

CONTEXT

KLIMOS mission to Palestine, assessing sustainability of current school construction program (bilateral development cooperation) and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Focus on newly built schools in the West Bank.

METHODOLOGY

Visits to eight school buildings, both in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Meetings with local actors (school staff, government agencies, university professors, research centers, etc.), providing a broader development perspective on Palestine.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Involve all relevant stakeholders in the design process
2. Ensure good indoor air quality conditions in all school buildings (including existing ones)
3. Increase thermal comfort in the classrooms through implementation of passive design strategies
4. Include renewable energy projects into future school construction programs
5. Guarantee optimal supply of drinking water while minimizing total consumption
6. Maximize green areas on school grounds and use them for educational purposes
7. Contribute to a nationally integrated strategy for sustainable development
8. Use the high visibility of these construction programs in raising awareness on sustainability



Visited schools in the West Bank, newly built under the school construction program



Existing schools in East Jerusalem

EAST JERUSALEM

- Specific context due to Israel's control, e.g. issuing building permits, resulting in a general lack of sufficient school buildings
- Nearly impossible to build new schools, focus on rehabilitation and renovation of existing buildings
- Building capacity inadequate for educational purposes, e.g. regarding fire safety, sanitary provisions, etc. considering the high student population
- Besides overcrowded classrooms, schools are generally in a deteriorated state and create unhealthy indoor conditions for students

KLIMOS is an interdisciplinary and interuniversity research platform working on climate change adaptation and mitigation in development aid.

Earlier a working paper was published, titled 'Sustainable urban planning and construction in the South', providing general recommendations on integrating sustainable building aspects in development cooperation policies.