

Research Paper on:

Reality and Challenges:

NGOs Work in Light of the Genocidal War on Gaza





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August 2024



The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) would like to thank Researcher, Mr. Abd-Almun'em Ramadan Attahrawi, Dr, Azmi Shuaibi and AMAN's work team for supervising, reviewing and editing this research paper.

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"Promoting Civic Space and Social Accountability in Palestine", Project.



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Introduction

The Gaza Strip (GS) is a governorate of Palestine with an are of 365 square kilometers and a population of approximately 2.3 million. This province has been occupied since 1967 by the Israel and under siege also by the occupation for the last 20 years. Moreover, it has been through many forms of war, aggression and infighting, during these years that contributed to the destruction of the capabilities of all categories and components of the Palestinian society.

However, since October 2023, this area and population have been suffering a war unlike all other wars in terms of severity... a genocidal war unprecedented to this area. The mass killing of Palestinians there has taken the lives of at least 50,691 martyrs and missing persons, of whom (16,673) are children and (11,269) women. This is in addition to the (94,060) wounded, 1200 of them with severe injuries who urgently need to travel for treatment abroad. Also, there are 10,000 cancer patients facing the risk of death due to the absence of hospitals for treatment.

Moreover, the destruction not only took human lives, but also pets, livestock, trees, buildings and all. It was and still is a devastating war that aims to erase everything and everyone living the GS. And for those who miraculously managed to survive thus far, the war has taken away life requirements for a decent living such as food, water, and clothing as well as their means of income, which was scarce in the first place. The destruction of buildings included living quarters, villas, hospitals, schools, public facilities and civil society organizations (CSO) not being spared as well. They too lost headquarters, employees and work capabilities, noting that the number of CSOs in Gaza prior to the war reached approximately 980 local and international institution. These bodies played an important role in delivering relief, development and awareness raising services to the less fortunate people in the Palestinian society, that complemented government services. The war posed extreme work challenges where the majority of NGOs operating in Gaza city and in the north governorates can no longer carry out their activities due to the destruction of their headquarters, banned activities and also because of the direct threat to the lives of relief workers.

This paper aims to identify the reality of NGOs work in the GS, in light of the circumstances resulting from the genocidal war waged by the Israeli occupation on the GS. It also aims to define the challenges facing the work force of these organizations and their abilities to cope and adapt as they continue to provide services to the displaced community. Lastly, the paper will also attempt to research the impact of these challenges on CSOs' capabilities to adapt and implement their postwar development and relief agenda.

¹ Press release issued by the Government Information Office in Gaza on 31 August 2024.

First: Methodology

Methodology for preparing this paper applied the descriptive analytical approach, which is based on collecting primary and secondary information from various sources. The main sources include publications and reports issued by government, private agencies, and international organizations related to the on-going genocide war on Gaza, and its political, social and economic impacts. We also conducted a series of personal interviews with a number of specialists and actors, in the local and international arena, working in the civil sector. The aim is to get acquainted closely with the subjective and objective challenges facing these organizations in the various sectors of relief, agriculture, health, women and children, etc. Furthermore, we held a focus group discussion on the research paper with NGOs from the GS and the West Bank (WB) via Zoom².

Second: Preface

Work of NGOs before the war on Gaza:

The number of active CSOs working in the GS before October 2023 reached approximately 980 local and international NGOs, working in various sectors³. These institutions worked on promoting democracy, strengthening the rule of law, protecting public freedoms, human rights and equality, as well as providing various services such as: agriculture, health, protection of women and children, relief, culture, arts, and other sectors that shaped the identity of NGOs operating in the GS, hence the Palestinian identity. In this regard, studies and reports indicate that NGOs in Palestine played a central role in preserving the Palestinian national fabric from fragmentation before, during, and after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PA) in 1994. The inception and hence the work of CSOs in Palestine was a natural response to the practices of the Israeli occupation and its direct effects on the lives of the Palestinian citizens. As known to all, the reality of any occupation means oppressor and oppressed; add the absence of a "national authority" capable of taking the reins of power, as in Palestine, and you get a very difficult reality. Therefore, it was necessary to respond quickly to the needs of Palestinian refugees in Palestine and abroad, through the establishment of charity organizations concerned with providing relief services in the form of, orphanages, rehabilitation centers and other needs of the refugee community, especially in the Gaza Strip. These organizations bore the burden of the absence of official national institutions capable of providing public services. They worked in two parallel directions: providing services and strengthening steadfastness and resistance, which also contributed to building the identity of NGOs as a branch of the national system4.

Once the PA was established, it assumed the responsibility of providing basic services such as: health and education among other services. NGOs work post the PA inception declined and changed direction ...going from providing mainly relief and resistance services to becoming part of the "State Building" process (i.e., completing the requirements for a democratic and development construction phase), in addition to the relief work. The NGOs work was to partner and complement the work of the government and not compete with it. Thus, the number and fields of work of NGOs increased significantly in:

strengthening democracy and the rule of law, protecting women from violence, protecting children,

² A focus group discussion meeting was held via Zoom on 27 August 2024.

³ UNRWA Report No. 99 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, issued on 4/4/2024 and published on the UNRWA website. https://www.unrwa.org/ar/resources/reports

⁴ Interview with Mr. Islam Atta-Allah, Political Researcher, on 24/6/2024.

advocating for the issues of marginalized groups, combating corruption, among others, all of which were not the basis for Palestinian NGOs prior to the establishment of the PA. Nevertheless, NGOs adapted and contributed to enhancing government institutions through building the capacity of its employees, in addition to lobbying and assisting in the drafting of laws that are in line with the needs of the Palestinian society. Also, NGOs' work in monitoring and accountability of the government and its institutions also increased in order to ensure respect for citizens' rights. All of the above changes posed additional challenges for NGOs, but at the same time it provided opportunities for them to refine their capabilities and to develop work mechanisms that are compatible with the changes in the Palestinian society⁵.

NGOs Work in Light of the Genocidal War on Gaza

Being under occupation entails the ability to resist while seizing opportunities to move-on. In this regard, the Palestinian civil society and NGOs had to overcome many challenges and difficult circumstances where they had to develop resilience and hone their skills to constant changes, due to the circumstance mentioned. That said, these tough times contributed to increasing their adaptive capacity and flexibility to act quickly under emergency, despite their limited means, direct threats to their lives and attempts to fragment them. Hence, they adapted their work strategies and mechanisms in order to stabilize service provision to the displaced population in the make-shift displacement camps. According to Taghreed Jum'a, Director of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, who said: it is NGOs that possess large human and material resources who were able to adapt and respond quickly to emergency situations, while many grassroots organizations simply disappeared as they do not have the means to adapt and operate under such harsh war environment. This increased responsibility and work on the ground for medium and large NGOs, especially at the beginning of the war, when NGOs had to offer space and provide funding for interventions needed and at the same time rebuild its human capacity.

A recent study was issued by the Palestinian NGO Network that assessed the needs of NGOs in light of the war, which included approximately 87 NGOs working in different sectors. Results of the study indicated that the NGO sector, like other sectors, suffered heavy losses due to the genocidal war waged by the Israeli occupation on the GS, where 49% of its headquarters were completely destroyed or semi-destroyed, and 46% were partially destroyed. The results also revealed that the vast majority of these organizations have lost their logistical capabilities. And despite all that destruction, more than 85% of these institutions continued to carry out their relief work, providing emergency needs to the displaced where 53% of them moved to new headquarters; some, a small number of them rented apartments in Rafah and Deir al-Balah governorates, while the majority of them worked from special tents in the displacement camps relying on their ability to adapt their services from relief to development work. That is how 44% of these NGOs were able to respond to emergency needs of those who survived, thus far. It is worth noting that NGOs staff and leadership were not spared from the Israeli killing machine, as results of the assessment indicate that 14 members of the boards of directors, 77% of the employees and 68 volunteers of these institutions were among the martyrs, in addition to 27 persons missing under the rubble, as of the writing of this paper⁷.

⁵ Interview with Mr. Tayseer Muhaeisen, Development Expert and Director of the Agricultural Relief Society in Gaza, on 25/6/2024.

⁶ Taghreed Juma'a, Director of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, personal interview 27/6/2024.

⁷ Rapid Assessment Report on the Damage of Palestinian NGOs in Gaza, NGO Network, May 2024.

As clearly shown by the results of the Rapid Damage Survey, most NGOs, despite being destroyed and despite the killing of many employees and board members, maintained continuity of their work throughout the on-going war, as it was the first sector to respond quickly to the needs of the displaced, and within days after the war was waged on the GS, these NGOs started providing rapid relief, shelter services and food, within available means, according to Amjad Shawwa, Director of the NGO Network in the GS. Mr. Shawwa also sees that the mass killing and displacement of citizens and institutional workers, in addition to destruction of all governmental and non-governmental sectors, required that NGOs be first in providing services for several reasons, including: first, the NGOs cumulative experience from serving the people during past wars inflicted on the GS that helped them to know how to restructure and change goals in service provision. Secondly, it is the speed by which these organizations can operate that distinguishes them from other sectors such as the public sector known for its bureaucracy, or the private sector who fears loss of profit, etc. Thirdly, CSOs' closeness to people due to the nature of their work, as many of them are in the relief and development fields, among other reasons. And although the scale of the disaster was beyond all sectors expectations, NGOS came to the rescue within their available means as they shifted thoughts and actions to emergency response programs, in addition to sending several rapid funding appeals to provide emergency response help, which was evident through the distribution of emergency aid needs days after the war was waged on the GS⁸.

Tayseer Muheisen, Director of the Agricultural Relief Society in Gaza⁹, agrees that the local and international NGOs were the first sector to respond urgently to the needs of citizens in places of displacement, although at first this response was weak and slow, and accompanied by some negative repercussions, he added. He said this was due, however, to the sector's poor preparedness for such major emergencies of this magnitude of extermination and destruction, and the coordination effort and collective action it requires. Nevertheless, this sector's work has been distinct from other sectors in terms of responding to emergency when it worked during the COVID-19 pandemic and previous rounds of aggression on Gaza. He also believes that NGOs have contributed to breaking the unstated aims of the war, namely expropriation, desensitizing awareness and "voluntary" displacement. NGOs interventions countered all that by contributing to citizens' steadfastness and resistance and by providing basic needs of water and food, even if minimal; where the organizations' success in breaking the famine cordon in northern Gaza can be considered one such successful intervention. Mr. Muheisen sees that the NGOs strategy, which evolved over time this war, was built on three levels:

- Meeting basic needs
- Social mobilization
- -knowledge management

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⁸ Amjad Shawwa, Director of the NGO Network in the GS. Personal interview on 26/6/2024. 9 Ibid., Personal Interview.

them to know how to restructure and change goals in service provision. Secondly, it is the speed by which these organizations can operate that distinguishes them from other sectors such as the public sector known for its bureaucracy, or the private sector who fears loss of profit, etc. Thirdly, CSOs' closeness to people due to the nature of their work, as many of them are in the relief and development fields, among other reasons. And although the scale of the disaster was beyond all sectors expectations, NGOS came to the rescue within their available means as they shifted thoughts and actions to emergency response programs, in addition to sending several rapid funding appeals to provide emergency response help, which was evident through the distribution of emergency aid needs days after the war was waged on the GS¹⁰.

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- -knowledge management

NGOs have succeeded in achieving the first level, which is the emergency response, although it took some time. Nevertheless, funds were raised for response programs in collaboration with international partners. Hence, one can say that these institutions did succeed in breaking the starvation cycle with the help of local organizations by providing relief aid, and distributing it to the people in Gaza city and the northern areas who were subjected to genocide as a result of starvation. In addition, NGOs also contributed to the reorientation of funding sources to emergency programs and projects.

On the second level, which is social mobilization, NGOs worked in parallel with the first phase as it began to regulate interventions through the community protection committees who work in camp management of the displaced citizens, noting that these committees were formed and trained by the NGOs themselves. During the first and second phases, NGOs were able to cover the absence of significant social actors. They also worked to strengthen the neighborhood model, within the displacement camps, by strengthening relationships in a positive way in order to ensure self-protection for people, especially the most vulnerable amongst them.

As for the third level, which is knowledge building, NGOs have not actually started working on this level, but have provided some contributions although insufficient.

¹⁰ Report issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, dated 1/5/2024 published on the website. https://www.arab48.com

¹¹ Mariam Abu-Al-Atta, Director of Programs at Aisha Association for the Protection of Women and Children, Personal interview on 23/6/2024.

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It is worth noting that NGOs whose specialization is the protection for women and children withstood heavy burdens as a result of the large waves of displacement, in which women and children were at great risk. In addition, gender roles underwent a dramatic and sudden change which brought with it increased burdens on women and children. It was was especially difficult in terms of providing water, food, and other productive roles since everyone was denied his/her productive role due to the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza and hence breaking the economy in the besieged Gaza Strip, and for an unknown period of time. Statistics show that at the beginning of the war, unemployment rates jumped to unprecedented levels, where it was estimated that at least 200,000 jobs were lost during the first three months of the aggression. Furthermore, it should be noted that the majority of concepts and terminology related to the measurement of workforce characteristics are no longer realistic and are inapplicable on the GS, since the top priority for the individual in the GS has become the provision of shelter, food, drink and the search for security¹². Mariam Abu-Al-Atta, Director of Programs at Aisha Association for the Protection of Women and Children¹³, describes the reality of NGOs working in the protection sector for women and girls in Gaza today to be the result of the urgent and significant humanitarian needs; fragmentation of the majority of NGOs workers due to the Israeli bombardments on the GS; difficulty of communication, especially in the first few months of the war, and working in an unsafe environment. All of the mentioned causes made it difficult for NGOs to work according to their strategic visions set for "normal" times, hence the emergency response approach for serving all displaced, and particularly women. She also pointed out that during the last few months, some institutions began to recover however temporarily, by gradually returning to providing services to women and girls in addition to relief services.

At the same time, researcher Sa'id Abu-Gaza¹⁴ sees that NGOs in the GS has faced new crisis that prevented it from providing the required humanitarian aid and interventions in light of the ongoing Israeli occupation aggression on the GS, which hindered and restricted their work.

On the other hand, a statement by the United Nations Human Rights Office in the occupied Palestinian territory noted that the conflict and threats have seriously undermined the vital work of Palestinian NGOs. In addition, the statement said that the impact of the escalating Israeli military operations on Palestinian CSOs in Gaza is immense¹⁵. The UNRWA also issued a report which stated that the majority of the 980 NGOs registered in Gaza have ceased to operate in whole or in part¹⁶.

¹² Sa'id Abu-Gaza, Development researcher, Israeli Aggression Disrupted the work of NGOs, article published on the website. https://reform.ps/ar/blogs/the-lack-of-women-organisations-and-civil-societys-role-in-light-of-the-aggression-on-the-gaza-strip

¹³ Statement issued by the United Nations Human Rights Office on 31/6/2024.

¹⁴ https://www.unrwa.org/ar/resources/reports

¹⁵ Interview with Mr. Mustafa Ibrahim, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Adameer Human Rights Association.

¹⁶ Mr. Yusr Al-Atrash, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Social Development Forum, Special Interview 27/6/2024.

Furthermore, the capacity of NGOs, particularly human rights organizations, to monitor and document grave human rights violations committed by Israel, has been severely affected at a time when its needed most due to several reasons, including: evacuation of many international institutions and their teams from the GS, hence absence of their role in monitoring the outrageous human rights violations committed by Israel; decisions taken by many funders to stop Funding for Palestinian Human Rights Organizations; Israeli pressure on Human Rights NGOs and specifically after their reports were issued, on which the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice have relied; weak coordination with human rights institutions in the WB¹⁷.

Moreover, there are those who believe that NGOs played a major and vital role in supporting citizens, and were able to give a high response, despite the challenges they faced at the operational level and at the level of people's needs. Without these institutions, the humanitarian situation in the GS would be more tragic, more difficult and more complex. In fact, the actions were important and beneficial for both, the people and organizations. This experience must be taken seriously in terms of evaluation and analysis in order to enhance the strong areas and success stories, and address those that need fixing. The importance of the NGOs work during the war is highlighted due to the major role it played, in light of the shrinking role of the government in the relief process in all respects¹⁸.

Third: Challenges Faced by NGOs During the War

Challenges of Working Under War

Specialists and experts who were interviewed for the preparation of this paper unanimously agreed that NGOs faced many challenges during this genocide war on the GS, thus far; summarized as follows:

At the level of NGOs

- The magnitude of the catastrophe and the Nakba that befell Gaza, as a result of the genocidal war, was greater than the capabilities of any private parties at the beginning of the attack.
- Displacement, the dispersion of NGOs, and the absence of a unified database in the early stages of the war led to weakness in the management of relief operations. It also contributed to weakening citizens' confidence in any response by any party.
- The NGOs themselves, headquarters and crews were subjected to displacement and dispersion, hence losing a large part of their work capabilities and interventions.
- The majority of NGOs switched to relief work in response to humanitarian needs at the expense of their programs and missions, which denied them their identities and specializations.
- The unsafe and dangerous working environment reduced NGOs abilities to operate in many places, especially in areas of direct invasion and bombardment.
- Evacuation of many cadres working in NGOs outside the GS posed a challenge for the work teams left behand to carry out their tasks, especially since many of those who left were decision-makers in those organizations.
- The dispersion of board members between the Gaza governorates, as well as outside the governorates, reduced governance of these organizations as a result of their inability to hold meetings and taking decisions legally.

- The fragmentation of boards of directors created challenges related to financial transactions such as spending. For example, a transaction would require days to complete due to the staff's inability to communicate in the absence of infrastructures and Internet services. Hence financial decisions and transactions were moving at a slow pace.
- Lack of accountability can lead to misuse of funds as well as to weakening the active role of boards and other regulators.
- The inability of many NGOs to find permanent places for work, having to deliver services while working in the displacement camps, and thus being forced to move from one place to another time and time again. This reduced the ability of organizations to carry out their planned activities.
- Difficulty in movement and mobility of workers of the organizations, due to lack of fuel.
- Personal and institutional prosecution of NGOs working in the field of human rights and monitoring of Israeli violations.
- Confronting theft of premises and their contents, especially electronic devices in addition to loss of files weakened the effectiveness of NGOs and reduced their productivity in the early stages of the war.
- Destruction of the Palestinian economic and private sectors created great challenges for NGOs and weakened its capacity to provide basic response needs. All due to the repeated closure of the crossings and entry points by the Israeli occupation and its refusal to allow aid to enter the Strip, in the first months of the war.
- Destruction of the infrastructure of official government institutions increased the burden and responsibility of NGOs.
- This war is the war of dismantling the key systems and references, hence the absence of a governmental response, and the transfer of it to NGOs, which led to overlapping of roles and duties, thus, CSOs carried additional load of work, as seen by citizens. This created great challenges for these institutions as they are now required to cover several roles, and not only their primary role of being complementary to government institutions. In addition, there is the absence of other social actors such as political organizations and trade unions which also added to the overlapping of roles and contributed to increasing the burden on NGOs.
- Government and security interventions in the work mechanisms of relief organizations created issues related to the transparency and integrity of services. Thus, NGOS were confronting the (virtually absent) security and government system, on the one hand, and the thieves and war-rich opportunists on the other hand.
- Lack of response of the Ministry of Interior in Ramallah to the renewal requirements for boards of directors, as part of the annual administrative requirements. This also poses an obstacle to NGOs and especially in processing bank transactions.
- Banking bureaucracy, lack of cash flow, and complications related to renewal of signatory authorization for members of NGOs were and continues to be an important challenge for NGOs to carry out their duties.
- Confusion and fear of funding agencies hindered the speed and effectiveness of NGOs responses and caused chaos and confusion in the relationship with these agencies, especially during the first three months of the Israeli offensive.
- Funder bureaucracy and annual reporting requirements have reduced the ability of NGOs to bring in new funding as war broke out at the end of the year, which is the period when institutions generally prepare their annual reports. Therefore, the NGS inability to prepare their reports and respond to humanitarian needs presented administrative challenges related to the relationship with funders.
- Non-completion of grants by many funding agencies; their absence from the work system in the GS and refusal to convert existing grants into emergency grants within the organizations' plans for emergency response all were factors that posed challenges to the work of NGOs.

- Difficulty in receiving, transporting and securing aid of international institutions.
- The transfer of a large number of employees working in NGOs to work in international organizations due to the international organizations strategies of providing direct services to the public.
- The existence of multiple systems and references for humanitarian work; attempts to apply international and regional models that are ineffective in the new work environment in the GS.

Post-War Work Challenges

The genocidal war on the GS constituted many challenges for NGOs work at the level of human resources, logistics, and relationship with funders among others. Experts who participated in the preparation of this paper believe that the majority of these challenges will continue in the post-war era, in addition to new challenges that are most likely to arise after the war is over. These challenges might be summarized as follows:

Civil Society Organizations

- The future battle of representation and the distribution of roles will be a major challenge for NGOs. It will also be a new arena for conflict with government agencies, as a result of the individuality of the government institutions mentality.
- The absence of major legal and institutional references, and the fear of post-war chaos in the relationship with the new government authorities will pose a challenge to the work of NGOs in the relief field; as a result of the high cost of human and material labor.
- Decline in the achievements gained in past years in terms of civil and personal rights under the pretext of emergency, in addition to encroachments on NGOs by government institutions under the pretext of emergency.
- Restoring the stability of institutional structures such as headquarters, elected boards of directors, and the necessary human and technical cadres.
- Removal of the mass destruction in addition to meeting the great needs of the people will test NGOs ability to transform anew and move forward to implement their development programs according to their strategic vision prior to the war.
- Finding headquarters for organizations to help them start anew, in addition to the theft and loss of their administrative and financial archives may reduce their effectiveness.
- Restructuring the work of many organizations to move towards relief and humanitarian work, as a requirement for obtaining funding.
- Provision of an environment conducive to the absence of official and societal accountability.
- High expectations projected will place NGOs in a constant circle of suspicions by the citizens, especially in the absence of other actors and references.

Fourth: Recommendations and Proposed Interventions

Response Phase and Continuation of the War

At the Level of Civil Society Institutions It is Important:

- To strengthen governance in NGOs by forming and activating boards of directors; regulating meetings; re-establishing relationships with the official parties- "government" with flexibility that allows for reconnection with external parties such as: banks and donors.
- To adapt quickly the structural structures of NGOs at the level of vision and human resources to cope with the transformations towards humanitarian work.
- -The governance systems must develop mechanisms for community accountability that is emergency-based and promotes transparency and accountability for humanitarian and other service providers.
- To rebuild the coordination system in times of emergency, taking-into-account the current general context of civil work, and changing roles.
- To develop mechanisms for adaptation to the work of NGOs at the medium level, and moving to the stage of work with the possibility of prolonging the war.
- To create a broad human resource recruitment plan, based on absorbing and training new generations in light of the competition for human resources by international organizations, and the imposed migration of many cadres, in anticipation of prolonging of the war.
- To preserve the civilian gains made during the past years...not ignoring the human rights aspect of women, girls, and people with disabilities, despite the state of emergency.
- To highlight violations and abuses that occurred during the war, especially those concerning civil rights and freedoms of opinion and expression.
- To develop a structured community-based protection mechanism to protect relief aid, and thus reduce the material cost of transportation, in addition to promoting the concept of community participation in relief work. This can be achieved by benefiting from expertise of the multiple organizations working in emergencies.

At the level of funding agencies

- Put pressure on international funding bodies, which withdrew from the funding space because of the war, or because of the political positions of their countries towards operating in Gaza to return.
- Develop a participatory fund-raising plan based on the reconstruction of relief and development concepts in times of war, in addition to adopting international advocacy campaigns to obtain funding.
- Invest in the state of popular sympathy at the global level in strengthening networking with international organizations and actors in support of the Palestinian cause.

Post-War Phase

- Develop a strategic vision for the role of NGOs in the recovery and reconstruction phase that ensures effective participation and partnership with all components involved in the recovery and reconstruction plan, in addition to setting funding priorities for post-war periods.
- Organize a lobbying and advocacy campaign, which includes pressuring governments and international decision-makers to include participation of NGOs in the reconstruction process.
- Develop a strategic vision for NGOs that ensures the integration of emergency response, development work, and the re-introduction of civil rights issues.

Fifth: Sources and references

- 1. Press release issued by the Government Information Office in Gaza 31/8/2024.
- 2. UNRWA Report No. 99 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem, issued on 4/4/2024 and published on the UNRWA website, https://www.unrwa.org/ar/resources/reports
- 3. Rapid Assessment Report on the Damage of Palestinian NGOs in Gaza, NGO Network, May 2024.
- 4. Report issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, dated 1/5/2024 and published on the website. https://www.arab48.com
- 5. Sa'id Abu Gaza, development researcher, Israeli aggression disrupted the work of NGOs, article published on the website https://reform.ps/ar/blogs/the-lack-of-women-organisations-and-civil-societys-role-in-light-of-the-aggression-on-the-gaza-strip
- 6. Statement issued by the United Nations Human Rights Office, issued on 31/6/2024.
- 7. Focus discussion group meeting with NGOs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank via Zoom on August 27, 2024.

Interviews

No.	Name	Title
1	Amjad Shawwa	Director of the NGO Network
2	Tayseer Muheisen	Development Expert
3	Taghreed Jum'a	Director of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees Association
4	Mustafa Ibrahim	Chairman of the Board of Directors for Adameer Human Rights Association
5	Yusr Al-Atrash	Chairman of the Board of Directors — Social Development Forum
6	Mariam Abu-AlAtta	Director of Programs at Aisha Association
7	Islam Atta-Allah	Consultant on political issues



AMAN was established in 2000 as a civil society organization that seeks to combat corruption and promote integrity, transparency and accountability in the Palestinian society. The Coalition was first formed by an initiative from a number of civil society organizations working in the field of democracy, human rights and good governance. In 2006, the Coalition was accredited as a national chapter for Transparency International.

AMAN is a Palestinian think tank and a specialized body providing knowledge on corruption at the local and regional level through producing specialized reports and studies. The periodic publications include: The annual Integrity and Anti-Corruption Report, the annual Palestinian Integrity Index and the National Integrity System studies and reports, in addition to the Coalition's continued contributions to produce reports and studies on the status of corruption in the Arab region.

As part of the global anti-corruption movement - and of international alliances and partnerships with relevant specialized coalitions and organizations - AMAN plays a key role in the transfer and contextualization of necessary international knowledge and tools to combat corruption in all sectors.

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AMAN'S core program is funded by the Government of Norway, Netherlands, and Luxembourg