing all public activities/ events/ conferences

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PLAN

Multi-level Plan

National Authority

- The President announced a 30 day state of Emergency in Palestine on 5th of March, and prolongs it on 3rd of April for another 30 days.
- The Prime Minister office, representing the Palestine Cabinet put a "Multi-pronged plan" in practice to control the spread of coronavirus in Palestine
- The Prime Minister announced the closure of schools and universities, the cancellation of all hotel reservations and conferences, the shuttering of tourist and religious sites, the banning of public gatherings and protests, and other measures
- Limited movement between governorates, and shutdown borders
- The Government of Palestine "GoP" assigned a spokesperson, to limit the spread of rumors, in order to provide the public with credible sources of information about the situation, and provide updates through twice daily briefings through the National Media
- Generate Funds/Aids to support hospitals and precautionary plans
- Provide loan and banking facilities, longer grace-periods, and convenient online banking
- Force a mandatory 14-days quarantine to all in-coming travelers at government quarantine facilities

Local Government

- Ministries communicate and supervise the implementation of the GoP Emergency Plan
- Encourage and convert into E-learning
- Designate quarantine facilities for every governorate
- Ministry of Health developed a website for the community to get instant information about coronavirus updates (www.corona.ps), and dedicated a toll-free landline number to receive citizens calls and requests
- Governors supervise and communicate among sectors
- Governorates lockdown shops and restaurants
- Governorates lockdown gyms and postpone/cancel conferences or any public event in the governorates
- Control over commodity prices
- Distribute awareness messages: social media, Radio, TV and SMS to citizens, also awareness brochures

Local Authorities - Ramallah

- Ramallah Municipality initiates the disinfection and sanitation of public and civil society organizations
- Closedown public gardens, public facilities, and cancel all public city events
- Reschedule working hours, and decentralize decisions to management to arrange departments work and attendance
- Awareness about coronavirus on social media, banners in the city
- Online Open Call for volunteers from young city inhabitants
- Disinfection of municipal premises and control over building visitors
- Carry-out online social activities, and home cultural activities with citizens

Private Sector

- Flexible working hours/ working from home option, especially, for working mothers
- encourage community work
- Donations
- commitment to help in emergency times, and commodity prices



Easing the lockdown

Public Interest and Health

On the 20th of April, The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas ordered a slightly easing of the lockdown after 45-days of complete lockdown in Palestine. "We will do everything except losing our people" the President said.

The President held a teleconference with the Palestine Cabinet on that day, and ordered an easing of some of the lockdown measures imposed in Palestine. The Prime Minister announced a group of measures including:

- opening of small shops and business related to the upcoming Holy month of Ramadan; while taking into practice the safety measures.
- shops are allowed to open their doors from 10am to 5pm.
- small businesses with a maximum of three workers are allowed to open. requiring staff to follow safety measures such as social distancing.
- movement is still restricted between governorates
- movement within cities is restricted after 7:00pm
- easier measure to be evaluated according to each governorate infection level and number of confirmed coronavirus cases



RAMALLAH MUNICIPALITY MEASURES

CITY MITIGATION:

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, which in no doubt is propelling cities of all shapes to respond immediately to this global threat, that is threatening not only citizens' health, but the social cohesion, the economy and the infrastructures of territories. The implications of the Coronavirus pandemic are and will be profound for individuals, organizations, and society at large.

Believing in the role of cities in resilience building, and following the Urban Resilience road-map that was developed previously to build the resilience of the city and community; Ramallah has responsively acted to ensure that the city is ready to prevent, detect, and respond to the pandemic. All municipality's departments stood in to take the needed measures against the pandemic. Currently, the municipality is developing a study about the city resilience during COVID-19 outbreak, following the resilience qualities and indicators.

The next page provides brief points about the measures that were taken by the city of Ramallah over Coronavirus outbreak in the country, besides the measures to adapt to the change in daily-life activities, citizens' concerns, and sustaining the provision of essential services.



CITY-LEVEL MEASURES

Ramallah Municipality quickly realized that COVID-19 pandemic will be one of the most challenging stresses in its history. In our protective and precautionary measures setting process, we deployed Risk Management to integrate policies and processes to be carried out by municipal departments, as a result, we set our mitigation measures as follows:



EMERGENCY PLAN

The city council established an emergency team, to set actions in motion, continued work via virtual meetings



LOCKDOWN MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

City Council made a decision on the 5th of March to close all public parks and municipal facilities



DISINFECTION

Municipal team does disinfection to various public venues and spaces



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Online Open Call for young city volunteer to support neighborhoods during the critical times. More than 700 young volunteers applied.



SERVICE PROVISION

Municipal service provision focused on solid waste collection, waste water and treatment plants operation. Also, supporting neighboring cities in service provision



EMERGENCY ROOMS

The city was zoned into 19 neighborhoods to facilitate better services. Use of GIS interactive apps and spatial analysis to document cases, support decision-making and management of incoming requests

DISINFECTION OF QUARANTINE FACILITIES

The municipality has taken the precautionary required measures to dispose solid waste and medical waste that are collected from the quarantine centers in the City. The City collected and disposed 1.2 ton/day of medical waste, other than 100 tons/day of household solid waste

The city has converted hotels into quarantine centers to receive confirmed cases or cases under examination. The centres are in accordance with the medical and WHO standards.



Even in critical times, we rise to stand against the occupation injustice



the Israeli occupation invades the city of Ramallah at night, to capture young Palestinians,

in the next morning, the municipality re-cleans and disinfects the buildings and streets that were invaded.

The background is a solid teal color. There are twelve black tick marks of varying lengths arranged in a circular pattern around the central text, resembling a clock face or a sunburst.

Online Awareness Campaigns and Activities

Awareness Campaigns

- Sending awareness messages, educational posts on social media about protective and precautionary measures
- Updating citizens through social media about the measures that are taken across the city
- Using multi-media methods to reach all segments
- Educating all city segments to find their household location through GIS: check video: <https://bit.ly/2X0ixBo>
- Joining the global campaign initiated by the Creative Cities Network - pioneered by UNESCO: **#weRculture** to ask representatives in the creative industry to share awareness messages with their communities. Ramallah is a member of the Creative Cities Network, and works to leverage the platform for the benefit of the community

Online Cultural and Social activities



Online singing sessions for kids



Virtual Story-telling for kids through social media

city senior volunteered to tell stories to kids through the municipality's social media pages

watch video here:
bit.ly/3aCLRSC



Live sports classes through social media

A certified trainer and city senior volunteered to give classes for home-workouts during the quarantine

watch video here:
bit.ly/2UW0oSx

our Forum of Expertise, continues it's activities online; city seniors arrange [virtual languages classes](#), exchange online-books, [e-games](#), and [share virtual tours](#).

learn more about the [Ramallah Forum of Expertise](#) here : bit.ly/39Aj9R40

Cultural and Social Events

Even during quarantine, the municipality ensured citizens are able to practice social and cultural activities:

Land Day

The 30th of March marks the Land Day in Palestine, a day when all Palestinians commemorate land loss and martyrs who were killed in 1976 by Israeli Authority while defending and protecting their lands. Normally on this day; events are held in the country, where thousands of Palestinians gather to celebrate the day. Due to the current situation, the municipality adapted the event to be a family celebration at home, by first asking families and kids to prepare paintings and drawings about the Land Day, and share them on social media. Also, the municipality arranged a trail to visit neighborhoods in the city and sing together from houses' balconies different Palestinian national songs while raising Palestine's flag.



"Ramallah Spring, Keep your home green"

Spring is a season to encourage citizens to plant and green the city. On a yearly basis, the municipality organizes the "Ramallah Spring" - an event that invites everyone to plant the city. Due to the current circumstances, the municipality asked citizens to plant their homes.



1

An online call for whom are interested to participate in the home-planting event was published, citizens submitted online requests through a form linked to the municipality's GIS application; to document the exact location of requests, as to distribute plants to citizens' homes.

2

The orders registered were analyzed and grouped per locations. A distribution plan was set and communicated with city volunteers, taking into account the safety measures.

3

A Three-day distribution plan: the city was divided into 23 neighborhoods. Municipal employees with city volunteers were grouped and assigned to zones to deliver the plants



4

- 80,000 plants were distributed
- 2500 houses received plants
- 150 city volunteers participated in the distribution of plants



Easter's Holy Fire ceremony



The Governor and Mayor of Ramallah at the Orthodox Church in Ramallah to receive the Holy Light coming from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem



The flame is handed through the control points to other cities and villages in the West Bank

The centuries-old ceremony is held annually one day preceding Orthodox Easter in the old city of Jerusalem in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, it is believed by many Christians to be the place of where Jesus Christ was entombed and resurrected. During this time, blue light is said to emit within Jesus Christ's tomb. The light is believed to form a column of fire, from which candles are lit, and then distributed to Churches in Palestine and to other European Countries such as: Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Cyprus, Georgia, Romania, Moldova, Belarus, Poland and Kazakhstan.

Thousands of worshippers attend the ceremony, due to lockdown this year the ceremony limited to only pilgrims to deliver the Holy Light from the church to other Christian communities. The ceremony was broadcast live to reach thousands at their homes worldwide.



The municipality and Youth Club "Sareyyet Ramallah-First Ramallah Group - Sport, Scout, Culture" arranged to receive the Holy Light and to distribute it to citizens' homes in the city.



The municipality live streamed the Easter mass to reach worshippers at their homes

Welcoming the Holy light in 2019 vs. 2020 in Ramallah



Seasonal Greetings



Easter greeting was arranged to reach all patients at quarantine facilities and hospitals in the governorate, also to restless security personnel at control points



Governor of Ramallah, Mayor of Ramallah, and Sheikh greet citizens for the beginning of the holy month. The event is streamed live for citizens to celebrate from their homes.

The city celebrates the holy month of Ramadan, one of the major celebrations is the lighting of Ramadan Lantern at the city's major landmark.

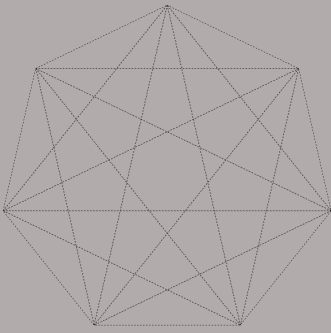


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

Partnerships for the Goals:

Like no other time, the world needs to be connected, and to bring efforts together to overcome the current and future critical conditions. Ramallah as an active member in several global networks, such as : UCLG, MC2CM, ICMA, Metropolis, GRCN, Creative Cities, and others - alongside its twining-ship with more than 35 cities, has been aiming to leverage these partnerships to firstly stand side-by-side with partners, exchange knowledge, and share resources and good practices in facing the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences.

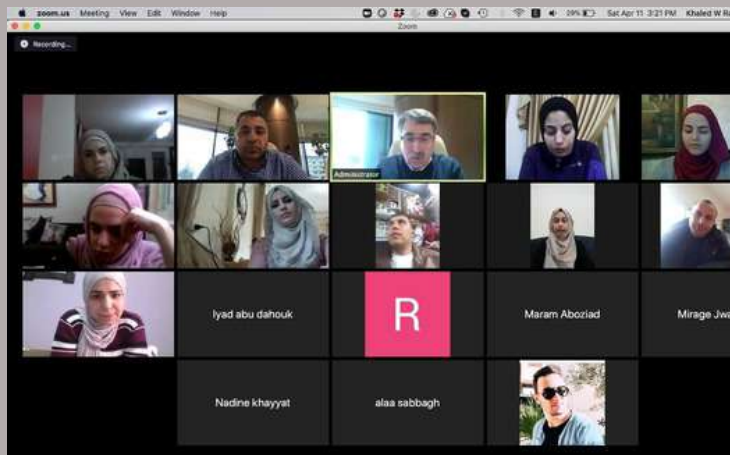
It is a deep belief that cities' responsibility knows no boundaries, and that all communities should be hand-in-hand to assure every person is safe and protected.



Digitization

sharing the Experience with partners, youth, and peers

employing technological solutions to stay connected



Zoom and WebEx regular meetings



online surveying to collect data, support decision making, event planning, and to share data with partners



online procurement to support the municipality's work during emergency, and to remotely support staff

building online community across online social platforms

more than 400 awareness and informative posts and 60 videos



Stay Resilient, Stay Safe!

Questions and communications can be addressed to:

Ahmed AbuLaban: City Director and Chief Resilience Officer, at:
citydir@ramallah.ps

and

Nadine Burbar: Deputy Chief Resilience Officer, at:
n.burbar@ramallah.ps