



The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy

MIFTAH

2021 Annual Report

January - December 2021

Contents

1.	Situation Analysis.....	4
2.	Introduction.....	5
3.	Results by Objective	6
I.	To Enhance Good Governance in Palestine	6
1.1	Women Political Participation	6
1.1.1	Enhancing the legal framework of local and national elections	6
1.1.2	Enhancing public awareness on upcoming National Elections and women political participation within the Elections System.....	7
1.1.3	Capacity building of potential women candidates in PLC elections.....	7
1.1.4	Supporting women candidates to run for local elections	8
1.1.5	Raising public awareness about the electoral demands through social media.....	9
1.2	Women Peace and Security	9
1.2.1	Support PWC in preparing mid-term and annual reviews based on progress realized during the implementation of the Advocacy Strategy based on the M&E framework of the strategy	9
1.2.2	Supporting the National Coalition in presenting the Advocacy Strategy for international organizations and the donor community and agree on priorities with the donors	10
1.3	Youth Empowerment	11
1.3.1	Empowering youth activists in leading advocacy and social media campaigning	11
1.3.2	Supporting youth candidates (males and females) in the West Bank and Gaza to run for the upcoming general elections.....	11
1.4	Women Protection from Gender Based Violence	12
1.4.1	Enhancing services for women survivors and at risk of GBV in area C	12
1.4.2	Influencing policies related to GBV and the National Referral System	12
1.4.3	Review of current used forms, protocols, and coordination mechanisms within the NRS	13
1.5	Fiscal Justice	13
1.5.1	Increasing transparency of Public Budget	13
1.5.2	Continuing to support and enable civil servants (budgetary teams)	13
1.6	Women Economic Empowerment:	14
1.6.1	Providing women heads of households with nearly 2,000 care and food packages during the state of emergency	14
II.	To Strengthen National Unity and International Awareness of the Palestinian Narrative	14
2.1	Promotion of Human Rights	14

2.1.1	Youth Human Rights Defenders complete their work with a virtual reality tour of Israeli violations in Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza.....	14
2.1.2	Shedding light on settler violations against Palestinian women in the northern West Bank 15	
2.1.3	Develop capacities of UNSCR 1325 local coalitions, men, women and youth on issues related to women protection.....	15
2.1.4	Participating in several sessions of the Human Rights Council	15
2.1.5	Promoting the Palestinian narrative using digital media.....	16
2.2	Enhance internal dialogue to reach consensus on key political positions imperative to the Palestinians	17
2.2.1	“Hosted by MIFTAH”	17
III.	Strategic Enabler: to develop MIFTAH's institutional capacity to deliver on its mission	17
4.	MIFTAH’s Publications in 2021:	18

1. Situation Analysis

2021 witnessed significant political, health, economic, legal and social developments on both the international and national stage. During April and May 2021, Israeli attacks on Palestinians have intensified in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and inside the Green Line. Eleven days of intense Israeli airstrikes on Gaza left 256 Palestinians killed (23 girls, 43 boys, 40 women and 150 men), 1948 injured and over 8,000 people continue to be internally displaced¹. Tensions in East Jerusalem had also intensified with continuous Israeli attempts to forcibly evict and displace Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan.

In the aftermath of the May escalation, the UN Human Rights Council, in its 30th Special Session, established an *ongoing independent, international commission of inquiry, to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council, to investigate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021, and all underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict, including systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity*². The formulation of such a commission constitutes a precedent where violations taking place in historic Palestine (1948) are considered.

On 19 October 2021, Israel's Defense Minister Benny Gantz designated six leading Palestinian human rights and civil society groups as "terrorist organizations" under Israel's domestic Counterterrorism (Anti-Terror) Law (2016). The six groups are: Addameer, Al-Haq, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P), the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC). The Israeli military commander also outlawed all six groups under the 1945 Emergency (Defense) Regulations, declaring them "unlawful associations". This decision was widely denounced by national and international organizations. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights described the decision as an "attack on human rights defenders, on freedoms of association, opinion and expression and on the right to public participation and should be immediately revoked".

On the internal front, the year started off with a presidential decree, calling for legislative elections on 22 May and a presidential vote on 31 July followed by Palestinian National Council elections on 31 August, giving hope for Palestinians, particularly youth, in reviving the democratic process and providing opportunities for women and youth to participate in public life. However, on 7 May, President Mahmoud Abbas announced their "postponement until the

¹ [Gaza Strip: Escalation of hostilities as of 3 June 2021 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](https://www.ochaopt.org/)

² [OHCHR | Session30 30th special session of the Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem – 27 May 2021](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/05/30th-special-session-human-rights-council-occupied-palestinian-territory)

participation of Jerusalem and its people is guaranteed.” The postponement of the PLC and Presidential elections increased public dissatisfaction in government and deepened its legitimacy crisis. Further, the vaccination scandal, which was shortly followed by the death of activist Nizar Banat at the hands of Palestinian security forces, led to widespread national demonstrations that were met with a severe crackdown on civil liberties, not only against citizens but also against civil society organizations.

Moreover, the Palestinian Authority (PA) is facing an acute fiscal crisis that exacerbated the chronic crisis that it has been enduring over the past decade. In 2021, the impact of Covid-19 on the fiscal situation persisted and was intensified by the very limited external budgetary support, which usually amounts to 15-20% of the public budget. The sharp decrease in external budgetary support to the PA by both western and Arab donors has dropped by almost 90%. Additionally, the deduction of “pay for slay” allocations by Israel from the clearance revenues, only worsened the situation. Within this framework, the PA was unable to pay both full salaries and social contributions to families living below the poverty line and in deep poverty. This leaves an increase in domestic revenues as the only avenue available to promoting the fiscal sustainability and resumption of payment of full salaries to civil servants. The enactment of VAT and income tax laws to go after free professions who evade taxes (VAT), increase progressivity in personal income tax on corporations and rescind the Investment Promotion Law and integrate it into the new income tax law, are faced with several obstacles, namely the mutual interests that brings the PA together with the private sector, and the potential further destabilization at the hands of the private sector.

2. Introduction

The year 2021 marked the last year in MIFTAH’s strategic plan 2017-2021. Within this strategy, MIFTAH worked towards the realizations of two main strategic objectives:

1. To Enhance Good Governance in Palestine

- ❖ Specific Objective 1: To advance policy advocacy and lobbying to ensure social justice and equality;
- ❖ Specific Objective 2: To enhance women and youth participation in policy and decision-making within the public sector and local government organizations;

2. To Strengthen National Unity and International Awareness of the Palestinian Narrative

- ❖ Specific Objective 1: To enhance internal dialogue to reach consensus on key political positions imperative to the Palestinians;
- ❖ Specific Objective 2: To promote the Palestinian narrative as a just and fair cause;

In line with the above strategic objectives, MIFTAH works on the following thematic areas:

- Women Political Participation
- Youth Empowerment
- Women Peace and Security
- Women Protection from GBV
- Women Economic Empowerment
- Fiscal Justice
- Promotion of Human Rights
- Palestinian Narrative
- Political Dialogue

MIFTAH was able to achieve the following results during 2021:

3. Results by Objective

I. To Enhance Good Governance in Palestine

1.1 Women Political Participation

1.1.1 Enhancing the legal framework of local and national elections

MIFTAH has continued to play a prominent role at the level of civil society in the electoral affairs file, since the Palestinian President issued a decree setting the date for general elections, in terms of 1) sponsoring specialized and inclusive dialogue, 2) empowering female candidates and youth lists, and 3) community awareness. MIFTAH garnered a number of consensual positions on the elections, especially the legislative ones, as part of a series of dialogue sessions that it held in the preparatory phase for the general elections: The first was to emphasize the constitutionality of the democratic choice of the Palestinian people in expressing their opinion and selection through the ballot box, supporting the presence and representation of women and youth in electoral lists, emphasizing the independence of the Judges' Committee of the Electoral Court, and strengthening the principles of respect for public freedoms and transparency in publishing the results of the national dialogue that took place in Cairo. MIFTAH also published a consensual position that came out of the independent youth electoral lists, in announcing their general framework for their electoral programs, which are based on a set of democratic and civil principles and foundations, the independence document, freedoms and rights stipulated in the Palestinian Basic Law, in addition to the set of values they agreed upon and are commitment to carry out during the electoral process. MIFTAH also held a number of dialogue meetings, which

included representatives of 24 electoral lists out of the 36 lists that were preparing to run for PLC elections. These dialogues were an opportunity for the public to see and interact with the general trends of these lists in priority areas pertaining to social, economic and political issues by broadcasting them directly on social networking pages.

Moreover, and in regard to Local Elections, MIFTAH fostered dialogue among several institutions and representatives of national parties and factions during which civil society institutions shared a position paper on local elections. CSOs believe the government's continued insistence to hold elections in two stages, with a date for the second stage already set, is an expression of political bias towards one specific faction and far -removed from national interests and the exercise of true political participation and elections on the basis of good governance and the peaceful transition of power. They also said civil society demands were not taken into consideration, demands which were extensively discussed in past years over certain amendments such as: the lowering of the candidacy age, raising the women's quota and cancelling the threshold, which would pave the way for increased participation of women and youth in the electoral process.

[MIFTAH - Position paper by civil society organizations on local council elections](#)

1.1.2 Enhancing public awareness on upcoming National Elections and women political participation within the Elections System

MIFTAH, in preparation for the postponed national elections that were planned for May and July 2021 and as part of its strategic direction, and in preparation for phase 1 and 2 of local elections, conducted several town-hall meetings with the aim of enhancing citizens' and public awareness about principles of democracy and good governance including the concept of civic engagement, active citizenship, the importance of women and youth political participation and the principle of peaceful transfer of power through the ballot box. During 2021, MIFTAH, successfully conducted more than 120 outreach town hall meetings with the participation of more than 3000 citizens the majority of which are women and university students in the different governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. During these meetings, the main topics focused on the electoral process, the election law, forming electoral lists, programs and campaigns. Additionally, the sessions touched on the importance of women and youth representation in the electoral lists in order to enhance their chances of accessing the PLC and local councils to ensure their representation in decision-making and policy-making positions.

1.1.3 Capacity building of potential women candidates in PLC elections

MIFTAH supported building the capacity of more than 100 women and young women candidates for the PLC elections through specialized training workshops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. trainings aimed at increasing women's chances to get to the PLC and raise their awareness on issues of social priority. Another objective was to foster an enabling environment for dialogue between the women candidates within the different electoral lists to create a common

understanding of the democratic principles and values such as justice and equality among the various societal components.

MIFTAH designed the training agenda to enhance the candidates' leadership capacities in preparation for the PLC elections. The main aim of these trainings was to bolster women candidates' abilities in defending and fighting for their rights and joint believes and shared concerns and demands at the PLC. This comes within the growing challenges resulting from the 15-year gap in the democratic process. Such issues include a reform in education, health and economic policies with the immediate response to reform the legislative framework based on values of justice and equality. The trainings also focused on providing the candidates with the necessary knowledge and skills for utilizing traditional and modern media tools, including digital media. The goal of this was to boost the candidates' ability in reaching the Palestinian public and conveying the gist of their electoral campaigns through messaging and debates, with mainstreaming of social justice and accountability in their affiliated programs.

1.1.4 Supporting women candidates to run for local elections

MIFTAH completed six training workshops, aimed at empowering women and youth candidates in local council elections in the West Bank running in the first phase of the elections. The training targeted a total of 42 female and 38 youth candidates addressing the stages, laws and procedures regulating the electoral process. The workshops also included ways on how to utilize digital media and social media platforms and how to conduct radio and television interviews.

Additionally, MIFTAH completed a youth camp in Ramallah and Gaza with the participation of 100 active youth (48% of which are females), from all West Bank and Gaza districts. The camp aimed at creating a space for dialogue between youth groups, national figures, women and youth leaders and experts in election affairs. The camp included several activities and dialogue sessions to discuss various election-related topics such as: the map of active social forces in local elections; the position of civil society institutions on local elections and its proposed legal amendments; the role of youth leaders in elections; the 2005 Local Elections Law No. 10; the launching of a digital campaign to support youth participation in local elections; showcasing global democratic experiences; and a dialogue session entitled: "The role of political parties in supporting youth participation in local elections and the role of women in local government, the election process and procedures.

The interventions also boosted the targeted activists' visibility through social media platforms, including Facebook. Additionally, more space was provided for the women in the media by being hosted on local radio stations.

1.1.5 Raising public awareness about the electoral demands through social media

In response to the presidential decree for the PLC elections planned for 22 May 2021, MIFTAH published ten animated videos as ad campaign, which was designed to mobilize people towards participation in the PLC elections. The messages aimed to encouraging the citizens to support youth and women candidates.

Moreover, MIFTAH focused, through the social media campaign, to raise people's awareness about the electoral system in Palestine and the election law in addition to a timeline of the elections process which begins with the voters' registration to the day of the results. MIFTAH, also worked through social media, on providing detailed information regarding the monitoring role of civil society on elections, the percentage of youth who are allowed to participate as voters and candidates, the percentage of youth and women's representation in the electoral lists, in addition to the main duties and responsibilities of the PLC according to the Palestinian Basic Law.

The different media material broadcasted on MIFTAH 's social media platforms surpassed 358 thousand viewers on average. The material was published on MIFTAH's Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter. The animated videos targeted Palestinian citizens aged 18 and above, across the West Bank and Gaza.

1.2 Women Peace and Security

1.2.1 Support PWC in preparing mid-term and annual reviews based on progress realized during the implementation of the Advocacy Strategy based on the M&E framework of the strategy

After the completion of the six months and then the first year of the annual action plan 2021 of the PWC's Advocacy Strategy 2021-2024, MIFTAH finalized the preparation of the mid-term and annual reviews which monitors the progress of implementation over this period. The review provided main findings reflected in qualitative indicators that highlighted on areas of progressivity in implementation under the four pillars of the strategy; participation, accountability, protection, and prevention annexed with a descriptive matrix.

The reports highlighted the presence and the active participation of a number of the PWC's member organizations at different international platforms including the CSW, The Security Council, and HRC. These participations came as a contribution in amplifying Palestinian women voices and to support women's call for holding Israeli occupation accountable for the escalation in human rights violations in Palestine. Additionally, these participations aimed at ensuring the protection of Palestinian women's rights. Moreover, the results reported the efforts of the PWC in networking with national, international, and regional feminist and human rights organizations

and leagues such as El Karama Network, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI), Feminist Alliance for Rights (FAR).

The reports presented a number of recommendations, the most important of which are related to the work mechanisms of the PWC in terms of coordination among the coalition members and the periodic meetings and follow-up required from the PWC.

1.2.2 Supporting the National Coalition in presenting the Advocacy Strategy for international organizations and the donor community and agree on priorities with the donors

As part of its efforts to support the PWC in advancing the implementation of the strategic directions within the WPS agenda in Palestine, MIFTAH held a virtual meeting in April 2021, highlighting priority advocacy approaches for the Coalition's strategic actions. Several international organizations and representatives attended the meeting, through which crucial political developments within the local and international political context were discussed. Developments that create challenges in the implementation of the WPS agenda in Palestine, taking into consideration the escalation of violations against Palestinian women under Israeli occupation and the exclusion of women within the Palestinian political system. A brief diagnosis of the overall situation of Palestinian women was presented, including social and legislative challenges, violence, the internal Palestinian division and violations of women's rights by the Israeli occupation. These include demolitions, siege, forced displacement, settlement expansion and land confiscation.

MIFTAH through the meeting presented international mechanisms that support the WPS agenda in Palestine such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), international treaties as CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination along with carrying out other measures in the Security Council. In addition to holding sessions pertaining to women peace and security, holding official and unofficial meetings on Palestine at the Security Council, and integrating WPS concerns into the work of the Security Council and regional and international organizations.

The session closed with a number of recommendations; 1) the importance of joint actions between Palestinian women and countries focused on human rights, 2) the formation of a committee of PWC members and country representatives in Palestine, 3) providing periodic reports on violations in Palestine, 4) encouraging international support, especially from the EU, for the presence of Palestinian women in international forums to push for Israel's accountability, 5) coordination of support for international institutions in a way that serves the priorities of the PWC within the WPS agenda with regard to international advocacy, 6) pressing the members of the EU parliament and the Palestinian government for guaranteeing that women's organizations are allowed to work freely and without restrictions on funding and CSOs space of activism.

These recommendations were based on MIFTAH's policy paper on Aid Effectiveness prepared in 2020.

1.3 Youth Empowerment

1.3.1 Empowering youth activists in leading advocacy and social media campaigning

Since the beginning of 2021, MIFTAH launched a series of interventions targeting Palestinian youth groups, which comes in parallel with the postponed general elections in May and July 2021. Nevertheless, MIFTAH continued its interventions within the framework of promoting and empowering youth's engagement and participation in the public life with special focus on enhancing the experience of enrolling in democratic processes and empowering youth activists in leading advocacy and social media campaigning. To that end, and due to the limited experience and capacities of youth in leading and taking part in electoral campaigns, MIFTAH supported youth groups from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who were candidates in the PLC electoral lists and other youth activists who are continuously engaged in advocacy. Thus, MIFTAH organized four specialized training workshops targeting 88 youth activists from West Bank and Gaza Strip. The trainings included the utilizations of social media in elections and media campaigning, with online influencing strategies in lobbying and advocacy for achieving social change. Furthermore, MIFTAH fostered dialogue and discussions in West Bank and Gaza Strip with the engagement of more than 190 youth activists and candidates to share their challenges and limitations the face in public and political spheres and to build consensus on joint vision towards the formation of a responsive democratic political system. Additionally, MIFTAH opened channels of communication to include targeted youth groups especially youth candidates with advocacy units at INGOs which are leading lobbying an advocacy campaigning with parliamentarians in different countries including the EU.

1.3.2 Supporting youth candidates (males and females) in the West Bank and Gaza to run for the upcoming general elections

Since the issuing of the presidential decree regarding general elections, MIFTAH decided to support progressive youth groups to run for these elections. Thus, MIFTAH supported youth candidates who showed willingness to run for PLC elections. The support was mainly done through inclusive dialogues where MIFTAH succeeded in fostering a series of dialogue sessions among youth candidates from the West Bank and Gaza. These sessions resulted in identifying democratic values and reform programs that were shared among the different youth blocs.

On another front, MIFTAH continues its interventions with the youth groups through providing technical and consultation support to raise the youth opportunity and readiness to run for local elections which are expected to run during December 2021. These interventions come in view of maximizing youth's opportunities to be represented in decision making levels and in the public and political spheres.

1.4 Women Protection from Gender Based Violence

1.4.1 Enhancing services for women survivors and at risk of GBV in area C

To enhance accountability towards women's rights, MIFTAH held a hearing session on lack of access to protective services for battered women and women at risk in seam zones and marginalized areas and those exposed to violence attacks by Israeli occupation forces in the northern West Bank, namely in the Tubas, Jenin, Tulkarm and Qalqilia districts. MIFTAH hosted Deputy Minister for Social Development, Daoud Al Deek in the session, which was attended by several member institutions from the NGO forum for combatting VAW (violence against women).

The session produced a number of recommendations, including: demanding the ratification of the Family Protection Law; making the necessary reforms to the legal system, procedures and policies on the protection of women from violence; raising social awareness on issues linked to gender-based violence and awareness on protective services in various areas, including marginalized regions and Area C; initiating a dialogue on the revamping of the National Referral System (NRS) that would allow women access to protective services; reviewing relevant procedures and protocols to include the various institutions, especially those in marginalized areas and Area C, and measuring their efficacy in the different districts; putting pressure on the Ministry of Finance to increase the financial ceiling of the Ministry of Social Development based on its plans and the policy agenda, which reflect the needs of social sectors and beneficiaries. This includes increasing allocations for the budgets of protective services and integration programs along with economic empowerment programs that target battered women in the four districts, which will contribute to and support women's access to protective and safety services.

1.4.2 Influencing policies related to GBV and the National Referral System

MIFTAH worked on influencing public policies and executive procedures for the protection of battered women and ensuring their access to the pillars of protection and justice in Palestinian society. This was achieved through promoting dialogue with relevant national stakeholders based on the results of research and specialized reviews. The dialogue aimed at implementing the National Referral System and unifying measures pertaining to the system's integration in a way that supports the access of services to women and girls subjected to GBV in Palestinian society. MIFTAH continues to follow-up on the recommendations presented by the relevant organizations related to updating the NRS, especially in light of the social changes and legal developments that arose since its inception in 2013. The need for monitoring, instilling the principle of accountability and restoring the role of the police, general prosecution and judiciary were part of the recommendations, in addition to the role of CSOs in advocating for the ratification of the Family Protection Law and increased government spending on protection programs and services for battered women and women at risk, based on a holistic vision for social protection.

MIFTAH annually supports the NGO Forum for Combating Violence Against Women by implementing a joint advocacy plan during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based

Violence, which this year focused on the rights of Palestinian women in the public and private spheres in view of the rights of Palestinian prisoners and the public freedoms of women. MIFTAH also launched its messages on various social media platforms.

1.4.3 Review of current used forms, protocols, and coordination mechanisms within the NRS

MIFTAH opened dialogue with the Ministry of Social Development, the police and several civil society institutions that work with the referral system to discuss the results of a report reviewing the measures and protocols of the NRS and come up with practical steps required to address the gaps uncovered by the report. The report reviewed the procedural prototypes adopted in four official institutions considered main partners in the execution of the National Referral System for battered women: the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the police, and the governorates. The report drew a comparison between the applied procedures and those of the system. The report also indicated that through the practical implementation of the referral system and the manuals for each sector, several gaps were evident in relation to joint coordination and cooperation. It also showed the absence of the principle of social justice in Palestinian legislative politics, which has rendered the current legislative system incomplete and fragmented.

The participants in the dialogue confirmed that the NRS needs updating and amendments to the procedure manuals must be updated based on the legal changes pertaining to the protection of women from violence. They also pointed to the need for specific laws such as the Family Protection Law, based on a holistic vision for social protection. MIFTAH will assume the follow-up and accountability of all parties responsible for executing the system in a way that protects all women victims of gender-based violence in Palestinian society.

1.5 Fiscal Justice

1.5.1 Increasing transparency of Public Budget

MIFTAH provided data and evidence through publishing comparative actual spending reports for three line-ministries within the social sector; Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Social Development and Health for the years 2020-2021. This is part of MIFTAH's efforts to promote the transparency and openness of service-oriented ministries to the public and to shed light on spending gaps and public fiscal policies in order to promote dialogue between experts in public affairs and in civil society institutions in addition to addressing the gaps in actual spending in the social sector. Moreover, MIFTAH continued its efforts in supporting the budget teams in these ministries to produce their Citizens Budgets 2021 to increase transparency and accountability within the public sector.

1.5.2 Continuing to support and enable civil servants (budgetary teams)

MIFTAH supported budgetary teams in several line ministries to institutionalize work within the standards of international budgetary transparency and to integrate gender and social justice

indicators. To this end, MIFTAH implemented a number of interventions in cooperation with the various ministries, including the release of the 2021 Citizens' Budget, capacity-building for the budgetary teams, the integration of gender indicators in the Citizens' Budget and preparation of the budget manual for ministries. The interventions were aimed at institutionalizing the values of transparency and accountability in decision-making centers, in addition to promoting them among citizens through the periodic publication of fiscal data, simplified for their perusal. During 2021, MIFTAH worked with five ministries: the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Interior.

1.6 Women Economic Empowerment:

1.6.1 Providing women heads of households with nearly 2,000 care and food packages during the state of emergency

MIFTAH continued to provide emergency response to Palestinian women households, who were gravely impacted economically by the COVID-19 outbreak and the associated lockdown periods, through 2020 until mid of 2021, that followed the declaration of the state of emergency. This was coupled with the gendered impact of the latest Israeli military aggression on Gaza and its discriminatory policies in east Jerusalem which included an escalation in human rights violations in different areas of the West Bank. MIFTAH concluded the distribution of 2116 food packages among women headed households in West Bank, including east Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. This endeavor falls within MIFTAH's efforts in protecting women during crisis and under occupation and to widen networking and reach out among Palestinian women's organizations and local council members, since MIFTAH distributed these packages in coordination and consultation with women CBOs and women council members, to empower women leadership role and to highlight on women's activism in local communities.

II. To Strengthen National Unity and International Awareness of the Palestinian Narrative

2.1 Promotion of Human Rights

2.1.1 Youth Human Rights Defenders complete their work with a virtual reality tour of Israeli violations in Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza

A virtual reality tour of Israeli violations, including the role of Palestinian youth in documenting these violations was held as a closing event for a three-year endeavor. Over the period of three years, the trained YHRDs focused on the monitoring and documentation of Israeli occupation violations in three areas. In Hebron, the focus was on the right to freedom of movement, education and religious rights; in occupied Jerusalem, it was on house demolitions, the right to education and religious and cultural rights. As for the Gaza Strip, focus was on violations against the rights of farmers and fishermen. The virtual reality tour took the viewer on a journey of the violations against Palestinians and made them feel as if they were on the receiving end of these violations. It was a simulation of reality and contributed to disseminating the Palestinian narrative

globally from the perspective of Palestinian youth. The YHRDs covered a considerable range of human rights violations including the right to movement, the right to housing and worship along with other denied human rights Palestinians endure, including the right to protection. The virtual tour was based on three campaigns entitled: “Our Protection is our Right” in Gaza; “100 Checkpoints” in Hebron and “We are the Origin” in Jerusalem and were managed by youth activists in these areas who were trained on means of documentation based on the Universal Human Rights Index, international law and international human rights.

2.1.2 Shedding light on settler violations against Palestinian women in the northern West Bank

In light of the escalation of settlers’ attacks on defenseless citizens, especially in “Area C” of the West Bank, MIFTAH attempted to shed light on marginalized rural and Bedouin areas and communities in the northern West Bank. The aim of this was to draw attention to the ongoing violations being committed against Palestinians, particularly women, in these areas. More than 500 violations were documented over a period of six months in the Tubas, Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Jenin governorates. These violations were legally analyzed in a report based on international humanitarian law, international human rights law and UNSCR 1325. The report also included practical recommendations targeting international and national actors on possible ways to confront these violations, to protect and compensate the victims and also to hold accountable those who ordered, incited or carried out these violations.

2.1.3 Develop capacities of UNSCR 1325 local coalitions, men, women and youth on issues related to women protection

MIFTAH continues to monitor and document Israeli violations against Palestinian women's rights within the framework of the women, peace and security agenda and provide data on the gendered impact of the occupation. This process began by building the capacity of a group of 35 young men and women on documenting violations against Palestinian women in marginalized areas particularly in areas C and seam zones within the northern governorates of the West Bank. The group was able to document more than 500 cases that reveal the violations of Israeli settlers against Palestinian women and how these violation impact women and their families.

2.1.4 Participating in several sessions of the Human Rights Council

Within the United Nations Human Rights Council 46th and 47th regular sessions and the 30th special session, MIFTAH participated under Item 7 on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory and other occupied Arab territories, through written and oral interventions on human rights violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinians, especially in occupied Jerusalem. The interventions shed light on the violations related to the occupation’s policies and procedures pertaining to forced displacement of residents in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and Batn al-Hawa neighborhood in Silwan town, and other neighborhoods in occupied Jerusalem.

MIFTAH called on member states to take all possible measures to put an end to the Israeli practices aimed at forcibly displacing Palestinians from their land, and to hold the occupation accountable by supporting the international investigation into the Palestinian situation in the International Criminal Court.

MIFTAH also participated under Item 3 regarding the promotion and protection of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural, including the right to development, on behalf of several institutions. The intervention focused on freedom of opinion and expression, especially with regard to campaigns of defamation and prosecution launched by the occupying power on Institutions, women defenders and human rights defenders related to the Palestinian issue.

[Statement Submitted to the Human Rights Council by Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy \(MIFTAH\) \(A/HRC/47/NGO/211\)](#)
[MIFTAH - 30th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the grave human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem](#)

MIFTAH also participated in the special session of the member states of the Women Peace and Security Agenda Committee in the Security Council, where MIFTAH addressed the members of the UN Security Council in the closed session on the aggression on the Gaza Strip, Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and the systematic Israeli violations in the occupied Palestinian territory, within the framework of WPS agenda.

2.1.5 Promoting the Palestinian narrative using digital media

MIFTAH uses digital media in disseminating data and information related to the Palestinian narrative at the local and international levels.

. - The launch of digital media for an extensive series of materials on pivotal issues, especially those related to the recent events in Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, the aggression against Jerusalem in general, the arrests inside the occupied West Bank and the aggression against the Gaza Strip.
(links)

- Publishing short reports through the media monitoring program that dealt with the data carried by social media platforms, especially during May-June, as the period witnessed a massive spread of the Palestinian narrative due to large campaigns on social media platforms, which attracted celebrities and influencers to publish about the Palestinian cause, and this is what we were able to We reflect it in some statistical materials on social media platforms, you can find them in the following links:

⌘ Monitoring hate speech in Hebrew: <https://bit.ly/35D119D>

⌘ Monitoring for the hashtag #Save Sheikh Jarrah: <https://bit.ly/3wMI4hx>

⌘ Monitoring of the hashtag #Gaza_under_fire: <https://bit.ly/3gLI0Z0>

2.2 Enhance internal dialogue to reach consensus on key political positions imperative to the Palestinians

2.2.1 “Hosted by MIFTAH”

MIFTAH publishes interviews with political and prominent personalities to discuss the current developments in the Palestinian political arena, the changes in international political tracks and their impact on the Palestinian cause.

Throughout 2021, the following interviews were published:

Sami Irsheid and Medhat Deeba: Israeli settlement proposal in Sheikh Jarrah: solution or evasion?

Shawan Jabarin: Internal violations are the biggest threat to Palestinian strength, immunity and our national fabric

Abu Shehadeh: The Arab Zionist Party rhetoric targets our history of resistance as a national movement inside the Green Line

Dr. Bernard Sabella: The Jerusalem uprising revived the role of youth in safeguarding Palestinian national identity

Azmi Shuaibi: The Palestinian scene after the restoration of relations with Israel and Biden’s victory

Antoine Shulhat: Disregarding the 'Deal of the Century' and supporting the two-state solution are the most important developments Biden can bring to the Palestinians

III. Strategic Enabler: to develop MIFTAH's institutional capacity to deliver on its mission

MIFTAH during 2021, continued to work on developing its internal capacity and enhancing the principles of good governance and accountability within its work. MIFTAH depended on its internal capacities where possible but also relied on external expertise. To that end, MIFTAH has worked on the following issues:

- In-house **development of MIFTAH’s Governance Manual**. The manual will be reviewed by an external consultant and linked to the development of the Administrative and Policies Procedures Manual.
- **Development of MIFTAH’s Strategic Plan 2022-2026**: MIFTAH has embarked upon a planning process aiming at developing new strategic plan that will guide the development

and implementation of its various interventions in the coming five years (2022-2026). The outcome was a reaffirmation and development of MIFTAH's future vision, mandate, and strategies that appropriately address the challenges and make use of new the potentials inherent in the prevailing context and adverse conditions of the Palestinian civil society. The strategic planning exercise include a restructuring of MIFTAH's executive body. The new structure was approved by the Board of Directors and will be presented to MIFTAH's General Assembly (GA) in their meeting during April 2022 for final approval.

- **Electronic archiving of all financial transactions:** MIFTAH has completed electronic archiving of all financial transactions of 2021. Additionally, monthly closing and posting of transactions is being made timely within the first week of the next month.
- Internal **review and update of Financial Policies and Procedures Manual** by the financial department team pending approval by the GA during their April 2022 meeting.
- Starting the review and update of **the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual**, however, to accommodate to the new structure, there is a need to review and update job descriptions of all staff and review annual performance appraisal system. This performance appraisal system will be linked to an incentive system along with the salary scale. This will be accomplished in 2022.

4. MIFTAH's Publications in 2021:

Special Reports:

- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report on the Ministry of Health \(MoH\) for 2019/2020](#)
- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report on the Ministry of Social Development \(MoSD\) for 2019/2020](#)
- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report on the Ministry of Education and Higher Education \(MoEHE\) for 2019/2020](#)
- [Citizen's Budget 2021- Ministry of Education](#)
- [Citizen's Budget General Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021](#)
- [Citizen's Budget 2021- Ministry of Social Development](#)
- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report of the Ministry of Education \(MoE\) for 2020/2021](#)
- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for 2020/2021](#)
- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report of the Ministry of Social Development \(MoSD\) for 2020/2021](#)
- [The Comparative Actual Spending Report of the Ministry of Health \(MoH\) for 2020/2021](#)
- [Mapping of Institutions Providing Health, Legal, Psychological and Economic Services to Women Victims of Gender-based Violence in Tulkarem, Jenin, Qalqilya and Tubas Governorates](#)

- [Analytical Report on the Violations of Social and Cultural Rights as monitored by the Young Human Rights Defenders in 2020 and 2021](#)

Factsheets and Policy Papers:

- [Fact Sheet: Effects of Spraying Chemical Herbicides on Agricultural Lands Adjacent to the Israeli Security Fence](#)
- [Policy Paper: Formulation of Policies that Support Palestinian Farmers in Border Areas](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Violation of Palestinian Fisherman's Rights by the Israeli Occupation in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [Policy Paper: Towards Better Policies for Protecting Gaza's Fishing Sector and Fisheries](#)
[Policy Paper on Israel's 'City Center Plan'](#)
- [Policy Paper: Preserving the Palestinian Educational System in Jerusalem amidst Israeli Settler-Colonial Policies](#)
[Policy Paper: Education in the Old City of Hebron](#)
- [Policy Paper: The Situation of Trade and Tourism in the Old City of Hebron](#)
- [Facts and figures on Israeli military attacks on Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied 1948 territories \(between March 10 and 21, 2021\)](#)
- [Facts and figures on Israeli military attacks on Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied 1948 territories \(between May 10 and 21, 2021\)](#)
- [Violations documented by Palestinian youth human rights defenders in the Gaza Strip 2019-2020](#)
- [Violations documented by Palestinian youth human rights defenders in Hebron and Jerusalem 2019-2020](#)
- [Annexation plan for the Jordan Valley - December 2020](#)