INTEGRITY INDEX TOOLKIT
Local Government Units(LGUs)
oPt

Building Strategic Anti Corruption Partnership in the Arab Region

Amman-Jordan

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Political and Socio-Economic Context of oPt
Challenges

- ✓ Successive changes in territorial sovereignty, a constant state of war and resistance (intifadas) created an enabling environment for corruption.
- ✓ International community sudden increase financial support to the newly established be PA along with lack of PA capacity and systems to efficiently absorb and manage donors support increased corruption opportunities.
- ✓ Inherited, old, fragmented, different ruling power interest based, and non transparent governance systems accompanied by political appointments of Local Government Units (LGUs) officials who considerably were not equipped with necessary skills, knowledge, and work experience in managing local government t affairs.

Political and Socio-economic context of oPt/ **Opportunities**

- ✓ The Palestine National Policy Agenda (PNPA) of 2007 called for the establishment of a democratic governance system characterized by the participation of citizens, the rule of law, and separation of powers (executive, legislative and judicial)
- ✓ Palestinian Reform and Development Plan of 2008 emphasized citizens role in public policy making.
- ✓ The Program of the 13th Government "Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State", also prioritizes supporting effective community participation at the local governance level, and the capacity development of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and local government units (LGU) to deliver services

Integrity Toolkit Development Procedures

- New elected local government officials in 2004-2005 expressed serious concerns about the inherited corruption acts in the LGUs that paved the road for a new intervention to enhance transparency and accountability
- UNCAC community awareness project implemented by UNDP/PAPP in oPt the MoLG interest in integrity following 2004-2005 LGUs elections.
- In response to the increasing demand and awareness of the importance of transparency and accountability , UNDP/PAPP designed and implemented a participatory approach with MoLG and three municipalities to develop the first draft of the Toolkit to improve the performance of LGUs on the level of transparency, accountability and integrity.
- The toolkit examined the following aspects in the LGUs: Aminstrative Regulations& Human Resources, Council (Chairman/Mayor and Members), Finance, Planning and Zoning Management, Supplies and Procurement and Community Participation
- The Toolkit was tested and validated in a fourth municipality
- The Toolkit was piloted in 15 Municipalities jointly selected by MoLG , Association of Palestinian Local Authorities and UNDP/PAPP following agreed upon criteria based on size, geographical location, status of LGU council (old, new, appointed or newly elected), and LGU willingness for cooperation to pilot the index.

Key Findings from Piloting the Integrity Index

- **Integrity, Transparency and Accountability**
- ✓ Level of Integrity, Accountability and Transparency is high in Procurement in all LGUs, between good and excellent, though, needs improvement and intervention on Engineering and Planning, and Community Participation in the majority of the LGUs.
- ✓ Level of Community Participation is very low in all the LGUs.
- **Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP)**
- ✓ Average of KAP compared with the integrity average is very low
- ✓ Knowledge is high in 12/15 LGUs regarding the Financial Systems and Procurement while it needs improvement in Engineering and Planning, Administrative Systems, Human Resources, Council Members an and Employees
- **Attitudes**
- ✓ Attitudes are low in regarding Engineering and Planning, Financial Systems and Community Participation. While they are high in Procurement in the majority of LGUs.
- ✓ Changing the attitudes needs intervention in 11/15 LGUs due to lack of integrity

Practices

- ✓ Practices need improvement regarding Financial Systems, Administrative Systems and Human Resources, Council Members, Employees, Engineering and Planning, and Community Participation.

How the toolkit was used to improve integrity Transparency and Accountability in oPt.

- The toolkit has been officially adopted by MoLG as a steering and monitoring tool of the performance of LGUs changing the trend of traditional " inspection".
- The result of the application of the index was officially adopted by Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) as one of the criteria elements in awarding development projects to LGUs.
- Provoked increasing the awareness of LGU officials and staff in local government rules, procedures and regulations.
- Encouraged Community Participation to increase Accountability.
- Highlighted the importance of written and documented financial and administrative procedures and actions.
- Called for the amendment of Law #1 for 1997 on LGUs to enable wider community participation and voice and to increase the degree of transparency and accountability in LGUs.
- Called for the establishment of an effective complains system with clear follow up procedures and mechanisms to respond to citizens concerns.

Thank you !