الاتحاد الفلسطيني للهيئات المحلية
Association of Palestinian Local Authorities

Annual Report

2021

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Association of Palestinian Local Authorities

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EUROPEAN UNION
الاتحاد الأوروبي

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Foreword by APLA President

During 2021, we sought through well-designed strategies to address the ramifications and consequences of Covid-19 pandemic, which continued to harm various sectors in Palestine, especially local governance. In addition to the political, social, economic and security crises and obstacles, in light of the escalation in political events resulting from the ruthless campaign led by the Occupation, including the continued attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque, the aggressive practices against Jerusalem and our Palestinian cities inside the Green Line. In addition to the displacement and racial cleansing in Sheikh Jarrah, the crimes committed against Gaza, and all other practices that violate international and humanitarian norms and conventions.

We devised special attention to exposing the Occupation›s practices and presenting the Occupation›s measures aiming at constraining citizens, before all institutions and sister cities through a wide network of counterpart international organizations and through, our participations in regional and international symposiums and conferences. The aim is to highlight what is happening in Palestine and what local authorities suffer on one hand, and provide a model based on exchange of skills, knowledge and joint cooperation on the other hand.

Our local authorities never hesitated to work as a collective national framework, through the actual practice of the concept of complementarity with the local community; including all groups, activities, political and social organizations, in partnership with the private and civil sectors and civil society organizations to provide citizens with the best services in order to enhance Palestinians› resilience and steadfastness, especially during the most dangerous and sensitive stages. As usual, local elections managed to create hope in the return of democratic life to the Palestinian political system and an entry point to the restitution of the democratic process at all levels. This puts the new mayors and members of elected councils before responsibilities way beyond municipal services, in order to find mechanisms and strategies to enhance our resilience and steadfastness, and in order for us to have a country safe from any targeting of our future and ambitions for living free and independent.

In parallel, APLA finished in designing the Multi-Annual Action Plan 2021-2025 project, mainly funded by the EU, to enhance APLA›s role as a representative of local authorities and to enhance local authorities cooperation in providing services and local participatory development, enhancing contributions to regional complementarity, especially in Area (C). The project is linked to APLA›s strategic priorities, the priorities of the local governance sector in Palestine and the Global Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

The path towards achieving sustainable development is long term for local authorities and is subject to achieving continued progress in making human societies inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Therefore, APLA will continue working in areas of lobbying, advocacy and representation in harmony with the government, its institutions, local and international partner organizations, in order to magnify and unify efforts in increasing the capacities of local authorities. In parallel, it will continue working on preparing the appropriate legal environment responsive to the requirements of development through developing, amending, reviewing and updating various laws, policies and systems related to the local governance sector. Additionally, APLA will continue empowering local authorities financially, technically and administratively through enhancing the concept of decentralization in the work of local authorities to expand their jurisdictions and develop their services.

Musa F. Hadid

APLA President

Foreword by APLA Executive Director

Impacts of Covid-19 pandemic continued to shadow all aspects of life during 2021; while the intensity of the pandemic waves varied, the state of the increasing needs of citizens all around the world for guaranteeing a more stable and safe life has been at top priorities. As usual, local authorities in all countries stood in the front lines responding to the citizens needs and providing them with the best services.

In Palestine, 2021 resulted in more challenges and hardships at the political, economic, and health levels among others, resulting from the racial practices of the Occupation along with the continued ramifications of Covid-19 pandemic. Our local authorities found themselves before increasing responsibilities and burdens accompanied with a falter in resources of different nature.

Our local authorities were affected by the financial crisis the Palestinian State and government is facing, as well as the Israeli systematic oppressive measures to thwart all attempts of building and developing our state and institutions. Despite the continued impacts of the pandemic and its ramifications, the world turned to planning the post-pandemic recovery phase, rearranging priorities, including the new issues and priorities related to the emerging needs.

At APLA, we continued our efforts for enhancing the capabilities and capacities of Palestinian local authorities through working with the Ministry of Local Government on a set of Bylaws, regulations, laws and policies related to the work of local authorities. Moreover, we continued to implement trainings and capacity development programs in hybrid settings – both face-to-face and virtually – and we continued developing the internal system of policies and procedures aiming at increasing our competence in service provision, in addition to activism and active presence in partner international networks and organizations.

During the last year, we entered a financing agreement with the EU for implementing the Multi-Annual Action Plan 2021-2025, prepared under funding from the EU in consultation and partnership with various local and international partners. The plan crowns our continuous efforts throughout the past years and aims to achieve more stability and growth in APLA's services, and to enhance our capacities in lobbying, advocacy and defending the interests and needs of local authorities on both local and international levels and upscaling our efforts in developing the services provided for the development of the capacities of local authorities in providing better services to citizens.

We have also signed an agreement with FELCOS UMBRIA for implementing the "Local Authorities Network for Sustainable Development (L.A.N.D)", funded by AICS. The project aims to support the role of Palestinian local authorities in devising inclusive and sustainable local development strategies and policies, which focus specially on protecting the environment and treating solid wastes, while taking into consideration the particularity of the Palestinian case, being territorially fragmented, characterized by great economic and social differences and gaps resulting from the difficult geo-political conditions, resulting from the Israeli settlements.

As we look forward to the coming years, we aspire to achieve a better level in representing local authorities in Palestine, working in full partnership with our members and partners to assume all the responsibilities we shoulder in order to improve the reality of local governance sector. I am pleased to offer my best wishes and congratulations to the members of local councils elected during the elections in 2021, wishing them success in their upcoming tasks, in addition to our hopes for a successful second phase of elections to be convened beginning of 2022. I would like to thank all members of APLA and its administrative and executive committees for their support and efforts over the years. I would like also to extend my gratitude to my colleagues at APLA for the efforts that contributed to advancing APLA's work through many important achievements to be a national umbrella that includes and represents all Palestinian local authorities.

Abdallah Anati

Executive Director

VISION

"APLA is the official institution that represents local government units (LGUs), works with and for them to unify, represent, defend and support its members to empower and develop them and achieve their independence, and works according to th e principles of good local governance that is based on citizens' participation in local governance."

MISSION

"APLA is the official national umbrella that strives to represent and support the Palestinian LGUs, and advocates for their interests and rights to develop and reach their independence in line with the National Policy Agenda and in accordance with good governance principles."

APLA'S OBJECTIVES

- Represent Local government units (LGUs) locally and at the Arab and international levels.
- Strengthening relations between the Palestinian Local Government Units (LGUs).
- Contribute to developing Local government units (LGUs) performance, by facilitating information and experiences exchange among them.
- Contribute to coordinating LGUs positions towards their relationship with the central authority.
- Assisting LGUs in areas that contribute to developing the performance of their workers, by providing them with appropriate training in modern administrative and technical fields.
- Developing the external relations of the members, and positioning APLA and LGUs in their appropriate place among the international associations.
- Exercising all tools and methods of lobbying and advocacy on central and legislative entities and service-providing companies to ensure equity and assistance for LGUs.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2019 - 2022

1. **Strengthen the Institutional and Operational Capacities of APLA**
2. **Enhance the Capacity of LGUs to Provide Better Services to Citizens**
3. **Lobby and advocate for the interests and needs of LGUs, locally and internationally.**

Annual Report 2021

STATISTICS

members:
All Local Authorities

governorates: 11

Trainings and workshops: 28

Training beneficiaries: 799
359 440
55% 45%

Speakers
49% 51%

FB Reach: 1200000/ Engagement:350,000

Number of laws and Regulations: 10

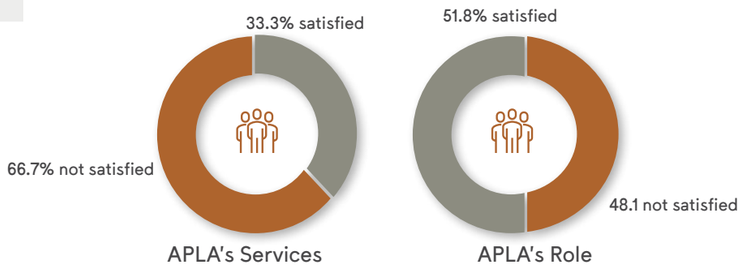
3 Newsletters, 34 Press Releases

APLA's Participation in local and international events: 67

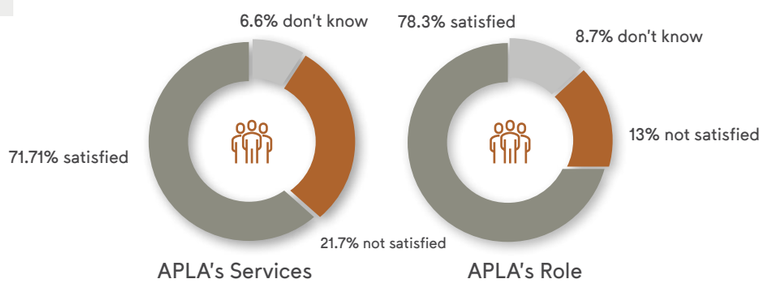
Membership Fees Collections (Municipalities): 64%

Under the endeavor of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) to communicate with its members and measure their satisfaction with its role and performance in order to assess the current situation and continuously develop the services it provides. In completion of "Area (C) Resilience Development initiative (ARD)" project, implemented in cooperation with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) and jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands, APLA launched the "Local Authorities Satisfaction Survey". The aim of the questionnaire is to measure the indicators, evaluate results and compare it to the same questionnaire distributed in 2018. Below are the most important results:

2018



2021



GOVERNANCE REPORT

APLA's Committees

The General Assembly (GA)

APLA's General Assembly (GA) consists of all active members who pay annual fees to the association. The membership of APLA consists of all existing Local government units (LGUs) so that all Local government units (LGUs) in Palestine are members of the association, and the same applies to the units that will be established in the future according to the conditions stipulated in APLA's bylaws.

The Administrative Committee

47-member governing body that oversees APLA:

1. Permanent members numbering 17, representing the municipalities existing in the centers of the Palestinian governorates.
2. The General Assembly (GA) elects the 30 non-permanent members for a period of two years, by each in their area.

The Executive Committee

An executive committee of 25 members manages APLA:

1. 17 members representing the governorates' centers municipalities.
2. Two members from the southern governorates
3. 6 members from the northern governorates (2 Central, 2 North, 2 South)

Summary of Decisions issued by the Executive and Administrative Committees

- Discussion and approval of periodic financial reports as well as the accounts audit reports.
- Discussion of executive plans of programs, projects and activities as well as its allocated budgets.
- Approval of APLA's Multi-Annual Action Plan – funding the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Discussion of the financial committee and other committees' recommendations and decisions.
- Taking decisions concerning settling financial matters and paying APLAs due depts.
- Discussion and adoption of lobbying and advocacy mechanisms and programs to defend the local authorities' rights.
- Approval of APLAs budgets.
- Taking decisions concerning APLA's position on laws and regulations
- Submit recommendations and comments concerning the laws and regulations to the competent governmental authorities
- Discussion and approval of APLAs executive management reports.
- Study financial matters and bids.
- Approval of APLAs Human Resources Manual.
- Issue position papers concerning the events related to the work of local authorities.
- Discussing the mechanisms for addressing the financial crisis facing local authorities.
- Establish specialized committees emerging from the executive committee.
- Discussion of the challenges and issues facing local authorities and addressing the potential steps for remedy.

Meetings

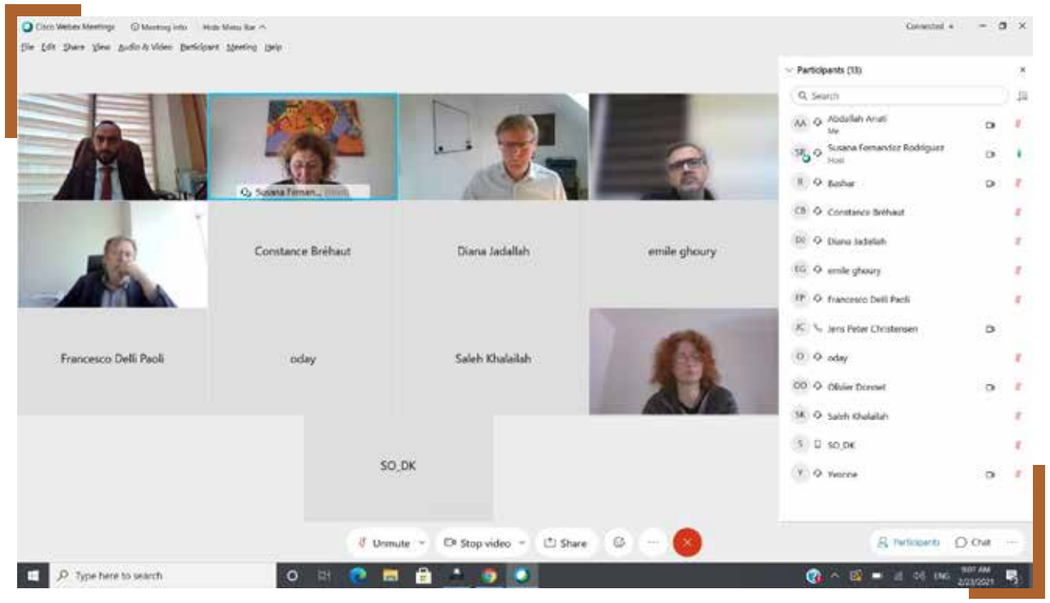
The Executive Committee meetings

The Administrative Committee meetings

The Financial Committee meeting

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Continuing the institutionalization of APLA



Administratively

- Issue the Financial Audit Report 2020
- Issue the Administrative Report 2020
- Approve the Human Resources System
- Procurement of the Human Resources System
- Initiate the preparation of Procurement Procedures Manual
- Assess the capacity development and planning needs concerning the environment and climate change.

Preparation of APLA's Multi-Annual Action Plan 2022-2025

The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) completed the preparation of a multi-annual action plan, in continuation of the implemented parts of APLA's strategic plan 2019-2022. Expert Jens Christensen was contracted in order to develop the action plan funded by the EU, in a way that realizes APLA's goals aiming to enhance the powers of local authorities, build their capacities and representation through practicing all tools and means of lobbying and advocacy.

APLA conducted a series of consultation meetings with its members and representatives of local and international partners in the frame of preparing this action plan, out of the belief that expanding the circle of participation and consultation during the preparation phase will enhance APLA members' ownership over the action plan, thus enhancing their role during the implementation phase.

Work priorities were identified based on APLA's strategic plan including enhancing the local authorities' powers and financial resources, guaranteeing enhancing their role as institutions with a great degree of response to citizen needs. Moreover, it enjoys a high level of transparency and integrity, and enhancing the values of community participation and constructive accountability, which contributes to enhancing the role of local authorities in adopting and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

Multi-Annual Action Plan "MAAP" 2021-2025

Strategic Objectives:

- The institutional and operational capacities of APLA strengthened
- The capacity of LGUs to provide better services to citizens enhanced
- The interests & needs of LGUs lobbied & advocated, locally & internationally

Main Beneficiaries:

- **Direct Beneficiaries:** The Association of the Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) and its members -the LGUs of Palestine-.
- **Final Beneficiaries:** The population of Palestine, including women and marginalized communities in Area (C).

Project overall budget: (2,144,097 Euros):

- **EU fund:** (1,900,000 Euros).
- **APLA, ENABEL and GIZ contributions in the project:** (244,097 Euros).

Project Duration:

(42 Months, starting on Dec. 2021 and ending by June 2025)

Project Work Packages (WP's):

The activities of the MAAP project are clustered around five Work Packages (WPs), corresponding to the inception phase and the three specific objectives (SO's).

1 Work Package 0 - Inception Phase (4 months):

The inception phase includes the following activities:

- TORs for the additional APLA staff are finalised
- Recruitment of additional staff is commenced
- Office retooling
- Internal kick-off workshop with the new staff to clarify roles, responsibilities, and collaborative links and to update the indicative action plan.
- The annual work plan for Year 1 is developed with milestone achievements guided by the log frame.

2 Work Package 1 - Strengthening the institutional and operational capacities of APLA:

- Formulation and activation of APLA's Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- Revision and implementation of APLA's Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan
- Enhancement and activation of APLA's Communication Strategy
- Formulation and activation of the Financial Sustainability Plan
- Upscale of APLA's organizational structure and human resource envelope

3 Work Package 2 - Member service improvements to enhance LGU capacities:

- Integrating the LGU Technical Exchange Hubs into TSU networking and service delivery
- Induction of newly elected Mayors and Councilors of the 2021 and 2022 local elections into their roles and responsibilities
- LGUs trained and supported in the Sustainable Development Goals localization
- Development of APLA Sustainable Development Goals localization plan
- Awareness raising and support on Sustainable Development Goals localizing in the LGUs

4 Work Package 3 - Piloting Local Socio-Economic Development innovations in Area C through financial support to third parties:

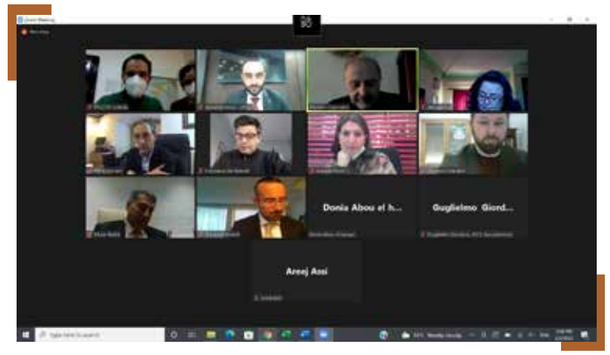
- Design and launch of the Call for Proposals -CfPs-.
- Follow-up and technical assistance to sub-grantees

5 Work Package 4 - Local and international lobbying and networking:

- Addressing LGU framework constraints through key advocacy engagements
- Fiscal decentralization
- Improving the regulatory framework for local development and service delivery
- Annexation and disaster risk management
- Advocacy related to Sustainable Development Goals localization
- Increasing the number of advocacy channels to improve advocacy impact
- APLA's partnerships with Europe, Arab and international organizations, and forums
- Facilitation of twinning agreements between Palestinian LGUs and international cities.

L.A.N.D project: Local Authorities Network for Sustainable Development

Project Duration: 3 years.



Partners:

- Union of Municipalities of Trasimeno - UCT
- Association of Palestinian Local Authorities - APLA
- Association of Municipalities for Sustainable Development - FELCOS Umbria.
- National Association of Umbrian Municipalities - ANCI Umbria.
- Union of Municipalities of Terre dell'Olio and of Sagrantino.
- Municipality of Assisi.
- Umbrian Waste and Water Authority - AURI.
- Trasimeno Environmental Services - TSA S.p.A.
- Palestinian Municipalities of Beita, Huwwara, Beit Liqia, & Nileen.

Project Budget: €489,601.21

Main Donor: the Italian Association for International Cooperation AICS

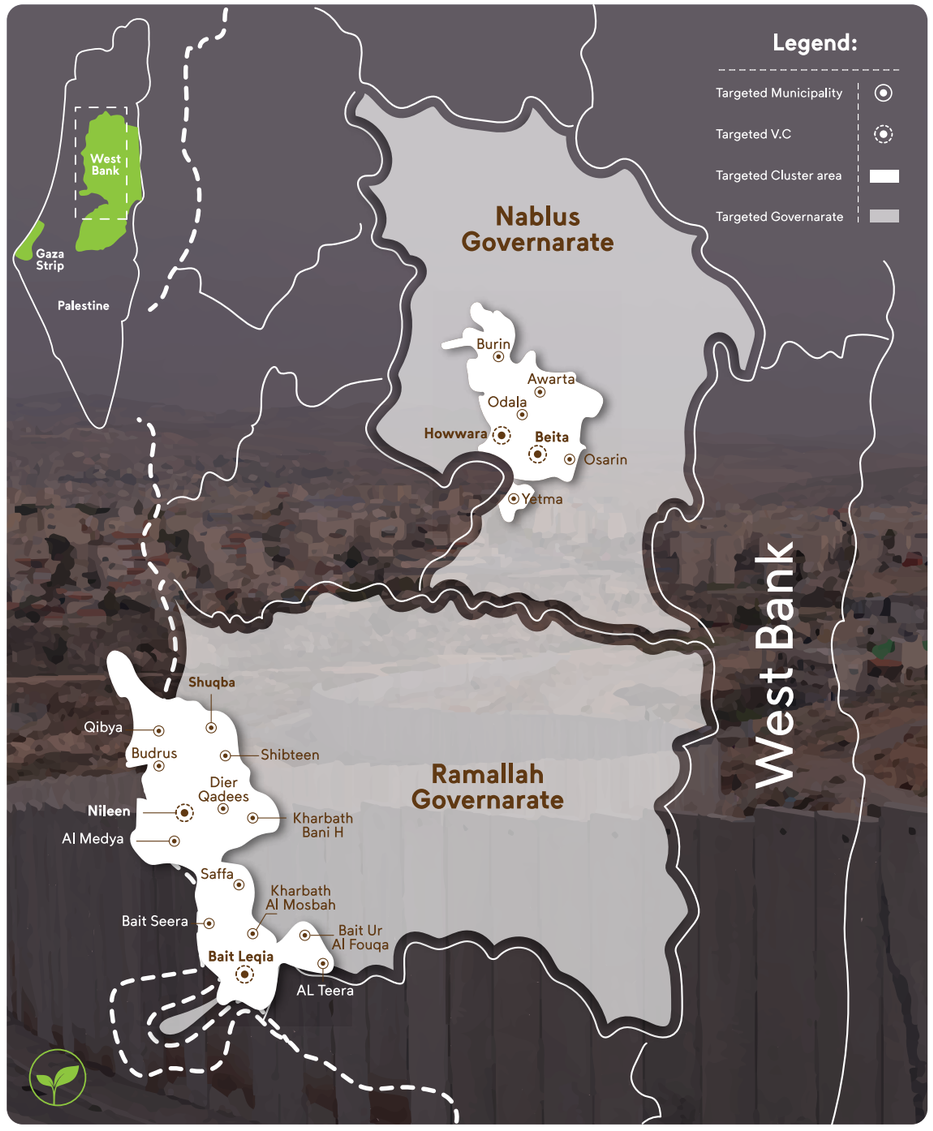
The project "Local Authorities Network for Sustainable Development" aims to support the role of Palestinian local authorities in devising comprehensive sustainable local development strategies and policies, focusing especially on protection of the environment, reform and evaluation, while considering the particularity of the Palestinian context being territorially divided. Such territories area characterized with huge economic and social differences resulting from the difficult geo-political status due to the Israeli settlements, through primary exchange of experiences among Palestinian local authorities and their counterparts in Umbria – Italy, constituting the starting point of institutional cooperation.

The project aims to achieve two key goals:

1. Enhance Palestinian local authorities' capacity for planning and management in the frame of joint environmental services with the aim of decreasing wastes, reviving green areas, and supporting circular economy initiatives.
2. Enhance the means of raising awareness and local community participation in supporting local and national strategies for environmental sustainability.

Methodology:

21 Palestinian local authorities were selected to be targeted under this project, through forming clusters for jointly working on environmental issues. Through the project the experience of Italian local authorities clusters will be shared with the targeted Palestinian local authorities, mostly located in Area C, in the areas of joint planning among municipalities and managing environmental services. This is based on the assumption that joining forces and participatory strategic planning – in the most marginalized contexts in particular – is the most efficient strategy for starting a true development process following a bottom-top approach, enhancing the services provided to citizens.



Target Clusters:

West Ramallah Cluster – Beit Liqia & Ni'lin: (14 local authorities)
Beit Liqia and Ni'lin municipalities, Midya, Beit Sira, Bodros, Deir Qeddis, Kharbatha Bani Hareth, Qebia, Saffa, Shibtin, Shuqba, Kharbatah Al-Musbah, Al-Tireh, and Beit Oor Foqa village councils.

South Nablus Cluster – Beita & Hiwwarah (7 local authorities)
Beita and Hiwwarah municipalities, Awarta, Borin, Oudala, Osarin and Yitma village councils.

Capacity Development of APLA Employees

Financial Decentralization and Local Funding Training – The Hague Academy

With the participation of: APLA Executive Director – Abdallah Anati
Supported by: Local Governance Reform Program LGRP – GIZ.

Training Topics:

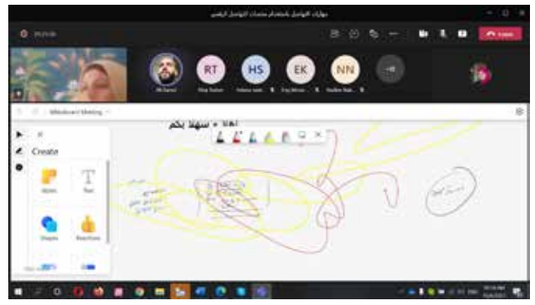
- Monitor and evaluate financial decentralization practices
- Financial management and accountability on a local level
- Design inclusive and participatory budgets
- Assess the impact of emergencies
- Plan the budgets for responding to local emergencies

Communication Skills using Social Media Platforms, Effective Written Communication

With the participation of: Communication Coordinator – Nadine Nakhleh
Organized by: LGRP-GIZ

Training Topics:

- Professional Communication – writing emails and correspondence
- Code of Conduct for writing emails
- Communication plan
- Communication and promotion of the organization locally and internationally

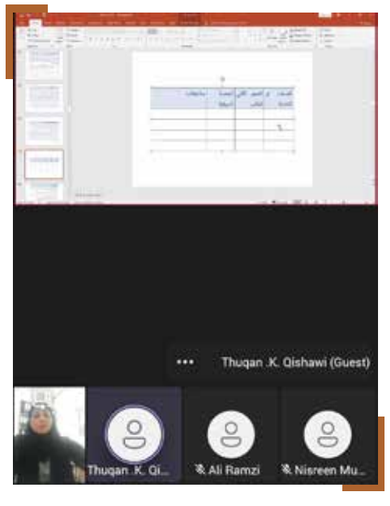


Communication and Fund-Raising Mechanisms Training

With the participation of: Communication Coordinator – Nadine Nakhleh
Organized by: LGRP-GIZ

Training Topics:

- Type of income-generating projects and activities
- Issues and challenges faced by participants
- Feasibility study of income-generating projects
- Fund raising types and strategies
- Designing sustainability plan
- Develop creative ideas for income-generating projects

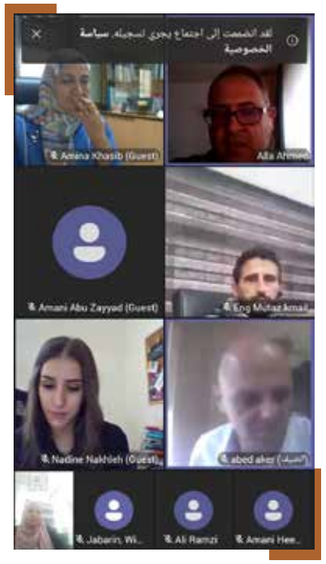


Introduction to German Culture and Local Governance System in Germany

With the participation of: Communication Coordinator – Nadine Nakhleh
Organized by: LGRP-GIZ

Training Topics:

- Introduction to German Culture
- Introduction to local governance system in Germany and working methodology
- Enhancing German-Palestinian relations and partnerships



Second Conference for Public Relations – Training sessions

With the participation of: Communication Coordinator – Nadine Nakhleh
Organized by: LGRP-GIZ

Training Topics:

- The main role of public relations in implementing local development projects and attract funding
- International relations and its role in mapping funding and international donors for projects
- Management of digital public relations, digital communication in the management of organizations
- Internal and external funding, and generating revenues, public-private partnerships
- The impact of digital communication among cultures on public and international relations

Cooperation among Academic Institutions

In the frame of APLA's cooperation with local academic institutions and enhancing conducting academic research in development aspects of the local authorities work, APLA sought to provide support to researchers in the Master's program in Local Governance/ Birzeit University in the data collection process and getting in touch with the local authorities. Furthermore, a training for some public administration students was conducted in the fields of work of APLA and sustainable development issues.

PROJECT AND PROGRAMS

Capacity Enhancement and Enhancing Marginalized Groups' Participation in Village Councils

Joint funding:

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Germany

Selection committee:

- APLA
- Ministry of Local Government "MoLG"
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- LGRP-GIZ

Number of applying Village Councils: 66
Number of selected Village Councils: 58

Areas of support:

- Activities for identifying the priorities of the marginalized groups in the strategic development plan of the village council
- Social accountability activities for enhancing the dialogue mechanisms between the village council and its citizens
- Activities for enhancing the financial capacity of local councils
- Village - Physical planning support activities
- Activities related to providing office equipment (computers, printers, ...)

منصات تبادل الخبرات
Technical Exchange Hubs

The "Technical Hubs" aim to enhance the development and reform process in planning the administrative, financial and accountability aspects for local authorities in Palestine, increase the experience and knowledge of the largest number of local authorities' employees in emerging and important technical issues, in addition to increasing communication and networking among the employees and workers of local authorities in Palestine.
The Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) is responsible for the coordination and organization of the activities of the Technical Hubs in partnership with the Local Governance Reform Program (LGRP) – GIZ funded by BMZ.

5 Technical Hubs were created (Public Relations, Engineering and Planning, Financial Management, Creativity and Innovation, Village Councils).

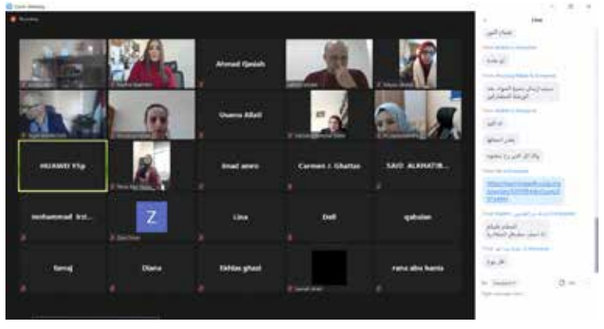
Public Relations Hub

Training: Localization of the Sustainable Development Agenda "SDGs 2030" and its integration into public relations' work

Speakers: Sayel Hanoun – Ministry of Local Government, Nadine Nakhleh – APLA

Trainer: Samer Raddad
Number of local authorities: 32

Number of participants: 43 24 19



Most important topics:

- Introduction to the Sustainable Development Agenda(SDGs)
- The importance of integrating the global sustainable development agenda in the work of public relations and communication departments of local authorities
- Efforts of the Ministry of Local Government in localizing SDGs 2030
- The role of local authorities in achieving SDGs

Training: Innovative Marketing of Local Authorities

Trainer: A'la Abu Ali | **Number of local authorities:** 15

Number of participants: 27 17 10

Main topics:

- Introduction on "Innovative Marketing of Local Authorities" training
- Exploring the steps and phases of innovative marketing for local authorities and its importance
- Exploring strategies of innovative marketing of local authorities and utilizing them in attracting tourists
- Defining innovative marketing of local authorities and its importance
- Innovating a brand for the city and linking it to local authorities
- Benefiting from social media platforms and integrating them in the marketing process
- Using uncommon means in promoting and attracting attention as well as thinking outside the box

Engineering and Planning Hub

Workshop: Planning and Working in Area "C"

Speakers: Dr. Hashem Al-Masri – Mayor of Qalqilya Municipality, Jehad Rabay'a – Ministry of Local Government, Eng. Khawlah Al-Tawil – Joint Cooperation Unit (Ramallah, AlBireh, and Betunia), Eng. Dima Joudeh – Al-Bireh Municipality, Eng. Bisan Etmizy – Ethna Municipality

Number of local authorities: 21

Number of participants: 27 12 15

Main topics:

- Experience and vision of the Ministry of Local Government in urban planning and strategic planning for Area "C"
- Experience of Qalqilya Municipality in developing a complete structure for expansion areas inside and outside the wall
- Experiences of local authorities in the guiding framework and expansion areas, which are mostly located in Area "C"

Workshop: Building Partnerships and Twinning with Local Authorities Locally and Internationally

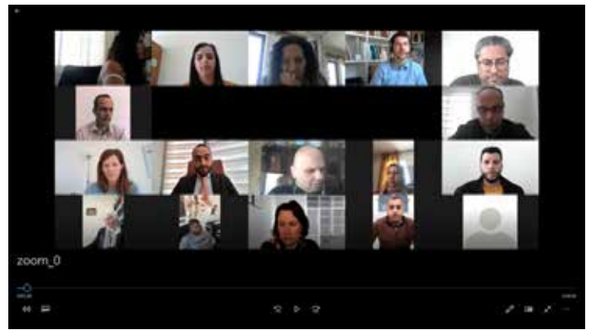
Speakers: Sa'ed Al-Khatib – Hebron Municipality, David Lance – Manheim Municipality, Yassir A'bed – Decentralized Cooperation Network for Palestine RCDP, Abed Aker – Nablus Municipality, Ghadah Nasrallah – Beit Jala Municipality

Number of local authorities: 31

Number of participants: 45 19 26

Main Topics:

- The partnership experience between Hebron Municipality and its counterpart the German Manheim Municipality in localizing SDGs 2030
- Establishing partnerships between the local authorities and their international counterparts
- Nablus Municipality experience in establishing and forming partnerships and twinning relations
- Beit Jala Municipality experience under the title "International partnerships and cultural exchange at the core of municipal agenda"



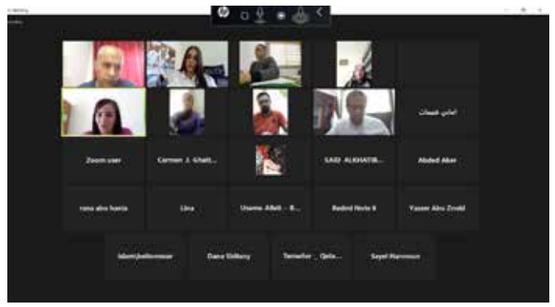
Training: International Partnerships Strategies

Trainer: A'la Abu Ali | **Number of local authorities:** 40

Number of participants: 40 24 16

Main topics:

- The importance of devising clear strategies for partnerships
- Mechanisms of developing strategies, specifications of partnerships, roles and functions within partnerships
- Preparation and contract phases
- Preparing work, implementation and control programs
- Communication techniques, funding issues and legal aspects



Main topics:

- Working groups: urban and master planning drawing representing the ideal and sustainable city elements from their perspective
- Introduction to master, development and strategic urban planning
- Illustrating the SDGs and their indicators
- Integrating SDGs into the work of local authorities and its importance as a language for dialogue in interacting with donors
- Linking the relation between SDGs and urban planning
- Exploring the steps of preparing the guiding framework plans for spatial development and showing cases from Palestinian reality

Innovation and Creativity Hub

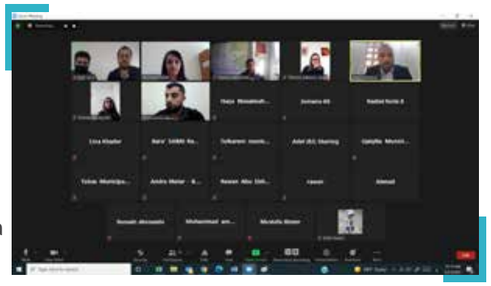
Exchange of Experiences: Establishing a Geographical Information System (GIS)

Speakers: Eng. A'del Liddawi & Eng. Ibrahim Instas – Beit Jala Municipality, Dr. Marcos Meinhardt – Jena Municipality (Germany), Eng. Haytham Hamamdeh – Yatta Municipality, Eng. Rawan Abu Aisheh – Hebron Municipality.

Number of local authorities: 16

Number of participants: 30 16 14

Main topics:



- Experience of Beit Jala Municipality in building and developing a GIS system and how to enlist it on the municipality strategic plan
- Experience of Beit Jala Municipality in establishing a partnership for exchange experiences on developing GIS systems with its counterpart German Municipality of Jena
- Development of GIS system in Yatta Municipality
- Experience and accomplishments of Hebron Municipality
- Summary on the guidance activities provided by Hebron Municipality to other municipalities in 2020

Workshop: Fund Raising and Marketing Proposals

Speakers: Allam Al-Ash-hab – Hebron Municipality, Eng. Ziyad Al-Sayeh – Bethlehem Municipality, Nuha Ghneim – Ramallah Municipality.

Number of local authorities: 16

Number of participants: 21 11 10

Main topics:

- Hebron Municipality methodology for preparing the strategic plan and fund raising
- Working mechanism followed by Bethlehem Municipality for fund raising through international cooperation projects.
- Stages of submitting the proposal "Connecting Roads in Ramallah City" – Ramallah Municipality.

Workshop: Discussing Study Draft "Organization, Building bylaws and Local Authorities Rights"

Consultant: Ashraf Abu Hayyeh

Number of local authorities: 15

Number of participants: 25 11 14

Main topics:

- Introduction on the draft study and the purpose behind its development
- Summary of the legislations related to organization and construction
- Authorities responsible for organizing cities and villages
- Incoming remarks concerning the formation of the various organization committees and their jurisdiction

Training: Integrated Holistic Urban Planning – Strategic and Masterplans

Trainer: Dr. Khalid Rajab

Number of local authorities: 26

Number of participants: 26 13 13

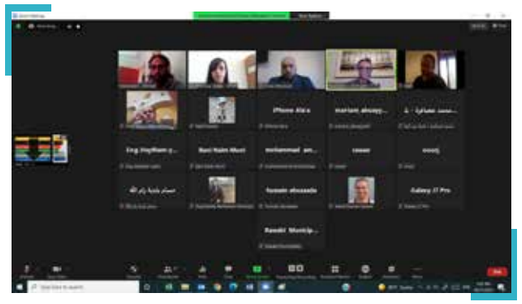
Training: Strategic Planning for GIS Systems at Municipalities

Speakers: Consultant Pole Jero – Canada | **Number of local authorities:** 21

Number of participants: 21 6 15

Main topics:

- Introducing the international model for evaluating and managing geographical information in organizations "Slimgim"
- Establish "Slimgim" in institutions
- Explore the model of maturity of capacity for managing geographical information and its importance
- The importance of the executive structure at municipalities for applying the software
- Exploring geographical data models related to "Slimgim" in Palestine



"Promotion the Rights of People with Disabilities in Palestine" Project

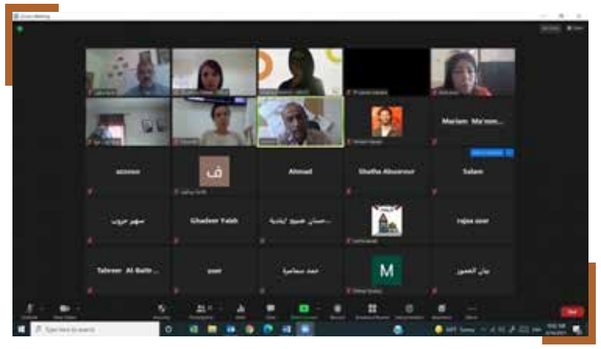
The "Promotion of the rights of PwDs in Palestine" project aims to empower, mainstream and guarantee the inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in the Palestinian society at all levels. Project is implemented in cooperation and partnership with "EducAid", an Italian NGO funded by AICS, in partnership with several organizations in Palestine including APLA, aiming to:

- Enhance the capacities of local authorities and the civil society in the issues of empowerment and integration of people with disabilities.
- Contribute to enhancing the rights of people with disabilities by increasing social and economic empowerment provided to them and their families as well as the organizations and associations interested in their needs and promoting their rights.

In the frame of APLA's commitment to developing its policies and executing its procedures in a manner that guarantees considering the different needs and inclusion of all, APLA seeks through the ""Promotion of the rights of PwDs in Palestine" Project to develop the capacities of local authorities and enhance their competence in a way that guarantees the empowerment, mainstreaming and inclusion of people with disabilities through responding to their various needs and creating accommodating conditions allowing them more opportunities in the economic, social, professional and public life spheres.

Workshop: Developing the Self-Audit Tool concerning Disability

Speakers: Federico Siyani & Shira Chimiri – ARCO (Italian Organization)



Number of participants:

First day: 34 20 14
Second day: 27 20 7
Third day: 17 13 4

Main topics:

- Exploring the key objectives and desired outcomes from implementing the project
- Presenting the project activities and selection mechanism of participating local authorities
- Presenting the philosophy of the self-audit tool concerning disability and the way it was drafted
- Presenting the methodology of completing the self-audit tool, the completion manual, and key points
- Success stories on the participation of persons with disabilities and their integration in municipalities and local institutions' work plans, as well as the challenges they face

Launching Ceremony of the Promotion the Rights of PwDs in Palestine Project

Speakers: 9 5 4

Number of participants: 90 39 51

Main topics:

- Review the main objectives and desired results of the project
- Presenting the project activities and the mechanism for selecting the participating local authorities
- Presenting the philosophy of the disability Self-Audit tool and the way it formulated
- Presenting the methodology for the self-audit tool, and key points
- Success stories about the participation and inclusion of PwDs in the municipalities and local institutions' work plans and the challenges they face

Training: Inclusion of the Issues of Persons with Disabilities in Local Authorities' Agendas

Trainers: Wala' Al-Jamal & Mohammad Abu Khalil (Middle), Hamad Samamrah & Atheer Al-Sa'dah (South), and Ghadeer Ya'ish & Sali Zyoud (North)

Number of participants:

- Training 1: Middle – 20 participants 16 4
- Training 2: Middle – 15 participants 11 4
- Training 3: South – 33 participants 18 15
- Training 4: South – 14 participants 11 3
- Training 5: North – 28 participants 25 3
- Training 6: North – 25 participants 17 8

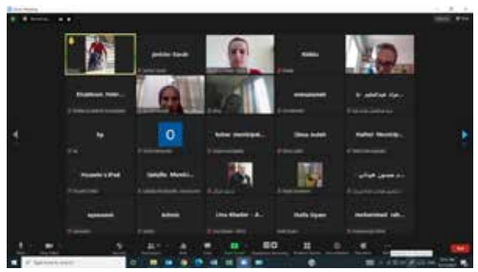
Main topics:

- Presenting the basic tools and concepts of disability that simulate the integration of people with disability and access to public facilities and utilities
- The importance of having designs that simulate and address human diversity in terms of skills and needs
- Defining the concept of "inclusive building/space"
- Presenting the statistics concerning people with disabilities in Europe, the World and Palestine
- Characteristics of people with disabilities in Palestine and economic, educational and psychological hardships
- The role of technicians in enhancing the integration of people with disabilities
- Definition of inclusive design
- Exploring real examples on various designs and how it addresses people with disabilities
- Exploring real examples on mobility and challenges faced by people with disabilities

Training: Inclusive design mechanisms to facilitate PWDs' access to public services and facilities

Trainer: Fabrizio Mezzalana

Number of participants: 61 38 23



Main topics:

- Presenting the basic tools and concepts of disability that simulate the inclusion of PWDs to access public facilities
- The importance of having designs that simulate and address human diversity in terms of skills and needs
- Defining the concept of "building/comprehensive space"
- Presenting PwDs' statistics in Europe, Palestine, and the world
- Characteristics of PwDs in Palestine and their difficulties in terms of economic, educational and psychological aspects
- The role of technicians in order to improve the inclusion of PwDs
- Defining overall design
- Presenting real examples of various designs and how a PwDs deals with them
- Presenting real-life examples of mobility and difficulties faced by PwDs

Workshop: Manual on Responding to Complaints in Local Authorities (Computerized and Non-Computerized)

Speakers: Abeer Al-Mashni

Number of participants:

First day: 35 15 20
Second day: 24 10 14
Third day: 12 6 6

Main topics:

- Responding to complaints
- Documenting data related to complaints
- General trends for effective response

"Empowering Local Authorities in Planning in Crises Management" Programme

GIZ, the Connective Cities Programme, and the partner organization Kompetus launched a training program targeting the technical teams working at the strategic planning departments and local economic development (LED) units. APLA played an organizational role with the aim of guaranteeing the quality of outcomes and preparing a clear tool that contributes to supporting local authorities in developing plans and strategies for managing crises and emergencies.
The programme included representatives from civil society organizations and the private sector capable of active contribution. Needs and obstacles to crises planning were identified by focusing on the development of the skills of local authorities' employees and the mechanism necessary for planning and structural building for managing the emergency committees in health, education and economic sectors as well as recovery plans.

"Enhancing Palestinian Resilience through Green Buildings" Project

The Palestinian Council for Green Buildings received recently a grant from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development with the aim of supporting the Palestinian society resilience through green buildings, working on various dimensions, most importantly creating a system of incentives for green buildings, especially water and energy efficiency, and building the capacities of Palestinian youth.

Project Steering Committee:

- APLA
- Palestinian Energy Authority
- Environment Quality Authority
- Council of Ministers
- Investment Promotion Commission

APLA worked also on providing aid and support through communicating with local authorities to guarantee their active participation in the program activities and engaging in the specialized trainings on green buildings.

Main activities:

- 3 meetings were convened by the steering committee
- Two meetings for local authorities coordinated by APLA
- 11 local authorities participated in the project activities – nominated by APLA
- 10 training courses specialized in green buildings issues
- 13 MoUs were signed with local authorities nominated by APLA. The local authorities who signed these MoUs are committed to adopting the proposed incentive systems to encourage green practices in Palestinian buildings and its affiliated investments and job opportunities, in conformity with the municipality's policy and vision, while the Organizational Council for Green Buildings is committed to the following:

1. Provide necessary guidance to the municipal staff as needed
2. Build the capacities of the municipal staff
3. The proposed incentives will be presented through a platform under the project that will be established
4. Introduce the municipality to global trends through its membership in the Higher Council for Green Buildings and the Network of Middle East Councils
5. Sharing the results of research to be conducted by the council related to buildings economic feasibility in addition to Buildings Rehabilitation Study with the aim of saving energy
6. The municipality will share its experience through presenting it during the Green Buildings Conference.

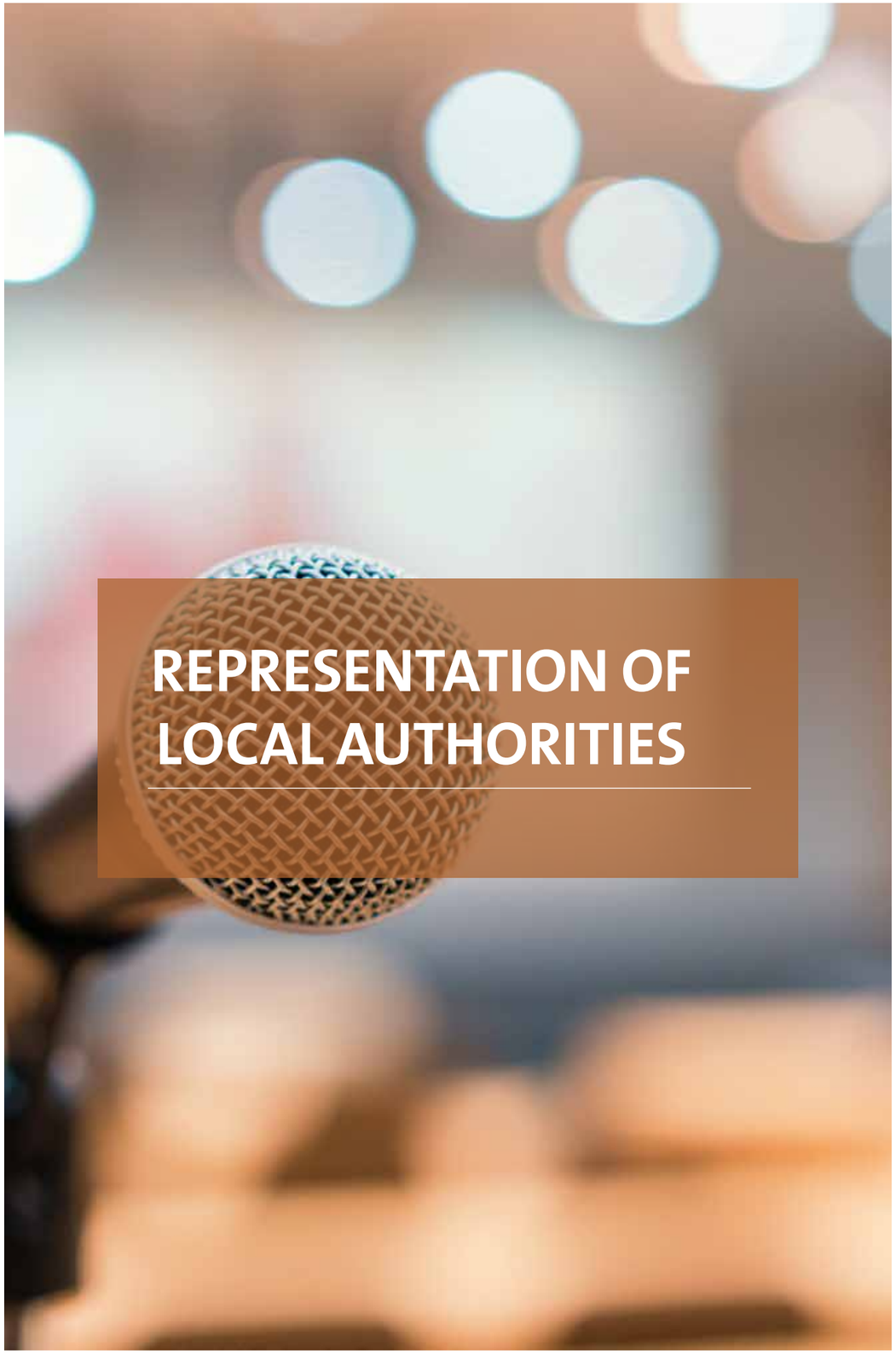
Annual Report 2021

"Making Cities Resilient – UNDRR" Programme

UNDRR launched the Making Cities Resilient Programme 2010, and since its launching 4360 cities around the world joined it (including Palestinian cities). the programme aims to enhance cities' understanding of risks and guaranteeing their adherence to the Risk Mitigation Plans and Local Resilience, enhancing cities capacity for developing local strategies/plans for enhancing their resilience, in addition to supporting cities in implementing local strategies/plans to enhance their resilience through the following:

- Provide evidence-based information in order to enhance the cities' perception of local risks
- Enhance self-assessment skills through providing training and tools related to strategic planning for disaster risk mitigation.
- Obtain funding to support the implementation of local strategies and plans for enhancing resilience.
- Enhance local authorities' capacity for infrastructure planning and using nature-based solutions.

APLA played an organizational role for the participation of Palestinian local authorities in the programme before the end of 2021, to guarantee their active participation in the programme's activities for the new year, and communicated with 66 local authorities, 22 of which submitted for the membership of the programme and to benefit from its activities and events.



REPRESENTATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

REPRESENTATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

APLA's Membership in Committees – 2021:

APLA is the representatives of the local authorities in Palestine, APLA handles the representation of their interests and priorities at the local level and in international arenas. APLA is also keen through its connections and partnerships with ministries, civil society organizations, and partner organizations to put the local priorities at the front of national strategies and plans, enhance the role of local authorities in making policies and enhancing their powers through providing a voice to local authorities during national dialogues and presence in all activities, meetings and relevant committees.

APLA regularly participates in the meetings of donor organizations' projects and programs steering committees established to follow up and coordinate the efforts exerted in supporting and aiding local authorities, especially in advocating their interests: such as the steering committee of the Local Governance Reform Program, meetings with the World Bank, the Belgium Agency for Cooperation and Development, the EU, VNG and others.

- **Preparatory Committee for the National Day for Local Economic Development.**
- **The Committee for Amending the Building bylaws for Local Authorities No. (6) of 2011.**
- **Committee of paints Specifications.**
- **The Legal Committee for Reviewing the law of Municipal Courts**
- **The National Taskforce for the Third Palestinian Urban Forum**
- **The National Taskforce – the National Center for Disaster Risk Management.**
- **The Local Governance Sector Working Group.**
- **The technical committees emerging from the sectoral committee**
- **The National Taskforce for the Preparation of Reviving Heritage Locations Policy**
- **The Committee for implementing the partnership plans between municipalities and the private sector**
- **The Steering Committee of "Enhancing Palestinian Resilience through Green Buildings" project**
- **Taskforce for reviewing the local authorities' election**
- **The National Taskforce for SDG 11 in the State of Palestine**
- **The National Taskforce for Preparing the Urban Policy**
- **The Technical Committee for Localizing the Indicators of SDGs 2030**
- **Dialogue committees with unions and syndicates**

Property Tax

- APLA followed up the developments concerning the decision issued by the Council of Minister in its session No. (130) regarding launching a pilot project for transferring the jurisdiction of collecting property tax to a number of local authorities to empower them to provide financial sustainability and facilitate providing services to citizens.

- APLA communicated with the municipalities selected for the pilot project for transferring the collection of property tax, inviting them to inform APLA of any communications with them concerning the collection of property tax, in order to guarantee the municipality assuming its full jurisdiction and rights with this regard.

Balancing the status of Local Authorities employees with an academic achievement below university degree

- In partnership with the Ministry of Local Government and the National Union of Local Authorities' Employees, special instructions have been prepared and issued regarding the conditions of local authorities' employees who have an academic qualification below university degree, or who do not have a scientific qualification for a supervisory position, as these instructions aimed to balance these employees status according to specific standards.

Education Tax bylaws

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Education, APLA completed discussions aimed at preparing the final version of the education tax bylaws. APLA had submitted a proposal that seek to meet the aspirations of local authorities and maintain their rights and independence, as well as addressing all issues and obstacles facing education tax committees in its current form.

Joint Service Council Employees bylaws

- APLA is continuing its work with the Ministry of Local Government on the local authorities' employees' bylaws for the employees of joint service councils.

The Construction and Demolition Wastes Management Bylaws

- APLA delivered the final version of the Construction and Demolition Wastes Management bylaws to the Ministry of Local Government, based on the amendments made to the bylaws by APLA and MoLG in 2019.

Draft Code of Conduct for Local Authorities and Joint Services Council Employees

- APLA reached out to local authorities concerning their notes on the draft code of conduct of the employees of local authorities and joint services councils. A joint remarks paper was made on behalf of all local authorities, in a way that guarantees the vision of local authorities and their goals, while adhering to a voluntary moral commitment to a set of guiding principles, which constitute the foundation of adhering to principles of fairness, transparency, integrity and accountability in the work of local authorities.

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Laws, Bylaws and Policies regulating the Local Governance Sector

APLA exerts great efforts and allocates considerable resources for following up the activities of building and developing the policies regulating the local governance sector in Palestine as a representative of the local authorities, practicing pressure, expressing positions and tendencies before all parties in favor of the local authorities, in a way that guarantees not to influence or undermine their jurisdiction and powers.

APLA's administration follows up and assesses the needs of local authorities under its plan for reviewing the organizational framework of local authorities and developing it. During the last year, APLA worked on a set of laws, regulations and policies in cooperation with partner local organizations and relevant ministries.

Municipal Courts Law

- A legal committee was established for reviewing the municipal courts law: chaired by the High Judicial Council with the membership of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Local Government, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, Public Prosecution, the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, represented by APLA President Eng. Musa Hadid and APLA's secretary Adv. Anton Salman.

- The mentioned committee prepared the amended draft law taking into consideration APLA's remarks and comments.

- Discussing the idea of APLA developing a vision on establishing an executive arm for local authorities "Municipal Police", clarifying (administrative, structural and executive chain of command) in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government and the Police.

Customs Bylaws

- APLA prepared its comments and remarks on the Customs Law with the aim of enabling local authorities to benefit from the savings in costs resulting from custom exemption for some items – in case of its approval and inclusion by law – with the aim of developing the local authorities' services of all forms and types. In addition, providing vital facilities for accommodating the accelerating people and urban development, as well as establishing addition schools to accommodate the proportionally increasing numbers of school students, limiting the issues of evening shifts in high density population areas. The aim is to benefit from this abundance in establishing additional more vital projects, as local authorities are considered the strategic partner of State institutions and contributes with them in country's prosperity and realizing sustainable development, support the Palestinian national economy and provide services to the general public.

Local Authorities Election Law

- APLA participated in the Taskforce for reviewing the Local Authorities Election Law in terms of its inclusion of the principles of integrity, transparency and governance established by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Draft Standard Tree of Accounts, its Manuals, and Budget Preparation

- APLA reached out to the financial managers at local authorities concerning the issues and obstacles they face during the preparation of their budgets in reference to the draft tree of standard accounts and its manuals. They were not able to submit it due to that; a paper was developed including a list of issues they faced and proposed solutions. After, a meeting with a group of financial managers at local authorities was conducted with the ministry to discuss all comments and consider it in a way that guarantees overcoming those obstacles and issues.

A Study on the Telecommunication Sector and the Role of Local Authorities

- APLA prepared a study on the Telecommunications sector and the role of local authorities, following the endorsement of the new law concerning the telecommunications sector with complete exclusion of local authorities from any role in this field, knowing that all infrastructure works of the telecommunications sector are largely connected to the jurisdiction areas of local authorities and their roles with this regard.

- The study provided a revision of all bylaws, laws, guidelines and strategies regulating the telecommunications sector in Palestine, analyzing and linking it to the role of local authorities.

Advocacy Processes:

During last year, APLA conducted several meetings and workshops in order to discuss priority issues of local authorities and enhance national partnership with the government, its institutions and local organizations related to the local governance sector in order to enhance the jurisdiction and powers of local authorities, empowering them to provide services to citizens throughout the borders of the State of Palestine. Many of these issues were referred to the temporary committees resulting from the executive committee, such as the Committee for dialogue with the National Union of Local Authorities Employees and the Ministry of Local Government which reached to consensus on some demands of the local authorities' engineers and accountants. Such committee includes APLA's President – Eng. Musa Hadid, APLA's Secretary – Adv. Anton Salman, APLA's Treasury – Dr. Mohammad Ya'qoub, Member of the Executive Committee – Dr. Hashim Al-Masri, APLA's Executive Director – Eng. Abdallah Anati.

During its regular meetings and its meetings with the relevant ministries and organizations, APLA executive committee discussed several issues, including the procedures of the Ministry of Finance concerning crafts fees, which undergone a legal review, and the issues facing local authorities regarding the fiber networks, as APLA explored during its meetings with the Ministry of Telecommunications all issues in order to arrive at fair solutions for the local authorities. During its meetings with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Local Government, APLA discussed addressing the debts and due amounts owed for the local authorities and by them at the government. A committee was established from APLA, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Local Government to develop a clearing mechanism by scheduling accumulated debts.

Following the issuance of the decision of the Council of Ministers concerning the dissolving of all municipal councils and transforming them to temporary transitional committees until convening elections. APLA prepared an executive list aiming to clarify powers and responsibilities of local councils, including budgets, given the councils continue working according to the approved budget 2021. It also included employment, the ability to employ according to the formations and budget approved for 2021, identify the limits of the powers of the directors of Local Government Directorates, adhering to the instructions of H.E. Minister of Local Government, dictating limiting the intervention of the directorates to the laws and regulations. The items of this list were approved by the Ministry of Local Government demanding finalizing the stagnating accumulated financial dues in favor of local authorities in order to complete ongoing projects and meet the commitments expected of it until the convening of local elections.

APLA's executive committee meeting chaired by Eng. Musa Hadid with the Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Ishtayeh, attended by Minister of Local Government, Eng. Majdi Al-Saleh and the Minister of Finance, Dr. Shukri Bsharah

- The Prime Minister discussed with APLA the mechanism of addressing the local authorities' debts and dues with the government.
- Ishtayeh ordered the establishment of a committee comprised of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Government and APLA to assume its work effective immediately, putting a clearing mechanism to address this issue, by scheduling the accumulated debts, in a way that contributes to continuing the provision of services to citizens, and improving the municipal development sector.
- Ishtayeh emphasized the importance of strengthening partnership and cooperation between the government and local authorities, in order to provide better services to citizens and enhance infrastructure in a way that enhances their resilience in their cities, towns and villages.
- The Prime Minister called local authorities to submit their implementable projects, in order to benefit from the projects that will be approved funded by the Arab and Islamic Funds, in addition to 100 million ILS, the government allocated for the infrastructure of ministries, establishments and municipalities.

International Relations

APLA Meets with the Italian Consul General to Jerusalem

President of APLA, Eng. Musa Hadid and APLA's Executive Director, Eng. Abdallah Anati, met with the Italian Consul General to Jerusalem, Giuseppe Fedele in APLA's office in Ramallah, discussing means of enhancing joint cooperation between Palestinian cities and their Italian counterparts. Eng. Hadid explained the national role of Palestinian municipalities and continuing to provide services despite political obstacles, inviting Italian municipalities to visit Palestine to get more acquainted with the reality of municipalities and working on exchange of experiences between both sides.

On his behalf, the Italian Ambassador appreciated the efforts APLA do to improve the local governance sector in Palestine, emphasizing the importance of institutionalizing the relation between them to enhance partnership between municipalities from both sides and benefit from their existing experiences.

German Union of Cities (DST)

APLA met with its German counterpart under the frame of the potential and means of enhancing their partnership by signing a long-term MoU based on a clear action plan, focused on identifying aspects of cooperation and technical exchange for the period 2022-2023.

APLA identified priorities of cooperation, where DTS provides technical support to the employees of APLA, programs for enhancing the capacities of APLA members, in addition to supporting APLA in developing an electronic platform on the localization of SDGs. furthermore, APLA will be informed and charged of conveying announcement of their international events to activate Palestinian participation in such events.

United Cities and Local Governments "UCLG"

APLA seeks through its active membership at UCLG to open horizons for local authorities to participate in international initiatives, enhance international relations, establish twinning relations and direct channels between Palestinian local authorities and their counterparts from other countries. APLA also maintains its continuous presence in the organization's sections meetings, gatherings and conferences in the Middle East and West Asia UCLG-MEWA in order to represent local authorities and expand the base of members from Palestinian local authorities.

- President of APLA Eng. Musa Hadid is a member of the World Policy Council "Opportunities for All, Culture, and City Diplomacy: Key to Sustainable Development"
- APLA is a member of World Council and the Executive Bureau of UCLG
- 8 Palestinian members of the UCLG World Council:
- APLA, Asira Ash Shamaliah Municipality, Bani Naim Municipality, Hebron Municipality, Ramallah Municipality, Nablus Municipality, Beit Sahour Municipality, Taffouh Municipality
- APLA Co-President of UCLG-MEWA
- APLA is a co-president of the policy council on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy

International City/County Management Association "ICMA"

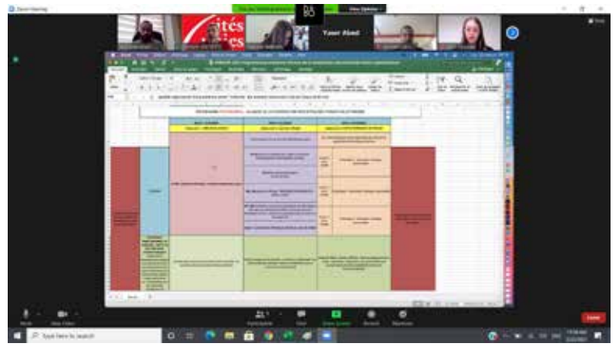
APLA signed a partnership agreement with ICMA in 2018 paving the path for the directors of local authorities to join its membership. APLA is an active partner, as it participates and organizes the participation of local authorities' directors in the organization's annual conferences. It also participates in the periodic reports published in the email newsletters of the organization. Additionally, a capacity building and exchange program is being organized in addition to the project of translating the publications of ICMA, which includes the largest number of references, books and studies related to local governance in general and city management in particular.

French Decentralized Cooperation Network – Union of French Cities

APLA in cooperation with the French Decentralized Cooperation Network for Palestine affiliated with the Union of French Cities, conducted a preparatory meeting for the Palestinian-French Decentralized Cooperation Conference to be organized regularly with participation of Palestinian local authorities and their French counterparts.

Both sides agreed for Palestine to hold the conference in 2022, to be convened during the last quarter of the year, knowing that the chain of preparatory meetings are convened between both sides in order to follow up the organization procedures and all technical and logistical aspects.

It is worth mentioning that the decentralized cooperation conference aims to support cooperation and twinning projects between the Palestinian and French local authorities, enhancing the exchange of experiences among them concerning practices, tolls and steering polices in areas of common interest, in addition to providing an opportunity for Palestinian local authorities to open new horizons of cooperation with their French counterparts by establishing new partnerships.



Participations

Workshop on the role of cooperatives in supporting economic and social development in Palestine

Speaker: Nadine Nakhleh – Communication Coordinator

Organized by: Felcos Umbria – Italy/ APLA

topics:

- The role of APLA in enhancing the capacities of local authorities and their cadres in supporting the local economic development process.
- The role of local authorities in enhancing local production.
- Obstacles facing local authorities in realizing development.
- Development projects adopted by some local authorities at a local level.

APLA chairs a session on Urban Planning during the annual meeting of UCLG

Speaker:Eng. Musa Hadid – APLA's President, as Co-President of UCLG-MEWA.

Organized by: UCLG

topics:

- Flexible urban planning as one of the five priorities identified for the UCLG section in the Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA).
- The importance of urban and sustainable development and its role in enabling local authorities to address the challenges and identify the needs necessary to face them.

Local Authorities for International Cooperation in Palestine Conference

Speakers:

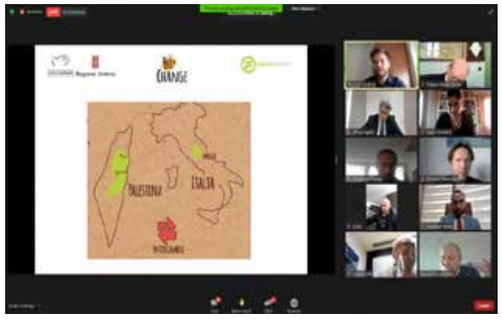
Eng. Musa Abu Hadid – APLA's President

- The role of local authorities in localizing SDGs 2030
- The importance of decentralized cooperation among countries
- The ramifications of Covid-19 pandemic on achieving development on the local level

Ahmad Ardah – Mayor of Arrabah Municipality

- The experience of Arrabah Municipality in supporting local economic and social development, supporting cooperatives and creating job opportunities for the people of the town in the economic sector.
- Success stories realized by the municipality and the challenges

Organized by: UCLG



International Regional Conference of ICMA

Speaker: Abdallah Anati – APLA's Executive Director

Organized by: ICMA

topics:

- Mechanisms of communication between local authorities and citizens during crises
- How local authorities developed public audience communication strategies
- Communication channels with citizens during the crisis.

Conference under the title "the Right to the City under Occupation: The Case of Palestine"

Organized by:UCLG-MEWA

Speakers and Topics:

Mohammad Hussien – Jerusalem and Holylands Mufti: Jerusalem and Arbitrary Restrictions preventing Palestinian Muslims and Christians from Praying

Issam Far'oun – Mayor of Al-Aizariyeh Municipality: Issues of the Apartheid Wall erected between Al-Aizariyen and Jerusalem as well as its impact on citizens' lives.

Tayseer Abu Sneineh – Mayor of Hebron Municipality: The Impact of Dividing Hebron into H1 and H2.

Eng. Musa Hadid – Mayor of Ramallah Municipality: The Municipality's experience in the project of re-dividing lands in the expansion plans

Mohammad Al-Ramahi – Director General of the Municipal Development and Lending Fund: The Fund's Role in supporting the Cities in Gaza Strip in the development and planning process in light of the land, aerial and water siege on the Strip.

Mohammad Azem – President of Froush Beit Dajan Village Council: Current situation in the Jordan Valley areas threatened with confiscation and the role of local authorities in supporting the citizens' resilience.

ARD Lab Workshop (Joint work, community committees and its relationship to the environment)

Speaker: Nadine Nakhleh – Communication Coordinator

Organized by:Local Governance Development and Reform Programme – Belgium Development and Cooperation Agency

topics:

- Roadmap – localizing SDGs
- APLA's strategic plans and SDGs related to the environment and climate change
- APLA's role in capacity development of local authorities' employees with regards to SDGs
- APLA's role in raising awareness of local authorities concerning the SDGs
- Creating an accommodating environment through advocacy processes
- Technical and legal support unit at APLA

ICMA's Annual Conference

Speaker:Eng. Abdelmo'emen Afaneh

Organized by: ICMA

topics:

- Challenges faced by municipal managers during and after Covid-19 crisis in general
- APLA's role in supporting local authorities through coordinating with the central government, donors and partners
- Networking and potential horizons of cooperation through enhancing partnerships based on the exchange of knowledge and experiences

International Conference titled "Local Systems and Policies based on Energy"

Speaker:Abdallah Anati – APLA's Executive Director

Organized by:Bethlehem Municipality

topics:

- APLA's strategic plan and implementing SDGs on a local level
- APLA's role in enhancing investment in human resources through designing programs and trainings in the different fields of energy
- Provide opportunities to local authorities, whether in training, financing or exchange of experiences… etc.
- Identify priorities, guide donors and partner organizations to support local authorities in the fields of renewable energy.
- APLA's role in reviewing, suggesting and developing policies and contributing to the legislations affecting the sector
- Future aspirations

Participating in Roundtable Discussions titled "Partnership between the Public and Private Sectors from the Private Sector Perspective"

Speaker:Abdallah Anati – APLA's Executive Director

Organized by:the Palestinian Institute for Economic Policy Research "MAS"

topics:

- Presenting APLA's and local authorities' perspective on issues of partnership with the private sector.

Fifth Conference for Palestinian-German Municipal Partnerships"

Speaker:Nadine Nakhleh – Communication Coordinator

Organized by:LGRP-GIZ

topics:

- Efforts of local authorities in facing Covid-19 pandemic
- Local authorities between basic and emerging services
- Inclusive and comprehensive services
- Ramifications of the spread of the "Coronavirus" on local authorities and the interventions they must implement.

Experiences of Tunisia and Palestine Municipalities and opportunities for applying them to Lebanon

Speaker:Abdallah Anati – APLA's Executive Director

Organized by:Connective Cities Program

topics:

- Local governance sector in Palestine
- Local Elections Law
- About APLA (Vision, mission, objectives, revenues, local authorities, committees, executive office, strategic goals and interventions to be implemented).
- Opportunities to create Association for municipalities in Lebanon

Specialized workshop for developing the code of conduct for local authorities' employees

Speaker:Abdallah Anati – APLA's Executive Director

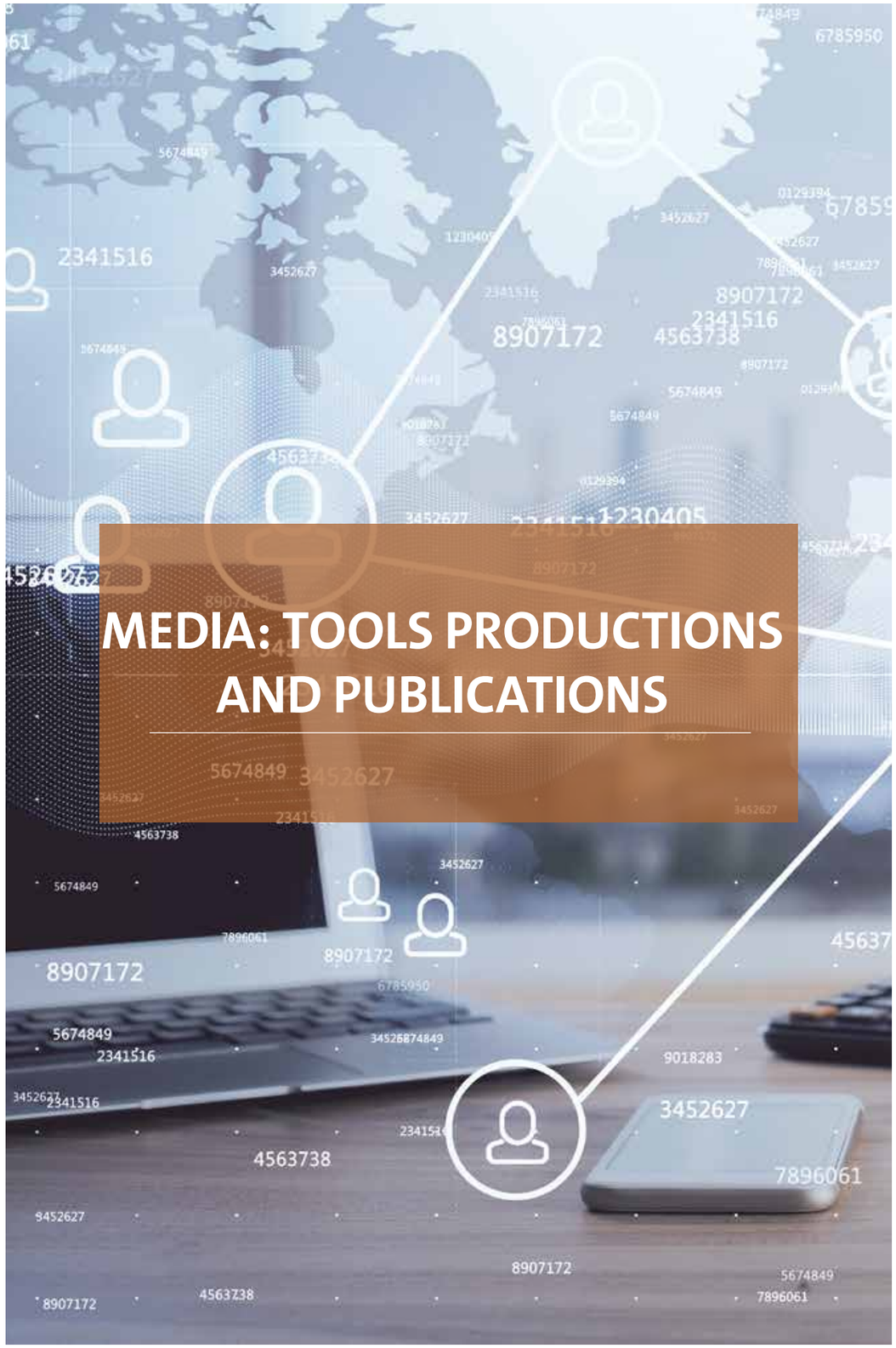
Organized by:Anti-Corruption Commission

topics:

- APLA's policies and the provisions regulating its work
- Code of conduct concept according to APLA's vision
- Justifications for having a code of conduct
- How to make the code of conduct realistic and applicable

2021 List of Participations

Administrative Meeting of Committee on environment & Greener and cleaner recovery: Climate priorities in the post-Covid ERA	UCLG-MEWA
Global Task Force on Migration (GTM) Webinar	UCLG
Launch event: Gender equality in the economic sphere: our right, our priority	EducAid
Launch of the training module #4 SDGs and Decentralized cooperation	PLATFORMA
Workshop: Emergency Social Protection for those Economically Harmed due to Covid-19 pandemic	Bethlehem Municipality
Meeting: UCLG Executive Bureau and World council member	UCLG
Workshop: Development cooperation & local governments	UCLG CIB
Thematic Session: General programme of the Executive Bureau: Housing discrimination and spatial segregation	UCLG
Thematic Sessions organized in the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau / Second Session A renewed role for local and regional governments in development cooperation + From managing migration to a community-based approach to human mobility	UCLG
Thematic Session: General programme of the Executive Bureau: Inclusive digitalization present and future of service provision	UCLG
Thematic Session: General programme of the Executive Bureau: Healthy people and territories leading our wellbeing	UCLG
Launch Event for connective cities Network in MENA	Connective Cities
The Impact of Covid - 19 pandemic and the role of local and regional governments in the recovery strategies and plans	UCLG
Workshop: Comprehensive Response to the Economic and Social Impacts of Covid-19 pandemic under the occupation	MAS Institute
Meeting: UCLG Executive Bureau and World council member	UCLG
Preparatory meeting for the 7th edition of the forum" Cities and regions for international partnerships"	EU
Second Conference of Public Relations	GIZ
The Executive Bureau Meeting	UCLG-MEWA
Workshop for discussing the "Street Naming and Homes Numbering in Palestine" Manual	Ministry of Local Government
Workshop: Discussing the Indicators of the Citizens' Satisfaction Survey concerning public services	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics PCBS
Celebrating the International Cities' Day	Ministry of Local Government
Workshop: Property Tax	Prime Minister's Office
Workshop: State Land Management	Prime Minister's Office
Conference for launching the social national registry toward transformation from relief to sustainable development	Ministry of Social Development
Closing Ceremony for the activities of empowering local authorities on planning in crises management	Connective Cities
Inauguration Ceremony: Activities of the Sixth National Forum "Transformation towards Innovation"	the Higher Council for Innovation
ARD Lab Workshop (joint work, community committees and its relation with the environment)	ENABEL
Sustainable and Flexible Cities Workshop	Palestinian Council for Green Buildings



MEDIA: TOOLS PRODUCTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

APLA is responsible for issues of representing the local authorities, their interests and achievements on both local and international levels. The representation process is not limited to establishing links and enhancing partnerships with the ministries, civil society organizations, and partner organizations, rather, APLA attempts to concentrate its media productions and publications on the efforts and initiatives of the local authorities in order to show it and publish it on a wider scale to enhance citizens' trust in their local authorities on one hand, and to enhance their roles and jurisdiction before governmental authorities, local and international organizations.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS

- Regularly updating the website
- Social Media Posts 215
- Updating APLA's Facebook page
- FB Reach: 1,200,000/ Engagement: 350,000
- Update APLA's account on "Youtube"
- Create accounts for APLA on Twitter and Linkedin
- Launch a campaign on "Technical and Legal Support Unit" on Facebook page

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

- 3 newsletters
- 27 news articles
- 7 press releases
- APLA's Annual Report 2020
- 20 themes related to SDGs
- A campaign on the technical and legal support unit was prepared and designed
- A brochure was designed on the Technical Hubs
- "Women Chairing Local Authorities" Booklet was prepared, designed and printed
- "Practical Practices in Local Economic Development" Booklet was prepared, designed, and printed
- Designing an open-source model for the organization's presentations
- "Local Authorities Facing Coronavirus" report was designed.
- "Roadmap: Localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 booklet was printed
- PVC printing for the SDGs
- Producing 5 videos (elections, Jordan Valley, decentralized cooperation, environment, and APLA activity report)
- Posters for the purpose of congratulations during official and religious holidays and events were designed.

RELATIONSHIP WITH MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

APLA maintains continuous communication with local media organizations in order to guarantee a wide publishing of the news and awareness publications produced by APLA concerning the updates, these and issues related to the local governance sector.

- Publishing news on local media websites
- Local media platforms published the spot concerning the local elections
- 25 media appearance on local radios and media platforms
- Cooperation with local media in producing and documentary content, such as a radio program, or a website specialized in Palestinian villages and towns in the various cities and villages of the West Bank.

3 أيام فلسطينية

اشتية يبحث مع «الهيئات المحلية» آلية معالجة الديون والمستحقات

رام الله - «الأيام»: بحث رئيس الوزراء د. محمد اشتية مع اتحاد الهيئات المحلية قضايا تتعلق بعمل البلديات والديون والمستحقات لها وعليها لدى الحكومة، أمس، بمكتبه في رام الله، بحضور وزيري المالية شكري بشارة والحكم المحلي مجدي صالح ورئيس الاتحاد موسى حديد.

وأوعز اشتية بتشكيل لجنة من وزارة المالية والحكم المحلي والاتحاد تبدأ عملها فوراً على وضع آلية تقاص لمعالجة هذا الأمر، من خلال جدولة الديون المتراكمة، بما يسهم في مواصلة تقديم الخدمات للمواطنين والنهوض بالقطاع التنموي للبلديات.

وأكد اشتية ضرورة الشراكة والتعاون بين الحكومة والهيئات المحلية لتوفير أفضل الخدمات للمواطنين، في مدنهم وبلداتهم وقراهم، داعيا الهيئات إلى مزيد من الإدارة الحكيمة والترشيد وتحسين الجباية.

وجدد رئيس الوزراء دعوته البلديات الى تقديم مشاريعها القابلة للتنفيذ قبل نهاية الشهر الجاري، للاستفادة من المشاريع التي سيتم إقرارها بتمويل من الصناديق العربية والإسلامية، بالإضافة إلى ١٠ مليون شيكل رصدتها الحكومة لصالح البنية التحتية للوزارات والمنشآت والبلديات.