

- Association founded 1928
- Affiliated to FIFA in 1998



Flag



Association emblem



World map



Football in Palestine

Although football in Palestine has been badly affected by the political turmoil in the region, the association tries to keep league activities and matches going according to plan. The West Bank and Gaza each has a league of ten teams, with the two winners competing for the Palestine championship. The huge crowd following and the scores of children playing in the streets bear testimony to the popularity of football, which helps the locals to forget their daily woes. The young association's greatest success so far has been its qualification for the second round of the Olympic Football Tournament Athens 2004. Ismail Al-Masry, the best and most famous player in the region, was appointed manager of the Palestinian national team.

The Goal Project

Palestine was chosen as a pilot project as part of the *Goal* programme. Though the headquarters of the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) in Gaza was built in February 2002, it did not open until the summer of 2005 after a lull in the political situation. The building serves as a technical centre and offers ideal conditions for the administrative coordination of the game as well as providing accommodation for national and club teams and persons attending courses and meetings. In a letter to FIFA, PFA President General Ahmad Afifi wrote that the new headquarters were an enormous help to the PFA, both in administrative and technical terms, and had already made a significant contribution to the development and improvement of Palestinian football. The second part of the *Goal* Project foresees the completion of the technical centre and an artificial pitch in Gaza delayed due to external circumstances and the installation of artificial pitches in Ramallah and in Ram, near Jerusalem. To this end the *Goal* Bureau released additional funds on 7 November 2005. The French government and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation have also provided funding for these pitches. FIFA's Finance Committee had already approved the sum of USD 100,000 from the FIFA Humanitarian Fund for the purchase of equipment.



Financing of Goal project

Project

Association headquarters in Gaza, artificial turf pitches in Gaza, Ramallah and Ram

Project approved

Pilot project

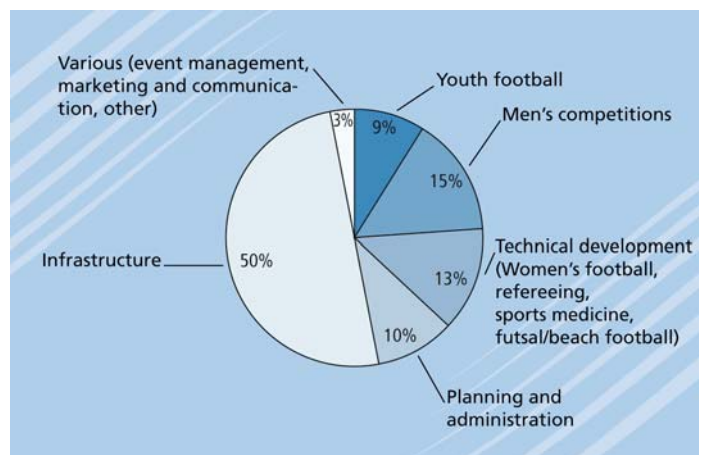
Status

Football turf at Al-Husseini stadium, Ramallah, opened on 26 October 2008

Financed by

Goal	USD	1,432,000
FAP	USD	336,705
French Government	USD	456,401
Saudi Arabian FA	USD	350,000
Total cost (parts 1+2)	USD	2,575,106

Use of FAP funds



Football education and courses

	No of courses until 1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
FUTURO III regional courses																					
Refereeing (men and women)																					
Coaching (men)															□						
Coaching (women)																					
Administration and management																					
Football medicine																					
Seminars																					
Women's football																				●	
Futsal																					
Com-Unity																					
MA Seminars																					
MA courses																					
Administration																					
Refereeing (men and women)									●		●								●		
Coaching (men and women)																					
Beach soccer																					
Futsal																					
Olympic solidarity coaching courses																					
Development courses and academies (1975 - 1990)	0																				
FUTURO I-II courses for all football branches																					

●: Course host country □: Course participant in another country

Women's football

When, in 1995, today's FIFA President said "The future of football is feminine", it was more than mere lip service. It reflected a strong belief in the huge potential that women's football has to develop. Ever since, FIFA has given targeted support for the efforts of associations who offer women the same opportunities to develop as male players. Launched in 1998, FIFA's Financial Assistance Programme (FAP) introduced a requirement in 2004 for the associations and confederations to invest at least 4% of their FAP funding into women's football. This threshold was increased to 10% in 2005. On top of this commitment, FIFA also promotes the women's game in more general ways by directly financing women's matches and organising competitions and symposiums. Thanks to its development programmes, FIFA is also playing an active role in the training of administrators, coaches, referees and sports doctors.



Does an organised women's football set-up exist?	yes
If so, since when?	2003
From which age on, players are registered?	13
Women's teams (open or over 16 years)	14
Women's teams (below 16 years, youth)	12
National competition (or women's league)	no
Regional competitions	yes
University competitions	yes
School competitions	no
Futsal competitions	yes
National "A" team	yes
National youth teams: age categories	U-18

