



**“Working with men towards higher support for women within local governments:  
Better Services and Higher Implementation of the “Gender Charter”**

In line with the strategic directions of the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy - MIFTAH, which seeks to enhance women and youth participation in policy and decision-making within the public sector and local government organizations, through: Empowering potential women and youth political leadership in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for national and local government elections, and supporting women and youth to be well prepared to take on political roles and to become involved in political and public spheres, and within MIFTAH's ongoing “Election Support program”.

To this end and based on its long experience with GIZ, MIFTAH is implementing the project "Working with men towards higher support for women within local governments: Better Services and Higher Implementation of the “Gender Charter” for five months, starting from November 2018 to the end of March 2019.

The project is based on MIFTAH's belief in the importance of the development role of local authorities and the necessity of women's participation and access to decision-making positions. MIFTAH's interventions have contributed to bridging the gap between women members of local bodies and decision-makers through town hall meetings, national gatherings and policy meetings, which aim to create an enabling environment for supporting women to actively engage in the public sphere in addition to push for better and gender balanced services from local government units.

The expected results of this project will focus on promoting Better and more equitable gender services by local authorities, as well as strengthening the role of civil society organizations including the Gender Forum in Local Government, in holding local authorities and the Ministry of Local Government accountable for their obligations and responsibilities.

To achieve this goal, MIFTAH is implementing a series of interventions in several pathways. The first is to highlight the gaps in the services provided by the local councils from a gender perspective through the implementation of a survey on services and review of the implementation of the Gender Charter within Local Authorities,



which was adopted by the Ministry of Local Government In 2009-2010, followed by a national conference led by "Gender Defenders" to discuss the results of the survey, the review of the Charter, and fact sheets, and come up with practical recommendations.

As for the second pathway, MIFTAH will focus on supporting the Gender Forum in following up the implementation of the recommendations of the conference in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through formulating performance indicators to implement the recommendations of the conference and activating the forum in the Gaza Strip.

The third pathway aims to institutionalize the "Gender Charter" within the local bodies by reviewing the Charter and its applications and developing it and preparing a guide to support the implementation of the Charter and its control.

**Interventions will be distributed over the project period as follows:**

- Formation of the project steering committee, comprising the Ministry of Local Government, the Municipal Development and Municipal Development and Lending Fund, the Gender Forum in Local Governance, and German Cooperation and other organizations involved in Local Government issues.
- Expanding the forum to include the Gaza Strip.
- Conducting a "Survey of Citizens Satisfaction with the Services of Local Bodies from a Gender Perspective"
- Reviewing the implementation of the Gender Charter adopted by the Ministry of Local Government in 2009-2010, and the reasons behind its limited implementation and recommendations a
- Organizing a National Conference led by Gender Defenders
- Training the Gender Forum members on the monitoring and reporting mechanisms and on the indicators to be produced by the Conference, the training is expected to take place after the completion of the Conference.
- Developing the Gender Charter to ensure greater application of provisions that promote women's participation in gender-responsive policy-making.
- Developing a guide for the practical application of the Charter within local authorities