



لجنة الانتخابات المركزية - فلسطين  
Central Elections Commission - Palestine

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## REINFORCING CREDIBILITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES

The Role of Electoral Stakeholders and Electoral Administrations

Positioning CEC towards Fostering Ties with CSOs

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# The Central Elections Commission of Palestine

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- **Established October 2002**
- **2004 Major Voters Registration Drive**
- **2005 Presidential Elections**
- **2006 Legislative Elections**
- **2012 Local elections**

**Mission:** Strengthening constitutional democracy through the delivery of impartial management of free and fair elections at all levels.

## **Strategic Objectives:**

- Demonstrating Excellence and leadership
- Ensuring the sustainability of CEC to deliver an election for any level of government within the legal time frame
- Achieving a high quality, cost effective and professional service

# The nature of CEC Relations with Stakeholders

- Prior to 2007
  - Seasonal, linked to elections events
  - Formal and lacks consistent organizational framework.
  - Voters education is the exclusive mandate of CEC;
    - Informative
    - Procedural
    - Associated to elections phases



# Re-Positioning CEC towards a sustained community outreach

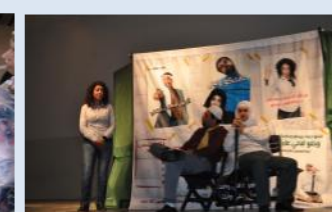
- What is the added value CEC can provide?
- What role CEC can play between elections without risking its integrity, neutrality and independence?
- How CEC could enhance the awareness of democratic values of the election processes through a continuous civic education programs?
- **CEC CAN NOT DO IT ALL.**

# Fostering Ties with elections stakeholders; specifically CSOs

- Reaching out CSOs to play a more active role.
  - Building a nation-wide database of CSOs
  - Changing the mindset of the internal management.
  - Building electoral knowledge capacity
  - Building electoral cadre
  - Gradually implementing civic education programs through a pre-set framework.
  - Establishing the Electoral Awareness Fund (EAF) as a means of full participation.

# The electoral Awareness Fund

- The EAF is a tool of providing funds on competitive bases to CSOs through a transparent calls for proposals and funding mechanisms.
- Funding 22 projects.
- Main objective is to enhance electoral participation
- Targeted 20,000 including women, youth, media, observers, higher education students, people with special needs.
- Projects include:
  - Awareness workshops
  - Quizzes
  - Discussion groups
  - Training activities
  - Shows



# Working together

- Electoral Reform

- CEC Role

- Catalyst

- Facilitator

- Output: New revised Local Elections Law ready for ratification.



# Schools Awareness


- Targeting 9 Graders
- 31,000 students, 440 teachers in 374 Schools.
- Students perform mock elections.
- Piloting the concept to 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders
  - Targeting 11,600 Students, 369 Teachers, 149 schools.
  - Students perform mock elections through integrated learning approach.





# Within the Palestinian Context

## Institutionalized and Sustained Relationship

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- Periodic meetings
  - Consultation
  - Continuous Capacity Building
  - Responding to their specific needs
  - Valuing their inputs

# The CEC Believes

Genuine Engagement with CSOs adds to the credibility, transparency, and enhances the independency of CEC.

The Establishment of Electoral Knowledge Center (EKC) which will among other tasks have a unit mandated with institutionalizing the relations with all stakeholders.