

Gaza Phoenix

A Framework for the Reconstruction of Gaza Strip

The " Gaza Phoenix " Framework is a document that provides a conceptual and practical foundation for launching reconstruction programs in the Gaza Strip. It represents the general philosophy adopted by municipalities, public bodies, experts, and Palestinian grassroots communities both within and outside Gaza. This project is the outcome of a collective effort by a multidisciplinary group of Palestinian experts deeply rooted in Palestinian contexts and strongly committed to the issues of Palestinian land and society. The proposal was developed through close collaboration and continuous exchange among team members who voluntarily contributed to this initiative.

The proposal reflects the diversity and integration of the team's expertise, encompassing fields such as urban planning, architecture, political strategies, law, sociology, ethnography, economics, environment, history, heritage, medicine, and management. This comprehensive approach seeks to harmonize theoretical, academic, professional, and practical knowledge to achieve the project's objectives.



The General Vision

The " Gaza Phoenix " framework provides a sustainable, comprehensive, productive, and locally rooted vision with credibility, aimed at reviving Gaza and steering it towards a better future. It distinguishes itself by presenting a roadmap that integrates future plans with urgent recovery measures during the war, designed to be activated both during and after the genocidal war. The goal is to preserve assets (both tangible and intangible) and create the conditions for post-war reconstruction.

The " Gaza Phoenix " framework strives to maximize the impact of efforts dedicated to the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. Amid the diversity of ideas, proposals, and plans emerging from local and international entities—whether official or grassroots—the project seeks to provide a comprehensive framework that accommodates these various interventions, whether philosophical, practical, planning-oriented, or administrative and organizational in nature.

This document envisions a reconstruction framework characterized by flexibility, authenticity, and effectiveness, tailored to address the actual needs on the ground. It aims to restore and renew local rights and relationships while guiding Gaza towards a future defined on its own terms.

The " Gaza Phoenix " framework rejects the notion of treating Gaza as a tabula rasa. Instead, it bases its proposals on a precise understanding and deep appreciation of the rich social and spatial relationships that persist in Gaza, despite the genocidal warfare, urban destruction, and environmental devastation it has endured. From this perspective, the framework seeks to anchor itself in the local reality, drawing on Gaza's past, present, and future potential to confront the

imposition of foreign plans that lack relevance, respect, and awareness of the local context, or are exploitative by nature, often premised on the flawed assumption that Gaza is a blank slate.

Advisory Tool

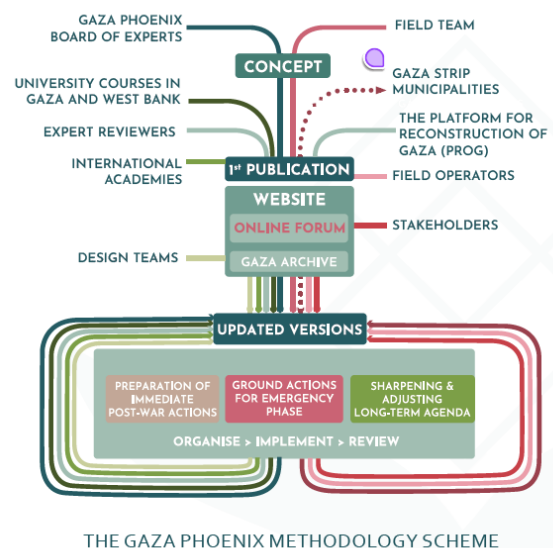
The methodology of " Gaza Phoenix " is distinguished by its adaptability to the dynamic local conditions. Rather than offering pre-designed and fixed plans, " Gaza Phoenix " focuses on identifying overarching goals and principles while providing methods and tools to support the implementation of the reconstruction process. This begins with urgent actions during the war and extends to comprehensive long-term planning for the future.

The role of experts in " Gaza Phoenix " is empowering the community's vision, rather than imposing one. The future of Gaza should remain in the hands of its people. The mission of the multidisciplinary team within the " Gaza Phoenix " framework is to facilitate, activate, articulate, and advocate for the local vision, ensuring that the reconstruction process is deeply rooted in the local context.

Methodology

The development of this framework involved multiple stages, including discussions among experts from various disciplines, presentations, and feedback sessions with professionals. The framework was also shaped through intensive internal deliberations and constructive feedback from officials and experts in Gaza's municipalities, field practitioners, local experts, and academics. Additionally, key stages of the process were presented at international seminars and meetings to gather broader feedback and insights.

This effort was supported by hundreds of volunteer hours from Birzeit University students, who contributed to data collection, classification, and visualization. As a result, the structure of the " Gaza Phoenix " framework is built upon a robust understanding of best practices and contemporary projects, while incorporating the local perspective, ongoing feedback, and academic discourse on post-war reconstruction and recovery.



The Document Structure

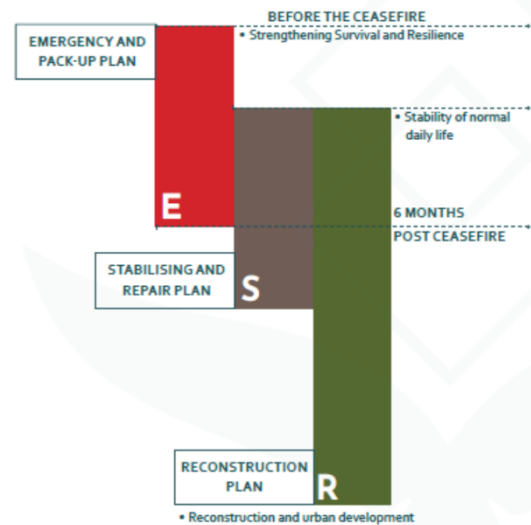
The Phoenix Gaza Framework document comprises three key components:

1. **Introductory Package:** including the principles, team members, methodology, and document structure.
2. **Reconstruction Roadmap for Gaza.**
3. **Essential Appendices:** including recommendations, visual materials, and maps supporting the document.

The Reconstruction Roadmap

The roadmap aligns with the framework's principles, divided into three main phases:

1. **Short-term (Emergency Plan - E):** From now until six months post-war.
2. **Medium-term (Stabilization and Repair Plan - S):** From the ceasefire declaration, lasting two to three years.
3. **Long-term (Reconstruction and Development Plan - R):** Starting from ceasefire and extending five years or more.



Each phase comprises three sections:

- **Criteria:** which are a set of leading theoretical and practical guidelines and standpoints to be followed for the planning and implementation of the strategic goals.
- **Components:** which are spatial components of the masterplans or design schemes.
- **Sectors and Actions:** in which actions for each service sector are mentioned and discussed briefly. At the end of each section, we provide the “Actions, Actors and Needs” table which summarizes the practical actions at each scale.

The long-term plan organizes its recommendations into four interrelated scales of intervention, reflecting the spatial and drawing scales commonly utilized in planning and design proposals:

- **Regional Scale:** Encompasses the entire Gaza Strip, with drawing scales ranging from 1:25,000 to 1:100,000.
- **Urban Scale:** Focuses on the city's urban master plan, with drawing scales ranging from 1:1,000 to 1:25,000.
- **Neighbourhood Scale:** Addresses urban design projects, providing more detailed master plans for specific areas, including housing developments, business districts, and similar projects, with drawing scales between 1:250 and 1:1,000.
- **Architectural Scale:** Covers architectural design projects, small-scale landscape designs, street layouts, roundabouts, and landmarks, with drawing scales varying from 1:50 to 1:250.

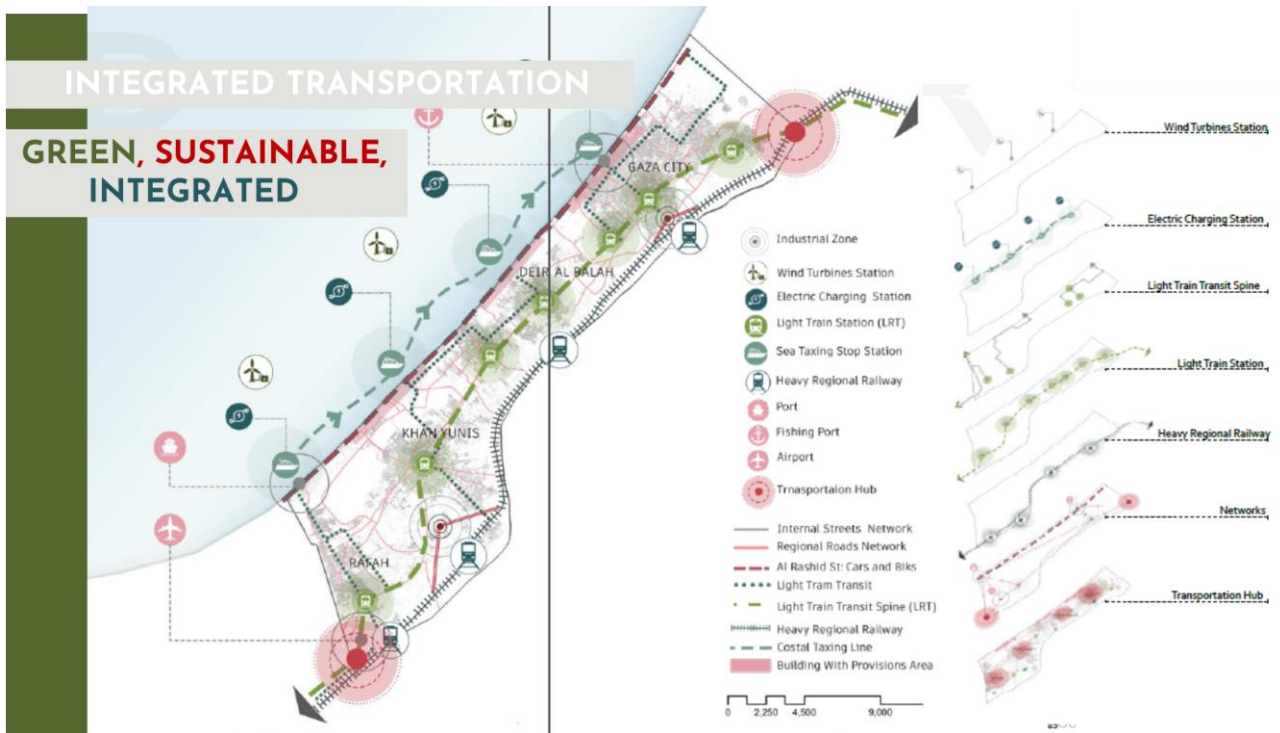
Appendices

The third section of the document includes critical appendices divided into two main parts:

1. General Recommendations:
 - **Build Forward Better (BFB):** Guidelines for redesigning and updating urban planning and building codes to create a better urban environment.
 - **Future Expansion:** Strategic urban growth recommendations for local authorities.

- **Economic Development:** Economic strategies to accelerate recovery and transition to sustainable growth.
- **Design and Planning Concepts:** Summaries of modern urban development philosophies for future reference.

2. Visual Materials and Maps: Maps and visuals supporting decision-making, which require updates post-war to ensure accuracy.



A Preliminary Regional Planning Model for Improving the Transportation Sector in the Gaza Strip