

The period of the project, from 12/1992 as well as the following period from 07/1993 to 06/1996 included a series of activities which can be summarized as follows:

1. Erection and operation of a pilot treatment plant in 1992;
2. Preliminary final design of the activated sludge treatment plant till 12/1994;
3. Contracting of a Joint Venture German/local consultant in 06/1995 for final design and supervision;
4. Final design for the treatment plant in 11/1995;
5. Completion of the international tender documents till 11/1995;
6. Precalification for contractors till 10/1995;
7. Long term advisory services by a German sewage expert (Technical Advisor) as from 12/1993 to the Municipality including selection and training of future operation personnel.

With the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority, and within the scope of the bi-lateral (Palestinian/German) negotiations, it was decided in 1996 to finance the investment costs for the extension of the sewer network and the wastewater treatment plant in Al Bireh in the framework of the Financial Cooperation through KfW, the German Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The corresponding agreements were signed in 12/1996 and 08/1997 and included the construction and connection of a sewer network with pumping station in the Lower South suburb of Al Bireh. The two German institutions (GTZ and KfW) concluded a cooperation agreement in view of concentrating their efforts to achieve the project purpose within the accorded time schedule.

The on-going second period of the project, from 07/1996 to 06/2000 includes within the framework of the Technical Cooperation the major part of the training activities in 3 blocks according to an agreed training programme for the designated personnel of the Sewage Section and for the operation of the sewerage system. Furthermore, it contains the elaboration and – partially – implementation of special studies such as the organizational and manpower study, tariff study and preparation of a by-law, wastewater and sludge reuse study and the preparation of an industrial wastewater cadastra. These activities are coordinated and accompanied by the Technical Advisor who simultaneously is in charge of three other technical cooperation projects in the area.

The Financial Cooperation component of the project included the construction of the sewer network and pumping station at Lower South catchment area which was concluded in 1999, and the wastewater treatment plant that is still under construction. Furthermore it is planned to extend the sewer network to Upper North, which will be implemented shortly.

It should be mentioned that due to various reasons the finalization of construction of the wastewater treatment plant was in delay for 18 to 21 months. The main reasons were identified as follows:

- External influences due to the political situation;
- Tendering procedure included invitation to offer alternative treatment processes, requiring a longer submission period;
- Evaluation of offers took more time because of the presentation of alternative treatment processes;