Social Accountability Initiatives in oPt.

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• 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
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.
2. Media:
   - Electronic media: Online newspapers and webpages like Amin

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.
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

Integrity Toolkit to measure the performance of the municipalities on Accountability, Transparency and Integrity

Local Integrity Committees piloted in four municipalities.

Schools Citizenship Projects to identify gaps of services delivery and approach government for provision of solutions.

Social Media: Anticorruption Pages and Groups.

Youth initiatives on addressing the gaps in services: health, education, water.

Shadow Youth Local Councils

Success
### 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.

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**Social Accountability Cont’d**

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Entry Points for Programming in oPt.

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.
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

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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Thank You

Dankie  Gracias  شكرا
Спасибо  Köszönjük  Merci  Takk
Grazie  Dziękujemy  Dékojame
Đakujeme  Vielen Dank  Paldies
Kiitos  Täname teid  谢谢

感谢您  Obrigado  Teşekkür  Ederiz  감사합니다
Σας Ευχαριστούμ  Bedankt  Děkujeme  vám  ありがとうございます
Bạn có thể  Tack