



Gender Responsive Budget in the Local councils: phase2 West Bank

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There is a lack of gender awareness at the decision making on local levels. At the same time there is a lack of awareness and necessary skills amongst elected members of local councils especially in the budgeting process and gender equality issues in general. Also the need to improve good governance and lack of accountability require much concerted efforts in awareness and advocacy work on the importance of engendering local budgets.

This project builds on what have been achieved in the pilot project “Gender Responsive Budget in Local Councils-pilot phase” funded by Heinrich Boel foundation, 2007, in corporation with Birzeit municipality. the project focused on enhancing the municipality’s members and staff capabilities and empowering their relations with the civil community organizations in order to participate in planning the municipality’s local policy and to contribute in the decision making process in a way that is more responding to gender issues.

To continue the efforts in this field and to aware people on the importance of our local community and institutions to be gender sensitive, “MIFTAH” is currently executing the “Gender Responsive Budget in Local councils’ project”, that is funded by the **Heinrich Boel foundation**, and targeting Anabta/ Tulkarm & Halhoul/ Hebron Municipalities. This aims to make those local institutions more sensitive to gender, in order to plan their budgets, structures and programs in a way that is gender responding.

The Overall Objective of this project, is sensitizing and raising awareness among local councils’ members and staff for gender aspect, as a mean to strengthen participatory approaches in decision making process, and strengthening the capacity and skills of local council’s members and staff to participate in presenting the actual issues that raise the importance of engendering the local budgets in the Palestinian context. This will be achieved through the implementation of two training workshops in both municipalities that target the Local Council’s members and some employees.

First training course will be on “Gender Mainstreaming” that concentrates on tackling the areas of intervention. It aims to sensitize the trainees on gender issues toward integrating them in their plans and policies, and increase their gender awareness at the personal, interpersonal, and community level.

Second training will be on the GRB manual that was developed by MIFTAH in its pilot project. And the purpose of it is to give trainers in this field the chance that will help them to promote gender responsive budgets in local and municipal councils in a way that encourages local councils to prepare and develop gender responsive budgets.