

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

State of Palestine — Climate Justice and Resource Equity

Snapshot: Population ~5.5 million | GDP per capita ~US\$3,700 | Fragility context: Protracted conflict and institutional constraints | Region: Middle East

Integrated Context

In the State of Palestine, climate vulnerability cannot be understood in isolation from the broader political and institutional context. Environmental pressures—particularly water scarcity and land degradation—are closely intertwined with structural constraints that shape access to resources, infrastructure development, and governance capacity.

Water remains the most critical issue. Limited groundwater availability, rising demand, and constraints on infrastructure development have created a persistent imbalance between supply and need. At the same time, agriculture continues to play an important role in sustaining rural livelihoods, yet it is increasingly exposed to rainfall variability, soil degradation, and restricted access to land.

Climate change is expected to deepen these existing pressures. Higher temperatures, more frequent droughts, and changing rainfall patterns will further strain water systems, reduce agricultural productivity, and increase risks for vulnerable communities. In this setting, environmental management is challenged not only by resource limitations, but also by fragmented institutional arrangements and limited planning space.

Strengthening resilience therefore requires practical, locally grounded approaches—expanding decentralized water solutions, improving environmental data and monitoring, and supporting community-level adaptation that can operate effectively within existing constraints.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Persistent water scarcity and pressure on aquifers
- Land degradation and declining soil quality
- Limited capacity for coordinated climate planning
- Increasing exposure to drought and heat stress

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Decentralized and context-appropriate water management systems
- Climate-resilient agriculture and livelihood support
- Evidence-based environmental policy research and advocacy
- Community-led adaptation and local resilience planning

Strategic Note

In Palestine, climate resilience is fundamentally linked to questions of equity—particularly access to water, land, and basic services. Progress will depend on strengthening local capacities, supporting practical adaptation solutions, and ensuring that environmental strategies are grounded in the realities of a constrained governance environment.

SDG Alignment: 2 • 6 • 13 • 15 • 16