



5th Meeting of the Anti- Corruption Community of Practice in the Arab Region



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Resilient nations.

Social Accountability Initiatives in oPt.

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Accountability in Palestine

General Introduction



- 1967-1995 The Civil Society was the main provider of service delivery and holding the Israeli Occupation accountable for the abuse of the human rights of the Palestinian people.
- 1995-2012 the political will for accountability was manifested by:
 1. Horizontal accountability
 - Legislations of Basic Law, Elections Law, Money Laundry Law, Consumers Protection Law, Anticorruption Law, Standards and Specifications Law.
 - The establishment of the Human Rights Independent Commission in 1995 followed by the establishment of the State Audit and internal monitoring and complains departments in the PA institutions, and PACC in 2010 and the human rights department at the Police in 2011
 2. Vertical Accountability
 - Holding and Monitoring PLC and Local Elections in 1996 and 2005, 2006



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1. Sort of Citizens Juries By CSOs:

- a) Town Hall Meetings/Public Hearings of Mayors.
- b) Yearly Reports on PA institutions Performance and Democratic Transformation. (ATF and Aman).
- c) Monitoring the performance of PLC elected members in 1996: The democracy day.
- d) Round table meetings with PA Policy Makers, MAS, PASSIA, Aman, Bisan, ATF, Academic Institutions.
- e) Individual Appeals by citizens in media to the President intervention of Public Sectors lack of performance or abuse of citizens' rights.



Social Accountability Cont'd



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2. Media:

- Electronic media: Online newspapers and webpages like Amin
- Social Media; face book pages. YouTube. Bloggers.

3. Codes of Ethics

- Political Party Representatives, NGOs and Civil Servants initiated by ATF.

4. Monitoring

- CSOs reporting on PA policies.
- Human Rights Monitoring Institutions; al-Haq, Palestine Human Rights Center, etc.



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4. Petitions. (ex. The 20 group)
5. Sits in and demonstrations in particular following the political split between WB and Gaza.

Social Accountability Cont'd



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Challenges

Lack of citizen awareness of their rights as tax payers.

Lack of marginalized groups access to equity

Legislation of laws to support Social Accountability in particular Access to information law.

Limited investigative media programs accompanied by Self Censored media.

Geopolitical Separation between WB and Gaza.

Non functioning PLC

Lack of sustainable community outreach and sustainable citizenship education programs

Crippled Elections Law

Limited financially self sustainable and independent programs/projects.



Entry Points for Programming in oPt.



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1. Citizenship education on citizens rights and responsibilities /citizenship and state-citizens relations.
2. Build accountability mechanisms within the laws.
3. Capacity Development of social accountability agents of change in particular youth ,women and media.
4. Citizen's Budgeting .
5. Improving the role of local reconciliation committees to be citizens jury.
6. Enhancing the role of local monitoring committees in holding the PA institutions accountable.
7. Enforcing the role of the Palestinian Society for Consumer Protection.
8. Empowering the accountability role of different unions.
9. Strategic utilization of social media.
10. Civil Society Support to PACC.



The way forward: Conclusions and Recommendations



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In order to have effective social accountability in Palestine the work should address the political will of the PA and the Knowledge, Attitudes, Skills and Practices of the Palestinian people. Below are five ideas for consideration:

- Increase citizens awareness of their civil, political, social and economic rights through citizenship programs
- Support to PA ratification of and compliance to different international covenants ; children's rights, CEDAW, Labor Law, UNCAC, etc
- Establishing community based citizens rights movement/societies /juries to neutralize the polarization in Palestine and to demand respect of citizens rights and mutual respect of rule of law.
- Empowerment of investigative media.
- Support to Academic Research on Accountability, Transparency and Integrity.



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Dankie Gracias شكراً
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Thank You Tak
感謝您 Obrigado Teşekkür Ederiz
Σας Ευχαριστούμ 감사합니다
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ありがとうございます
Tack