



FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM
Civic Participation Program (CPP) **PROJECT PROFILE**



Children singing as part of community activities organized by the Civic Participation Program.

Program Overview

The Civic Participation Program (CPP) aims to reinvigorate the involvement of Palestinian civil society in the Palestinian Authority (PA) decision-making process, in the monitoring and oversight of government institutions, and in the broader public sector discourse in order to ensure a more vibrant and robust democratic dialogue between the government and the citizens of the future Palestinian state.

CPP will award more than 160 grants to support more than 75 Palestinian civil society organizations (CSOs). CPP will provide technical assistance to CSOs through every step of the program giving them strategic opportunities to adopt and utilize internal democratic management practices, generate greater public value, and manage the external environment more effectively. More transparent decision-making and communication practices will increase accountability of internal governance, quality of performance, and credibility of external outreach. The program will balance competitive and collaborative approaches with partners, based on lessons learned from previous programs.

Goals

- Increase institutional capacity of targeted civil society organizations.
- Increase public awareness of how to participate in public sector decision making with targeted PA institutions and local governmental entities.
- Promote new strategic partnerships among government institutions, civil society actors, and other stakeholders.
- Successful CSO coalitions with governmental entities to ensure a more robust citizen voice.

Activities

CPP builds the Palestinian CSOs' viability and promotes civil society's institutional development throughout the West Bank and Gaza. The project works to strengthen the key functional areas of CSOs and infuse democratic practices in internal governance and operational structures. As CSOs adopt more democratic practices internally in their governance and operational management, they increase their capacity to generate public value through effective service delivery. CPP assists CSOs, through improved service delivery, to generate a larger, stronger, and more diverse constituency. CSOs will use the political clout derived from this constituency to engage and demand government institutions to adopt democratic practices in their operational systems and decision-making processes.

CPP works to enhance and to promote transparency and democratic practices within and between CSOs, and to empower CSOs to mobilize people and to take a more proactive and effective role in public discourse and decision making.

The program has four main components: Civic participation, CSO capacity building, coalition building, and special opportunity grants.

CHALLENGES

- Complicated and unstable political context.
- Overcoming cultural sensitivities to ensure integration of female participants.
- Restrictions on movement between Gaza and the West Bank.
- Day-to-day logistical difficulties.
- Limits on implementation due to the separation barrier and the blockade on Gaza.



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Conference for Civil Society Organizations, June 2, 2011.

Through sub-grants, CPP supports CSOs to identify challenges facing the Palestinian communities and implements programs that provide improved services to citizens, build awareness on public issues, and advocate for policy changes.

CPP assesses CSO capacities and provides training and coaching to strengthen their operational and programmatic functions. In addition, CPP will provide institutional support grants to enhance the performance and cover operating budgets of CSOs. The grants will be issued based on a competitive process to top performing CSOs that developed and implemented initiatives to improve their management practices, to enhance internal operational systems, and to reform internal governance structures.

The program provides Coalition and Networking grants to support collaboration between Palestinian CSOs and networks as well as other innovative partnerships.

CPP provides grants to support initiatives that raise public awareness, increase civic participation, and respond to the changing political, economic, and social context. This includes support for elections, the Palestinian Legislative Council in the case of its reinstatement, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process as it evolves during the lifetime of the program.

Successes

- Awarded 10 Civic Participation Grants to support a diverse array of initiatives including an advocacy campaign for a minimum wage law and helping communities identify and create films about their priority needs.
- Awarded seven Windows of Opportunity Grants for non-partisan citizen participation activities.
- Created an advisory committee for CPP composed of eight members including representatives of the private and public sectors.
- Supported nine CSOs to improve their internal organizational capacities resulting in the development of institutional assessments for CSOs which are in the process of preparing their business development plans.
- Supported nine CSOs to promote political participation through activities that enhance citizens' engagement in the public discourse.
- Supported two CSOs to implement advocacy campaigns on minimum wage and civil service laws. The campaigns include the production of educational, training, marketing material, and surveys for wide distributions in communities throughout the West Bank.

Project Detail

Implementing partner: Catholic Relief Services; Life of Project: 09/30/2010 – 09/30/2013; Total Estimated Cost: \$17,934,743.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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