

## PILOT ACTION “PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN THE PALESTINIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM”

### COORDINATING ASSOCIATION

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH

### TARGET AREA

Ramallah region, PALESTINE

### CONTEXT

This pilot action is framed within the project "Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality" led by the IEMed, in partnership with CAWTAR, FLDDF, FFM, RUSEMEG and the French State. It is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development. The project sets up, each year, *local clusters of gender equality actors* in 7 countries, made up of associations, research and education institutions, local and regional authorities, companies, syndicates and media working in favour of gender equality in a specific territory.

Each local cluster elaborates a *diagnosis of the situation* at the local level on a topic of interest related to gender equality and, subsequently, defines a *project* to address the problems previously identified. Each local cluster of gender equality actors© is structured around an association that leads all its actions.

**MIFTAH is coordinating the Palestinian local cluster in 2017 (cycle 2) and is leading the pilot mobilization action of gender equality actors in Ramallah, consisting of consultations and an analytical study to examine the policy gaps that hinder the participation of women and youth in the political and public spheres.**

Women and youth are underrepresented in local councils, in political bodies and in public life. Decision-making positions are dominated by middle-aged men. For this reason, MIFTAH is collecting ideas on how to enhance policy formulation for ensuring higher representation of women and youth within the Palestinian political system, especially within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The research will focus on Ramallah region but it will also look into the rest of the West Bank and Gaza due to the chosen theme (political participation at national level).

### OBJECTIVE

- Analyzing the main gaps and reasons that prevent women from holding decision-making positions within the Palestinian political system.

### ACTIVITIES

- Meeting strategical actors (the Arab World for Research and Development; the General Union for Palestinian Women; PLO Media and culture unit; young male and female activists from the Palestinian political factions and members of "University Student Councils"; members of MIFTAH's "Leaders for Tomorrow" group) and realizing focus groups and consultations
- Preparing a diagnosis based on the research's findings
- Presenting the diagnosis in a press conference in order to discuss its outcomes with the media, the decision makers from the Palestinian Legislative Council, the PLO and other main actors, and to develop a project's proposal to respond to the gaps identified through the diagnosis.

The Axis 1 "Strengthening the capacity of the actors working for equality" is part of the project "Women of the future in the Mediterranean" funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, and the project "Developing women's empowerment" labelled by the Union of the Mediterranean

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