



Supporting Young Palestinian Women Political Leaders: *UNSCR 1325 in Action – Realizing UNDP’s 8 points Agenda*

January 2012 – December 2012

This project is UNDP/PAPP funded, it is designed to build the capacity of young Palestinian women-rising leaders, who are motivated to become strong leaders in formal or activist politics, and provide them with opportunities to support their own and each other’s growth into positions of political leadership. It is intended to support young women leaders to position themselves to take political action or move forward in political careers more readily and more successfully. The activities included in this project are to be implemented in respect to UNSCR 1325 and in relation to the UNDP’s 8 points Agenda

Overall Goal

Contribute to increase representation of women, especially young women, at all decision making levels as an important factor towards gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

Project Objectives:

1. Building the capacity of the young female political leaders, so that they are more able to assume positions at high levels of responsibility
2. Enhancing the relationship between those young leaders and their communities, including the political parties as an initial stage to create a positive social environment

Target group

40 young female leaders from different geographical, ideological and educational backgrounds, 20 from the West Bank (including east Jerusalem) and 20 from Gaza strip. Independent activists and community leaders who are not affiliated with any political party are also part of the target group.

Project Activities

1. Capacity Building/ training sessions

Three centralized series of inter-connected training courses will be conducted by an experienced trainer in Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Participants in the training comprise 20 selected young political leaders from different background and geographical areas. The aim of these training courses is to build the capacity of young political leaders to become more qualified candidates to assume higher responsibility in the political system. The participants will receive a combination of both informative, skills and management- related sessions covering the following topics:

a. *Political systems and structures:*

- *Concept of democracy and active citizenship*
- *Civic engagement and voluntarism*
- *Palestinian parties' structures and development*

b. *Laws and regulations:*

- *Political and civil rights in the Palestinian Basic Law*
- *The Palestinian electoral system*
- *Elections procedures (to be delivered in cooperation with CEC)*
- *Concept of rule of law*
- *Laws related to women's issues (Family Law and Penal Code)*

c. *Formulating Vision and Planning:*

- *Formulating vision and strategic directions*
- *Message development and delivery (using social media)*
- *Advocacy and political communication skills*
- *Networking and coalition building*

2. Knowledge-Attainment Sessions

This activity includes reading books or research studies by the nominated participants. Topics will include critical issues relating to the youth and women in Palestine. Two members of the group will present the book or study for review in a meeting. This book review meeting will be done on a regular basis.

This activity serves several purposes, one of which is to enhance the communication and argumentation skills of these young leaders and at the same time boost their knowledge in areas that are important to their future leadership roles. Suggested topics; UNSCR 1325, civic peace, gender concept, CEDAW, gender based violence /GBV, identity and citizenship, theory of change, among others.

3. Round Table Discussions/Dialogue Sessions

The round table discussions aim at bridging the gap between the young leaders and the people in charge, offering a space for the young group to express their needs and points of view, and providing an opportunity to exercise the skills acquired.

Four round table discussions will be held in the West Bank and Gaza strip. MIFTAH's VC facility that MIFTAH has could be used to hold joint meeting/s. Politicians, civil society activists (from both genders) will be invited to each round table discussion.

4. Public Open Meetings/Community Activism

Four public meetings will be held -two in the West Bank and two in Gaza City aiming at enhancing the relationship between the young women leaders and the local community and increasing young women's visibility in the public sphere. They also aim at raising the awareness of the Palestinian society of the importance of the role of the youth and women in achieving positive change in the political and social life. In addition, those public meetings will open the door for the target group, again, to practice all the acquired skills from the training as part of this project proposal.

5. Utilizing the Website

www.miftah.org has been successful in disseminating press statements, articles, and editorials. It has also been MIFTAH's gateway to its programs. It has, therefore, become a necessity to better publicize MIFTAH's programs, not only to disseminate information among target groups, but also to create a platform by which activists and leaders can interact, discuss, and coordinate their work.

the target group will be encouraged to actively make use of MIFTAH's main website and its face book page. The target group will be assisted in identifying websites that encourage women's and youth political engagement such as <http://www.iknowpolitics.org/>

Time frame

The activities of the project will be implemented over the period of twelve months starting by January 2012.