

# Municipal Profile: RAMALLAH



**About the Municipality:** Ramallah is a key political, cultural, commercial, and economic center in the West Bank. Originally founded by the Haddadin clan in the 1500s, Ramallah grew dramatically in the 17th and 18th century as an agricultural village and later in the early 20th century as an upscale destination in the region. Home today to over 27,000, including famous Palestinian activists, poets, artists, and musicians, it is renowned for hosting the gravesite of the most celebrated Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish, and has produced several traditional Palestinian dance (*dabkeh*) groups that have performed all over the world.



In 2013, CHF and Ramallah Municipality began a long-term partnership under the Local Government & Infrastructure program (LGI) funded by USAID. This partnership will support the municipality's ability to further meet the needs of its citizens in a

*Photo: Planned upgrades to Ramallah Municipality building and establishment of Citizen Service Center*

**Center for Governance Excellence:** In line with the strategy of the Palestinian local governance sector, CHF's partnership with Ramallah will focus on three key areas – **community participation, service delivery, and leadership development** – to support the municipality's vision of being a responsive, efficient, and effective center for governance excellence. Under these areas, LGI's main interventions will include:

Key Interventions	Expected Outcomes
<b>Participatory Planning and Strategic Development &amp; Investment Plan (2014)</b>	Community members will take an effective role in decisions that affect their lives by participating in developing the city's Strategic Development & Investment plan that will be the guiding document for local economic and social development for the next 8 to 12 years.
<b>Upgrade Ramallah Municipality and establish Citizen Service Center (2014)</b>	Provide the municipality with state of the art municipal facility that will provide key services in an automated and transparent manner.
<b>E-municipality (2014)</b>	The introduction of e-municipality will enable citizens to access municipal services online, easing congestion at the municipality and reducing time spent accessing services.
<b>Municipal Strategic Corporate Plan (2014)</b>	Based on a new municipal capacity assessment tool, the municipality will develop a Municipal Strategic Corporate Plan that outlines how the municipality will address its institutional development priorities.
<b>Enhanced internal audit approaches (2014)</b>	An enhanced internal audit unit will ensure that the municipality adheres to required procurement, financial, and administrative regulations, while also enhancing transparency and accountability of the municipality to citizens.
<b>Metropolitan Plan (2014)</b>	A new Metropolitan Plan for Ramallah, Al Bireh, and Beitunia will ensure proper planning for local development, transportation, and zoning to ensure enhanced access to public services and recreational spaces and greater environmental protection.

