



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NINTH QUARTERLY REPORT

STRENGTHENING THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN THE WEST BANK/GAZA (*BAYAN*)

October 1-- December 31, 2007

Contract No. DFD-I-00-04-00129-00, Task Order 02

January 2008

This report was produced for submission to the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by the *BAYAN* team for Development Alternatives, Inc.

Table of Contents

<i>SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>SECTION 2: MECHANISMS FOR INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA</i>	<i>2</i>
3.1 CSO Monitoring and Evaluation of the Legislative Process	2
3.2 Strengthening Governmental Legislation Review and Drafting Skills.....	3
4. Strengthening the Broader Legislative Community.....	4
4.1. Strengthen Legislative Advocacy	4
4.2. Creating or Supporting a Legislative Development Institute	4
4.3 Strengthening the Policy Process.....	5
6. Small Grants Program for Local NGOs to Strengthen the Legislative Process.....	6
<i>SECTION 3: RESULTS MONITORING</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>SECTION 4: MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE</i>	<i>8</i>
A. Management Structure	8
B. Financial Management	8

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the period between October 1 and December 31, 2007 of the Strengthening the Accountability and Transparency of the Legislative Process (*BAYAN*) project in the West Bank and Gaza. During this period and in close coordination with USAID, the BAYAN team revised the Year 2 work plan to meet the challenges and opportunities arising from a changed political landscape. The work plan was approved on November 7, 2007 and as approved is designed to strengthen the PA's ability to research, analyze, draft and implement effective legislation and will support civil society's efforts to participate in the legislative process and hold governmental institutions accountable for their performance.

A summary of accomplishments during this reporting period include:

- Year 2 work plan, in collaboration with USAID, was revised and approved. Implementation began in earnest.
- Developed and submitted a special grant solicitation to provide advocacy training to local government councils and community-based organizations. USAID approved solicitation and BAYAN's proposed partner CSO as having the predominant capability to implement the special grant.
- Drafted and issued, with USAID approval, a grant solicitation to vetted local CSOs to support oversight and advocacy efforts. BAYAN has received and begun to review initial summary applications.
- Conducted numerous meetings with legal staff from PA Ministries and other PA institutions to introduce BAYAN, invite participation in upcoming RIA and legislative drafting courses, and conduct informal needs assessment. Demand to participate in the trainings is very strong.
- Provided USAID with timely and critical updates of major events related to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Supreme National Legislative Planning Commission (SNLPC).

SECTION 2: MECHANISMS FOR INCREASING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

3. Strengthening Accountability and Transparency in the Legislative Process¹

3.1 CSO Monitoring and Evaluation of the Legislative Process

During the reporting period, the BAYAN team assisted a select number of partner CSOs to develop their skills to oversee, analyze and report on the legislative process.

A. Budget Analysis: Tool Development and Training

In November 2007, the BAYAN team began preparations for two five-day budget analysis training courses, one each in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, targeting a total of 15-20 participants representing key specialized CSOs. These courses came as a response to very specific recommendations provided by participants in last year's legislative oversight and advocacy training workshops. There is a broad consensus among CSOs that they require specialized, in-depth training in budget analysis to equip them with the skills and tools necessary to oversee governmental performance by linking PA budget allocations to actual expenditures and to people's needs and priorities. To accomplish this, BAYAN contracted with a short-term Local Budget Expert, Mr. Firas Zaghal, to develop a specialized budget analysis toolkit and user manual and to deliver training on the use of the toolkit to BAYAN's key specialized CSO partners in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The BAYAN team scheduled the first five-day budget analysis course in Gaza Strip for December targeting 12 participants representing five vetted partner CSOs. Unfortunately, BAYAN was unable to secure a travel permit for the LBE to enter the Gaza Strip. Accordingly, and in consultation with USAID,

¹ The *BAYAN* project has retained the numbering and titles of the tasks and sub-tasks as they appear in the in the original contract and the approved work plan.

the Gaza course has been postponed until late January or early February depending upon issuance of a travel permit..

The West Bank budget analysis training is scheduled for January 6-10, 2008 targeting 13 participants representing four CSO partners and, following approval from USAID, four PA technical staff representing the Ministries of Social Affairs and Economy. Preparations for the West Bank training were finalized by the end of the reporting period.

B. Oversight Training and Mentoring

Two legislative oversight training workshops in the West Bank and Gaza are scheduled between April and May 2008, targeting select members of new partner CSOs once they are vetted. Beginning the first week of January 2008 BAYAN received vetting approvals for a number of CSOs and therefore will conduct at least one legislative oversight training workshop during the second quarter of this year.

C. Promote Expanded and Informed Media Coverage of the Legislative Process

During this quarter, BAYAN, in collaboration with Internews, completed a schedule and training agenda for a two-day workshop on the best practices for public dissemination of governmental and legislative records for BAYAN CSO partners and Palestinian media partners of USAID-funded Internews. BAYAN also drafted a pre-training participant survey that was completed by BAYAN partners and is being used to modify the training to meet the needs of Palestinian CSOs. The training is scheduled for the first quarter of 2008.

Per agreement with USAID, no further activity is currently planned.

3.2 Strengthening Governmental Legislation Review and Drafting Skills

After the end of Ramadan and with USAID approval, the BAYAN team with the legal staff of the Ministries of Justice, Economy, Planning and Labor, Finance and Social Affairs, the heads of the Cabinet and President's legal offices and representatives of the Diwan Al-Fatwa Wal Tashree' to discuss the BAYAN project and PA training needs. During the meetings BAYAN invited the legal offices to propose staff to participate in RIA and legislative drafting training workshops scheduled for 2008. The staff members interviewed universally supported the critical need for RIA and legislative drafting training for their staffs and have proposed such a great number of qualified participants that BAYAN, with sufficient funding, could conduct a second series of trainings. By the close of the reporting period a proposed list of PA legal staff

for legislative drafting and RIA participants had been sent to USAID and approved. One five-day legislative drafting course and two five-day RIA course are scheduled for the next quarter.

During the course of the meeting with the Director of the Cabinet's Legal Department, Dr. Khalil Al-Rifa'i, BAYAN was invited to observe the third meeting of the Supreme National Legislative Planning Commission (SNLPC). With USAID approval, BAYAN did attend and plans to continue to monitor the work of the SNLPC. The SNLPC is tasked with developing an annual legislative plan for submittal and approval to the Cabinet and President and coordinating the Cabinet's legislative proposal process. As many of the participants of the RIA and legislative drafting courses are either members of the SNLPC or associated with it, BAYAN is poised to have a substantial impact strengthening the process by which the PA develops, deliberates upon, and implements policies and legislation. During the next quarter BAYAN will continue to monitor and discuss with USAID the efforts of the SNLPC and emerging opportunities for USAID/DAI intervention to strengthen the democratic legislative policymaking processes in the West Bank and Gaza.

4. Strengthening the Broader Legislative Community

4.1. Strengthen Legislative Advocacy

Two legislative advocacy training workshops in the West Bank and Gaza are scheduled for 2008 targeting select members of new partner CSOs once they are vetted. Beginning the first week of January 2008 BAYAN received vetting approvals for a number of CSOs and therefore will conduct at least one legislative advocacy training workshop during the second quarter of this year.

4.2. Creating or Supporting a Legislative Development Institute

At the close of the reporting period USAID informed BAYAN that in order to offer continued assistance to the Institute of Law at Birzeit University, and despite the IoL having been vetted on May 13, 2007, BAYAN would need to submit vetting forms for the Birzeit University board of directors and key IoL individuals. As of the date of submission of this Quarterly Report, the university has not yet informed BAYAN whether they will agree to submit such information. Accordingly, if BAYAN is no longer able to support the IoL's efforts to establish a legislative research and training unit, scheduled activities listed below may be postponed, cancelled or redesigned. BAYAN has shared with USAID possible programmatic options and will continue to work with USAID to ensure program goals are met.

A. In-Depth Follow-On RIA Training; Training of Trainers

During the reporting period, BAYAN, in collaboration with IoL staff and the proposed RIA training expert, Faisal Naru, began training design and course development. The first of two five-day trainings are scheduled for the next quarter.

B. RIA Training Course Developed

BAYAN staff met on a number of occasions with IoL staff to discuss training course development needs. The IoL is planning to launch a Legislative Studies Diploma program in 2008 and RIA will be one of the core courses offered. BAYAN staff began the design of a course outline that would be used by the RIA training expert as the foundation for development of the course.

C. RIA Drafting Manual Prepared

This activity is scheduled to be performed by the RIA training expert during the next quarter. BAYAN staff began preliminary research on drafting manual structure and discussed the composition of the Manual with the proposed RIA Expert.

D. Mentoring and Guidance on RIA Development

No activities were conducted under this subtask this reporting period. BAYAN anticipates that in the next two quarters as the SNLPC announces its proposed 2008 legislative agenda and the four RIA courses are conducted that opportunities will arise for BAYAN to mentor and guide BAYAN partners.

4.3 Strengthening the Policy Process

Per agreement with USAID, no activity was planned for the reporting period.

Since its formation in July 2007, the new government is under immediate pressure to prove its legitimacy and to show effectiveness in responding to the needs of the Palestinian people. The RIA and legislative drafting training with key PA legal professionals under 3.2 will strengthen the PA's capacity to develop, draft and implement effective policies.

6. Small Grants Program for Local NGOs to Strengthen the Legislative Process

In October 2007, the BAYAN project developed and submitted a new solicitation designed to support civil society advocacy and/or oversight activities to USAID for approval together with a list of six West Bank and Gaza vetted CSOs as potential grant recipients. In December, USAID approved the solicitation and list of CSOs and BAYAN sent the solicitation to five vetted CSOs: 3 in Gaza and 2 in the West Bank. BAYAN also held a workshop with partner CSOs to further explain the solicitation and respond to CSO questions. During the end of the reporting period, the BAYAN project received four summary applications. BAYAN is in the process of reviewing the summary applications against the solicitation and USAID/BAYAN policies and regulations and will share recommendations with USAID in January 2008.

Beginning the first week of January 2008, BAYAN received vetting approvals for a number of CSOs and therefore, the BAYAN project has sent the solicitation to six newly vetted CSOs in the West Bank and Gaza.

Also, as requested by USAID, in mid-December the BAYAN project developed and submitted to USAID a special grant solicitation to provide advocacy training to local government councils and community based organizations. BAYAN also recommended a local vetted CSO, Ta'awon for Conflict Resolution as having the predominant capability to design and implement this grant. USAID approved the special solicitation and proposed CSO on January 3, 2008 and on the same day, BAYAN invited Ta'awon for Conflict Resolution to design a project proposal for USAID/BAYAN review and approval.

During the next reporting period BAYAN expects to issue a number of grants following completion of an internal grant review and evaluation process and USAID approval.

SECTION 3: RESULTS MONITORING

During this reporting period, the project team has continued to collect the required data for the USAID-approved PMP and GIS for year one activities. All required GIS data have been entered into the GIS system with support from the USAID representative, Mr. Tayseer Edeas

The BAYAN team will continue to submit quarterly progress reports delineating progress made, obstacles faced and proposed solutions for addressing these obstacles.

Furthermore, and based on future funding for the project, BAYAN will work with USAID to explore appropriate methods for assessing the impact of its activities using more qualitative indicators.

SECTION 4: MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

During the quarter, the *BAYAN* team undertook intensive internal discussions and made personnel decisions to ensure the project achieves the targeted results while maintaining effective and efficient management of the limited resources in full compliance with USAID regulations.

A. Management Structure

The current and approved management structure is efficient and allows BAYAN to maximize project resources to meet programmatic goals.

On November 1, 2007, Mr. Stephen Terravecchia, the former BAYAN Senior Legislative Technical Advisor, was promoted to the Chief of Party position. The Senior Legislative Technical Advisor position was not refilled as Mr. Terravecchia has the management and technical skills and experience to cover both positions.

In addition, BAYAN decided not to replace the project's driver, Eddy Abed who had resigned last quarter.

B. Financial Management

B1. Improved contract budget monitoring and reporting

Using DAI's Oracle system and its technical and administrative management information system (TAMIS), the *BAYAN* management team continued to update all financial and technical information of the implemented activities during this quarter. This effort allows the project to keep up more up-to-date financial information and to provide USAID with a more informed projection of resource utilization.