

# Strengthening Civil Society Programme (CSP)

## Governance

### Background and Objective

Civil society in Palestine plays a key role in social and political development. Organisations take part in policy-making processes, as well as assume an important role in holding the government accountable for its implementation. Numerous Palestinian civil society organisations (CSOs) exist with various scope of work and are manifold and complex. Their mandates include, but are not pertained to, service provision, advocacy, human rights, gender equality, education, inclusion of persons with disabilities, mental health and psychosocial support and economic empowerment.

The ongoing occupation, territorial and social fragmentation, the internal Palestinian tightened grip, and pressures, in addition to a worsening economic situation, place impediments on organisations. The tendency to shrink its spaces from all parts, including the international community, shows to worsen over the years. This particularly influences their effectiveness and the potential for meeting development needs, as well as, representing their communities and playing their crucial role as watchdog.

The Civil Society Programme (CSP) works towards strengthening CSOs in their role as governance actors and to thus be able to promote the rights and participation of marginalised groups and communities. The programme works with more than 30 CSOs, networks, community-based organisations, women's and youth organisations, Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs), and human rights organisations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.



Project name	Strengthening Civil Society Organisations Programm (CSP)
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza
Partners	Ca. 30 Civil Society Organisations
Duration	April 2023 – March 2026

CSP works with international and Palestinian professionals based in the West Bank and Gaza to provide technical and strategic assistance based on a strongly demand-driven approach.

To reach that, CSP is active in the following main areas:

Enabling environments for CSOs to play their role as governance actors, integrating evidence-based inputs coordinated with other CSOs (e.g. proposals for policies or laws) into social and policy dialogue with state actors;

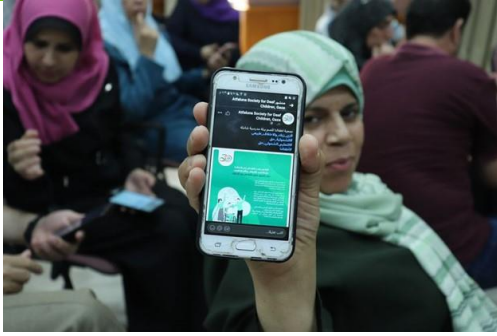
Supporting CSOs to improve the social and political participation of marginalised groups and communities;

Improving CSOs' organisational capacity, by strengthening their structures and processes in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner;

Introducing innovative measures to support CSOs work as governance actors in fields such as digitalisation or Leave No One Behind (LNOB) methodologies in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda.



Participants of the "Inclusive University Campaign" organised by the Social Development Forum (SDF), CSP's partner organisation, Gaza, Palestine, September 2022. Photo credit: SDF.



Left: Launch of digital advocacy campaign to promote rights of people with disabilities to inclusive education, Atfaluna, CSP's partner organisation, October 2022, Gaza, Palestine. Photo credits: Atfaluna.

Right: Members of the General Union of People with Disabilities, CSP's partner organisation to build a database, November 2022, West Bank, Palestine. Photo credits: Luna Aroury.

## Key Achievements

Entering its fourth phase, the Civil Society Programme builds on an 11-year experience. In the last four years of the project following milestones were reached:

- CSP used its Organisational Capacity Self-Assessment Tool (OCSAT) to examine the needs and capacities of 8 partners. The OCSAT was designed in a context-sensitive manner and appreciated by the partners.
- Part of CSP's support to improve organisational development of partner organisations consists in supporting partners to develop, review and enhance their strategies and plans to better implement projects.
- CSP assisted 10 partners, including 7 partners in Gaza, to set up and improve their Monitoring & Evaluation systems into Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Systems (MEAL), which strengthens their decision-making processes and project management.
- CSP also worked on barrier free digitised solutions as innovative measures to broaden CSOs' outreach through capacity development measures for their staff on digital campaigning. Measures to increase engagement and interactions of audience in social media were analysed. Database softwares were developed for 2 organisations as well as 3 barrier free websites. Aim is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the beneficiaries' and members' data management towards a more evidence-based representation of marginalised people and groups.
- In Gaza, CSP helped activating the partners' various social media networks with different designs and content related to women issues in both Arabic and English to represent women and reach out to local and international social media advocacy campaigns to raise awareness on topics such as Gender Based Violence and empowerment of persons with disabilities.
- In the West Bank, CSP's partner organisations facilitated the dialogue between marginalised groups and representatives of 24 local government units for a better representation of those in local planning processes, mainly through capacity building measures.
- CSP developed trainings and awareness raising sessions on inclusion and trained around 228 staff from GIZ and partner organisations in the West Bank and Gaza. The programme also conducted mainstreaming analysis for 4 GIZ Palestine programmes to be more inclusive within their processes and activities.

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
Thomas Dämmrich | Head of CSP Programme  
Programme House (2) for Development Cooperation  
Al Bireh/Palestine  
T +972 (0) 22413938  
[civilsocietypalestine@giz.de](mailto:civilsocietypalestine@giz.de)  
[www.giz.de/en/worldwide](http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide)

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Text CSP Programme

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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