

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of **Global Dialogue and Democracy**-MIFTAH  
المبادرة الفلسطينية لتعميق الحوار العالمي والديمقراطية



MIFTAH

# ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2010

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MIFTAH

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# Table of Contents

1.	Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees	04
2.	Foreword by the Chief Executive Officer	05
3.	MIFTAH's Mission, Vision and Strategic Objectives	06
4.	MIFTAH's Board of Trustees	07
5.	Who's Who at MIFTAH	08
6.	MIFTAH's Programs	09
	• Good Governance and Democracy	10
	<i>Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership</i>	10
	Combating Violence against Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organizations	10
	Gender, Peace and Security	15
	Women Electoral Support Points	17
	Instituting a Gender-Responsive Palestinian National Budget	19
	Gender-Responsive Budget in Local Councils	20
	Ensuring a Legislative Environment Supportive of the Reduction of GBV through working on MDG3	20
	<i>Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership</i>	21
	Active Youth for Social Change-Jerusalem	21
	Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders-Phase II	22
	<i>Policy Formulation</i>	24
	Policy meetings	24
	<i>Community Development</i>	26
	Fostering Community Change in the Occupied Palestinian Territory	26
	<i>Transformation in Conflict</i>	28
	Beyond Managing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Demonstrating the Effectiveness of a Conflict-Sensitive Social Transformation Approach	28
	Social Transformation in Inter-Cultural Conflict-Israel and Palestine-a Step towards Enhancing Cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region	28
	<i>Networking, Lobbying and Advocacy</i>	29
	• Media and Information	30
	Information Material and External Relations	30
	<i>Media Monitoring Unit</i>	31
	Promoting Good Governance through Empowering Media Students: The Critical Reading of Print Media	31
	Improved Media Discourse in the Palestinian territory and Israel	33
7.	MIFTAH's audited financial report for 2010	34
8.	Among MIFTAH's supporters	42

## Letter from the Chair of the Board of Trustees



On the occasion of MIFTAH's 12<sup>th</sup> annual activities report, I would like to congratulate the organization, its administration and staff for the wonderful job it has done for over a decade. MIFTAH has forged its path of promoting democracy, the free flow of information, dialogue and the empowerment of women and youth in spite of difficulties and obstacles both within Palestine and outside its borders.

In my capacity as Chair of the Board of Trustees, I have seen MIFTAH grow and advance over the years. The organization has created a reputation for itself based on credibility, professionalism and a strong conviction to serve society. With such a mandate, coupled with the strong and capable

women and men who make up MIFTAH's team, its success is no surprise.

It is my utmost hope that MIFTAH continues to realize its mission of empowering Palestine's women and youth, to encourage open dialogue among all Palestinians and the world and to ultimately contribute to creating a better Palestinian society.

Allow me once again to congratulate MIFTAH on its excellent work, dedication and commitment to the values it embraces and to the vision of an independent and sovereign Palestine, which we all share.

Sincerely,  
***Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far***



## Foreword by the Chief Executive Officer



This has been a difficult year for all Palestinians, but I am proud to say that in its 12<sup>th</sup> year running, MIFTAH has been able to rise above obstacles and setbacks to continue its commitment and work towards bettering Palestinian society. This has been a year of political ebbs and flows, with major setbacks and major achievements, all of which MIFTAH has addressed and embraced in its work. In the field, MIFTAH has continued to excel in its commitment towards empowering women and youth leaders. It has reached areas as remote as Jordan Valley communities and as inaccessible as Gaza City. It has continued its Women and Elections program, one of MIFTAH's most prosperous long-term projects to date and which has influenced the widest range of women representatives in

Palestinian political bodies. Furthermore, it has continued to work with international organizations such as UNFPA on MIFTAH's program Women, Peace and Security aimed at fighting violence against women.

In addition, MIFTAH has continued in its strive to disseminate the Palestinian narrative to the English speaking world in addition to also addressing Arabic speakers both in Palestine and abroad through its Arabic website. MIFTAH has continued to broaden its audience of readers and supporters throughout the years and has taken its place as one of Palestine's most reputable organizations.

I am extremely proud of the work and achievements MIFTAH's board, administration and employees have accomplished throughout the years in their promotion of good governance and democracy in Palestinian society. I believe that this commitment will only grow stronger with each year and as the organization grows and expands, touching more and more lives. It is through the diligence and hard work of the organization's staff and administration that our accomplishments have been made possible. I am proud to say that many of our trainees have gone on to become women parliamentarians, local council members and members of political factions. We have contributed to helping rural women stand on their own two feet and enjoy financial independence through our small income generating projects. We have also been a major player in introducing gender-responsive budgets to Palestine, both at the national and local government levels.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate MIFTAH for the excellence it has delivered for so many years. It is the direct outcome of the teamwork, professionalism and commitments to the values for which MIFTAH stands that this organization has come so far. I wish MIFTAH the best of luck in its continued efforts and advancement now and for the years to come.

Sincerely,  
**Lily Feidy**



## MIFTAH's Vision, Mission and Objectives

### VISION

An independent, democratic and sovereign Palestinian state, which grants Palestinians their basic rights, preserves their dignity, and enjoys international recognition and respect.

### MISSION

Established in Jerusalem in December 1998, with Hanan Ashrawi as its Secretary-General, **MIFTAH** seeks to promote the principles of democracy and good governance within various components of Palestinian society; it further seeks to engage local and international public opinion and official circles on the Palestinian cause. To that end, **MIFTAH** adopts the mechanisms of an active and in-depth dialogue, the free flow of information and ideas, as well as local and international networking.



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. To disseminate the Palestinian narrative and discourse globally to both official and popular bodies and decision-makers
2. To empower effective leadership within all components of Palestinian society in order to enhance democracy and good governance and raise public awareness concerning the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship
3. To influence policy and legislation to ensure their safeguarding of civil and social rights for all sectors and their adherence to principles of good governance
4. To bolster MIFTAH's capacity and its capability to achieve its objectives and mission efficiently and effectively



## MIFTAH'S Board of Trustees

### Hanan Ashrawi

Founder and Head of MIFTAH's Executive Committee

### Sawsan Fahoum-Ja'far

Chair of the Board of Trustees

### Ziad Abu-Amr

Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

### Maha Abu Dayyah-Shammas

Director of the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling

### Ghassan Al-Khatib

Director of the Prime Minister's Media Office

### Rima Hammami

Professor of Anthropology, Birzeit University

### Khalil Hindi

President of Birzeit University

### Mohammed Abdel Qader Hussein

Head of the Board of Directors of the Faisal Hussein Foundation; member of the Board of Trustees for the Jerusalem Society for Welfare and Development

### Khalil Jahshan

President of the National Association of Arab-Americans (NAAA); former President of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Washington, DC

### Rashid I. Khalidi

Professor, Columbia University

### Sa'id Khouri

President and co-owner of Consolidated Contractors International Company (CCC), Athens

### Sabih Al Masri

Chairman of ASTRA

### Abdel Muhsin Al-Qattan

Founder and President of the A.M. Qattan Foundation, London

### George Salem

Attorney at Law and Partner at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, Washington, DC.

### Eyad El-Sarraj

Director General of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program

### Azmi Shuaibi

AMAN Commissioner for Combating Corruption; MIFTAH treasurer

### Raji Sourani

Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights

### Lily Feidy

MIFTAH's Chief Executive Officer



## Who's Who at MIFTAH

Employee	Title
Dr. Lily Feidy	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Dolly Nammour	Development Director
Rula Muzaffar	Director – Financial and Administrative Affairs
Joharah Baker	Director- Media and Information Program
Muath Bakri	IT Coordinator
Bisan Abu Ruqti	Director-Good Governance and Democracy Program
'Ala Karajeh	Arabic Media Coordinator
Najwa Yaghi	Project Coordinator
Lamees Hantouli	Project Coordinator
Taghreed Dueibis	Project Coordinator
Oday Abu Karsh	Project Coordinator ( Left in September 2010)
Ruham Nimri	Project Coordinator – Media Monitoring Unit
Marina Qaqish	Accountant
Sahar Rafidi	Administrative Assistant
Bisan Samamreh	Administrative Assistant
Khuloud Jubeh	Administrative Assistant
Riham Kharroub	Administrative Assistant
Arwa Jaber	Administrative Assistant ( Left in June 2010)
Belal Ladadweh	Intern-Media Monitoring Unit
Nida' Ibrahim	Arabic Media Coordinator ( Left in November 2010)
Mohammad Abed Rabbo	Media Analyst
Nijim Dabbour	Researcher and Writer-Media and Information Unit ( August-December 2010)
Nizar Touri	Driver
Jaafar Ladadweh	Receptionist
Nawal Shawamreh	Services







## MIFTAH's Programs

**MIFTAH has two main programs:**

Democracy and Good Governance Program,  
Media and Information Program

The first program comprises four basic components:

Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership;

Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership;

Policy Formulation;

and Community Development.

The second program encompasses two main areas of concentration:

Information and Informatics;

and Media Monitoring.



## GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

### Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership

MIFTAH's Empowerment of Palestinian Women Leadership program responds to its strategic objective "To empower effective leadership within all components of Palestinian society in order to enhance democracy and good governance and raise public awareness concerning the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship." The achievements of the program have been considerable. Following is an overview of the projects that is representative but by no means exhaustive.

#### 1. Combating Violence against Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organizations

[Funder: Austrian Representative Office]

[Duration of Project: August 2009-January 2011]

##### Project Background

Gender issues and Security Council Resolution 1325 are basic components of MIFTAH's Empowerment of Women Leadership Program. The basic objective of the activities implemented in the project is increasing organizations' effectiveness in eliminating gender-based violence within the framework of Security Council Resolution 1325 by supporting the 1325 coalitions in Nablus and Hebron and by advocating women's issues at the decision-making level. These coalitions were established in 2007 through the project "Gender, Peace and Security" funded by the UNFPA and then through the project "Combating Violence against Women through the Empowerment of Community-based Organizations" funded by the Austrian Representative Office.

The objectives of the project were achieved through a series of activities including preparing assessment reports on the status of women in the Nablus and Hebron areas; developing a training manual on SCR 1325 that responds to the Palestinian context; implementing a series of capacity building training targeting coalition members, social and health workers, school counselors and teachers in the two districts; implementing a mass media campaign; and lobbying and networking.

##### Achievements

Following is a highlight of the achievements of the project:

- The partnership among the UNSCR 1325 coalition, local organizations, GOs, and the media is much enhanced through the participatory approach adopted throughout the project implementation.
- The staff members of the coalition organizations are empowered, through providing them with information, materials, and skills to activate UNSCR 1325.

- The localization and activation of UNSCR 1325 in the Palestinian context is more apparent through the adoption of practical tools such as documenting human rights violations and organizing a media campaign advocating women’s participation in the decision making process, as well as Palestinian women protection.
- CBOs are better aware of and more effective in their role in eliminating gender-based violence within the framework of UNSCR 1325.
- The General Union of Palestinian Women is more committed to UNSCR 1325, considering it as a powerful tool for international advocacy. This is shown in the efforts by The General Union to call upon more concerted efforts to develop a unified document that reflects the stance of Palestinian women’s organizations regarding UNSCR 1325.
- There is more consensus among Palestinian women’s organizations that the UNSCR 1325 deals with political issues directly related to the political process, especially the protection of Palestinian women from the Israeli occupation.

## Implemented activities

### 1) Assessment of the current situation of women in Nablus and Hebron

The assessment study aims at identifying the gender gaps in both Nablus and Hebron districts in terms of the following: female access to education; resources; contribution to the labor force; demographic situation; distribution and effectiveness of women’s organizations in terms of the available social and legal services; causes of gender-based violence and mechanisms of reducing it, along with the male perspective of the matter; and the impact of all on women’s access to decision-making positions.

The assessment reports were distributed to UNSCR1325 coalitions in both districts. There was consensus among the member organizations in the coalition that this is the first study of its kind that highlights women’s issues in both Nablus and Hebron, and will assist them in designing the activities in their organizations as well as programs that aim at combating violence against women. The assessment studies were also very helpful to the capacity building trainers whom MIFTAH contracted, especially in terms of designing their training materials based on real, specialized and updated information.

### 2) Training manual on SCR 1325 that responds to the Palestinian context

With the assistance of a consulting firm and expert in the field, MIFTAH prepared a training manual on SCR 1325 that responds to the Palestinian context. The training manual is built on training materials that were developed previously and helped in providing a better and more unified understanding of the different concepts.

The trainers, as well as the coalition member organizations, found the training manual very valuable and user friendly, containing different modules to be used by the trainers depending on the target group. MIFTAH disseminated the training manual as a package with the assessment studies of the current situation of women in both Hebron and Nablus districts. There was high demand for the manual; a number of international organizations, NGOs and GOs requested a copy as they found it very helpful and well structured, especially in linking UNSCR 1325 and the Palestinian context.

### 3) Capacity Building

Following is an overview of the capacity building training workshops held:

- A three-day training workshop entitled “Adaptation of UNSCR1325 to the Palestinian context” was held in Hebron on May 4-6, 2010 and in Nablus on April 27-29, 2010. The training targeted thirty nine decision makers in the 1325 coalitions’ organizations.
- A four-day training workshop entitled “Capacity Building for the Coalition Supporters” was held in Hebron on May 26-27 and June 2-3, 2010 and in Nablus on June 6-7 and 13-14, 2010. It targeted seventy two (52 females and 20 males) participants from different sectors ( Ministry of Religious Endowments, TIPH, UNOPS, DCI, Ministry of Local Governance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Security Services , among other supporters) who are influential on both the community members and the social-legal system as a whole. The participants noted that the training provided them with a valuable opportunity, especially in raising their awareness of the process of documenting violations of human rights, where they believed that the process of bringing complaints to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is critical.
- A three-day training workshop was held in Hebron on July 5-7, 2010 and in Nablus on 19-21, 2010. The topic of the training was “Methodology of Teaching Subjects Related to Reproductive Health.” It targeted teachers and supervisors of Religious Education and General Science at the elementary school level. The Ministry of Education ( MoE) nominated forty three trainees (24 females and 19 males).Both MIFTAH and MoE selected a qualified trainer whom MIFTAH contracted to design the training material based on the results of the questionnaires distributed prior to the training date through MoE. This questionnaire shows the following:
  - Most teachers believe that the school is the right place for teenagers to be educated on reproductive health issues.
  - Most teachers are embarrassed to answer student questions on reproductive health.
  - Most teachers admit that they lack knowledge and access to resources (like manuals and books) that can be helpful for them to answer student questions.
  - The target group indicated that the training was compatible with their expectations and comprehensive in covering the intervention mechanisms in all subjects related to gender-based violence and sex education. They also noted that the training taught them new mechanisms for interaction with teenagers as such holding regular lessons with both Islamic Studies and Science to answer student questions related to sexual education and reproductive health.
- A three-day training workshop was held in Nablus on October 19-21, 2010 and in Hebron on October 24-26, 2010 entitled” Mechanisms of Documenting Abuses of CEDAW and UNSC1325.” The training targeted fifty five (42 females and 13 males) social and health workers who declared that UNSCR 1325 is helpful for them in dealing with and documenting many Palestinian women cases that fall under this UN resolution in the villages much affected by the Wall, closure and checkpoints.
- To meet the needs of the coalitions, MIFTAH conducted an additional three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on using the training manual that was developed. The training was held in Nablus on October 30-November 1, 2010, and in Hebron on November 6-8, 2010, targeting twenty six (21 females and 5 males) trainers in both districts. The trainees asserted that this was the first time that they understood



Combating Violence against Women through Empowerment of Community-Based Organization – A three-day training workshop in Nablus, October 19-21, 2010.



Combating Violence against Women through Empowerment of Community-Based Organization – A three-day training workshop in Nablus, October 19-21, 2010.

the concept of gender and how gender issues are directly linked with development and national plans. They also acknowledged the uniqueness of the training manual.

#### 4) Networking and lobbying meetings

In response to the request by the coalitions, MIFTAH supported several meetings that were held with decision makers (ministers, political party representatives, government representatives, journalists, and PLC members) to provide the member organizations with an opportunity to take initiatives and articulate their messages.

Following is an overview of the meetings:

- A meeting between the Coalitions and the Minister of Social Affairs was held on April 14, 2010 to discuss the obstacles the coalitions face in the referral system between them and the Ministry of Social Affairs' shelters/centers. The Minister showed much concern and promised to cooperate with the coalition organizations for better protection of battered women.
- A joint meeting in Ramallah for UNSCR 1325 coalition organizations from both districts was held on April 14, 2010. Eight organizations attended and discussed the upcoming training workshops' agenda.
- On June 8, 2010 directly after the training of "Capacity Building for the Coalitions Supporters," MIFTAH's field coordinator facilitated a meeting with the Legal Department in Hebron Governorate and a number of the coalition member organizations who recommended creating a center to document the violations of the Israeli settlers in the old city.
- A one-day meeting with media sector representatives was held in Nablus on August 10, 2010, and in Hebron on October 17, 2010. Thirty females and males attended the meeting and discussed the role of the media in raising women's issues, obstacles facing the promotion of women's issues, and the role

of the coalition member organizations in improving the image of Palestinian women in the media. As a result of this meeting, the radio station of Alam, located in Hebron, invited MIFTAH's field coordinator 5 times to talk about the project and UNSCR 1325.

- On October 4, 2010, the coalition held a video conference with WESAL- UNSCR 1325 coalition in Gaza-under the title "Ten Years after UNSCR 1325...What's Next?" Twenty organizations (16 from the West Bank and 5 from Gaza) exchanged their experiences as coalitions in activating UNSCR 1325. The participants considered this meeting a great opportunity to exchange tools of lobbying and networking towards achieving better results on the ground.

A meeting was held between PLC member in Hebron Sahar Al-Qawasmeh and the coalition on December 15, 2010. The discussion highlights were the following:

- Raising the ratio of women representation in decision making positions up to 30%
- Activating women's role in civil peace building
- Targeting males in women organizations' activities
- Based on the success of the meeting held in December, MIFTAH coordinated a one-day meeting with the political parties in Hebron on Jan 11, 2011 and in Nablus on Jan 19, 2011. These meetings gathered seventy six participants who discussed the possibilities, challenges, and obstacles towards increasing the ratio of women representation up to 30% in decision making positions at different levels which will ultimately lead to influencing policies and legislations on the status of the Palestinian women. The representatives of the political parties highlighted the many obstacles facing women's representation in political life, such as the Palestinian Law, cultural heritage, in addition to women's lack of awareness regarding the significance of their political participation.
- A meeting that brought together the coalitions, the Palestinian NGO Forum for Combating Violence against Women (Al Muntada) and the Assistant Undersecretary in the Palestinian Ministry of Islamic Endowments and Religious Affairs (Sheikh Khamis Abdeh) was held on December 21, 2010. The discussion highlighted the role and the contributions of the mosques in spreading awareness regarding sexual abuse of women and children. 11 participants attended the meeting from both coalitions and the Forum. Sheik Khamis Abdeh suggested holding a workshop targeting preachers in order to give them information (ratios and locations) related to sexual abuse. The meeting was fruitful, Sheik Khamis Abdeh invited one of the participants to join him in a one-hour radio interview on Voice of Palestine Radio; this was a good opportunity to represent the coalition and highlight some facts related to domestic violence and sexual abuse in Palestine.

#### 5) Awareness-Raising Campaign (November 2010- February 2011)

MIFTAH developed the media action plan to promote UNSCR 1325 as part of the training workshop entitled "Adaptation of the UNSCR1325 to the Palestinian Context." In this workshop, the target groups in both districts defined their audiences, messages, and the tools to be used.



Combating Violence against Women through Empowerment of Community-Based Organization – A three-day training workshop entitled "Localization of the UNSCR1325." – May 4-5, 2010. Hebron and Nablus

The mass media campaign comprised the following:

- **Street billboards** were placed in both Nablus and Hebron for two months and in different locations each month. In addition, one billboard was placed for one month in Ramallah.
- **A TV spot** on the “documentation process of the violations of human rights” was produced and published on MIFTAH’s website, face book, and you tube <http://www.youtube.com/MiftahOrganization>
- **Daily advertisements** were published in the official local newspapers (Al-Hayat, Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam) for 27 days, 5 times per week.
- **Bus stickers** carrying the same messages used in the newspaper advertisements were placed on public buses in both Nablus and Hebron (two buses in each) for one month in Nablus, and two months in Hebron where the bus company in Hebron has contributed to keeping the sticker on the bus for an additional month for free.
- **Desk and car stickers** were printed and disseminated holding the message “UNSCR 1325 is for women’s protection and participation.”
- **A brochure** describing the UNSCR 1325, particularly targeting decision makers, was printed and disseminated. ([http://www.miftah.org/Publications/Books/Security\\_Council\\_Resolution\\_1325.pdf](http://www.miftah.org/Publications/Books/Security_Council_Resolution_1325.pdf)).



Combating Violence against Women through Empowerment of Community-Based Organization – Re-printing of the publication entitled Palestinian Women Resolution 1325, Hebron

**Note** MIFTAH developed 2 video clips showing the statements of two peace women who worked in the realm of UNSCR 1325. Each film is 2-3 minutes long. Both women talked about the importance and the challenges of SCR1325, in addition to their personal experience with 1325. These films were shown in October and November 2010 at PWAG at the UN Security council in NYC.

## 2. Gender, Peace and Security

[Funder; UNFPA]

[Duration of Project: January-December 2010]

MIFTAH is an implementing partner with UNFPA in the Gender, Peace and Security Program, in reaching the outcome of gender equality and the human rights of women and adolescent girls, integrated in national policies, development frameworks and laws.

In 2010, MIFTAH implemented the media strategy for gender equality and women’s empowerment. The project activities aimed at building on the previous five-year experience in operating UN Resolution 1325 that promotes gender, peace and security. The work plan included the production of a national media strategy as one of the major activities of the MDG Achievement Fund Gender Program. In addition, the activities included strengthening networks of NGOs and journalists to create forums for the dissemination of information on the role of gender equality in peace and security, capacity building and media events.

## Implemented Activities

- 1) With the assistance of a specialist, MIFTAH conducted a **needs assessment** to identify priorities, obstacles, preferred media channels, target audience and other key issues.
- 2) MIFTAH conducted a **district open day for SCR 1325 Nablus and Hebron coalitions to celebrate International Women's Day**. MIFTAH coordinated with INAD Theatre Group to present their play *Enough (Kafa)* on March 11, 2010 to SCR1325 coalition in Nablus and on March 21, 2010 for the Hebron coalition. The play tackles the negative effects of violence against women, especially on the psychological build up of children in the family. The performance was followed by a wide discussion with the audience on the mechanisms of reducing gender-based violence.
- 3) MIFTAH conducted a joint activity to celebrate **International Women's Day in Gaza** which included an open day, workshop on 1325, 7 performances, SMS, posters and billboards.
- 4) **Other activities that were supported and monitored**
  - Identifying recommendations to bridge the existing gaps in the media coverage of women issues in daily newspapers
  - Strengthening the mechanisms of UN agencies' partner institutions to work in partnership to achieve the same goal related to women's empowerment and gender equality throughout several international days
  - Partnering between GOs and NGO on the process of developing a media advocacy plan and media action plan
  - Promoting MDGIF Program through a media campaign
  - Raising several population and gender issues through documentary films
  - Institutionalizing the relationship between the Alimony Fund and the Ministry of Finance (MoF)



Gender Peace and Security – Open Day, Nablus.



Gender Peace and Security – Open Day, Gaza



Gender Peace and Security – International Women's Day Graffiti, Gaza





### 3. Women in Elections: Women Electoral Support Points

[Funder: Creative Associates, Inc.]

[Duration of Project: April 2009-June 2010]

MIFTAH's program of Women in Elections is a long-term program that aims at sustaining the already established Women's Electoral Support Points that offer support to aspiring candidates and those holding office over a protracted period of time. The latest series of activities (April 2009-June 2010) were funded by Creative Associates Inc. The program has had a significant impact on increasing representation of women in elected positions, both through its support of female candidates and through its policy work that contributed to the success of the drive for establishing a quota for women in the electoral law. Thus, despite a challenging political and social environment, the program has effected lasting change in Palestinian society:

- More women are involved in political and community decision-making.
- Women are better prepared to fulfil political roles.
- There is greater local-community support for female candidates, potential candidates, and elected officials.
- There are established network for women leaders.
- Out of 518 women supported by MIFTAH, 170 won local and national elections (out of 254 elected women).

#### Implemented Activities

- 1) **The Networking and community outreach:** This type of activity aimed at the following: sustaining the established network of women leaders; expanding the network to include new groups of potential candidates and women leaders; maintaining and strengthening the already existing WESPs in all West Bank districts (Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron and East Jerusalem) and Gaza Strip; providing assistance to women in office and potential candidates; facilitating monthly public meetings on how elected women can address the needs of women in their community as well as the needs of the larger community; and networking with local organizations, women's groups, local councils and donor agencies to show support for elected women, help them solve problems and provide an opportunity for the exchange of experience.
- 2) **Networking Activities:** These activities included *public meetings, and exchange visits* among small groups of women in the districts. They gave women the opportunity to meet each other, exchange experience and knowledge, present their achievements, exchange and share ideas and stories, successes and failures, and difficulties and challenges.
- 3) **Raising awareness and educational workshops:** This type of activity provides educational and awareness raising opportunities for women on concepts and principles of active citizenship, democracy and good governance, as well as regular informative sessions or policy briefings on political, legal and technical issues related to elections, and governance work.
- 4) **Capacity building:** The aim of this type of activity is to build the capacity of women wishing to run for office as well as the capacity of their support teams by offering them training courses and workshops that help them acquire the necessary skills as leaders, decision makers and planners.



Women in Elections: Women's Electoral Support Points – Centralized training, Jericho



Women in Elections: Women's Electoral Support Points – Centralized training, Jericho

In the choice of capacity building activities, MIFTAH strove to be very much responsive to the target group needs and expectations. The series of workshops and training sessions that were implemented in the West Bank and Gaza addressed the women's needs. As such, the activities concentrated on empowering the women and developing their knowledge and capabilities regarding advocacy and electoral processes (in the areas of electoral laws, voter education and registration, candidate nomination and polling and counting).

It is worth noting here that the program is flexible enough to encompass the needs of the target groups and the changing political and social environment.

**5) Individual and group consultancy:** This type of activity offers consultancy on a regular basis for women leaders through the already trained field coordinators, who are able to assist women in solving problems and reaching out to the community and providing them with needed information. It also assists them in establishing a network especially with officials from the Local Governance who are involved in most of the program activities and through workshops pertaining to the role of local councils and the role of women in elected decision-making positions in particular.

It is worthwhile noting that MIFTAH has resumed its collection of data on both current women members of the local councils and their desire to re-run for the next phase of elections, and potential women candidates who are considering running for the next phase of elections as well.



## 4. Instituting a Gender-Responsive Palestinian National Budget

[Funder: Danish Representative Office]

[Duration of Project: March 2009-March 2010]

As a result of MIFTAH's initiative, hard work and tenacity in advocating and campaigning for a gender-sensitive Palestinian national budget since 2003, there is now commitment to it at the highest level of government, exemplified by a Prime Ministerial resolution in June 2009 of adopting a national gender-sensitive budget. The initiative is a good example of partnership between MIFTAH, as an NGO, and the government.

### Achievements

#### 1) An assessment study of the impact of the services provided by the Ministry of Labor

Solid cooperation and coordination mechanisms were established between MIFTAH and the Ministry of Labor (MoL) at the decision making and executive level. A team of research specialists were contracted, and seven meetings were held between MIFTAH, MoL and the contracted specialists; needed data and information was provided by the MoL to the researchers. A one-day training was conducted on the techniques of applying survey questionnaire related to the assessment study of the labor sector. The training targeted 14 field researchers from 10 governorates in the West Bank. About 660 questionnaires were distributed among the 14 researchers. Data was collected and analyzed in a qualitative report, including tables and figures.

#### 2) Specialized on-the-job training on gender mainstreaming, participatory planning and budget analysis

The training targeted employees of four ministries (Social Affairs, Education, Health, Planning) and was done in coordination with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Regular communication and meetings were held with the key ministries of Planning, Finance and Women's Affairs to help facilitate the process.

#### 3) A factsheet on women's involvement in the informal sector

This output was achieved through the following activities: A meeting was held with the PCBS-Labor Force Department for a discussion of the data used in the labor force survey including the informal sector on a quarterly basis; an economic specialist was contracted and made use of PCBS formal nominal data on the informal sector, analyzed it and drafted a paper on The Palestinian Women and the Informal Labor Sector. The paper includes concepts, statistical figures and reflective social analysis, in addition to findings and some general recommendations. A workshop was held on December 29, 2010 to discuss the paper. Representatives of COs and GOs attended and enriched the paper with recommendations for policy and law makers. The General Director of the Budget-Ministry of Finance-attended the meeting to show support to the initiative. The paper was reviewed in light of the participants' feedback and developed it into a six-page policy paper to be used for advocacy with decision and policy makers. The final draft was disseminated among stakeholders, decisions makers and related GOs and CSOs, for further feedback and finalization, before publication.

## 5. Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils/ Birzeit and Halhoul

[Funder: Heinrich Boell Foundation]

[Duration of Project: January-June 2010]

MIFTAH completed the implementation of a six-month project which focused on building the capacity of local councils' members and employees, and enhancing their relations with community-based organizations, to promote strategic planning and to develop programs that are more responsive to community needs and gender issues. The activities comprised conducting a participatory needs assessment survey of both Birzeit and Halhoul municipalities to assist these local councils in identifying and prioritizing local community needs, and social auditing including the needs of marginalized social groups who need special attention for mainstream integration; and building their own capacities by developing skills and applying research results to improve the quality of life and planning for future community needs, especially as they are considered the main and sole source of service provision.



Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils, Birzeit and Halhoul

## 6. Ensuring a Legislative Environment that is Supportive of the Reduction of GBV through working on MDGs

[Funder: Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center/UNESCO]

[Duration of Project: January-April 2010]

MIFTAH's project entitled "Ensuring a Legislative Environment that is Supportive of the Reduction of Gender-Based Violence through Working on MDG3" is a short-term endeavor implemented in January-April 2010 and aimed at influencing policy and legislation to promote gender equality and empower women through developing the use of data on GBV and VAW in the legislation process, and positively contributing to changing local polices and laws to be more sensitive to GBV issues. Some of the main outputs of the activities include familiarizing PLC members with gender, violence against women and gender-based violence issues and concepts; building the capacity of the political party representatives to be an influential factor in policies and law-making processes and enhancing the capacity of the staff of PLC supportive units.

## Achievements

MIFTAH implemented three training sessions as follows:

- 1) Two four-hour training sessions were conducted at MIFTAH on February 22- 23, 2010 targeting political party representatives. These were on gender concepts, advocacy and lobbying skills, and reading and analyzing the statistical figures related to GBV.
- 2) Two four-hour training sessions were conducted at MIFTAH on February 24-25, 2010 targeting employees at the PLC supportive units and MAS researchers. The training was on gender concept, identifying sources of information, reading and analyzing the statistical indicators related to GBV and GRB.
- 3) One meeting was organized for PLC members at MIFTAH on April 19, 2010 to familiarize them with the skills of reading statistical figures and developing policies, in addition to the impact of these figures and costs. This was approached through an open discussion on two policy briefs prepared by MIFTAH and PWRDC-UNESCO related to GBV and VAW in Palestine.

## Program of Empowerment of Palestinian Youth Leadership

This program responds to MIFTAH's strategic objective, " To empower effective leadership within all components of Palestinian society in order to enhance democracy and good governance and raise public awareness concerning the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship."

### 1. Active Youth for Social Change: Jerusalem

[Funder: National Endowment for Democracy]

[Duration of Project: July 2010-June 2011]



Youth Political Empowerment – Workshop, East Jerusalem

Two major project activities were implemented to respond to the objective of empowering Palestinian youth.

The first activity (ended in March 2010) aimed at enhancing youth leadership abilities in the east Jerusalem area and was implemented in partnership with the National Endowment for Democracy. It supported a group of youth to mobilize their local communities for social activism. The activity accomplished the following: publishing a mapping and needs assessment study: a survey of youth organizations in east Jerusalem; organizing a contact-making seminar that gathered political youth activists from Jerusalem with those in the

West Bank; and assisting a group of youth activists in organizing and implementing voluntary activities in three marginalized areas in the Jerusalem area. The second activity was resumed in July 2010 and will be extended to June 2011 with renewed funding from the National Endowment for Democracy.

**Following is a summary of the activities that were implemented during June-December 31, 2010:**

- **Preparatory Stage:** In this preparatory stage, contact lists of stakeholders of the project and a list of youth organizations in Jerusalem were prepared for facilitation of communication. The lists contain addresses, contact information and nature of the work of the organizations. In addition, a list of professional trainers was prepared.
- **Networking:** Networking was made with youth local groups and non-governmental organizations in Jerusalem with a special focus on the old city of Jerusalem. This type of activity aimed at expanding the network of the youth group to include new members, maintaining and strengthening the already existing group, and providing assistance to them to develop their capacities.
- **Individual Meetings:** Individual meetings with youth local groups and NGOs from Jerusalem were held to discuss specific topics of interest, enhance communication and coordination with them and plan and organize the upcoming project activities.
- **Two preparatory workshops:** The first workshop gathered five Jerusalem NGOs and the second the targeted youth local group from Jerusalem. The aim of these preparatory workshops was to introduce the project and gather information and briefs about the organizational history, work, activities, resources, challenges and networks.

## 2. Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders-Phase II

[Funder: Representative Office of Norway]

[Duration of Project: December 2009-November 2010]

The project "Supporting Young Palestinian Political Leaders-Phase II" was implemented in partnership with the Representative Office of Norway and aimed at empowering young Palestinian political leaders, hence increasing their representation in advanced decision-making positions in the structure of the political system, mainly PLO factions. It also aimed at contributing to boosting a culture of dialogue and acceptance of the "other" within the Palestinian political system and raising the awareness of society of the role of the young political leadership in the process of change and development.

### Implemented Activities

#### 1) Capacity Building Training Workshops

- Two centralized trainings were held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip targeting the young Palestinian leaders selected from the PLO political parties from all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The trainings aimed at continuing to build the two groups' capacities in different fields, to become much more qualified and improve their work within their political parties, in addition to transferring their experience and knowledge to other young leaders.



Youth Political Empowerment – Youth training course, Gaza

- A three-day centralized training workshop on promoting the values of dialogue, tolerance and the role of the youth in the Palestinian national reconciliation was held on December 16-18, 2010- in Jenin.
- A three-day training course on negotiations and dialogue skills was held in the Gaza Strip on October 14-16, 2010.

## 2) Public Meetings

This type of activity aimed at strengthening and enhancing the relationship between the young political leaders and the local community. It also aimed at raising the awareness of the Palestinian society of the importance of the role of the youth in achieving positive change in the political and social life. The public meetings also provided an opportunity to rebuild the people’s confidence in young leaders, especially on the political level. Six public meetings were held as follows:

- “The Postponement of Local Elections: Causes and Consequences” held in Nablus on July 17, 2010.
- “Administrative and Financial Corruption in the Political Parties” held in Gaza on Sep. 28, 2010
- “The Role of the Youth in Affecting Positive Change within the Political System” held in Gaza on Oct. 27, 2010
- “One Year after the Sixth Conference of Fateh Movement and its Impact on the Palestinian Political Life” held in Ramallah on Oct. 30, 2010
- “Israel’s Unilateral Disengagement Plan” held in Bethlehem on Nov. 27, 2010
- “The Role of Other PLO Factions in the Success of the National Reconciliation” held in the Gaza Strip on Dec. 2, 2010.

### 3) Round Table Discussions

Four Round table discussions were held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They gathered well known politicians from different political parties. The sessions aimed at strengthening the relationship between the various parties and bridging the gap between them, in addition to providing a platform for the young group to exercise the skills acquired in the program activities.

The sessions were conducted as follows:

- Round Table Discussion One: “The Transformation in the Form of Struggle from a Militarization of the Intifada to Non-Violence and the Lessons Learned from that” held in Toubas on Nov. 27, 2010
- Round Table Discussions Two and Three: “The Causes for the Weakness and Crisis of the Leftist Factions in Palestine” held in Gaza on November 13, 2010 and in Ramallah on December 4, 2010
- Round Table Discussion Four: “The Vision of the Youth towards Increasing their Participation in the Palestinian Elections” held in Gaza on December 20, 2010

### 4) Book Review Sessions

This activity was designed in response to the needs of the group of young leaders to educate themselves and boost their intellectual capabilities in certain political, social and legal issues. It served a number of purposes one of which is to enhance the communication and argumentation skills of these young leaders and at the same time boost their knowledge in areas that are important to their future leadership roles.

The sessions were conducted as follows:

- “The Palestinian Legislative Council and Youth” session held on July 24, 2010 in the West Bank
- “The Economic and Social Factors that Affect the Structure of the Political System” session held on Aug. 9, 2010 in the Gaza Strip
- Book review session held on September 25, 2010 in Ramallah
- Four book review sessions held on Oct. 2 and 16, 2010 jointly by young leaders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through video conferencing (2 sessions on each side)

## Policy Formulation

### Policy Meetings

Policy dialogue meetings are ongoing activities that aim at enhancing multichannel communication among all sectors of society, including government, civil-society organizations, and the private sector, with a view to supporting policy formulation. These meetings address pressing, varied but related, issues, by engaging academics, ministers, decision makers and politicians in open and candid exchange of information and ideas. The tangible outcome of these sessions is a series of public policy papers, formulating ideas, alternatives and strategies. Each series of inter-connected policy papers is subsequently printed in a booklet and widely disseminated. These meetings and subsequent policy papers show the discernable



impact MIFTAH has had on National Decision making. In fact the policy papers have often been used by government, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Information.

Throughout 2010, three policy meetings were held in the following manner:

- **Policy Meeting One: Prospects for the success of diplomatic efforts to resume the peace process (April 29, 2010)**

The discussion centered around prospects for the resumption of the peace process. In that context, a discussion was made of the US's proposal for proximity talks and its reconsideration of its relationship with any party that takes provocative measures to undermine that process, geared basically towards Israel's settlement expansion. It was also noted that the Palestinians must work within this framework as well as the framework of the Arab approval of the resumption of talks. As to role that the Palestinians have within the framework, it was emphasized that they continue their political and diplomatic courses as well as their popular nonviolent resistance, which could turn into pressure for supporting our negotiating points. Negotiating does not mean we are compromising our stances. Within their negotiating efforts, Palestinians must move on all tracks, including following up on taking Israel to the International Court of Justice for its crimes and making our case in international forums. Alongside these efforts, Palestinians need to continue on the path of institution and state building in a way that supports the people as well as develop a mechanism of internal dialogue to help put pressure on Hamas to finally achieve reconciliation.



Policy meeting

- **Policy Meeting Two: Ramifications of Direct Negotiations (September 6, 2010)**

The policy meeting highlighted the ramifications of returning to peace talks under US pressure and any future expectations and outcomes. Discussions revolved around formulating a new policy that deals with the current issue rather than one that simply reacts to developments. As a result, the participants offered different alternatives to the current scenario including more focus on isolating Israel internationally and getting the Palestinian political house in order.

Policy meeting

- **Policy Meeting Three: Options opened to the Palestinians held on December 2, 2010**

This policy meeting discussed the current impasse in Palestinian-Israeli talks in light of Israel's continued intransigence and the possible options Palestinians could take. The participants were in consensus the current



formula (i.e. the negotiating track) had hit a dead end. Recommendations revolved around making changes within the Palestinian political system and pushing the international community to be more involved in bringing about an end to the occupation.

## Community Development

- **Fostering Community Change in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

[Funder: EU]

[Duration of Project: April 2010-July 2011]

MIFTAH is a partner in a project, led by OXFAM, for fostering community change in the occupied Palestinian territory. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of Palestinian civil society organizations as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society. The target groups include Palestinians residing in 6 targeted communities in the West Bank, which include the Western villages of Bethlehem (Walajeh, Jaba'a,) and The Jordan Valley (Fasayel, Jiftlek, Zbedat, Oja) including: members of the local councils, CBOs and youth and women sectors in the six communities.

MIFTAH is working on achieving the following four results:

1. Community members, particularly women and youth, have an increased awareness and confidence to demand their rights and access services address their needs and priorities;
2. CBOs in target communities have increased capacity to address community needs and engage proactively with government actors and other stakeholders;
3. Local government has enhanced awareness, capacity and transparency in responding to identified community needs and priorities; and
4. Increased coordination and networking allows for more effective allocation of services and resources into target communities.

During **April and May 2010**, MIFTAH participated in visits with other partners to the six target communities and met with stakeholders including local council members, leadership groups ( both men and women). It also participated in an orientation workshop that comprised all partners, in addition to other preparatory work including work plans.

In **October-December 2010**, MIFTAH, and in coordination with the other project partners, implemented the following activities:

- 1) **Six workshops for women and youth to raise awareness of citizens' rights** at five target locations: 5 at The Jordan Valley and one in the Bethlehem area. The workshops were conducted between October 26 and November 27, 2010. About 147 citizens participated.



Fostering Community Change in the Occupied Territory- Workshop for women and youth to raise awareness if Citizen's Rights, Jordan Valley – Jericho



Fostering Community Change in the Occupied Territory- Workshop for women and youth to raise awareness if Citizen's Rights, Jordan Valley – Jericho

- 2) **A three-day training on participatory governance to CBOs and some Community Committees members** were conducted per cluster in both Jericho and Bethlehem. The two rounds of training were conducted between September 30 and October 8, 2010. About 46 trainees (21 males and 25 females) participated in the training. The participants represented women centers, sports and youth clubs, agricultural organizations, farmers' unions, rural developmental societies, LGUs, and social and youth activists.
  
- 3) **A two-day training on conflict resolution/ transformation targeting local government staff, and community committees** was conducted in Jericho on December 17-18, 2010 at three locations of The Jordan Valley ( Fassayel, Zbeidat and 'Auja).

## Transformation in Conflict

### 1. Beyond Managing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Demonstrating the Effectiveness of a Model for Social Transformation in Conflict

[Funder: EU]

[Duration of Project: January 2009-December 2010]

MIFTAH implemented an EU-funded project “Beyond Managing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Demonstrating the Effectiveness of a Model for Social Transformation in Conflict” in partnership with the Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation (YIFC) and The Interdisciplinary Centre for Conflict Analysis, Political Development and World Society Research (TRANSFORM) (Germany).

This project aimed at demonstrating the effectiveness of a methodological synthesis that combines identity-based conflict resolution methods, a structural approach to conflict analysis and action-oriented community development approaches. This objective was achieved through: forming a core group of leaders/facilitators trained in the use of methods of conflict-sensitive social transformation and committed to building peace from below, both within and between the two societies, leading 14 uni-national, bi-national and multi-national workshops bringing that represent a cross section of Israeli and Palestinian societies. Central to Conflict-Sensitive Social Transformation is KUMI: a method for participatory strategic planning in conflict. This method modifies the Participatory Strategic Planning (PSP) process developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs over the last four decades by enriching it with components from two other methods: ARIA, developed by Jay Rothman to engage primarily with identity-based conflict and TRANSCEND, a structural analytical approach to conflict engagement developed by Johan Galtung and currently being codified by, among others, Wilfried Graf and Gudrun Kramer from the Institute of Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding. Combining these three approaches to conflict engagement has provided a robust tool that helped participants to reflect and eventually negotiate some of their deeply-held goals and beliefs about themselves and the ‘other’ while at the same time enhancing the capacity of participants to organise more effectively in order to challenge the status-quo.

### 2. Social Transformation in Inter-Cultural Conflict-Israel and Palestine-a Step Towards Enhancing Cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

[Funder: Anna Lindh Foundation]

[Duration of Project: October 2009-June 2011]

The project **Social Transformation in Inter-Cultural Conflict-Israel and Palestine-a Step Towards Enhancing Cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean Region** is matching an EU grant<sup>1</sup>. The activities include holding 2 multi-national workshops for representatives of hitherto excluded groups, holding 2 training workshops, translation of the KUMI manual to Arabic, Hebrew, German and French, and establishing a Euro-Mediterranean regional network of facilitators with a much-needed Information and Communication Technologies infrastructure. To implement this strategy, a new, integrated approach to

<sup>1</sup> EU Partnership for Peace grant (EuropeAid/126231/L/ACT/PS) – “Beyond Managing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Demonstrating the Effectiveness of a Conflict-Sensitive Social Transformation Approach”.

conflict transformation is required in order to address individual-level conflict structures while supplying tools to develop more effective social networks: under conditions of power asymmetry, peace education needs to be complemented with organised action and effective political mobilization. This is why the action makes use of a specially-designed practical synthesis between identity-based conflict resolution methods, a structural framework for conflict analysis and action-oriented organisation development approaches.

**The activities that were implemented throughout 2010** included the training of a group of European facilitators in Berlin in August 2010, an Israeli group in October 2010 and new group of Palestinian facilitators in Ramallah in October and November 2010.

The training was successful in achieving the main results which are: **1)** continuing building the network by recruiting and training a new group of leaders/facilitators, **2)** allowing the trainers/ facilitators to practise their knowledge both on the designing and the facilitation levels which was crucial in providing the facilitation team with confidence needed for their future facilitations, **3)** developing the interpersonal relation between them, **4)** providing an opportunity for the different stakeholders in the project to conduct some discussions related to the political values of the project, **5)** finalizing the discussion related to KUMI flow and its applicability in different settings, **6)** clarifying the use of KUMI in other contexts, **7)** clarifying the role and structure of the KUMI Academy, and **8)** finalizing the KUMI manual.

## Networking, Lobbying and Advocacy

As part of its commitment to influencing legislation in a participatory approach, MIFTAH maintains strong networking and advocacy activities. Following is a highlight of the activities during the year 2010:

As part of its networking activities with the Central Elections Committee in the area of elections and democratic processes, MIFTAH implemented capacity building activities in the framework of the initiative Strengthening Palestinian Electoral Participation funded by the Italian Cooperation. The activities comprised capacity building in three locations: Beit Duqqa, east Jerusalem; Deir Ibzee, Ramallah, and Tulkarem. The first training, held on Nov. 7, 2010, targeted women and local council members and women potential candidates. The second training, held on Nov 7, 2010 Deir Ibzee', targeted college and secondary school students, and the third held on Oct 21, 2010 targeted representatives of women centers, NGOs and local council members and college students.

- MIFTAH is an active member of the civil society coalition for **Amending the Penal Law**. The Director of the Democracy and Good Governance program participated in a workshop on the Death Penalty held by the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights on May 11, 2010. She also attended a meeting of the Coalition for Amending the Penal Law in October 2010 to work on modifying the draft law..
- MIFTAH's membership in the Public Sector Team for Promoting Accountability and Transparency in the National Budget has had its impact as shown in the formal declaration by Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad to adopt the Citizen Index Budget; allowing every Palestinian the right to read and access the needed information included in the national budget (revenues, expenditures according to sectors, level of rise and fall of GDP, depts., and international aid) on annual bases.

- Representatives from MIFTAH participated in a two-day strategic planning workshop organized by UNFPA in October 2010 in an attempt to develop a UNFPA prospective strategy.
- Upon UNIFEM's request, MIFTAH's GRB program coordinator attended a meeting with a consultant from UNIFEM to discuss the GRB initiative in Palestine in terms of its status, setbacks, and MIFTAH's action plan for the program on the national and local level.
- MIFTAH has been invited to participate in a number of workshops and round table discussions on the national level to present the GRB initiatives and discuss the needed procedures and policies for executing GRB, and its developmental impact on the Palestinian society. Two of these events are the following:
  - Conference in Galilee on February 4, 2011 organized by SAWA organization, to present the Palestinian GRB initiative, in support of the Palestinian women's movement there raising their concerned issues at the policy makers' levels
  - Conference organized by GTZ and the Ministry of Local Governance to be held on March 2-3, 2011 where MIFTAH is invited to present its GRB initiatives with local councils as a developmental tool in impacting policies, programs, planning and budgeting, and promoting transparency, accountability and gender equality.
- In May 2010, MIFTAH received an invitation from Peace Women Across the Globe to participate in the exhibition "*1000 Peace Women Across the Global*" organized on the occasion of 10 year anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on Women ,Peace, Security.

## MEDIA AND INFORMATION

**MIFTAH's Media and Information Program (MIP)** is one of two major programs in which the organization's overall mission is translated into action; namely the presentation of the Palestinian narrative on the local, regional, and global levels. The program currently comprises 2 central components: 1) Information Material (in Arabic and English) and 2) External Relations. We are currently in the process of expanding our activities to incorporate other elements, including targeted media campaigns and audio visual productions.

- 1) **Information Material** is primarily concerned with the collection/documentation, formulation, and dissemination of information on key Palestinian issues and concerns; these include political and field developments as well as civil society issues. Our information material comes in the form of news stories, opinion and editorials (Op-Eds), statements, fact sheets, and special studies (in-depth reports). The information is disseminated through 1) our website ([www.miftah.org](http://www.miftah.org)), 2) our email database, 3) our media fax lists, and 4) during our briefings to visiting delegations (i.e. in the form of hard copy information packages). It is important to note here that all success stories of all projects are disseminated through the web site.



- 2) **External Relations** is MIFTAH's direct and active interaction with key target groups, on the local and external levels. These include 1) conducting briefings to visiting delegations of students, activists, journalists, associations, among others, during which MIFTAH responds to requests for information on political issues, internal issues, and any topics that MIFTAH is able and willing to engage in, 2) participating in local and international workshops and/or conferences relevant to MIFTAH's field of work, and 3) participating in various committees and initiatives (locally and internationally). The Media Department held two political briefings. The first was given on July 3, 2010 to a group of students from FIPPS-International as part of their orientation for a week-long Palestinian-Israeli trip. The second was on November 4, 2010 to a group of high school students from Germany who were visiting Palestine for the first time.

## Media Monitoring Unit

### 1. Promoting Good Governance through Empowering Media Students: The Critical Reading of Print Media

[Funder: Konrad Adenaur Stiftung]

[Duration of project: January-December 2010]

As part of its endeavor to influence the education of young journalists and instill values of tolerance within society, MIFTAH implemented a project entitled Promoting Good Governance through Empowering Media Students: the Critical Reading of Print Media with the support of Konrad Adenaur Stiftung. The specific objectives of the project are the following: increase public awareness of the effect of the media on shaping perceptions of emergent issues; educate Palestinian media students to become more critical media producers and consumers; foster professional camaraderie and common goals among Palestinian journalists and media analysts and media departments at Palestinian universities; and forge partnerships between NGOs and educational institutions.

In this context it is important to note that MIFTAH established the first professional Media Monitoring Unit in Palestine in belief that the media is an agent of change and a facilitator of democratization, with the purpose of monitoring the local media outlets and educating journalists and the public about problematic patterns in media coverage. The Unit monitors how Palestinian media reports on important issues. Such monitoring is aimed at influencing how the media operates and safeguarding the public's right of access to information. Editors-in-chief of newspapers have been guided by reports issued by the Unit, and these reports have become a source of information for decision makers, including the Cabinet, Prime Minister, and Minister of Information.

This project aims at offering media students at Palestinian universities presentations, workshops and training on responsible reporting that will hopefully lead to the establishment of critical reading and responsible media courses in the future.

## Implemented Activities:

### 1. Monitoring and analyzing news coverage in the three newspapers on an ongoing basis:

MIFTAH's media monitoring unit began its monitoring of the three daily Palestinian newspapers in mid-January. Monitoring was carried out by the Unit's well-trained monitoring team on a daily basis and results were displayed through the monitoring form designed by the Unit specially for this project.

### 2. Publication of periodic monitoring reports:

Findings of the daily monitoring were then presented to the unit's coordinator, a media specialist and media analyst for selection of the item to be included in the report. The item was first put through analysis before the report was drafted and the selected news items re-edited. The Item was selected according to the its importance, its effect on Palestinian society, its influence on the Palestinian –Israeli conflict

### 10 research reports published during 2010:

1. *The clashes between Palestinians and Egyptian security forces at the Palestinian–Egyptian border on January 6, 2010*
2. *Israeli air strikes on Gaza and their results on January 8 and 11, 2010*
3. *Project activities for planting trees in Palestine*
4. *Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech in the settlement of Ariel.*
5. *Local activities celebrating Children's Day*
6. *Calls for solidarity with Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike*
7. *The Ministry of Interior of the dismissed Palestinian government in the Gaza Strip carries out the death penalty for two persons convicted by the Supreme Military Court in Gaza of collaborating and cooperating with the occupation*
8. *The dismissed Palestinian government demolishing of unauthorized houses in Rafah*
9. *The burning of Gaza's biggest summer camp by armed people in Gaza and the Palestinian government decision of postponement of the Palestinian election*
10. *The preliminary meeting in Washington between President Mahmoud Abbas and the United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and the killing of four Jewish settlers in an armed attack near Hebron*

### 3. Re-editing of Media Materials

The Media Monitoring Unit carried out a re-editing of pages in the local newspapers related to the main issues that were monitored. Each monitoring report included re-edited materials that presented an alternative way of coverage, including headlines, placement of news items, and the use of photos, among others.

### 4. Forging connections with heads of media departments at major Palestinian universities

MIFTAH's Media Monitoring Unit, represented by the Unit's Coordinator and the Media Specialist, forged connections with media departments at Palestinian universities, namely Al-Quds University and Birzeit University in mid-January. The meetings with the heads of the two departments were very fruitful and led to an agreement to hold two meetings with media students - one at each university - at the end of



March. However, due to certain interruptions – a strike at Al-Quds University and student council elections at Birzeit University one meeting was held at MIFTAH’s offices on April 6, 2011.

## 5. Preparing multimedia presentations that highlight monitoring methods and analysis and holding presentations and discussion sessions

Multi-media presentations were made on the results of the media monitoring reports, including the re-edited material, showing an in-depth analyses of the news items presented. In these presentations not only were the errors in the coverage pointed out, but suggestions for alternative coverage that would better portray the events were offered. Fruitful discussions on major problematic issues were held among the participants. Questions raised by the participants were answered by the media specialist and the media. The media presentations and discussions with media students were held as follows:

- A meeting with students from Al-Quds and Birzeit Universities at MIFTAH’s offices on April, 6, 2010
- A meeting at the Institute for Modern Media at Al-Quds University with 30 media students in attendance, May, 27, 2010
- A meeting with media students from Al-Quds University held at MIFTAH’s offices in Ramallah, June, 13, 2010
- A meeting was held on July 28, 2010, with the attendance of media students
- A presentation at Al-Quds University on October 19, 2010

## 2. Improved Media Discourse in the Palestinian Territories and Israel

[Funder: Ford Foundation]

[Effective dates of project: September 2008-August 20

MIFTAH’s Media Monitoring Unit has been engaged in the monitoring of the Palestinian press since 2004 when it partnered with KESHEV (The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel) in a joint project to improve media discourse in both the Palestinian and Israeli media. Since then, the Media Monitoring Unit has focused all of its efforts on encouraging a more independent, reliable and responsible Palestinian media through monitoring its press outlets in a manner that is more conducive to peacemaking and conciliation.

A major focus of the media analyses has been the gap between the complex and varied information contained in many news reports and the framing of that information by editors, which is often done in stark and simple terms. As a result, media consumers are often provoked by inflammatory headlines and visuals that stir emotions, even as the contents of those news reports are actually more nuanced.

One issue that became central in the monitoring of the Palestinian media was the Israeli practices with respect to the siege on Gaza, and the actions of the deposed Palestinian government in Gaza.

## MIFTAH'S AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2010



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**Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of Trustees of  
The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy  
(MIFTAH)**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2010, and the statement of activities and changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate for the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) as at December 31, 2010 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the words 'Ernst &amp; Young' in a dark purple color.

April 26, 2011  
Ramallah, Palestine



## Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2010

	Notes	2010 U.S. \$	2009 U.S. \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non - current assets</b>			
Property and equipment	3	31,980	48,602
<b>Current assets</b>			
Contributions receivable	4	252,361	223,516
Due from Board of Trustees	5	45,000	25,000
Other current assets		28,018	4,508
Cash and cash equivalents	6	668,589	821,886
		993,968	1,074,910
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,025,948</b>	<b>1,123,512</b>
<b>Net Assets and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Net assets</b>			
Unrestricted net assets		186,938	174,941
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>186,938</b>	<b>174,941</b>
<b>Non - current liabilities</b>			
Deferred revenues	7	30,159	42,953
Provision for employees' indemnity	8	153,686	124,631
		183,845	167,584
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and accruals	9	98,273	64,413
Temporarily restricted contributions	11	556,892	716,574
		655,165	780,987
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>839,010</b>	<b>948,571</b>
<b>Total Net Assets and Liabilities</b>		<b>1,025,948</b>	<b>1,123,512</b>

**Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets**

Year ended December 31, 2010

		2010	2009
	Notes	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Revenues</b>			
Temporarily restricted contributions released from restriction	11	927,715	799,119
Unrestricted contributions	10	91,150	65,000
Deferred revenues recognized	7	15,556	20,101
Other revenues		4,351	6,688
Foreign exchange gain		-	787
		1,038,772	891,695
<b>Expenses</b>			
Projects' expenses	12	940,840	801,770
Administrative expenses	13	45,891	177,526
Depreciation expense	3	19,384	21,517
Foreign exchange loss		20,660	-
		1,026,775	1,000,813
<b>Increase (decrease) in net assets</b>		11,997	(109,118)
Net assets, beginning of year		174,941	284,059
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>		186,938	174,941



## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2010

	2010	2009
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<b>Operating Activities:</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	11,997	(109,118)
<b>Adjustments:</b>		
Depreciation of property and equipment	19,384	21,517
Deferred revenues recognized	(15,556)	(20,101)
Provision for employees' indemnity	33,268	36,771
	49,093	(70,931)
<b>Changes in working capital</b>		
Contributions receivable	(28,845)	(91,560)
Due from Board of Trustees	(20,000)	60,000
Other current assets	(23,510)	(975)
Temporarily restricted contributions	(159,682)	284,613
Accounts payable and accruals	33,860	4,006
Deferred revenues	2,762	9,176
Employees' indemnity paid	(4,213)	(16,872)
<b>Net cash flows (used in) from operating activities</b>	<b>(150,535)</b>	<b>177,457</b>
<b>Investing Activities:</b>		
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,762)	(9,263)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(2,762)</b>	<b>(9,263)</b>
<b>(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(153,297)</b>	<b>168,194</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	821,886	653,692
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>668,589</b>	<b>821,886</b>

### Temporarily restricted contributions

This item comprises temporarily restricted contributions subject to purpose restriction. These amounts represent the excess of donations received over the expenditures made out to satisfy the purposes stipulated by the donors. The movement on the temporarily restricted contributions is as follows:

	Balance, beginning of year	Additions	Tempor- arily restricted contributions released from restriction	Deferred revenues	Interest revenue	Currency difference	end Balance, of year
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
The Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF)	-	134,450	(53,498)	-	-	(5,566)	75,386
NGO Development Centre (NDC)	-	110,000	(35,386)	-	-	-	74,614
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ireland (MFAI)	75,702	78,876	(75,641)	-	-	(9,640)	69,297
Oxfam GB	-	64,201	(25,222)	-	-	655	39,634
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	-	31,180	(6,180)	-	-	-	25,000
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	-	33,000	(13,866)	-	-	-	19,134
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)	158,603	-	(127,372)	(1,422)	-	(16,594)	13,215
The Institute for Inclusive Security, Hunt Alternatives Fund	-	10,000	(4,251)	-	-	-	5,749
The Henrich Boell Foundation (HBF)	12,572	88,255	(82,642)	-	-	(12,650)	5,535
Ford Foundation (FF) and Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) through KESHEV	5,507	481	(5,988)	-	-	-	-
Danish Representative Office (DRO)	24,897	-	(24,897)	-	-	-	-
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	4,639	127,312	(132,627)	-	-	676	-
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	11,249	-	(11,249)	-	-	-	-
Representative Office of Norway (NRO)	108,903	-	(108,903)	-	-	-	-
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories (KAS)	-	42,693	(45,645)	-	-	2,952	-
Henrich Boell Stiftung (HBS)	-	31,264	(29,806)	-	-	(1,458)	-
The Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (IFA)	-	15,467	(15,799)	-	-	332	-
Creative Associates International (CAI)	89,273	36,724	(124,657)	(1,340)	-	-	-
Consulate General of Italy	-	3,944	(4,086)	-	-	142	-
Special donations	225,229	-	-	-	4,099	-	229,328
	716,574	807,847	(927,175)	(2,762)	4,099	(4,151)	556,892

## Project expenses

Components of projects expenses are as follows:

	HBF	ALF	IFA	UNFPA	ADA*	Inclusive Security	UNESCO	KAS	NED	Subtotal
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	27,462	8,728	5,069	36,495	54,372	3,089	2,700	36,768	10,321	185,004
Office, equipment and hall rental	300	3,600	300	400	6,850	200	1,100	150	1,000	13,900
Utilities	634	-	-	85	5,827	101	58	89	1,071	7,865
Postage, telephone and fax	146	53	-	54	1,937	97	76	-	936	3,299
Travel and accommodation	26,613	3,626	2,814	1,069	3,098	99	88	421	581	38,409
Information Technology and publications	180	27,758	170	89,820	43,941	-	703	6,281	6,974	175,827
Training expenses	9,891	-	2,704	182	12,456	-	920	-	1,151	27,304
Hosting delegations and meetings	17,396	-	4,742	4,257	9,566	57	535	1,936	3,040	41,529
Professional fees	-	9,545	-	-	2,425	600	-	-	-	12,570
Sundry	20	188	-	265	25	8	-	-	41	547
Total	82,642	53,498	15,799	132,627	140,497	4,251	6,180	45,645	25,115	506,254

\* During the year, U.S \$ 127,372 were expensed from the program's budget and accordingly released from restriction. The remaining amount of U.S. \$ 13,125 was self-financed by MIFTAH.

## Project expenses - continued

	NDC	MFAI	OXFAM	DRO	FF and ALF through KESHEV	CALL	Con-sulate General of Italy	HBS	NRO	Total Project Expenses 2010	Total Project Expenses 2009
Subtotal	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	20,109	57,902	91,250	9,857	4,556	63,772	1,140	11,175	57,987	420,752	348,622
Office, equipment and hall rental	3,900	3,500	-	300	-	12,824	265	-	3,420	38,109	37,964
Utilities	2,244	844	-	964	-	1,939	153	-	3,615	17,624	20,560
Postage, telephone and fax	308	238	477	1,409	-	1,774	78	43	2,209	9,835	11,084
Travel and accommodation	1,152	2,599	2,352	290	174	7,623	171	717	7,329	60,816	44,658
Information Technology and publications	5,104	7,372	637	11,258	1,258	3,286	389	14,599	7,016	226,746	224,918
Training expenses	200	-	4,817	-	-	15,548	669	367	12,345	61,250	54,915
Hosting delegations and meetings	366	531	7,670	819	-	17,594	821	2,905	13,418	85,653	53,747
Professional fees	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	400	-	1,500	18,470	4,260
Sundry	3	655	19	-	-	297	-	-	64	1,585	1,042
Total	35,386	75,641	25,222	24,897	5,988	124,657	4,086	29,806	108,903	940,840	804,770





## Administrative expenses

	2010	2009
	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Salaries and related expenses	34,896	142,740
Office rent	5,591	10,084
Professional fees	1,500	4,740
Hosting delegations and meetings	1,139	1,202
Travel and accommodation	450	5,479
Utilities	-	12,465
Sundry	2,315	816
	45,891	177,526

## AMONG MIFTAH'S SUPPORTERS

- Creative Associates, Inc.
- Austrian Representative Office
- Irish Aid
- Norwegian Representative Office
- Danish Representative Office
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Anna Lindh Foundation
- NGO Development Center
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung

