Beyond Borders

Palestine as the Region's Premier Hub for R&D and Digital Innovation

وزارة الاتصالات والاقتصاد الرقمي
Ministry of Telecommunications & Digital Economy

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To enhance our digital sovereignty, the Palestinian Ministry of Telecom and Digital Economy is establishing five national research and development centers:

Palestine Data Foundry aims to make available localized AI models;

The Co-Development Model aims to export innovation;

The Deputyship of Digital Economy and Innovation center aligns our R&D output with regional needs;

The Skills Universe initiative enables our workforce to immerse itself in the regional ecosystem;

The Sovereign Infrastructure and Data Embassy project provides stability and continuity by hosting cloud infrastructures in secure locations abroad.

In January 2026, Palestine is facing a winter of unprecedented physical limitation. Yet it is precisely this pressure that is forging our greatest export. We are pivoting to the digital realm not merely as a survival tactic but as a strategic offensive. Our goal is bold: to transform Palestine into the region's primary engine for localized research and development (R&D) and high-value digital services. Moving beyond the traditional model of "outsourcing," we are building a nation of creators, localizers, and innovators. Here is how we will achieve this vision.

The engine driving our sovereignty is the establishment of national research and development centers. To truly lead, we cannot just consume technology; we must adapt and improve it. Thus, we are establishing five national R&D centers specifically designed to bridge the gap between global technology and regional needs.

The Palestine Data Foundry fosters localization: We are launching a specialized R&D facility that focuses on the "last mile" of artificial intelligence, namely data curation and localization. Global AI models tend to lack cultural and linguistic nuance for the Arab world. The Data Foundry will employ Palestinian linguists, engineers, and domain experts to perform reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF) and data labeling. We will take global models and "Arabize" them, exporting these refined, culturally intelligent algorithms to governments and enterprises across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and North Africa.

The Co-Development Model exports innovation: We are moving away from simple freelance contracts toward institutional R&D partnerships. Following the model of our proposed collaboration with global tech giants such as Microsoft, we are setting up dedicated R&D hubs where Palestinian teams function as extended engineering arms for regional companies. These centers don't just fix bugs, they build core products, allowing our neighbors to leverage Palestinian engineering talent to accelerate their own digital roadmaps.

The Deputyship of Digital Economy and Innovation model has been established within the ministry and tasked with aligning our national R&D output with the specific digital sovereignty needs of our neighboring countries, ensuring that what we build



in Ramallah or Gaza solves problems in Riyadh and Cairo.

The “Skills Universe” is an initiative that trains our workforce for regional impact and provides the necessary infrastructure. Our traditional economy is limited by physical checkpoints, but the digital economy is boundless. Through our Skills Universe initiative, we are fundamentally reorienting our workforce from local generalists to regional specialists. We are equipping 40,000 SMEs and freelancers with the specific toolsets required by the booming digital economies of the Middle East. Whether it is a developer in Jenin or a data scientist in Gaza, we are providing the infrastructure for them to integrate seamlessly into the workflows of regional companies without ever needing a travel permit.

Palestine thus offers high-value differentiation through an AI-enabled workforce. To be the “best,” we must offer superior efficiency. We are targeting the creation of 25,000 AI-enabled jobs by embedding GovGPT-Pal and AI literacy into our national curriculum. We are not just training coders, we are training AI-augmented professionals. This means that a Palestinian hire will bring not just human ingenuity but also the exponential productivity of artificial intelligence. We are turning our human capital into an unblockable, high-value asset that delivers results faster and with higher complexity than competitors.

A major concern for international partners is stability. We answer this with the Sovereign Infrastructure and Data Embassy project. By hosting our critical digital foundations in trusted, immune cloud infrastructures abroad, we guarantee continuity. This infrastructure assures our R&D partners that Palestinian digital services are resilient. Even if physical connectivity is disrupted locally, our Data Embassy model ensures that the code, intellectual property, and operational history of our R&D centers remain secure and accessible 24/7.

In conclusion, we can assure investors and CEOs that the consideration to hire Palestinian employees is shifting from aid delivery to securing assets. “Vision 2028: Digital Palestine” is a shift in narrative. We are telling our neighbors: Do not look to Palestine for charity; look to us for capability. When you invest in a Palestinian R&D center, you are not just funding a startup; you are securing a partner that has mastered resilience. We are transforming a generation of survivors into a generation of innovators, building a digital horizon that no wall can obscure.

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