



TAMKEEN

**West Bank and Gaza Civil Society and Democracy
Strengthening Project**

Potential CSO and Tamkeen Role in the Next Palestinian Elections

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ACRONYMS

AMAN	The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity
CEC	Central Election Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ERSG	Election Reform Support Group
Muwatin	Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy
Panorama	Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

SECTION I

Introduction

This report discusses the current views of Palestinian civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders with regard to the need to hold elections, and provides recommendations on the types of election-oriented activities Tamkeen could support. The information contained here is based on the findings of a short-term assignment that involved:

- Meetings with Palestinian election officials, CSO representatives (Tamkeen grantees and others), and donors
- A series of workshops on the role of CSOs in the election process

The consultant met with a number of individuals in Jerusalem and Ramallah between October 1-11, 2003, including representatives from the European Commission Technical Assistance Programme, the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy, the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy (Muwatin), the Central Election Committee, the Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development (Panorama), the Civic Education Forum, and the Arab Thought Forum. The meetings helped shed light on the election-related activities and issues faced by these organizations.

From October 12-15, 2003, Tamkeen held four workshops for CSOs in Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Gaza City. The goal was to provide Tamkeen grantees in particular and Palestinian CSOs in general with the knowledge needed to design and implement election-oriented programs. The workshops were organized under difficult political and security conditions, particularly in Gaza and Nablus. A fifth workshop scheduled for October 16 in Khan Younis had to be cancelled.

Approximately 15 CSOs attended each workshop. Participating organizations ranged from democracy and governance advocacy groups to service delivery CSOs. More information about the participants is available in Annex B.

A. Are Elections a Priority?

There is general consensus among Palestinian CSOs that elections—local, general or presidential—are needed. However, most of the organizations attending the workshops felt the time for elections had yet to come. This was also reflected in the way some organizations responded to Tamkeen's invitation. Though interested in the subject, some CSOs expressed the view that Palestinians had other priorities at the moment and that the time was not right to demand elections from their leadership. Other groups confirmed they would attend the workshops but did not, perhaps due to lack of interest in the topic. In Ramallah, only 11 out of the 25 CSOs invited to the session actually attended.

For the most part, Palestinian individuals and organizations working in the democracy and governance sector also agreed that the time was not ripe for elections. It is important to note, however, that some of those consulted in preparation for this report viewed elections as a priority.

B. Elections Gaining Momentum

The last Palestinian general and presidential elections took place in January 1996, and it has been more than 20 years since local elections were held. This has fueled calls for elections in the medium term, and some CSOs are already taking steps to contribute to the process. A Palestinian Committee for Electoral Observation has been created, and groups such as AMAN are advocating comprehensive electoral reform, including a new electoral law and election system. Despite the lack of a local or provincial structure, the Central Election Committee is hard at work from its Ramallah headquarters.

Contributing to this momentum is the announcement made by the Palestinian Cabinet in mid-October that the next elections would be held around June 2004.

However, these developments are marked by uncertainty about the feasibility of holding elections given the current political and security situation and the ongoing debate about the need for a new electoral framework.

SECTION II

Consultations With Palestinian Officials, CSOs and Donors

Discussions with Palestinian election officials, CSO representatives, and relevant donors provided valuable information on the status and nature of election-related activities currently under way in Palestine. The information gleaned from these interactions fed into the recommendations provided in this report.

To maximize time and resources, Tamkeen took the lead in suggesting and organizing meetings with relevant organizations and individuals. Some of the meetings were suggested by the consultant as they were deemed necessary to gather information for further evaluation. Due to time constraints, meetings were limited to the Ramallah-Jerusalem area. A complete list of the individuals and organizations consulted is included in Annex A.

A. Central Election Committee

Members of the Central Election Committee (CEC) seem confident of their ability to organize the elections, indicating they only need three months of preparations. They do not see election registration as a separate process as they believe voters will be motivated to register once they are convinced elections are imminent.

CEC members stressed the need for coordination between the election authority and civil society as they envision CSOs playing an important role in the electoral process. In the view of CEC Chairman Ali Jarbawi, the role of CSOs is to motivate the electorate to register and cast ballots through voter education, election observation, and public awareness campaigns.

The CEC's Public Affairs Department is in charge of liaising with CSOs and sponsoring voter information and education programs. The head of the Department, **NAME AND TITLE?**, attended part of the Ramallah workshop, where he provided an overview of the Department's work, explained the process of registering as domestic election observers, and invited CSOs to contact him for further information. The presence of a CEC officer at the workshop showed the interest of the election authorities in Tamkeen's work and provided an opportunity for CSOs to establish initial contact with the Election Committee.

The CEC operates out its Ramallah headquarters, but does not yet have a local or provincial structure. As described below, it faces a number of political, legal, and technical constraints.

A1. Political Constraints

The ongoing Intifada, the reoccupation of Zones B and C by the Israeli army, and the frequent Israeli incursions into Zone A have a profound impact on the daily lives of Palestinians and serious implications for the electoral process. Should Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian areas not materialize during the pre-election period, freedom of movement must be guaranteed for election staff to enable them to organize credible, fair elections. These issues present significant challenges to the election authorities and are largely beyond their control.

A2. Legal Constraints

There is general consensus among Palestinian politicians and organizations regarding the need to change the electoral law and the process of translating votes into Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) seats. At this stage, Palestine lacks a legal electoral framework as the electoral law that served as the basis for the first presidential and general elections in 1996 is no longer deemed appropriate. This means there are no legal grounds for the CEC's activities. Compounding the problem, the Committee's local and provincial structure cannot be put in place before a new law redraws electoral constituencies.

Palestinian CSOs such as AMAN and others are advocating reform of the electoral law to ensure more proportional representation in the PLC. There is also an active group of PLC members calling for changes in the law. Whether their efforts will succeed remains to be seen, but they are indicative of the vivid debate under way on the need to hold elections.

Again, the legal constraints are largely beyond the CEC's control as a new electoral framework is still under discussion at the legislative level.

A3. Technical Constraints

The next elections will be largely funded by international donors, but legal and political uncertainties are affecting donor commitment to the process. According to the CEC chairman, Mr. Jarbawi, the Committee has yet to receive the funds needed to lay the groundwork for the elections.

When it announced elections would be held by June 2004, the Palestinian Cabinet not only demonstrated its commitment to the process, but also sent a clear signal to the international community that funds were needed quickly to mobilize the electorate.

B. Palestinian CSOs

The Palestinian CSOs consulted in preparation for this report provided valuable information about their election-related activities. Because only Ramallah or Jerusalem-based organizations could be interviewed, input from other areas, particularly Gaza, is missing.

What is clear, however, is the vital role CSOs play in the daily lives of Palestinians. The precarious political situation and lack of statehood has forced CSOs to fill the vacuum by providing essential services normally under the aegis of government. These organizations have taken the lead in some areas, notably service delivery, and play an important role in democracy and governance activities, promoting democratic governance, human rights and, to a lesser extent, the need for elections.

As a result, CSOs are by and large strong, stable organizations that enjoy widespread support and legitimacy, whereas the party structure, based on a majority electoral system, is politically weak. The opposition of a strong CSO community against a weak political party structure will not contribute to the strengthening of democratic habits in the Palestinian society or, at least, to the consolidation of a standard, multi party-based democracy. **[Vague. Are you talking about CSOs 'opposing' the party structure, or the combination of the 2 factors – strong CSOs and a weak party structure? Please clarify.]**

Although diverse, the CSOs consulted for this report shared common views about the elections and their role in the electoral process.

B1. Advocating a New Electoral Law and System

Some CSOs view the current electoral law as “the law of Al-Fatah.” The law that served as the basis of the 1996 elections was developed by the provisional Palestinian Authority with technical assistance from the European Union, with no input from political parties as there was no elected Legislative Council at the time of drafting. The CSOs interviewed for this report stressed the need to reform the electoral law and establish a more proportional election system.

They advocate a system similar to the one used in Germany, whereby a percentage of PLC members would be elected through majority vote and others through a proportional vote. They also support a change in constituency boundaries to avoid discrepancies in size and population, as well as increase the number of PLC seats.

B2. Domestic Election Observation

Most of the Ramallah CSOs consulted for this report are members of the Palestinian Civil Observation Committee, an umbrella organization established to monitor the upcoming electoral process. The Committee has already approached the European Commission for assistance. The mere fact that a domestic observation group already exists is indicative of the CSOs’ interest in the election process.

The Committee brings together 28 organizations from the West Bank and 21 from Gaza. Fifteen are full members of the Secretariat. Their plans seem ambitious and unrealistic as they foresee deploying 5,000 election observers—3,500 in the West Bank and 1,500 in Gaza, according to Nassef Mu’allem of the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy.

Given that the average number of voters per polling station is 1,000, and assuming one domestic observer at each station, this figure suggests an anticipated 5 million Palestinians would cast ballots on voting day—a far-fetched expectation. **[Put this in perspective: How many voted last time? What’s total Palestinian population?]**

B3. Voter Education

There was no question among the CSOs consulted that voter education programs are an essential part of their election-related activities. They see voter education as a way to challenge current tribal allegiances and promote the rule of law. Some of the organizations are calling for extensive education campaigns targeting not only voters and minority groups such as women and youths, but also journalists to promote better media coverage of the election process.

B4. Tamkeen’s Role

Palestinian CSOs see Tamkeen’s role in the election process as one of providing grants to support the efforts of organizations engaged in election-related activities. Given the reluctance of some CSOs to accept U.S. funds, some expressed reservations about receiving Tamkeen funds for electoral projects. They are particularly concerned about how this would affect their reputation and public image.

Most CSOs have no problem accepting USAID funds for service delivery projects as the political implications are minimal. However, politically motivated organizations are reluctant to receive U.S. funds for election programs as this could impact the way the public perceives them and could lead to internal disagreement and fragmentation. As a result, some believe Tamkeen should limit its efforts to educational activities, such as producing manuals and organizing voter education campaigns on the registration and election process.

Other CSOs, such as the Civic Education Forum, disagree, saying Tamkeen could play a coordination role, synchronizing the activities of all organizations engaged in election-related activities.

It became apparent during the workshops that small, service delivery, and locally-based CSOs are more open to accepting Tamkeen grants and assistance to support election projects. CSOs based in Ramallah, however, are more cautious due to the reasons explained above.

C. Donors

The Middle East Quartet's Task Force has created the Election Reform Support Group (ERSG) bringing together several donor organizations. The ERSG, chaired by the European Union and the United States, is responsible for coordinating all aspects of international intervention in the election process, including political party development, voter education, and capacity building for domestic observation.

ERSG activities will focus on four key areas: financial and commodity assistance to support election operations; technical assistance to the CEC and other election administration bodies; international monitoring of the election process; and support to voter education programs and domestic observation groups.

At the same time, the European Commission Technical Assistance Programme for the Palestinian Elections is contributing €10 million (\$11.2 million) to support preparations for the elections, mostly registration. Of this contribution, €350,000 will be allocated to projects designed to strengthen the role of CSOs in the process. Assistance will be provided in two phases. In the first phase, the European Commission will fund the purchase of materials, equipment, and operating costs for the election registration process. In the second phase, to begin once a new electoral law is passed by the PLC, the Commission will co-finance the costs of pre-polling, polling, and counting activities.

The team leader of the Technical Assistance Programme, **NAME?**, outlined five main areas of work for Palestinian CSOs:

- Election observation
- Civic education and voter education programs
- Advocacy
- Assistance to voters with special needs
- Training of political party candidates and promoting women's participation in Palestinian politics

SECTION III

Election Workshops

The election workshops organized by Tamkeen helped participants identify potential activities to support the election process, taking into account local uncertainties such as the lack of a legal framework and the precarious political situation. The trainer discussed election systems in various countries, including post-conflict societies such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cambodia, as well as less developed countries such as Pakistan.

Given the diverse sectors and areas of specialization of the CSOs attending the workshops, the topics and methodology were meant for a general audience. The goal was not to create a cadre of election experts, but to raise awareness and empower CSOs to propose projects to support the upcoming elections.

A. Topics

The topics addressed in the workshops included:

- Election cycle:
 - Periodic elections
 - Fair elections
 - Universal suffrage
 - Right to vote
 - Equal suffrage
 - Secret ballots
 - Freedom of expression
- Voter education:
 - Differences between voter education, voter information, and civic education
 - Potential CSO outreach activities using the media, printed materials, performances, face-to-face interactions, information centers and hotlines, and mass mailings
- Election observation:
 - Differences between supervision and observation
 - Phases of observation
 - Role of domestic observation groups
- Election systems

B. Rationale for the Topics

The topics selected were meant to expose CSOs to new ideas, creative approaches, and the tools needed to initiate election-related projects. The workshops did not seek to address the complexities of the electoral process from a technical or political standpoint.

Potential fields of work for CSOs were explained, such as voter education and observation, as well as the universally accepted right to hold elections. The workshops emphasized that elections are part of the democratic process but are not, in and of themselves, synonymous with democracy.

Given the ongoing debate among Palestinian politicians and some CSOs on the need for a new electoral system, the workshop also described existing electoral systems in other countries. The idea was to expose CSOs to best practices used elsewhere and to encourage them to apply this knowledge in their voter education, training, and advocacy activities.

The diversity of the organizations represented made it necessary to focus on general topics. The workshops did not address subjects that were deemed too specialized, such as CSOs' potential role in encouraging the participation of minority groups like the disabled, women, and youths. This report nevertheless touches on these issues as they may be of interest to some organizations and warrant further consideration by Tamkeen as potential areas of support to CSOs.

C. Methodology

Using a participatory approach, the workshops invited attendees to provide input into the design phase, and encouraged them to share ideas, questions, and observations throughout the sessions. Participant feedback proved useful in developing the final recommendations provided in Section IV of this report.

The interactive nature of the workshops fostered a vivid debate among the participants. This was especially the case in the workshop held in Bethlehem and, to a lesser extent, in Gaza City.

The topics discussed were illustrated with real-life examples building on the trainer's experience in post-conflict and less developed countries. Special attention was paid to explaining the practical application of key universal and regional covenants related to elections. Participants were introduced to the workings of relevant domestic election observation groups, such as CONFREL in Cambodia, to illustrate practical ways of establishing observation networks in Palestine. Finally, discussion of election systems currently in place in various democratic settings was supported with country-specific cases.

Participants viewed a 28-slide presentation and received an information package with additional documentation on the topics covered in the workshops. As requested by the attendees, these materials will be translated into Arabic.

D. Conclusion

Tamkeen should evaluate the impact of the workshops once CSOs submit grant applications for election-related projects. This will allow Tamkeen to assess the feasibility and quality of the proposals presented by workshop participants.

In general, feedback from the participants indicates the workshops were successful in providing them with information, ideas, and tools to design election-related activities. However, representatives of CSOs already working on election and democratization activities, such as Panorama and Muwatin, felt the workshops were too generic. These types

of organizations are mostly based in Ramallah, which may have contributed to poor attendance in that city. Indeed, the topics selected were deliberately kept general given the diverse professional backgrounds, experience, and specialization of the participants.

The workshops proved most useful in areas with limited awareness and knowledge of election processes, such as Gaza and, to a lesser extent, the northern West Bank (Nablus). In contrast, CSOs in Jerusalem and the central West Bank (Bethlehem and Ramallah)—the centers of Palestinian decision making and home to the most politically active CSOs—“have been put [through] training too many times,” in the words of CEC Chairman Ali Jarbawi. Since central West Bank organizations are more aware and prepared for the elections, they seemed less interested in attending a workshop covering topics already familiar to them.

There are several reasons why the smaller CSOs were more receptive to the workshops than the larger organizations:

- The majority of small CSOs focus on service delivery and are therefore largely unfamiliar with election activities. The workshops provided them with practical ideas on how they could incorporate election-related programs into their current work.
- Some of the larger CSOs, particularly democracy and governance organizations, are already working on election-related matters, such as the establishment of domestic observation groups and advocacy of electoral reform. Since workshop topics were sent to them in advance, it may be that some of these groups found them too general and subsequently decided not to attend.

SECTION IV

Recommendations

The recommendations presented here incorporate feedback from the various stakeholders interviewed for this report and the CSOs that attended the election workshops. They suggest various election-related activities for CSOs and tangible ways Tamkeen could support these efforts. While the workshops helped build awareness among Palestinian CSOs and Tamkeen grantees, exposing them to new ideas and examples with real-world applicability, the momentum must be sustained to encourage CSOs to submit election-related proposals.

A. Potential Fields of Work for CSOs

The main actors in the election process are Palestinian citizens, the electorate, political candidates and parties, and the election administration. CSOs should support and enhance the role of each of these players, regardless of political motivations. The focus should be on promoting a more transparent and democratic process, a more informed electorate, a more stable and professional party structure and, ultimately, a more meaningful and genuine election process.

Four key areas of work for CSOs are envisaged to support these objectives: (1) advocacy to promote a more transparent, democratic process; (2) voter education and information to enable voters to exercise their right to vote, providing them with the tools and knowledge needed to make informed decisions; (3) training of political party members to promote a stronger party structure; and (4) registration and election observation to ensure the election process is fair and credible.

A1. Advocacy

Most of the CSOs consulted for this assignment see advocacy as a key instrument of change, and some groups are already using advocacy techniques to promote reform of the electoral law. While the most prominent democracy and governance organizations have considerable expertise with advocacy, many of the smaller CSOs lag far behind.

Advocacy is not only a tool to advance big ideas. It can also be used to advance the rights and special needs of specific constituent groups such as the disabled. For example, CSOs can play an important role in pressuring the election administration to take the special needs of the disabled into account, ensuring easy access to polling stations and facilitating their right to vote.

Similarly, advocacy can be used to encourage political parties to include disabled candidates on their lists and to incorporate the needs of the disabled into their political platforms.

In light of these factors, special efforts should be made to provide small organizations with the tools needed to advocate the interests of their constituents on election-related matters.

A2. Training of Political Candidates and Parties

Along with elections, a strong party structure is one of the foundations of democracy. Multi-party democracies have proved to be the most stable and capable of providing their citizens with better standards of living.

Several elements make the Palestinian case a special one, including the Israeli occupation, resistance to the occupation, and the primary role of CSOs in providing services to the population in the absence of a state. Coupled with tribal allegiances, which are predominant in Palestinian society, these circumstances have contributed to a weak party structure.

CSOs can play an important role in strengthening the political system by providing training to political parties on election-related matters. Such training should not only target political candidates and parties, but also their agents. Training topics could include the role of the parties in advancing democracy, campaigning techniques, and how to develop a credible and feasible political platform. Party agents (i.e., representatives of the party at polling stations) could receive training on electoral legislation and procedures, particularly the claims and appeals process.

A3. Voter Information and Education

All the sources consulted for this report agreed that, along with election observation, voter education is one of the primary roles of CSOs at election time. Given their diverse areas of specialization, Palestinian CSOs are well positioned to carry out a wide range of voter education and information activities. However, all should pursue the same objective—i.e., ensuring citizens and voters can exercise their right to vote.

With this goal in mind, voter education should focus on the following:

- *Motivation of voters.* By and large, Palestinians do not see elections as imminent or even possible in the near future. It is therefore vital to launch programs aimed at activating the electorate—first by motivating citizens to register, and secondly by encouraging them to cast ballots on voting day. Specific voter education campaigns should be led by grassroots organizations.
- *First-time voters.* Since the last elections were held more than seven years ago, a significant proportion of the population—an estimated 34 percent—will be eligible to vote for the first time. Voter education campaigns should target these first-time voters, with youth organizations taking the lead in such efforts.
- *Women.* Voter education campaigns should specifically address the role of women and gender equality, with a focus on empowering women to participate in the decision-making process and explaining issues such as a quota for female members of Parliament, should it exist.
- *Minorities.* Voter education campaigns targeting minority groups should motivate them to participate in the election process and explain, as in the case of women, quota allocations. Minorities should be understood as groups of individuals with different

cultural, ethnic, or religious backgrounds than those of the majority population in a particular area, not as a segment of the majority population (such as professional groups). **[doesn't this also include voters with special needs, e.g. the disabled?]**

- *Explanation of new regulations.* The current debate about electoral reform, including a new electoral law, district boundaries, and election system, makes it imperative to launch voter education activities to explain the new regulations. These campaigns should use all possible means, including the mass media, printed materials, face-to-face interactions, information centers, and hotlines to reach the highest number of potential voters. CSOs, in close coordination with election authorities, should play a leading role in disseminating this type of information. Since such activities should target the general electorate and citizens at large, all types of CSOs, regardless of their field of specialization, could participate.

A4. Registration and Election Observation

The growing debate on the need for elections has provided an impetus for the creation of domestic observation networks. The role of election observers is to verify that the electoral process is carried out in accordance with internationally accepted standards, thus ensuring that elections are fair and credible.

Election observation requires the participation of more than one CSO as it involves complex logistics and the hiring of a large number of observers. As mentioned in Section II, B2, a domestic observation network already exists. Its role must be supported as domestic groups are often better positioned to provide high-quality observation of the election process, compared to foreign observers. To maximize efficiency and resources, non-member organizations should be encouraged to participate in the network.

At the same time, a permanent election observation network should be established. Such a network should join regional or international domestic observation groups, and its members should be encouraged to serve as international observers in elections held in the region and elsewhere. This would enhance the professional skills of the organization and contribute to sharing knowledge and best practices gleaned from experiences in other parts of the world.

Domestic observers should focus on monitoring the following:

- Political environment
- Restrictions on political parties
- Restrictions on voters
- Use of public resources
- Access to media
- Media messages
- Appointment of election staff at all levels
- Pre-election period: voter registration, contribution to the process, electoral legislation

- Election period: registration of parties and candidates, election campaign, polling and counting procedures, claims and appeal procedures, announcement of results

B. Potential Tamkeen Support for Election Activities

As a project aimed at strengthening democracy and civil society in Palestine, Tamkeen has a fundamental role to play in supporting the election-related activities of existing and potential grantees. Lack of motivation might have contributed to the poor quality of the proposals received when solicitations were issued a few months ago. One of the chief objectives of this short-term assignment was to help overcome this problem through workshops on election issues.

With regard to the applications received by Tamkeen, CFI's [spell out acronym] "Pre- and Post-Election Voter Education for the Upcoming Elections in the Northern, Central and Southern West Bank" is a feasible project that would contribute to encouraging citizens to fully exercise their voting rights. It also fits into this report's recommendations and conclusions. Other proposals, specifically those presented by small and service delivery CSOs, need further evaluation.

Tamkeen can build on its knowledge and experience with Palestinian CSOs to provide them with technical assistance on various election-related projects. For these efforts to be successful, however, Tamkeen must guide grantees in clearly identifying beneficiaries when designing election-related activities to ensure such projects are carefully tailored to their needs. The solicitations reviewed did not target election-related beneficiaries, such as new voters, women, the elderly, voters with special needs, political parties, candidates, observers, or party agents. In one case, the beneficiaries fell under a category totally unrelated to elections (farmers). In issuing future solicitations, Tamkeen should stress the need for potential grantees to design activities specifically directed at potential voters.

The project should also assist small, service delivery organizations with advocacy efforts to ensure the interests of their constituents are included in the broader debate about elections. Larger CSOs are currently undertaking advocacy campaigns on political issues such as electoral reform. Some of the smaller CSOs feel their interests and those of their beneficiaries are not represented in the discussions. These interests may vary from women representation in the Council [what council?] or on political party lists (should the 1996 block list system be used once again), to accessibility to polling stations for disabled persons, to voter education materials for the deaf and blind. Tamkeen should encourage grantees to carry out projects addressing these issues and support the advocacy efforts of small, service delivery CSOs.

A major constraint to Tamkeen's election-related work is the fact that many Palestinians view the project as a U.S. organization funded by the U.S. government. In addition, some CSOs are apprehensive about the required signing of the Declaration Against Terrorism prior to receiving grants. These factors are particularly relevant when dealing with politically sensitive issues such as elections. Many of the CSOs consulted, especially the most influential ones, feel uneasy about using Tamkeen funds for election-related projects.

To overcome the CSOs' reluctance to accept U.S. government funds, Tamkeen should focus on the technical aspects of election projects. Grants should not be perceived as politically motivated.

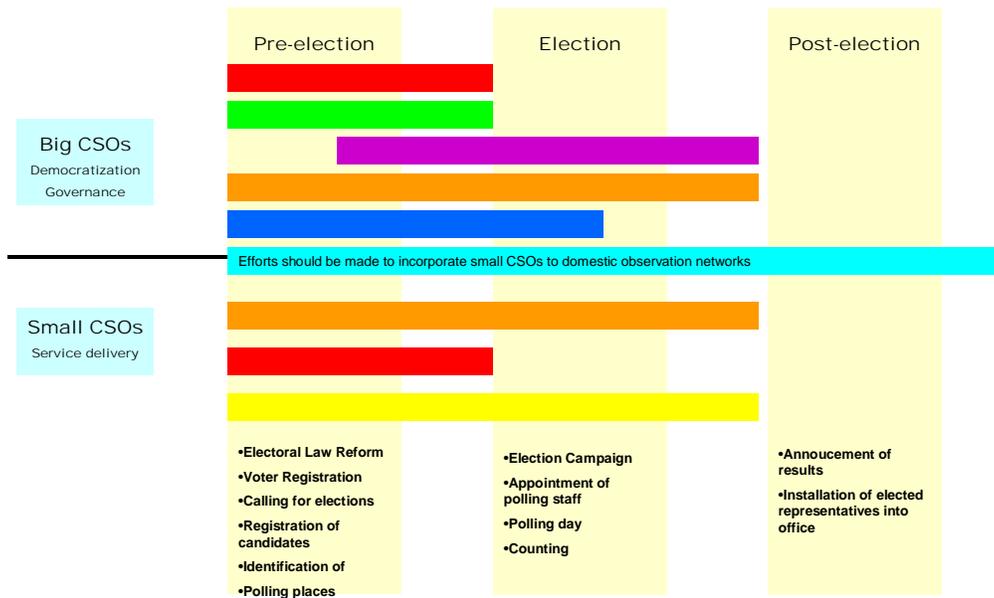
Therefore, projects dealing with empowerment of political parties or candidates, such as training and capacity building, should be avoided. Moreover, careful consideration should be made in providing grants to CSOs advocating changes in electoral legislation.

Tamkeen can, however, support a wide range of potential election-related activities:

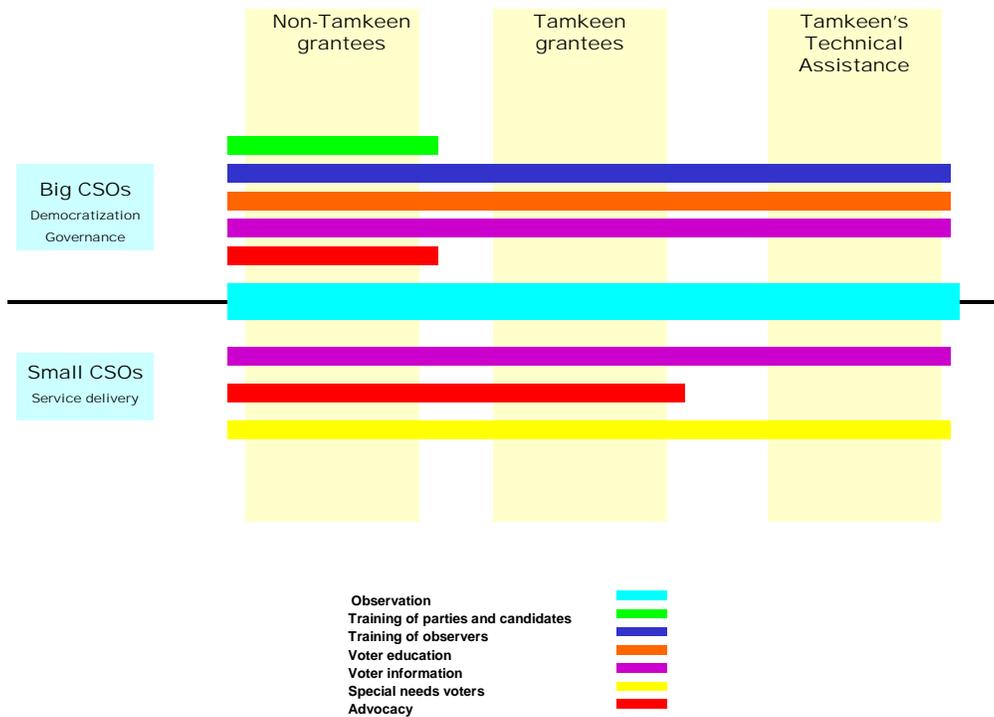
- *Technical projects.* An unexplored field of election-related activity in Palestine is the creation of election information centers that would provide citizens and eligible voters with up-to-date information on election issues. This could include “physical” centers located in the most populated areas and/or call centers and hotlines. Close coordination with the election authorities is needed as they will have to provide much of the information to be disseminated to the public.
- *Logistical support.* Tamkeen can serve as the main source of financial support to assist grantees with the logistical aspects of election-related activities. This can include printing voter information and education materials, as well as organizing workshops, open discussions, and public debates on election issues.
- *Awareness-building campaigns on electoral reform.* Should a new electoral law and system be adopted, Tamkeen can support voter education projects aimed at building awareness of these changes.
- *Support to existing and potential domestic observation groups.* Election observation is not only a political exercise, but also a complex logistical effort. Tamkeen could support domestic observation groups through funding for logistical planning, deployment of observers, transportation, and training of trainers and observers.

The charts on the following page illustrate the types of election activities CSOs, both large and small, could engage in, as well as Tamkeen’s potential involvement in supporting these efforts.

Election-Related Activities by Type of CSOs



Potential Tamkeen Involment in Election-Related Activities



ANNEX A

List of Meetings With Palestinian Officials, CSOs and Donors

Date	Organization & Individuals	Location
October 1, 2003	European Commission Technical Assistance Programme: Fabio Bargiacchi Peter Erben	Jerusalem
October 2, 2003	AMAN-The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity: Azmy Shuaiby	Ramallah
October 2, 2003	Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy: Nassef Mu'alleh	Ramallah
October 4, 2003	Muwatin-The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy: George Giacaman	Ramallah
October 5, 2003	Palestinian Central Election Committee: Ali Jarbawi Ammar Dweik	Ramallah
October 9, 2003	Panorama-The Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development: Riyad Malki	Ramallah
October 9, 2003	Civic Education Forum: Aref Jaffal	Ramallah
October 11, 2003	Arab Thought Forum: Abdel Rahman Abu Arafah	Jerusalem

ANNEX B

List of Workshop Participants

