



Finance for Development

Project Brief

In line with the strategic goals and approaches of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy “MIFTAH”, which seek to advance policy advocacy and lobbying to ensure social justice and equality, as well as the protection of human rights as main pillars of democracy and good governance, in addition to the empowerment of societal leadership to this end, “MIFTAH” continued its implementation of the “Finance for Development” project in partnership with the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity “AMAN” and Applied Research Institute- Jerusalem “ARIJ,” funded by Oxfam. The project consists of three main components that focus on increasing the transparency of the public budget, reform of the tax system, and raising public awareness and mobilisation.

Within the framework of enhancing public budget transparency through the institutionalisation of strategic partnerships with the public sector to mainstream transparency and participatory measures in budget practises, and empower their budget teams with the necessary knowledge and skills to publish the Citizen Budget, “MIFTAH” continued its work with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) for the third year in a row and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) for the second year in a row. Building on the success achieved with the MoSD and MoEHE, “MIFTAH” is seeking to expand its work to include the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance, while ensuring the sustainability of the intervention. Capacity development, on another level, takes different forms, including theoretical trainings, practical on-the-job coaching and knowledge and expertise exchange opportunities.

Through supporting networking among civil society organisations in the form of the Civil Society Team to Promote Public Budget Transparency, “MIFTAH”

is leading the efforts to promote public budget transparency of the social sector. Based on the institutionalised partnership and the results of the publication of the citizen budget of different Ministries, “MIFTAH” is seeking to foster dialogue between the civil society and official institutions with the view of informing public policies. On another level, networking resembles the basis to promote lobbying decision-makers towards enhancing citizen participation in public policy formulation to ensure that it meets citizens’ needs and aspirations.

Work on **addressing reform recommendations** of the different components of the tax system reflects “MIFTAH’s” approach in implementing comprehensive programmes of intervention, such that “MIFTAH” is building on its previous work in determining the extent of contribution (or lack of contribution) of the Income Tax Law towards the effectuation of social justice. In this context, “MIFTAH” is leading the analysis of the different components of the taxation system through the development of the Fair Tax Monitor that focuses on both revenues and expenditures, including all types of taxes and fair distribution of revenues, taking into consideration all the intersections herein the system.

Accordingly, this project was designed and activities developed to ensure raising public awareness of the aforementioned issue, create social mobilisation that facilitates the realisation of true societal partnership in the drawing and management of public affairs. In order to integrate citizens and other social constituencies in these processes to reflect their needs and concerns, lobbying official institutions and decision-making bodies is imperative. This would also facilitate impacting relevant laws, policies, and legislations, such as the Public Budget Law, Taxation Laws and policies, tax collection mechanisms and different tax brackets, in order to harmonise them with the general Palestinian context.