

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy - MIFTAH

Central Elections Commission- Palestine

“Increasing Citizens' Participation in Local Elections” Project

(May- October, 2016)

Corresponds to **MIFTAH** strategic objectives: to empower effective leadership within all components of Palestinian society in order to enhance democracy and good governance and raise public awareness concerning the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. Since 2003 **MIFTAH** continues to promoting citizens awareness about the importance of participating in local and national elections, nevertheless MIFTAH continues to empowering the leadership roles of women and youth and supports their representation at decision- making positions at the local and national levels, in addition to enhance people's mobilization towards supporting women political participation.

MIFTAH and in cooperation with the Central Election Commission- Palestine is implementing the project “**Increasing Citizens' Participation in Local Councils Elections**” as part of the CEC project “**Partnership with the Civil Society Organizations**” co-funded by the European Union.

The project seeks to:

Raise the public awareness including youth and women towards promoting the principles of democracy and active citizenship and to build the capacity of potential women candidates to run for the upcoming local council's elections 2016.

Objectives:

- Build the capacity of women and youth potential candidates to run for the upcoming Local Council Elections 2016.

- Promote citizens awareness in terms of local councils elections procedures and processes as voters and as candidates.
- Mobilize the public opinion to supporting women's political participation.

Interventions:

- Targeting 75 women and young potential .candidates of different districts in West Bank and Gaza Strip through comprehensive capacity building workshops to be conducted in three clusters across West Bank and Gaza Strip (North, South and Middle districts) the training agenda includes enhance knowledge attainment among women on the local councils election law and procedures, managing media campaigns, debates, public speech and public event management.
- Around 900 citizens in different districts across West Bank and Gaza Strip will be reached out through a series of town hall meetings to raise their awareness about the importance of participating in elections through introducing the local election law, the applied electoral system, the elections registration procedures as voters and as candidates to enhance their participation in the upcoming Local Councils' Elections 2016.