

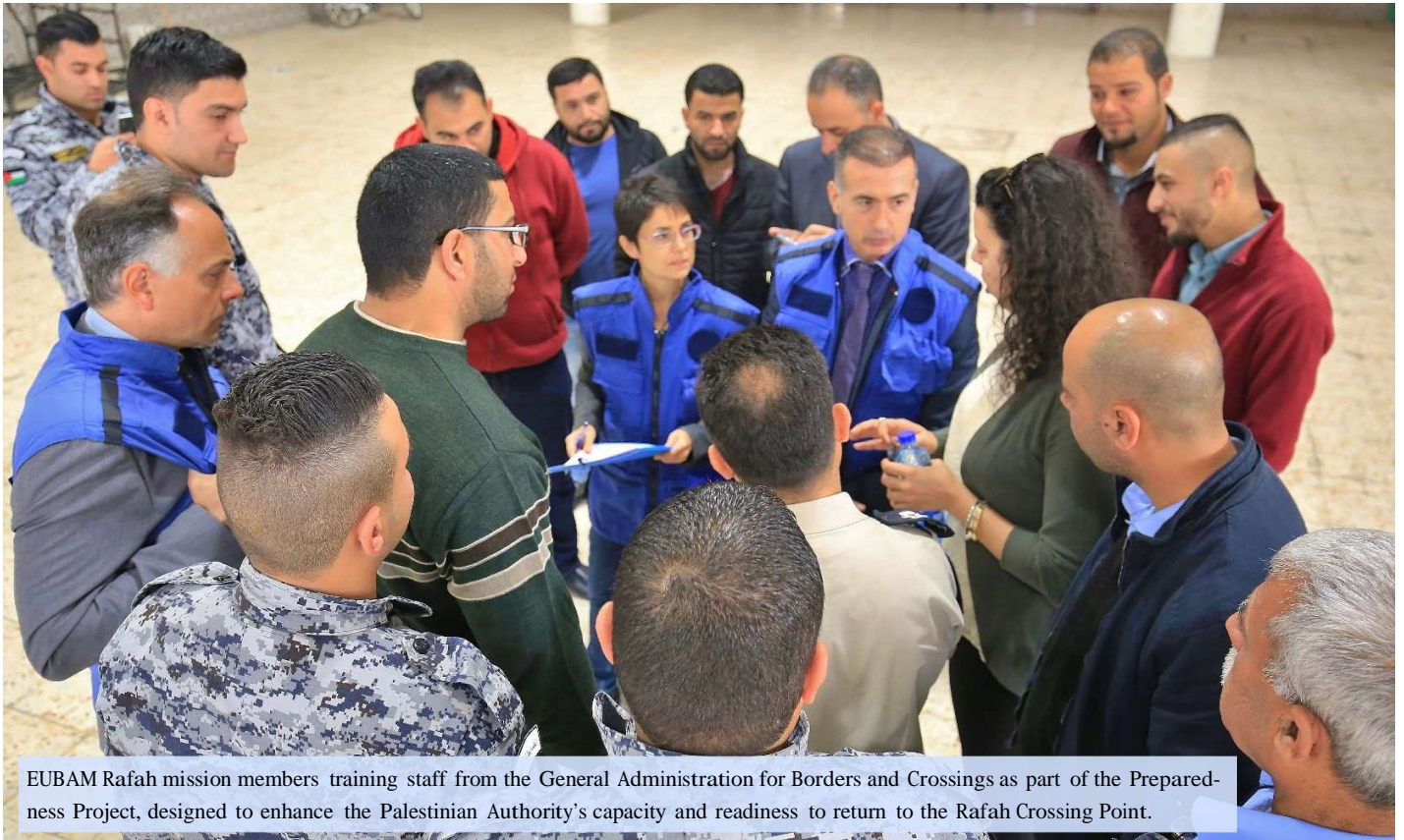




# EUBAM RAFAH

The European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing

[www.eubam-rafah.eu](http://www.eubam-rafah.eu)



EUBAM Rafah mission members training staff from the General Administration for Borders and Crossings as part of the Preparedness Project, designed to enhance the Palestinian Authority's capacity and readiness to return to the Rafah Crossing Point.

## Achievements and Progress

As part of the Preparedness Project, the Mission has been engaged in a number of activities to enhance the Palestinian Authority's capacity on border issues.

Since its initiation, the main strategic documents, such as an Integrated Border Management Strategy, a Business Strategy and the Joint Redeployment Plan have been drafted, completed and adopted by GABC. These documents, aimed to ensure an effective management of the RCP, are continuously updated.

In terms of capacity building activities, numerous trainings, workshops and study visits have been conducted as part of the Preparedness Project. These have involved GABC senior and middle management as well as personnel employed at the border and local stakeholders, e.g. Representatives from the Public Prosecutor's Office and from the Customs Court.

Promoting local buy-in of these activities and projects has been a part of the process to ensure sustainability along with training of trainers, aimed at building up a pool of competent instructors for the border administration.

## Mission State of Play

Despite the suspension of operations at the RCP in June 2007, EUBAM Rafah has maintained its capacity to rapidly redeploy.

The European Council has reaffirmed, on numerous occasions, the EU's readiness to reactivate EUBAM Rafah, once political and security conditions allow.

In 2014, the Mission started the implementation of the Preparedness Project, to enhance the PA's capacity and readiness to return to the RCP.

In 2015, a Joint Road Map was signed with the Mission's Palestinian counterparts in this regard, which enhanced cooperation with the Mission in working on strategies and policies, in addition to training activities.

2016 Integrated Border Management Strategy was developed and has been gradually implemented with Mission assistance. In this regard, EUBAM Rafah funded a "Training Center" (fully operational since 2017). The TC provides in-person and distant learning courses and other learning activities and services to GABC personnel and to the personnel of the seven agencies under its umbrella. The Mission played also a crucial role in establishing of the GABC Command and Control Centre (CCC), which enhances efficiency of coordination among all the GABC agencies.

In 2018, using the short-term PA control of the RCP, EUBAM Rafah's experts did a Comprehensive Technical Assessment of the RCP and their findings represent a solid base for training and other capacity building activities preparing GABC services personnel for future redeployment at the RCP.



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Currently, the Mission focuses on supporting GABC in enhancing border and anti-smuggling control, based on intelligence-oriented approach and on strengthening GABC operational staff's ability to operate the terminal in accordance with international standards, in regard to advanced border-control related activities and the use of new/state-of-art technologies or training on specialised skills. EUBAM Rafah has also intensified its cooperation with the other relevant EU missions and agencies, EU member states and other international stakeholders to support the PA on border-related matters with a view to a return to the RCP.

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