

Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS) Profile



General Information

- Association Name: Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS)
- Head Office Address: AlBareeq Building-5th floor, Haifa street, Jenin, West Bank, Palestine
- Phone Number: 0097242501989.
- Website Address: <https://pcs-palestine.org/ar/>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PCSPalestine>.
- Association Status: civic and non-governmental organization, its legal status from the Palestinian Ministry of Interior on December 2005, under registration Number JN-897-B.
- Contact Information of the Person in Charge (Ahmad Hijawi, Executive manager, 0594229922,ahmadhijawi25@gmail.com)

Association Details

- **Date of Creation:** 2005.
- **Mission:** PCS is an umbrella for the NGOs and CBOs in West Bank and Gaza seeking to improve their capacities, increase their coordination, and call for their joint interests.
- **Vision:** Towards effective and entrepreneurial Palestinian NGOs and CBOs that lead their communities, uphold their values, develop their capacities, and mobilize their resources towards sustainable development.
- **Main objective/ s:**
 - Contribute to strengthening the position and roles of local institutions in achieving sustainable development.
 - Contribute to the promotion of the human rights system and Sustainable Development Goals SDGs 2030.
 - Contribute to promoting entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.
 - Enhance PCS's governance and institutional structure in order to achieve its goals.

The three core program of PCS are:

1. Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship.
2. Human Rights and Democracy.
3. Capacity Building Program and Incubator for Civil Society Institutions.

- **Main Geographic interventions:** PCS has intervention in the West Bank (from 2005), Gaza(from 2010), Jerusalem and 48 areas (from 2014) it works with the Palestinians everywhere in Palestine. Mainly PCS looks for the most marginalize people and targeted them, such as area C, Jordan valley and people with disabilities (PWD). Through **three offices** at Jenin (head quarter), Ramallah and Gaza, and a network of more than 60 CBOs PCS reached their beneficiaries effectively. **PCS has two incubators** that shape the dynamic part of its work, *IDEA for small businesses company (non-for Profit Company) and NGO incubator for Civil Society Organizations (Local NGOs and CBOs from different field of work background, like women, youth, PWD, education, culture, etc).*

List of Board of Directors

Number of Board of Directors: 7 (2F, 5M) and the chairman is female.

- **List of key Management**

Number of Employees: 10 (7F, 3M)

Name	Position	Sex	Qualifications
Ahmad M. S. Hijawi	Executive Director	M	Ph.D. Sociology
Amneh O. I. Qtuit	Financial and procurement officer	F	Master of Accounting
BissanShami	Human Rights Unit Officer	F	Master's degree in commercial law
DeemaAlawni	Media Officer and field coordinator	F	BA in Media
Wa'ed Samara	Administrative and procurement assistant	F	BA in business administration
Zahra Abed	Outreach officer and coordinator	F	BA in translation
Zaher Algoul	Coordinator\Gaza	M	BA in business
Mai Sinan	Executive manager of IDEA	F	BA in Finance and Banking
Marwan Mahajne	Logistic officer	M	

- **Experts or consultants work with PCS**

Name	Position	Sex	Qualifications
Mohammad Kamanji	Legal Adviser	M	Master in Law
TareqAlbzour	IT officer	M	BA in IT
GhadaShadeed	Legal advisor and expert in social protection	F	Master in law
Mostaham Salameh	Social worker and psychologist	F	Master
SamahZahalqa	Legal advisor and expert in the field of human rights	F	Master's degree in social science.

- **PCS has an extended network of CBOs that contains many volunteers that support the implementation of PCS's activities.**

Technical

PCS serves as a representative platform of 60 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that are working across the West Bank and Gaza. This has helped PCS remain grassroots oriented, as well as reach out to remote and marginalized communities serving a wide range of societal segments, including those most marginalized. Moreover, this wide grassroots network has paved the way for PCS to be a leading organization working on bottom-up advocacy that informs responsive policies at the heart of citizen needs and priorities.

Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship :

Our interest in economic empowerment began early and evolved as our experience in this domain got broadened. Our very first experience in this field involved supporting small economic projects for youth and persons with disabilities in 2012. Then our work has been further broadened to entrepreneurship and economic recovery projects. Within this framework, a business incubator (Idea) was founded in 2015 to embrace and support young entrepreneurs who have innovative ideas which are expected to evolve into successful projects by providing them with financial and technical support. Besides, PCS has built national and international networks with many Incubators and NGOs to build the capacity of young entrepreneurs and enrich their experiences. Moreover, PCS has put in enormous efforts to influence national economic policies that have, in certain cases, negative impacts on the future of entrepreneurship in Palestine: the Taxation- and registration-related-policies, and other legal issues.

Within this program, two main projects were carried out: "Economic recovery" funded by Drososs and "Promote Cross-Border Economic Coordination, Cooperation Exchange and Joint Ventures" funded by the EU.

Our Achievements within this program during the last two years:

- (115) individuals have received (615) hours of vocational and technical training distributed among (9) training courses.
- (15) youth entrepreneurs have been supported in starting or expanding their business, either through seed financing or through the investment in cooperation with the business incubator (Idea).
- (5) Major investments, under the investment scheme, have been made targeting wider beneficiaries. Around (28) have benefited from Holy Land Cooperative in the Organic Farm investment.
- (2) Youth entrepreneurs were provided a spatial incubation by (Idea) in an attempt to help them overcome the high cost of rent of real estate.

- (7) business incubators in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Occupied Palestine are supported by developing their performance to efficiently provide their programs to economic youth entrepreneurs within the Cross-Border Economic Cooperation project.

-“Promote Cross-Border Economic Coordination, Cooperation, Exchange, and Joint Ventures”, the EU project with a budget of 871,685 Euros, aimed to promote Cooperation towards creating an enabling economic situation for business and entrepreneurship, specifically, to drive advocacy ventures between Palestinians all around West Bank, Jerusalem, and Israel. As an economic empowerment project, it supports several business incubators and 50% of the individual beneficiaries are women, who have the chance to own their enterprises.

- Youth Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas in Mediterranean countries, (YERAME), (2023-2024). Funded by (ERASMUS), Implementing in Greece, Spain, Italy, Tunisia, Palestine, Egypt. By PCS, Spiros, Voulgaris, Innovation Hive, DEFOIN, CEIPES.

This project aim at increasing the capacity to provide learning opportunities for entrepreneurial skills of organizations working with young people in rural areas. As a result, the project expects to have improved the entrepreneurial skills of the rural youth of Mediterranean region to promote the creation of sustainable businesses that are not fully dependent on tourism and that can therefore tackle the depopulation those areas are suffering.





Human Rights and Democracy

It could be described as a major program due to its notable achievements as it succeeded in amplifying the voice of the vulnerable groups and broadened their space to clearly articulate their needs and rights. The work within this program funded by EU has been concentrated on the following areas: disability, social accountability, influencing policies, and the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups. Although the scope of work was expanded in some areas, especially in the Complaint Unit, the results were impressive. The program has been able to positively affect more than (12,000) beneficiaries directly and nearly (5,000) beneficiaries indirectly yearly reported.

- PCS has launched the (100 Days Campaign of Government Accountability) in cooperation with the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), PNGOs, AMAN Transparency Palestine, and Palestinian National Institute for NGOs with the participation of (84) civil society organizations of all national and grassroots levels in West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. The Campaign aimed at examining the extent of government commitment to the letter of assignment issued by President Mahmoud Abbas, and based on which the government was formed as well as encouraging the citizens and the civil community in terms of active community participation and motivating the government to raise the performance efficiency and implement promises made to citizens. The campaign resulted in an extensive report outlining mainly facts that disclose the current

performance of the government and what is needed to be done to improve that performance.

- In partnership with the Palestinian Education Coalition PEC, PCS has launched (The ask the Government) campaign to assess the points of view of the parties involved in the educational process (students, teachers, parents, researchers, etc.) about the appropriateness of the Palestinian curriculum, especially the new textbooks, the methods of teaching, and the school environment to achieve eventually an access to a quality and equitable education for all. Around (10400) people participated in the campaign and expressed their opinions on Palestine's new curriculum, and a workshop was held to discuss the results of the campaign with the participation of the director-general of curriculum and civil society organizations. The campaign coincided with the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where the right to education plays a central role in empowering and strengthening other rights.

- The project Contributing to constructive relations between citizens and the state funded by GIZ aimed to strengthening the existing relations between local authorities and their citizens in planning processes by improving the quality of participation, and thus increasing transparency and accountability in the local government sector in the West Bank. PCS works on constructive relations with the citizens of the state (with 15 local communities) in the local government sector in Palestine which is driven by the Policy Paper on Social Accountability launched by the Ministry of Local Government in 2015, which sets out national guidelines for the implementation of social accountability in Palestine.

- "Empowering early childhood education", funded by Welfare association, (16) kindergartens have been rehabilitated in the Jordan Valley to be able to provide healthy, secure and comprehensive educational services, (40) teachers and directors of kindergartens targeted (1000-1500 children), (20) educational and visual circles Produced in childhood. In addition to increasing the integration of Bedouin children in the Jordan Valley in childhood education. Establishing an effective kindergarten network. National advocacy campaigns to support the right to early education in the Jordan Valley.

-The project "Elections are a Right...and Youth at the Forefront" funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which aims to raise awareness and participation of youth in the electoral process.

- PCS has support (41) municipalities funded by (MDLF), to institutionalizing social accountability.



Inclusion of gender equality in organizations' activities and objectives

The Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS) devotes significant attention to gender equality considerations as its main priority. This is illustrated by the percentage of female staff members working within the organization, which is 70%, and the priority of the recruitment of women in projects and programs implemented by PCS. Besides, PCS is a network of grassroots organizations, where there are 20 grassroots women organizations within its framework, and they benefit from its programs. In this context, it should be mentioned here that PCS is led by a woman, Farha Abu Al-Hija, a woman's rights activist and the Head of the Board of Directors.

Regarding gender discrimination issues, all the regulations consider gender values and explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sex. It's prohibited to work, network, cooperate, and collaborate with parties that violate women's rights and do not believe in the values of gender equality. Also, PCS imposes preventive measures against discrimination. For instance, in programs and projects and within the organization's standards, women must constitute 50% of the beneficiaries, whether in economic empowerment programs, capacity-building, or other programs and at the individual and institutional level.

As for planning, the organization's strategic plan 2020-2023 includes direct interventions related to empowering women at multiple levels in the socio-economic and political fields to enhance their participation in its various forms.

PCS has implemented several projects that sought to empower women by identifying the needs and priorities of vulnerable groups, especially women, to be addressed in strategic planning in municipalities. They also focused on enhancing women's economic participation in the labor market, as well as improving their participation and situation in political and social life. Other projects and programs worked on preventing

violations of and combating discrimination against women with disabilities. Through its Gender Unit within the Human Rights Program, violations against women inside and outside the organization are monitored, documented, and followed up.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls:

The PCS has considerable experience in working with Women's Rights Organizations, adopting a core strategic objective to support the efforts of Grassroots Women's Rights Organizations to provide better outreach and inclusion of women in their communities. The following is a list of key projects and achievements in this regard:

-Women labor rights in the private sector, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Right Defenders, €20,000, which aimed to amplify women's voices demanding their equal rights in the private sector.

-Advancing social and economic rights for vulnerable groups, EU-funded €500,000 which aimed to empower CBOs in monitoring, documenting, and following up on violations of social and economic rights for vulnerable people, while activating national mechanisms of protection.

-Disability mainstreaming in policies and programs: Worked with MoL to mainstream PWDs rights in the workplace, particularly for women with disabilities (WWDs). PCS worked with several MoL directorates on adopting mechanisms for mainstreaming PWDs in their operations including PWDs cards. One of the projects in this field is (Enhancing and Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, EU-funded 491,716Euros).

-The Action of Advocating for Grassroots & Institutional Mechanisms to Advance Social & Economic Rights for Vulnerable Groups in the oPt, the EU-funded project is implemented in the West Bank and Gaza, in partnership with Bunian Association for Community Development and Student's Forum Institute from Gaza, and more than 60 CBOs from West Bank and Gaza as third parties. Through all the implemented projects by PCS the participatory approach, working groups, and sharing information with all the main actors is a must, different techniques are used like Facebook pages to be on-touch and have day-to-day contact, besides using WhatsApp application. With a budget of 478,453 Euros.

-Cordaid, a total of €50,000 for two projects which aimed to advance income-generating opportunities for women through improving their linkages with business development services, and facilitating their linkages to the market.

-UN Women, in partnership with Mothers schools in Nablus, for a total of \$200,000. The project aimed to enhance women's participation and role in the job market through forming a civil consortium that addressed women's labor rights, including equal

opportunity for employment, equitable wages, social protection, and engagement in the Tripartite dialogue between the public, private, and governmental sectors.

--PCS with shashat under the project (Let's Watch a Movie) implemented three films with the aim of entertaining.(300) females and (300) males of different age groups who participated in public activities in public squares attended. People with disabilities participated by (10%) of the total The number of attendees at these activities

- "Female Campaigning School", funded by Elda Academy. Is a five-part project that enables a total of 90 participants from the Palestine and Lebanon to develop, realize and publish their own campaigns. The campaigns deal with gender justice, female empowerment and women's rights and make them publicly visible in the target countries. The participants receive input and practical exercises from our international experts. As an outcome of this project, various media- and publicity-effective campaigns are developed in joint project work, which promote the equal rights of women in the target countries. In the final phase, the best campaigns are awarded.



Capacity Building Program and Incubator for Civil Society Institutions

In 2019, PCS has established the Incubator of NGOs in the Jenin Governorate, to create an environment that embraces and develops the work of grassroots NGOs in the governorate to overcome the challenges they face in terms of providing locations, logistics, and administrative expenses in a way that contributes to strengthening the roles of NGOs and the development of networking by including currently (8) grassroots NGOs.

The impact of this program on the ground during the last two years could be demonstrated as follows:

- More than (100) grassroots NGOs and local bodies (municipalities and village councils) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were provided with support and guidance in their various forms: planning and implementing capacity building and providing follow-up support throughout the process, institutional review and capacity assessment, strategic planning, systems development that includes monitoring and evaluation, developing financial and administrative systems, legal aids, writing project proposals, promoting continuous access to resources, and working to review government policies and measures related to establishing associations.

- In the field of human rights, (15) NGOs for persons with disabilities were capacity-built and their internal environments were developed so that they become more responsive to the needs of the target groups.

-In the field of economic empowerment, the capacities of more than (300) young people of both genders were built in areas related to economic empowerment before being integrated into the labor market or receiving grants for projects.

PCS had published a manual for CBOs organization on management and financial measures and their relation to corruption.

PCS prepared different studies related to the entrepreneurship sector like the Index of the Palestinian Incubators (PCS produced two editions and working on the third one), besides four economic studies with the titles:

1. Nonprofit Companies between Law and Reality Aspects for Change
2. COVID-19 and its Impacts on Palestinian Entrepreneurship Sector.
3. The Impact of the Suspension of the Coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Government on Trade Relations and the Economy in the Context of the Corona Pandemic.
4. Funding Priorities in the Business Incubation Sector in Light of the Corona Pandemic.



PCS Membership in National and International Networks:

International: PCS had consultative status in the social and economic council in the UN, a member of the Youth Business international network, GNDR Global Network for Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction, ANNA LINDA Foundation" network for cultural dialogue at the national and international level, ANSA Network,- International Network for Social Accountability, Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA), UBI Global Member of Arab State league – Cairo,- Member of Network of Democrats in the Arab World (NDAW)– the UK,- CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, which is considered among the most important international networks working on advancing social accountability in SDGs, Member in the board of directors of the Arab Campaign for Education for All which is working on activating social accountability on SDG4 and a member of the Palestinian Education Coalition Secretariat, TAP NETWORK "Transparency, Accountability, and Participation for 2030.

Local-level:- Education Cluster under Emergency/ OCHA, The Secretariat of Palestinian Education Coalition, The Secretariat of Arab Campaign for Education. Protection Cluster, Member of the consulting commission for a national inquiry on the rights of persons with disability to livelihood, Member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, Member of Palestinian National Institutes for NGOs (PNIN).

- Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions.

- Member of the Coordination Council for Palestinian NGOs (CCP-NGOs).

- Member of the National Committee for Social Accountability.

- Member of the "Partners to Review" international network sponsored by GIZ which is working on social accountability on SDGs.

- Member at "The Network of Organizations Providing Services to Green Entrepreneurs in Palestine."

ANNA LINDA Foundation



Network of Democrats in the Arab World (NDAW) – UK



CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation



Palestinian National Institutes for NGOs PNIN



The National Committee for Social Accountability – Palestine



Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA)



Global Partnership for Social Accountability-World Bank



Social Forum – Palestine



Palestinian Education Coalition - The Global Campaign for Education (GCE)



Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission



<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Donor</i>
The project of reactive the role of women in NGOs 2006	German development Service DED
The project of capacity building of youth NGOs in Jenin governorate	UNDP /PAPP
The project of capacity building of NGOs 2008	Consulate General of France in Jerusalem
The project of promoting the rights of disabled youth 2008\2009	German development Service DED
The project of capacity building of NGOS in human rights and democracy field2008\2009	European Union
The project of development through youths 2009	Save the children U.S/NASSEJ
The project of rehabilitation the teachers to treat with disables 2009	Welfare Association

The project of integration the disabled persons through media 2010	German development Service DED
The project of lobbying and advocacy for the disabled persons 2010-2014	DIAKONIA/NAD
The project of Rehabilitation the kindergartens 2010	United Palestinian Appeal UPA
The project of integration the disabled persons through media 2010	Welfare Association
The project of Establish Strengthen Classes for difficulties learning students 2011	Canadian International Development Agency CIDA
The project of Strengthening the Palestinian Electoral Participation 2010 / 2011	The Italian Cooperation
The project of Combating Discrimination against Palestinian Women Working in the Private Sector 2010 / 2011	The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
The project of enhancing political participation of disabled 2011	German International Cooperation
The project of supporting pioneering projects for youths 2011 / 2012	DROSOS Foundation
The Project of Capacity Building of Women CBOs in Jenin 2012-2013	CORDAID
The action of enhancing and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in the Palestinian territories 2012-2014	European Union
The Project of Promoting transparency in Palestinian NGOs Watch-Pal-NGOs 2013	Tranparency Palestine (AMAN)
The Project of Rehabilitation and Developing Kindergartens to integrate Children with Disability in Northern Governorates 2013	Consulate General of France in Jerusalem

The Project of Rehabilitation the Kindergartens in Jenin Governorate 2013-2015	German Representative Ramallah Office
Project of Enhancing the Social Accountability in Palestinian Local Authorities 2013	German International Cooperation
The Project of Mainstreaming Disability in Policies and Programmes Supporting Employment in Opt	International Labour Office
The action of Protecting the right to form Associations in Palestine	The Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
The project of Enhancing and Protecting the Rights of PWDs 2014-2015	HR/IHL Secretariat
The Project of Creating Sustainable Community Awareness Mechanisms of Anti-Corruption 2015	UNDP/ SAWASYA
Capacity Building for DPOs 2015-2017	Diakonia /NAD
The Economic Recovery 2015-2019	DROSOS Foundation
The project of Enhancing and Protecting the Rights of PWDs 2015-2018	EU
Arab Youth Voice 2015-2018	BRITISH COUNCIL
The Project of Enhancing the Social Accountability in Palestinian Local Authorities	GIZ
The Project of Community Police 2016	UNDP/ SAWASYA

Enhancing Social Accountability in local governance 2017-2018	GIZ
Facilitate Businesses,2018	World Vision
Promote cross-border economic coordination, cooperation, exchange, and joint ventures. 2018-2022	EU
Aadvocating for grass root and institutional mechanism to advance social and economic right for vulnerable groups in OPT. 2018-2021	EU
Educational Toys for Improved Learning for Children with Disabilities,2020	Polish Aid Development program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland
Improving Economic Situation through Providing Chicken to the West Jenin Villages Project,2019	World Vision
National Dialogues: Enabling Environments for Domestic Resource Mobilization,2019- 2021	CIVICUS
Contribute to constructive relations between citizens and state in Palestine,2019-2022	GIZ
Developing the Capacity of Municipalities and Local Communities in Social Accountability, 2020-2022	World Bank through the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF)
Empowering early childhood education- Jordan Valley, 2020-2022	Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development with the supervision of Welfare Association
Habitat, 2022	Shashat

I have the right to vote and be elected, 2021-2022	Central Elections Commission-Palestine
Female Campaigning School,2022	Elda Academy
Yerama,2023-2024	ERASMUS