

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



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Contents

1.	Situation Analysis.....	4
2.	Introduction	4
3.	Results by Objective.....	5
1.1	Result 1: Thematic evidence-based research on laws, regulations and policies	5
1.1.1	Documenting human rights violations against Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	5
1.1.2	Strategic directions for WPS implementation	7
1.1.3	Fiscal Justice: Publishing Citizen Budgets 2024 and 2025 for 22 responsibility centers and Comparative Spending Reports 2023-2024	8
1.1.4	Updating the Fair Tax Monitor	8
1.1.5	Preparing research papers on Shrinking Civic Space	9
1.1.6	Studies on Available Pathways and Options for Confronting Colonial Erasure and Reviving the PLO.....	10
1.1.7	Study on the Governorate System in Palestine: Effectiveness and Accountability	10
1.2	Result 2: Public debate and joint actions for the enhancement of policies and practices are initiated	11
1.2.1	MIFTAH holds expanded workshops with ministries and Public Institutions to advocate for the adoption of fiscal transparency standards in public budgeting	11
1.2.2	Fostering dialogue with Civil Society Leaders and the wider community on the proposed amendments on the Local Elections Law and Palestinian National Council Elections	13
1.2.3	Fostering dialogue on the Cybercrimes Law	14
1.2.4	Organizing Open Debates on the Shrinking Civic Space	15
1.2.5	Opening dialogue with university students across the West Bank.....	15
1.3	Result 3: Relevant stakeholders are equipped to support in the realization of the amended policies and legislations.	16
1.3.1	Preparing new batches of Narrative Ambassadors	16
	July Camp (Sixth Cohort)	16
	September Camp (Seventh Cohort).....	16
	December Camp (Eighth Cohort)	17
1.3.2	Building the Capacities of Civil Society Organizations in Digital Rights and Advocacy.....	17
1.3.3	Raising Community Awareness in the West Bank on Political Participation and the Amended Local Elections Law	17

1.3.4	Capacity building of women members in local government units on preventing corruption in humanitarian responses	18
1.3.5	Continue supporting the Complaints System for female members of Local Authorities in the West Bank.....	19
1.3.6	Promoting Equality Frameworks within Al-Istiqlal University – From Policy Paper to Institutional Reform	20
1.3.7	Strengthening University Students’ Capacities on the Anti-Discrimination Index (ADI) – Building Student Monitoring Tools to Influence University Policies	20
1.3.8	Training on Debate and Dialogue Techniques – Supporting Youth Leadership Skills	21
1.3.9	Designing and Implementing a Comprehensive Capacity-Building Program for Potential Female Candidates – Toward Greater Women’s Participation in Local Governance	21
2.1	Result 1: Content of the Palestinian public discourse is formulated and presented continuously	22
2.1.1	MIFTAH uses digital media to promote the Palestinian narrative.	22
	Video Episode – Sounds of Gaza	22
	Video Episode – Sounds of Hunger	22
	Video Episode – Two Years of Genocide	23
	Video Episode – Winter Without Shelter.....	23
2.2	Result 2: Engagement in international advocacy dialogue is facilitated	24
2.2.1	Organizing Political Briefings with Diplomatic Missions:.....	24
2.2.2	MIFTAH organized several networking and advocacy trips to several European cities:....	26
2.2.3	MIFTAH Participates in the 58 th , 59 th and 60 th Human Rights Council sessions	28
4.	Risks and Challenges:	30
5.	PSEA Update:	31

1. Situation Analysis

The year 2025 witnessed an increasingly complex and deteriorating political and humanitarian context in Palestine. Despite a fragile ceasefire, the genocide in Gaza remains ongoing, with continued daily killings and a near-total blockade on humanitarian aid. The humanitarian situation remains catastrophic, with severe shortages of food, medical supplies, and basic services affecting the entire population.

In the West Bank, conditions have significantly worsened. Escalating settler violence, forced displacement, and expanding settlement policies—reinforced by new Israeli laws—have further institutionalized an apartheid system. These developments, alongside intensified military incursions and restrictions on movement, have deepened fragmentation and further strained already fragile living conditions.

At the political level, the Palestinian Authority (PA) continues to face mounting external pressures from Israeli policies, alongside internal challenges related to democratic governance. In 2025, the PA announced local elections; however, public engagement has remained limited. Participation of women and youth in public life continues to be low, and enthusiasm for voter registration and candidacy has been constrained, in part due to amendments to the local elections law that have raised concerns among the public. Civic space continues to shrink under increasing restrictions on freedom of expression, affecting civil society organizations, activists, and journalists.

Amid these conditions, Palestinian civil society organizations, including MIFTAH, have adapted to address both immediate humanitarian needs and long-term advocacy objectives. In 2025, MIFTAH continued to monitor and document Israeli violations in Gaza and the West Bank, to influence public diplomacy through advocacy campaigns rooted in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, to promote the Palestinian narrative internationally. These activities aim to amplify Palestinian voices, safeguard rights, and advance accountability at a time of profound crisis and global scrutiny. At the national level, MIFTAH continued to contribute to national dialogue and consensus-building efforts, empower women and youth to uphold decision making positions, and influence public policy with the aim of safeguarding social and political rights of citizens as one pillar of good governance and democracy.

2. Introduction

The year 2025 marks the fourth year in MIFTAH's strategic plan 2022-2026. Within this strategy, MIFTAH worked towards the realization of three main strategic objectives:

Specific Objective 1: Enhanced policies and practices in line with civil rights and social justice in Palestine

Specific Objective 2: Enhanced promotion of the Palestinian narrative at the international level

Specific Objective 3: Improved effective institutional and human capacity development at MIFTAH

To achieve the above strategic objectives, MIFTAH works through two main programs:

1. **Good Governance and Democracy Program** with the following main interventions:
 - a. Conduct analytical research, financial analysis, reviews and opinion polls of different policies, laws and services.
 - b. Generate needed content and use media to reflect the findings and the data collected.
 - c. Open national dialogue with relevant stakeholders to reach consensus on proposed policies and procedures.
 - d. Provide capacity building opportunities for youth and women (and other relevant stakeholders) to support in the realization of the amended policies and legislations.

2. **Communication and Public Diplomacy Program** with the following main interventions:
 - a. Continuously develop and formulate public diplomacy content in addition to the development of oral and written statements and positions.
 - b. Deploy different social media outlets to disseminate the developed content
 - c. Facilitate the dissemination of the narrative through international platforms, exchange visits and camps as well as receiving international delegations
 - d. Conduct policy meetings (briefings) with diplomatic missions and delegates

During 2025, MIFTAH was able to achieve the following results:

3. Results by Objective

Specific Objective 1: Enhanced policies and practices in line with civil rights and social justice in Palestine

1.1 Result 1: Thematic evidence-based research on laws, regulations and policies

1.1.1 Documenting human rights violations against Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

During 2025, MIFTAH exerted intensive efforts to collect and document data on violations against Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip governorates, with the aim of shedding light on the impact of Israeli crimes on the lives of Palestinian women and strengthening human rights advocacy work.

Gendered Impact of Famine in Gaza

MIFTAH prepared an analytical, rights-based report examining the pillars of the “right to food” and its severe violation in the Gaza Strip, with a particular focus on the health, social, and psychological impacts on Palestinian women during the ongoing genocidal war. This initiative forms part of MIFTAH’s broader work in documenting Israeli violations against Palestinians in general, and Palestinian women in particular. MIFTAH collected 70 sworn testimonies from across the Gaza Strip. These include 56 testimonies addressing the spread of famine and its effects on women’s access to food, and 14 testimonies documenting attacks on civilians at aid distribution centers operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) targeting beneficiaries of relief services. The testimonies collectively highlight the alarming spread of famine in Gaza and its profound consequences for women’s wellbeing.

[Analytical Report on Field Testimonies Starvation and the Violation of the Right to Food in the Gaza Strip En.pdf](#)

The report analyzing the testimonies was used in media and international advocacy efforts including HRC 60th session in Geneva and other international platforms.

MIFTAH launched the report “starvation as a weapon of genocide” on November 19th 2025 and held a panel titled “After the Ceasefire: Combating the Famine in Gaza.” Speakers from Gaza and an expert on famine joined together to discuss how policy decisions drive famine and the action needed from states and international bodies.

Policy paper: [After the Ceasefire: Combating the Famine in Gaza](#)

[Sounds Of Hunger - أصوات الجوع](#)

Documenting the Gendered Impact of Forced Displacement in the Northern West Bank

MIFTAH has undertaken documentation on the forced displacement of Palestinian families from refugee camps in the West Bank, specifically in Jenin and Tulkarem, by the Israeli occupation. A total of 300 questionnaires were collected from families who were forcibly evicted, focusing on the gendered impact of displacement. This effort was complemented by 20 in-depth testimonies from the same target group to capture the specific effects on women, children, and persons with disabilities. The collected data was analyzed into a comprehensive report grounded in international human rights law and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, including UNSCR 1325. The findings will serve as a key resource for MIFTAH’s international advocacy efforts to highlight the human rights violations and gendered consequences of forced displacement and the wider Israeli policies of ethnic cleansing.

[The Gendered Impact of Forced Displacement on Palestinian Families from Northern West Bank Refugee Camps En.pdf](#)

Impact of Israeli Measures on Women Economic Status and Participation in the Labor Market in the West Bank

MIFTAH completed an analytical report titled “Impact of Restriction of Freedom of Movement and Economic Property Losses due to Checkpoints and Settler Violence in the West Bank on Women’s Economic Status and Participation in the Labor Market” based on 526 questionnaires collected in the West Bank, examining the impact of Israeli measures on Palestinian women’s economic status and participation in the labor market. Findings show that settler violence and restrictions on freedom of movement through military checkpoints have profoundly undermined women’s access to economic rights, exacerbating their marginalization and disempowerment. These measures, integral to Israel’s broader settler colonial policy, systematically obstruct women’s ability to work, sustain businesses, and achieve financial independence. Checkpoints disrupt access to workplaces, markets, and essential services, leading to job losses, reduced working hours, and decreased income, while settler violence, particularly targeting the agricultural sector, destroys crops, seizes land, and heightens insecurity, further eroding livelihoods. Overall, the research demonstrates that such restrictions deepen gendered economic inequalities, entrench poverty, and severely limit women’s capacity to contribute to and benefit from the Palestinian economy.

[The Impact on Women Economic Status in the Labour Market in West Bank Restriction of Freedom of Movement En.pdf](#)

1.1.2 Strategic directions for WPS implementation

In partnership with the National Women’s Coalition for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, MIFTAH developed and presented the 2025–2026 executive plan to advance the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda in Palestine. The plan, representing the fourth-generation executive framework, is the product of national consultations held in April 2025 with civil society organizations, women’s groups, and grassroots actors across Palestine. It was subsequently presented to international partners and donors to align priorities with those of the donor community and international organizations committed to supporting the WPS agenda. This implementation plan reflects a collective commitment to amplifying Palestinian women’s voices and building a women’s agenda of resistance rooted in justice and accountability. Central to this agenda is the call to end the occupation, dismantle the colonial and racist system, and assert the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among them the right of Palestinian women to live in freedom and dignity, free from all forms of oppression and colonialism.

The plan is anchored in four strategic objectives. **Strategic Objective 1** focuses on protecting Palestinian women and girls from Israeli assaults and crimes, ensuring safety, dignity, and the preservation of their rights. **Strategic Objective 2** seeks to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for all violations and crimes committed, through legal, diplomatic, and advocacy channels at the national and international levels. **Strategic Objective 3** addresses relief and recovery, ensuring the implementation of measures that respond to the crises afflicting Palestinian women, with particular attention to those in extremely grave situations and facing specific threats based on their needs. **Strategic Objective 4** aims to enhance women’s

participation in the security and peace agenda, ensuring their active involvement in decision-making processes and peacebuilding efforts. Collectively, these objectives provide a comprehensive framework for advancing the WPS agenda in Palestine, rooted in principles of justice, accountability, and the centrality of women's rights to any sustainable peace.

Please follow the link for the executive plan:

[Executive Plan for the National Women Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 2025 2026 En.pdf](#)

1.1.3 Fiscal Justice: Publishing Citizen Budgets 2024 and 2025 for 22 responsibility centers and Comparative Spending Reports 2023-2024

In 2025, MIFTAH achieved a major milestone by expanding its technical and advisory support to all 22-line ministries, including the Ministry of Finance, ensuring the full integration of Citizen Budgeting (CB) practices and adherence to international budget transparency standards. This expansion has strengthened public access to fiscal data, advanced the use of gender and social justice indicators in budget planning, and further institutionalized transparent, participatory budget processes across government entities. For the tenth consecutive year, MIFTAH has provided financial data on government budget allocations. In 2025, MIFTAH supported 22 official institutions, including ministries, in issuing their Citizen Budgets and annual comparative spending reports for 2023–2024, and provided guidance to budget teams across all 22 ministries in preparing the 2024 and 2025 CBs. Each ministry received a tailored version of its CB, designed and published by MIFTAH on both its e-portal and website. [Home | موازنة المواطن \(citizenbudget.ps\)](#)

The publication of these CBs and spending reports creates an accessible platform for reform interventions, policy adjustments, and open dialogue aimed at promoting social justice in public spending. This specialized financial data serves as a tool for accountability and advocacy, enabling civil society, policymakers, and the public to engage in evidence-based discussions on equitable resource allocation. The full list of Spending Reports can be accessed via MIFTAH's page [MIFTAH - Fiscal Justice](#).

1.1.4 Updating the Fair Tax Monitor

MIFTAH completed updating the Fair Tax Monitor to include financial information related to the tax system for the years 2019-2024. This update takes into account the current political situation and the impact of the occupation on the performance of the Palestinian government, particularly concerning financial obligations, including both revenues and public spending, especially in the aftermath of October 7, 2023.

The update of the FTM aims to support evidence-based advocacy and its importance in shaping fair financial policies while promoting transparency and accountability. The research contributes to the broader goal of strengthening lobbying efforts, civic engagement, and collective action to raise awareness of financial policy rights, with a focus on tax systems and public spending. Furthermore, it seeks to enhance citizen participation in these processes to ensure their needs are met and to reinforce the role of civil society as a watchdog and influential actor in reform efforts and public policy formulation.

[Tax Justice Index Study 2019 2024 EN.pdf](#)

[العدالة الضريبية في فلسطين: غياب للعدالة الاجتماعية](#)

1.1.5 Preparing research papers on Shrinking Civic Space

MIFTAH undertook a study entitled “**Revitalizing Civil Society in Times of War: Grassroots Institutions, Voluntary Committees, and Youth Clubs as Case Study**,” which explored the role of community-based structures during conflict. The study examined community protection models that were activated during the genocide in Gaza and during assaults on Palestinian refugee camps in the northern West Bank, analyzing the mechanisms employed, identifying existing gaps, and proposing recommendations for strengthening these models. The ultimate aim is to replicate effective experiences and tools across different West Bank governorates, thereby mitigating potential future losses for Palestinians under escalating Israeli violations. In addition, the study sought to document Palestinian experiences across localities in light of the new realities imposed by the occupation. MIFTAH presented the study’s findings in two sessions held on July 1 and July 30, 2025, bringing together civil society representatives, local activists from neighborhood and popular committees, as well as decision-makers for discussion and feedback.

[Revitalizing civil society in the context of escalating occupation related violence and the ongoing genocidal war Ar.pdf](#)

Complementing this, MIFTAH produced a concept paper entitled “**Palestinian Civil Bodies in Palestinian Society – Rethinking the Models**,” which critically examined existing organizational frameworks within Palestinian civil society and proposed new perspectives. The paper analyzed the different forms of collective bodies, including networks, coalitions, unions, alliances, campaigns, associations, and other institutional collaborations. It highlighted key Palestinian experiences by showcasing representative examples from each institutional category and reviewed both the legislative framework regulating these entities and the broader policy environment governing their work. Together, the study and concept paper aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the resilience, challenges, and future potential of Palestinian civil society structures under conditions of prolonged crisis and occupation.

1.1.6 Studies on Available Pathways and Options for Confronting Colonial Erasure and Reviving the PLO

MIFTAH finalized a comprehensive analytical study entitled: *“Available Pathways and Options for the Palestinian Authority and Society in Confronting Colonial Erasure Policies.”* The study provided an in-depth analysis of the historical evolution of the Palestinian political system, examining the roles of both the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), as well as the challenges arising from ongoing political division and external pressures.

The study underscored the urgent need to build a unified national front, strengthen societal resilience, and revitalize the PLO as an inclusive and representative national framework. It further proposed a multi-level approach that combines legal and diplomatic action, reinforcement of community solidarity, and support for grassroots resilience efforts. In doing so, the study established a strategic framework to help guide national dialogue and inform public policy reform efforts in the face of ongoing colonial erasure policies.

[Options and Pathways for the Palestinian Authority and Society in Confronting Colonial Erasure Ar.pdf](#)

Moreover, MIFTAH worked on preparing a research paper titled *“Paths to Reactivating the PLO in Light of the Weakening of the Palestinian Authority.”* The paper served as a foundation for dialogue with key stakeholders, including civil society actors, prominent political figures, representatives of political parties, as well as youth and women activists. These dialogues aim to generate recommendations and policy proposals. The outcomes of these sessions were shared with decision-makers and disseminated through MIFTAH’s various platforms.

[Strengthening Palestinian Political Identity Pathways for Revitalizing the PLO amid the Weakening of the PA Ar.pdf](#)

1.1.7 Study on the Governorate System in Palestine: Effectiveness and Accountability

As part of its role in influencing public policy, MIFTAH completed an advanced analytical study on the governorate system in Palestine, focusing on its historical evolution, institutional structure, governance framework, and accountability mechanisms. The study aimed to provide an evidence-based foundation for a broad national dialogue on the future of local governance, while promoting transparency, democratic legitimacy, and constitutional governance in line with Article 85 of the Palestinian Basic Law.

Key achievements included:

- Presenting the study through 19 dialogue sessions across seven governorates (Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Tulkarem, and Jericho) between August and October 2025.
- Engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including governorates, grassroots and civil society organizations, women’s organizations, and youth clubs, thereby expanding public debate around democratizing the governorate system.
- Generating community-based consensus and policy perspectives regarding the features of a democratic governorate system responsive to the Palestinian context in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Conducting a comprehensive national public opinion poll examining proposed governance models for the governorate system in Palestine, with a particular focus on public attitudes toward decentralization and the direct election of governors in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The poll assessed citizens’ levels of awareness and understanding of governors’ roles and responsibilities, as well as public perceptions of the structure and functions of the governorate system. It also explored preferences regarding decentralization, direct elections, and accountability mechanisms, while evaluating governors’ performance from the public’s perspective. The findings contribute to building a qualitative and quantitative evidence base to support the development of public policies in local governance and public administration, while reinforcing participation, accountability, and transparency in line with principles of good governance and sustainable development in the Palestinian context.

1.2 Result 2: Public debate and joint actions for the enhancement of policies and practices are initiated

MIFTAH’s interventions under this result focused on stimulating public debate and collective action among key stakeholders with the aim of influencing public policies and practices related to the core issues addressed by the organization, rather than limiting efforts to individual capacity building. These interventions covered issues related to civic space and public freedoms, the Elections Law and political participation, and fiscal justice, while also expanding dialogue to include university students and youth engagement in public affairs.

1.2.1 MIFTAH holds expanded workshops with ministries and Public Institutions to advocate for the adoption of fiscal transparency standards in public budgeting

On May 7, 2025, MIFTAH, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a workshop entitled **“Citizen Budget as a Tool for Enhancing Public Finance Transparency: Showcasing Success Stories, Challenges, and Adoption Policies.”** The workshop brought together representatives of official institutions, civil society organizations, and experts in the financial and administrative fields. This initiative falls within

MIFTAH's broader efforts to promote good governance in Palestine by strengthening transparency and community participation in financial decision-making.

Discussions highlighted the critical need for adopting budget transparency practices through a government policy that institutionalizes the issuance and public dissemination of budget documents particularly the Citizen Budget and actual spending reports. These tools were emphasized as central to promoting fiscal transparency from a social justice perspective, providing simplified information on the general budget, particularly allocations to essential social services such as education, health, and social protection. Participants stressed that the Citizen Budget enhances participatory approaches between government and civil society, ensures accountability for public spending related to the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups, and supports equitable distribution of resources. Key points of the workshop included: the importance of the Citizen Budget in empowering citizens to understand government spending; lessons learned from central and local applications of the CB, including successes and challenges; exploration of policies and practices related to budget publication and institutional compliance with financial transparency principles; analysis of technical and structural challenges hindering sustainable adoption; improving communication mechanisms between government and the public; adopting clear standards for publishing financial data in simplified language; and ensuring fair budget distribution across different sectors.

[EnReference Paper on adopting CB190525.pdf](#)

[مخرجات ورشة عمل موازنة المواطن](#)

Moreover, on 3 September 2025, MIFTAH held a workshop entitled "The Government's Vision in Light of the Financial Crisis: Reality and Solutions to Enhance the Sustainability of Basic Services." The workshop focused on the core social sectors in the West Bank, including health, education, and social protection, in the context of the financial crisis resulting from the Israeli occupation.

The workshop produced the following recommendations:

1. Adoption of a comprehensive, solidarity-based health insurance system to provide sustainable revenues in support of the health sector.
2. Mobilization of educational tax revenues to support the sustainability of the education sector and cover essential expenditures.
3. Activation of the private sector's social responsibility through the establishment of an independent fund dedicated to basic social services, such as cash assistance for poor families and financing protection programs for women and marginalized groups.

4. Declaration of a state of emergency that responds to the worsening situation while safeguarding rights and freedoms.

The discussions held during the workshop between state institutions and civil society organizations resulted in the following follow-up actions:

- Implementing advocacy campaigns and sending official correspondence to the relevant authorities.
- Conducting complementary research on educational taxes and private sector social responsibility.
- Preparing for additional dialogue sessions to present the findings of the research papers and formulate expanded policy recommendations.

[ArPolicy080925.pdf](#) •

1.2.2 Fostering dialogue with Civil Society Leaders and the wider community on the proposed amendments on the Local Elections Law and Palestinian National Council Elections

During 2025, MIFTAH organized a series of dialogue sessions with civil society organizations and prominent public figures to discuss the proposed amendments to the Local Elections Law and their implications for political participation. Participants called for postponing the proposed amendments in order to ensure that elections are held on schedule in accordance with the existing law, emphasizing that such amendments do not constitute a national priority in light of the ongoing war, displacement, and continuing violations by the Israeli occupation. MIFTAH also organized a series of dialogue meetings in partnership with the Arab World Observatory for Democracy and Elections within the framework of the Civil Coalition for Elections, with the participation of civil society organizations and political parties. These meetings served as an important platform for promoting the democratic process and strengthening the role of civil society in safeguarding the right to political participation.

The dialogue sessions contributed to reasserting elections as a national priority for protecting the popular will and preserving the unity of the political system. They also helped build national consensus around the necessity of holding local elections in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip in accordance with the existing law, as a preliminary step toward general elections. Discussions further addressed the draft 2025 Local Elections Law, highlighting the political risks posed by threats to Palestinian national identity and attempts to impose guardianship over Gaza. Within the framework of the Civil Coalition for Elections, MIFTAH, together with civil society and human rights organizations, issued statements criticizing the decision by law concerning local elections,

particularly the introduction of a new condition requiring candidates to commit to the Palestine Liberation Organization's political program and international obligations. The organizations argued that this condition constitutes a violation of the right to political participation as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as it imposes politically motivated restrictions that undermine pluralism and equal opportunity. They also emphasized that the condition contradicts the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and the Palestinian Basic Law, both of which guarantee political rights and freedoms.

[مفتاح - ورقة مفاهيمية مقارنة بين مسودة قانون الانتخابات المحلية 2025 وقانون انتخابات مجالس الهيئات المحلية رقم \(10\) لسنة 2005 وتعديلاته](#)

As part of MIFTAH's efforts to promote principles of good governance and the peaceful transfer of power and following the presidential decree issued on 17 July 2025 concerning the holding of Palestinian National Council elections and the formation of a preparatory committee for the elections, MIFTAH convened a series of dialogues with civil society organizations. Dr. Azmi Al-Shuaibi participated in these consultations on behalf of the Board of Directors. The consultations resulted in a unified position paper containing recommendations to postpone the elections until the cessation of the aggression, with the aim of preserving national unity, Palestinian pluralism, and ensuring broad and effective participation. The paper sought to strengthen collective national responsibility and was circulated for review and engagement with members of the preparatory committee to support the implementation of its recommendations during this critical stage.

1.2.3 Fostering dialogue on the Cybercrimes Law

On May 28, 2025, MIFTAH organized a dialogue session on the Law by Decree No. (10) of 2018 concerning cybercrimes and crimes related to communications and information technology. The session brought together relevant civil society organizations and was held in partnership with the Coalition for Integrity and Accountability – AMAN and *Lawyers for Justice*. Building on MIFTAH's earlier evidence-based research paper entitled "*Evidence-Based Study on Internet Accessibility and Palestinians' Digital Rights*," the discussion provided critical analysis of problematic articles within the law. AMAN and *Lawyers for Justice* presented two position papers critiquing the draft amendments, while Al-Haq prepared a consolidated paper of recommendations, which was endorsed by all participants and formally submitted to the Prime Minister. Additionally, comments and observations were uploaded to the official legislation platform.

Furthermore, on July 28, MIFTAH's Public Policy Officer participated in a public consultation session on the proposed amendments to the Law by Decree No. (10) of 2018, ensuring that MIFTAH's recommendations and concerns were represented in national-level consultations. These efforts fall within MIFTAH's commitment to safeguarding digital rights, promoting access

to the internet, and ensuring that legislative reforms uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and human rights.

1.2.4 Organizing Open Debates on the Shrinking Civic Space

On 17 December 2025, MIFTAH organized a hybrid open debate in Ramallah, with online participation from Gaza and other West Bank governorates, entitled “Restrictions on Civic Space: The Fate of Rights and Freedoms.” The event brought together civil society actors, legal experts, journalists, and human rights advocates to discuss the shrinking civic space in Palestine and its implications for rights and freedoms. Presentations addressed restrictions on humanitarian action and accountability mechanisms in Gaza, the use of legislation to limit freedom of expression, digital violence targeting journalists and media professionals, and legal concerns related to restrictions on peaceful assembly. MIFTAH also presented findings from its research on digital rights and the erosion of freedoms in Palestine, highlighting legislative and policy gaps affecting civil society organizations and online freedoms. The discussions generated policy-oriented recommendations and reinforced coordinated advocacy efforts aimed at advancing legal reform and protecting civic and digital rights in Palestine.

In addition, on 26 February 2025, MIFTAH organized a public debate entitled “Restricting Civic Space for Palestinian Unions and Student Councils During the Genocide.” The session focused on the impact of Israeli restrictions and the ongoing war on Gaza on student movements and trade unions in Palestine. Discussions highlighted systematic violations affecting student councils, including arrests, university raids, and the destruction of higher education institutions in Gaza, as well as the broader consequences for youth political participation and civic engagement. The debate also examined the challenges facing Palestinian trade unions amid worsening economic and political conditions, emphasizing structural constraints limiting their effectiveness and independence. Participants proposed recommendations to strengthen the advocacy and national role of unions and student bodies, while enhancing evidence-based efforts to protect organized civic participation under increasingly restrictive conditions.

1.2.5 Opening dialogue with university students across the West Bank

MIFTAH expanded its dialogue sessions to include university students across several Palestinian universities, including Bethlehem University, Hebron University, Birzeit University, An-Najah National University, Al-Quds Open University (Tulkarem branch), and the Arab American University in Jenin. Over 29 seminar and discussion sessions were conducted, focusing on critical national issues that MIFTAH regularly engages with through its elite, political, and expert circles.

These sessions involved students from faculties of political science, international relations, media, and law, and addressed topics such as visions for the Palestinian state and current options in light of ongoing political shifts. Discussions also covered the implications of the Israeli

decision to ban UNRWA's operations and the institutional relationship between the PLO and the Palestinian Authority.

The sessions witnessed strong student engagement, contributing to increased awareness of urgent national and political issues among the youth.

1.3 Result 3: Relevant stakeholders are equipped to support in the realization of the amended policies and legislations.

MIFTAH's interventions under this result aim to strengthen the capacities of key actors, including women engaged in local governance bodies, university students, and institutional staff, enabling them to influence public policies, enhance political participation, and promote the principles of good governance and equality. The reporting period witnessed significant qualitative progress in building both institutional and individual capacities on a broad scale across the West Bank.

1.3.1 Preparing new batches of Narrative Ambassadors

During 2025, MIFTAH continued implementing a series of camps under the "Palestinian Narrative Ambassadors" Program, aimed at strengthening the capacity of university youth to represent and advocate for the Palestinian narrative in international forums. Throughout the year, MIFTAH organized three training camps with the participation of a total of 74 male and female students from several Palestinian universities.

July Camp (Sixth Cohort)

In the summer of 2025, MIFTAH organized a three-day training camp in Ramallah as part of the "Palestinian Narrative Ambassadors" Program, with the participation of approximately 30 students. The camp included sessions addressing the political landscape, human rights issues, and the gendered dimensions of violations committed under the Israeli occupation. It also focused on the role of youth in international advocacy and the importance of conveying the Palestinian narrative through international solidarity networks and student movements in universities worldwide. The camp was highly interactive and included practical exercises and activities designed to strengthen participants' diplomacy and public speaking skills.

September Camp (Seventh Cohort)

MIFTAH held its second camp of 2025 over two days at the Palestine Red Crescent Society, with the participation of 16 students. The sessions focused on political storytelling, narrative-building skills, and effective communication tools within the context of international advocacy. Through lectures, discussions, and practical storytelling exercises, the camp aimed to strengthen youth engagement in advocacy efforts. The program also included a lecture on Palestinian history and a cultural training component.

December Camp (Eighth Cohort)

MIFTAH organized its third camp of 2025 in December. The three-day camp was held at the Royal Court Hotel in Ramallah and brought together 28 students. During the camp, participants developed skills in public speaking, communication, and presenting the Palestinian cause to international audiences. Additional topics were addressed through a combination of lectures and practical exercises.

Overall, the camps contributed to enhancing participants' skills in analysis, storytelling, and communication, while strengthening the presence of Palestinian youth in international advocacy and lobbying spaces. They also expanded the base of the "Palestinian Narrative Ambassadors" initiative as an active youth-driven platform promoting a Palestinian discourse grounded in rights and justice.

. [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)

1.3.2 Building the Capacities of Civil Society Organizations in Digital Rights and Advocacy

During 2025, MIFTAH worked to empower 44 representatives of civil society organizations (35 women and 9 men), including grassroots organizations from seven governorates across the West Bank, in the areas of digital rights and digital protection mechanisms, particularly within the context of local and international advocacy campaigns. In addition, 26 young women from the Bethlehem and Hebron governorates participated in training sessions on digital protection and cybersecurity.

The training efforts also focused on strengthening participants' capacities to formulate clear, concise, and evidence-based messages, moving beyond lengthy rhetorical discourse. Participants were further equipped with digital advocacy strategies aimed at enhancing communication tools and increasing their ability to influence decision-making processes at both the national and international levels.

1.3.3 Raising Community Awareness in the West Bank on Political Participation and the Amended Local Elections Law

During 2025, MIFTAH organized more than 210 public meetings across the West Bank, with the participation of over 377 women and 781 men. The meetings aimed to raise awareness about the new Local Elections Law and promote the active participation of women and youth in political and social life.

These meetings provided a platform for dialogue on the importance of inclusive governance and the role of marginalized groups in decision-making processes, while also addressing the

challenges that continue to limit the representation of women and youth in political institutions. Discussions emphasized the importance of empowering these groups to exercise their political rights, influence public policies, and secure fair and equitable representation within local councils.

Several qualitative outcomes were achieved, most notably increasing public awareness of the amended Local Elections Law and strengthening public understanding of the importance of women's and youth's participation in political life. The meetings also fostered in-depth discussions on the barriers preventing marginalized groups from accessing decision-making positions. In addition, MIFTAH prepared a comparative concept paper examining the Draft Local Elections Law of 2025 and the 2005 Local Council Elections Law, which served as an important reference for community discussions on electoral reforms.

[مفتاح - ورقة مفاهيمية مقارنة بين مسودة قانون الانتخابات المحلية 2025 وقانون انتخابات مجالس الهيئات المحلية رقم \(10\) لسنة 2005 وتعديلاته](#)

1.3.4 Capacity building of women members in local government units on preventing corruption in humanitarian responses

MIFTAH conducted six awareness and capacity-building sessions across various districts in the West Bank (Nablus, Hebron, Jericho and the Jordan Valley, Jenin, Bethlehem, and Tulkarm). A total of 170 participants (11 males and 159 females), including women members of local councils, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), and women activists, took part in the sessions.

The sessions focused on the topic of **Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Aid** and introduced participants to key concepts from the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN)'s guide, including integrity, transparency, accountability, and gender. Participants discussed different forms of corruption such as nepotism, favoritism, bribery, embezzlement, extortion, abuse of power, harassment, and sexual exploitation.

Furthermore, the sessions emphasized guiding principles for promoting accountability in humanitarian response, particularly:

- Adopting a gender-sensitive lens needs assessments and aid responses.
- Ensuring the equitable participation of all community stakeholders in identifying priorities.
- Establishing transparent, documented procedures for aid delivery and complaint mechanisms.
- Strengthening the role of local communities in monitoring and reporting corruption.

1.3.5 Continue supporting the Complaints System for female members of Local Authorities in the West Bank

During 2025, MIFTAH continued its strategic partnership with **Al Najda Association**, expanding the geographical and institutional reach of the complaints system and strengthening coordination with relevant public institutions. The initiative reached more than **340 stakeholders across the West Bank**, including women LGU members, grassroots organizations, civil society actors, and service providers.

This engagement significantly strengthened trust in the complaints mechanism as a **practical protection and accountability tool**, particularly among women in decision-making positions, who often face structural, social, and institutional barriers in accessing formal complaint channels.

Strengthening the Complaints System and Institutional Coordination

The complaints mechanism was further consolidated through a combination of capacity building, structured coordination, and field-level engagement. Key developments included:

- Strengthening awareness among women LGU members and community actors regarding the complaints system as a **formalized reporting and protection pathway** for cases of:
 - Discrimination and exclusion
 - Corruption and abuse of power
 - Harassment and gender-based violations in local governance settings
- Enhancing collaboration between Al Najda Association and official institutions, including governorate offices and relevant ministries, contributing to improved responsiveness and referral pathways.
- Promoting the establishment of **governorate-level coordination mechanisms**, including multi-stakeholder follow-up committees composed of:
 - Local government representatives
 - Ministry of Local Government officials
 - Human rights institutions
 - Civil society actors

These coordination structures represent an important step toward transforming the complaints system from a civil society-led initiative into a **hybrid accountability mechanism linked to formal governance institutions**.

1.3.6 Promoting Equality Frameworks within Al-Istiqlal University – From Policy Paper to Institutional Reform

Building on the analytical paper prepared by MIFTAH during 2024–2025, the organization implemented a series of participatory workshops aimed at translating the paper's recommendations into practical steps for reforming university policies and procedures.

Key achievements included:

- The participation of 43 representatives from senior management, academic staff, and military personnel, reflecting broad institutional commitment to integrating the principles of equality, justice, and gender responsiveness.
- The production of a comprehensive report addressing issues related to narrative, identity, and belonging, while providing practical and actionable recommendations to support a more equitable educational and administrative environment.
- The initiation of a long-term institutional reform process within the university, based on a sustainable partnership with MIFTAH.

1.3.7 Strengthening University Students' Capacities on the Anti-Discrimination Index (ADI) – Building Student Monitoring Tools to Influence University Policies

MIFTAH collaborated with Hebron University and Birzeit University to implement two three-day training workshops at both universities aimed at building students' capacities on the Anti-Discrimination Index (ADI). A total of 43 students from both universities were trained on the use of the index to measure discrimination in policies and regulations within Palestinian universities. The workshops addressed concepts related to discrimination, equality, political participation, and economic and social rights, in addition to practical training on the use of the index's electronic platform.

The training sought to enable students to understand the Anti-Discrimination Index (ADI) and analyze patterns of discrimination within their educational institutions, thereby strengthening their ability to influence university policies and reduce practices of discrimination and exclusion, particularly those affecting female students in public spaces on university campuses.

As part of the research component, MIFTAH collected more than 500 ADI questionnaires from students at both universities. A study based on these findings is scheduled to be prepared during the first quarter of 2026. The study aims to activate the role of young leaders and empower them to participate in public and political life by promoting an interactive and dialogue-based university environment grounded in the principles of democracy, equality, respect for public freedoms, and opposition to discrimination, exclusion, and marginalization.

1.3.8 Training on Debate and Dialogue Techniques – Supporting Youth Leadership Skills

A three-day central training was conducted in Jericho with the participation of 23 male and female students from five major universities: Birzeit University, Hebron University, Bethlehem University, An-Najah National University, and the Arab American University.

Key outcomes of the training included:

- Strengthening students' skills in debate, communication, and persuasion.
- Enhancing their capacities to manage national dialogues based on evidence, logic, and constructive argumentation.
- Supporting the development of a generation of young leaders capable of informed participation in public debate and decision-making processes.

1.3.9 Designing and Implementing a Comprehensive Capacity-Building Program for Potential Female Candidates – Toward Greater Women's Participation in Local Governance

MIFTAH implemented a capacity-building program through two rounds of three-day training sessions across three geographic clusters in the West Bank (North, Central, and South). The program targeted 174 women who were potential candidates for local council elections (2025–2026). Participants represented nine governorates across the West Bank, including Ramallah and Jerusalem, Jericho and the Jordan Valley, Tubas, Jenin, Tulkarm, Nablus, Hebron, and Bethlehem. The training focused on developing electoral programs and strengthening communication and public engagement skills.

Participants were selected through nominations from Palestinian political factions and the General Union of Palestinian Women, in addition to MIFTAH's outreach efforts with influential women leaders to explore the possibility of independent candidacies, as well as coordination with current female local council members interested in running again in the 2026 electoral cycle.

The training aimed to empower women to develop comprehensive and effective electoral programs that reflect their visions and priorities, while contributing to the design of development interventions responsive to community needs, particularly those of women and marginalized groups. The program also supported potential candidates in integrating concepts of gender equality, development, and good governance into their electoral campaigns and future work after election.

Evaluation results demonstrated that the training significantly enhanced participants' capacities to design effective, gender-responsive electoral programs that address community needs and uphold the principles of good governance.

Specific Objective 2: Enhanced promotion of the Palestinian narrative at the international level

2.1 Result 1: Content of the Palestinian public discourse is formulated and presented continuously

2.1.1 MIFTAH uses digital media to promote the Palestinian narrative.

During 2025, MIFTAH continued to focus much of its media production on highlighting the gendered impact of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and the escalation of Israeli military actions against Palestinians in the West Bank, with an emphasis on the active role women are playing during the conflict. Efforts to promote the Palestinian narrative on social media continued, utilizing modern visual materials to keep pace with daily events and reflect key reports and occasions over the past months.

Within this framework, MIFTAH produced a series of awareness-raising videos, including bi-monthly video episodes, each addressing a specific impact of the aggression on women in Gaza, in addition to three long-form videos and several short videos focusing on the different dimensions of the aggression's impact on women in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Video Episode – Sounds of Gaza

MIFTAH produced a video episode entitled “*Sounds of Gaza*”, serving as a visual and audio narrative documenting the tragedy of famine after 21 months of genocide in the Gaza Strip. The production was based on the words of writer and poet Dr. Mariam Qoush and conveyed the profound sense of injustice and loss experienced by Palestinians in Gaza.

The film was selected for screening at both the Toronto Film Festival and the Palestine Film Festival in London. Attendance at the Toronto festival was estimated at approximately 700,000 participants, contributing to the wider international dissemination of MIFTAH's documentary work.

[SOUNDS OF GAZA – أصوات غزة](#)

Video Episode – Sounds of Hunger

MIFTAH produced a video episode documenting testimonies from women in Gaza on Israel's use of starvation as a weapon within the context of genocide. Through these testimonies, women described their daily struggle to keep their children alive, sometimes surviving on only two meals

per week, relying on wild plants, or facing complete food deprivation. The episode highlighted the gendered impact of famine and the disproportionate burdens borne by women amid the ongoing genocide.

The episode was screened during advocacy missions in Sweden and Denmark as part of meetings and seminars, as well as during the “Palestinian Narrative Ambassadors” camps to introduce students to documentary materials that could be used in addressing Palestinian issues. MIFTAH was also contacted to screen the video during the “Day Against the Erasure of the Palestinian People” event in Sweden, due to its significant impact on audiences during international advocacy activities.

[أصوات الجوع Sounds Of Hunger –](#)

Video Episode – Two Years of Genocide

MIFTAH released this episode to mark two years since the genocide in Gaza, documenting the ongoing humanitarian and gendered consequences while highlighting the worsening living conditions and their impact on women and families. The episode also underscored the continued use of starvation as a weapon and its profound effects on daily life, within a documentary framework reflecting the scale of the continuing humanitarian catastrophe.

[Two years of genocide](#)

Video Episode – Winter Without Shelter

MIFTAH released the sixth and final episode of its 2025 production series entitled “*Winter Without Shelter*,” shedding light on the harsh realities faced by displaced Palestinians in Gaza, many of whom are living in tents flooded by rainwater. The episode documented the devastating impact of winter storms through the testimonies of two women describing their daily struggle to secure warmth and protection for their children amid the collapse of basic infrastructure and the continued Israeli blockade on humanitarian aid entry.

[Winter Without Shelter](#)

[Mapping Israel’s War on Palestine](#)

[Born without a chance](#)

[Erasing a Future: The War on Palestinian Mothers](#)

[Remembering Al-Naksa](#)

[Israeli Policies and Practices of Collective Punishment](#)

[The Gendered Impact of Israeli Policies in Hebron](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Fifth episode- No Way to Live- [Facebook](#)

Global March for Gaza [Facebook](#)

2.2 Result 2: Engagement in international advocacy dialogue is facilitated

2.2.1 Organizing Political Briefings with Diplomatic Missions:

During 2025, MIFTAH organized a series of closed political briefings for ambassadors and consuls in Palestine to discuss recent developments related to Israeli escalation and violations, including acts of genocide, with a particular focus on the critical role of the international community. Five closed briefings were held with diplomatic missions based on MIFTAH's research and policy work, covering the following themes:

1. **January 2025:** The impact of Donald Trump's presidency on Palestine and the responsibilities of the international community, with participation from MIFTAH, Al-Haq, and the Bisan Center for Research and Development.
2. **February 2025:** Israel's targeting of Palestinian refugees, focusing on forced displacement, home demolitions, and the criminalization of UNRWA, with contributions from MIFTAH, UNRWA Director Roland Friedrich, and a legal researcher from Al-Haq.
3. **April 2025:** A briefing entitled "*Erasing the Future: The War on Palestinian Mothers*" addressing reproductive genocide, with participation from the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Palestine, UNFPA, and Juzoor, based on a MIFTAH report accompanied by a detailed policy paper.
4. **May 2025:** A briefing on "*The Future of Warfare and Global Accountability*" addressing digital surveillance, military AI technologies, and failures in international regulation, with contributions from experts from MIFTAH, Digital Action, Tamleh, and Palestinian journalists.
5. **June 2025:** A political briefing with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Chairperson of MIFTAH's Board of Directors, and lawyer and political analyst Diana Buttu, analyzing the political situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, shifts in international positions, and their implications for policies and sanctions.

6. **November 2025:** MIFTAH organized a diplomatic briefing entitled “*After the Ceasefire: Confronting Famine in Gaza*” at the Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan Foundation in Ramallah. The session included contributions from representatives of humanitarian and academic institutions, as well as MIFTAH staff from Gaza and Ramallah. During the event, MIFTAH launched its report “*Famine and the Violation of the Right to Food in the Gaza Strip.*”
7. **December 2025:** MIFTAH convened a diplomatic briefing on the implications of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 for the Palestinian cause and the future of the Gaza Strip, with participation from Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and Noor Odeh, Vice Chairperson of the Board, to analyze the political implications of the resolution and evolving international positions regarding Gaza.

In addition to these diplomatic engagements, MIFTAH organized a series of bilateral meetings with diplomatic missions in Palestine to present country-specific recommendations based on its research and field documentation of Israeli violations. These meetings contributed to strengthening international understanding of the realities on the ground and advancing policy recommendations grounded in international law. Between July and December 2025, meetings were held with representatives from the Russian, Bulgarian, Australian, Finnish, Dutch, Chilean, Brazilian, and European Union missions, as well as the British Consulate.

Furthermore, MIFTAH issued six policy papers during 2025, including papers on the Israeli attack on UNRWA and its implications for Palestinian refugees, reproductive genocide in Gaza, the future of warfare and artificial intelligence in relation to global accountability, post-ceasefire famine in Gaza, and the implications of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 for the future of Gaza.

Additionally, and during 2025, MIFTAH organized two public events:

Launch of the Report on Reproductive Genocide and Discussion Panel

As part of the launch of MIFTAH’s report, “Starvation and the Violation of the Right to Food,” the organization convened a discussion session entitled “After the Ceasefire: Confronting Famine in Gaza,” with the participation of experts, humanitarian actors, and direct voices from Gaza. The session addressed several key themes, including:

The targeting of civilians through starvation as a tool used by the occupation against the Palestinian people.

The gendered impacts of famine, with particular attention to women and the most vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian responses and policy measures required after the ceasefire to ensure sustainable food security and the protection of fundamental rights.

MIFTAH also organized a second meeting via Zoom in cooperation with the Anti-Violence Forum, bringing together a broad range of local civil society organizations from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

These meetings contributed to highlighting the dimensions of the food crisis in Gaza from both rights-based and gender perspectives. They also provided a platform for communication between the international community and Palestinian activists to coordinate advocacy efforts and raise policymakers' awareness of urgent humanitarian needs.

Launch of the Report on Reproductive Genocide and Discussion Panel

In April 2025, MIFTAH hosted an event at the Al-Qattan Foundation in Ramallah to launch a report and discussion panel entitled "Erasing the Future: The War on Palestinian Mothers." The event addressed ongoing reproductive violence and the systematic targeting of Palestinian women as part of the broader genocide in the Gaza Strip. During the event, MIFTAH presented its latest publication, "Reproductive Genocide in the Gaza Strip," while also highlighting the latest findings of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry as documented in its report, "More Than a Human Can Bear."

Preparation of Fact Sheets

The advocacy team prepared three fact sheets based on MIFTAH's reports. The first fact sheet was based on the report "Reproductive Genocide," the second on MIFTAH's report addressing starvation and famine in Gaza, and the third on MIFTAH's report concerning digital rights violations. All fact sheets were distributed during public events, closed meetings, and advocacy missions.

2.2.2 MIFTAH organized several networking and advocacy trips to several European cities:

MIFTAH organized six international participations in international platforms; four of them advocacy trips to European capitals, another participation in the CSW 69th session in New York and participation in the HRC sessions in Geneva.

PDAF 2025: MIFTAH participated in the 2025 Palestine Digital Activism Forum (PDAF) and represented our report on Digital Rights and shared our recent findings on digital violence against Palestinians, their effect on women, and their real-life implications.

IGF Norway 2025: We also participated in a panel organized by OXFAM titled '*Mapping and addressing digital rights capacities and threats*' during the 2025 Internet Governance Forum in Norway in which we shared our mapping findings on digital rights capacities and threats in Palestine.

MIFTAH was a key speaker during the Delegation for relations with Palestine's (DPAL) ordinary meeting during the March 2025 plenary session in Strasbourg. MIFTAH provided an update on the status of women and girls in Palestine and outlined concrete recommendations. The meeting also included Maryse Guimond, Special Representative of UN Women Palestine.

Participation in the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69): MIFTAH participated in the CSW69 in New York, where it highlighted the situation of Palestinian women living under occupation and the compounded violations they face amid the ongoing genocide. The delegation engaged in high-level discussions and bilateral meetings with representatives of UN Member States, emphasizing the genocide in Gaza and advocating for concrete accountability measures against Israel for its crimes. As part of its engagement, MIFTAH co-hosted a parallel event entitled *“Protecting Women’s SRHR in Crisis: Centering SRHR in Emergency Responses.”* During this event, MIFTAH presented the findings of its most recent report on reproductive genocide in Gaza, based on testimonies from women and documented reports on the collapse of the health system during the genocide. The report, *“Reproductive Genocide in Gaza: Systematic Destruction of Reproductive Health Services and Rights,”* underscored how Israel’s systematic targeting of Gaza’s health infrastructure has gravely undermined women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, constituting a deliberate attack on their right to health, dignity, and life.

Advocacy Trip to Stockholm and Copenhagen

Between 29 September and 4 October 2025, MIFTAH, organized an advocacy visit to Sweden and Denmark. The visit focused on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, highlighting the gendered impact of Israeli policies, reproductive genocide, systematic starvation, and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza. The objective was to convey the Palestinian narrative, grounded in human rights and evidence-based documentation, to policymakers and influential stakeholders in both countries.

The visit included a series of meetings and engagements with government officials, policymakers, members of political parties and parliaments, as well as prominent international organizations such as Oxfam and Amnesty International. It also involved discussions with feminist networks, including Kvinna till Kvinna and Danner, on mechanisms for strengthening international cooperation in defending women’s rights. In addition, MIFTAH held a public seminar at the Solidarity House on the situation of Palestinian women during the ongoing genocide.

The visit resulted in strengthening international partnerships, expanding networks of allies supporting Palestinian women’s issues, amplifying Palestinian women’s voices in policy discussions, opening new avenues for cooperation with international and feminist organizations, and enhancing MIFTAH’s institutional presence and advocacy role in the fields of human rights, gender equality, and governance.

Advocacy Visit to Boston / New York

During the first week of October 2025, and upon invitation from the World Peace Foundation, MIFTAH participated in an international seminar entitled “*Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Reproductive Violence, and Starvation: Intersecting Crimes*”. MIFTAH delivered a key intervention presenting the organization’s latest findings on the use of starvation as a systematic weapon against civilians, as well as documented cases of sexual and reproductive violence in Gaza, including indicators of reproductive genocide and the collapse of health services.

In addition to the seminar, MIFTAH held a series of meetings in New York with American human rights and advocacy organizations, as well as Palestinian student groups active in U.S. universities. These engagements aimed to strengthen solidarity, build new support networks in the United States, amplify the evidence-based Palestinian narrative to influential audiences, and expand international advocacy efforts based on MIFTAH’s research and rights-based analysis.

Hosting an International Content Creators’ Delegation:

MIFTAH implemented a week-long visit for a delegation of international content creators aimed at enhancing global awareness of the Palestinian cause through digital storytelling and direct field-based engagement. The visit focused on enabling participants to gain first-hand insight into daily life in Palestine and the challenges faced by Palestinians living under occupation.

The visit included field tours across several governorates in the West Bank, as well as direct meetings with diverse community groups, including women, youth, local leaders, and affected families. These experiences contributed to conveying authentic Palestinian narratives that reflected the humanitarian and political realities on the ground.

The content creators utilized these meetings and field visits to produce diverse digital content in both English and Portuguese, enabling them to reach broader and more diverse international audiences while amplifying Palestinian rights-based narratives across digital platforms.

MIFTAH’s role was limited to planning the visit, preparing the program, and coordinating the field meetings without providing any financial support. This reflects the organization’s commitment to building effective international partnerships and strengthening global solidarity through digital media and advocacy tools.

2.2.3 MIFTAH Participates in the 58th , 59th and 60th Human Rights Council sessions

In the first half of 2025, MIFTAH delivered recorded oral interventions before the Human Rights Council during its 58th and 59th sessions, held in March and June, respectively. Drawing on reports from the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Rapporteurs, and other UN mechanisms, the interventions focused on ongoing violations against Palestinians in the

occupied territories, with the aim of raising international awareness, pressing for accountability, and urging concrete action to protect Palestinian rights.

During the **58th session**, MIFTAH's interventions addressed the High Commissioner's report on the **human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory**, stressing that continued impunity for Israel only emboldens further violations. In light of the ICJ's genocide ruling and the provisional measures set out by the ICC, MIFTAH called for urgent, concrete steps of international accountability to realize justice for Palestinians. In the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on **adequate housing**, MIFTAH underscored the need for international support for reconstruction efforts in Gaza and the unconditional entry of building materials to halt mass displacement and ethnic cleansing. In its intervention with the Special Rapporteur on the **right to food**, MIFTAH highlighted the deliberate use of starvation as a weapon of war in Gaza, calling on the international community to act immediately to uphold the right to food and human dignity. MIFTAH also organized one-on-one meetings with various stakeholders in Geneva including: EU Human Rights Section, office of SR Irene Khan, office of SR Francesca Albanese, UN Women, UN Working Group Against Discrimination Against Women. MIFTAH also participated in two side events with civil society organizations.

During the **59th session**, MIFTAH engaged in the interactive dialogue with the Independent **International Commission of Inquiry**, emphasizing that the situation unfolding in Palestine is a "catastrophe by design." MIFTAH urged Member States to uphold their legal obligations under the Genocide Convention and in light of the July 2024 ICJ advisory opinion, by taking urgent and concrete measures to halt ongoing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and apartheid policies. In the dialogue with the Special Adviser on the **Prevention of Genocide**, MIFTAH stressed that neutrality in the face of genocide amounts to complicity and called on Third States to act in line with their obligations under the Genocide Convention. The intervention concluded with a clear appeal: for the mandate to recognize and name what is happening in Gaza for what it is: genocide

During the **60th session**, MIFTAH organized a specialized side event focusing on the impact of starvation on women and its use as a weapon of war in the Gaza Strip. The session brought together War Child, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food. It was attended by more than 50 participants representing civil society organizations, United Nations bodies, various states, and international activists.

On the margins of the session, MIFTAH held a series of bilateral meetings, including with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, representatives from Colombia and Switzerland, and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. In addition, MIFTAH actively contributed to the formal proceedings of the Council through oral interventions highlighting Israeli violations in the occupied Palestinian territory, based on documented evidence and international humanitarian and human rights law.

These interventions included engagement with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, where MIFTAH highlighted the severe impact of Israeli restrictions on Palestinians' access to water and sanitation infrastructure, particularly in the Gaza Strip. MIFTAH also intervened in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on toxics and hazardous wastes, addressing ongoing environmental neglect policies, hazardous pollutants resulting from military operations, and the denial of basic environmental protection to Palestinians.

Through these contributions, MIFTAH helped bring the Palestinian narrative to a high-level international platform, strengthening accountability efforts and supporting ongoing human rights advocacy at the global level.

Specific Objective 3: Improved effective institutional and human capacity development at MIFTAH

MIFTAH during 2025, 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:

- Ongoing capacity building activities for staff on administrative and financial procedures in addition to programmatic and technical capacities.
- Participation of MEAL and financial team in an inception workshop in Nairobi, Kenya on EU regulations and guidelines.
- Recruitment of new staff members (research officer, social media officer) according to the recruitment plan and annual budget 2025.
- Hosting interns within the financial department and the public discourse program.

4. Risks and Challenges:

Deteriorating political and security context: The ongoing genocide in Gaza, coupled with escalating violence across major cities and refugee camps, as well as increased settler attacks on Palestinian communities in the West Bank, slightly disrupted project implementation during the reporting period. MIFTAH was compelled to cancel planned activities in Gaza, downscale several interventions in the West Bank, and adapt programming to respond to rapidly evolving needs.

Legal and political constraints on democratic processes: The continued inactivity of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) remains a critical barrier to advancing democratic governance and policy reform. This stagnation delays the amendment of key legislation and the development of responsive administrative structures. In parallel, recent amendments to the Local Elections Law introduced restrictive provisions that limited the space for civil society

engagement, including constraints that resulted in MIFTAH not participating in the monitoring of local elections. These developments have further weakened accountability mechanisms and reduced opportunities for transparent and inclusive electoral processes.

Shrinking civic space and structural exclusion: Increasing restrictions on civic space, including limitations on freedom of expression, continue to affect civil society organizations, activists, and journalists. These constraints create a challenging operational environment for organizations working on human rights, democratic governance, and advocacy.

Gender and youth exclusion: Entrenched social norms continue to limit women's participation in public and political life, with persistent reluctance among some stakeholders to engage women in certain interventions. This gender bias undermines inclusive participation and the effectiveness of programming. Additionally, systemic age-based exclusion and monopolization of decision-making spaces restrict meaningful youth engagement, limiting their ability to contribute to public discourse and community-level initiatives.

5. PSEA Update:

Over the last couple of years MIFTAH has made significant progress in several key areas related to PSEA. Firstly, our policy document on PSEA includes a written undertaking wherein our partners affirm their acceptance of the standards of conduct. Additionally, our contracts and partnership agreements incorporate standard clauses mandating sub-contractors to adopt policies prohibiting SEA and to implement measures for prevention and response. Furthermore, we have established mechanisms and procedures for reporting SEA allegations that comply with core standards for safety, confidentiality, transparency, and accessibility. In the event of allegations, our organization has a process in place for investigation and is committed to taking appropriate corrective action as needed. We are proud to report that we have not received any past allegations of SEA, but remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent and address such incidents should they arise.

However, we recognize that there are areas for improvement. While we have mechanisms for reporting SEA allegations, we currently lack mandatory trainings for staff on PSEA and relevant procedures. Implementing such trainings would enhance awareness and understanding of PSEA principles among our staff.

It is worth noting that during 2025, no cases on SEA allegations were made or reported.

