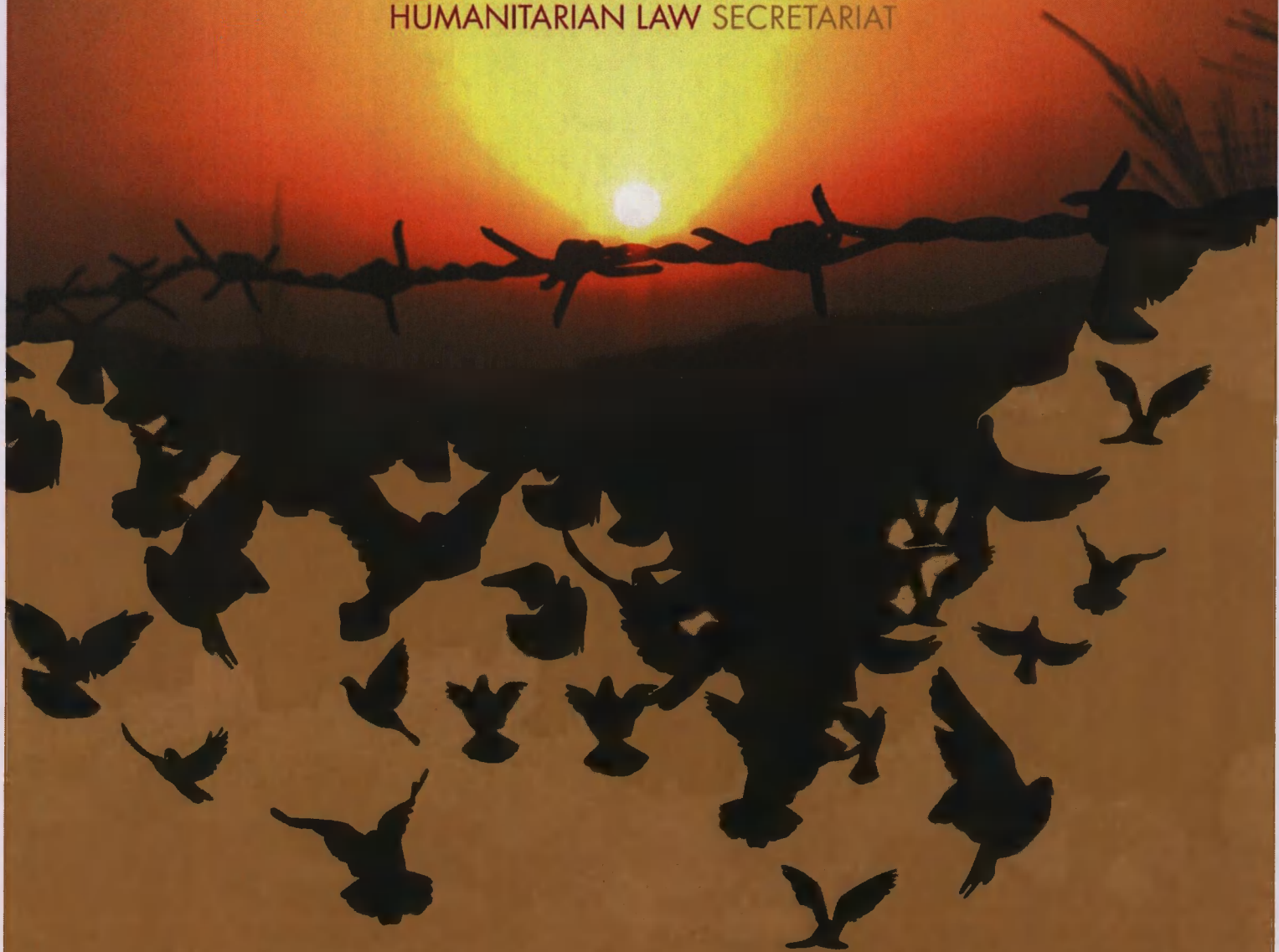




سكربتار با حقوق الإنسان
والقانون الدولي الإنساني
HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW SECRETARIAT



Annual Report 2015

Our Overall Objective:

“...to contribute to the effective realisation of adherence to human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and to influence the behaviour of the relevant duty bearers...”

NIRAS



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The Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat in the occupied Palestinian territory (hereafter The HR/IHL Secretariat or “Secretariat”), is a project implemented by NIRAS Sweden AB – Sweden, and the Institute of Law, Birzeit University with generous support from the governments of Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CCDPRJ	Civic Coalition for Defending the Palestinians' Rights in Jerusalem
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCI	Defence for Children International
FMM	Fund Management Manual
HCJ	High Court of Justice
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICHR	Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRHL	International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
ILO	International labour organization
JLAC	Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOE	Ministry of education
MOI	Ministry of interior
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOL	Ministry of labour
MOSA	Ministry of social affairs
NGO	Non-government Organization
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPT	occupied Palestinian territory
PARC	Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee
PBA	Palestinian bar Association
PCATI	Public Committee against Torture in Israel
PCHR	Palestinian Center for human rights
PHRI	physicians for human rights Israel
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organization
POCAT	Participatory Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
PWWSD	Palestinian Working Women Society for Development
QA	Quality Assurance
SCT	Israeli Supreme Court
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SIDA	Swedish International Cooperation Development Agency
TAC	Technical Appraisal/Assessment Committee
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council resolution
WCLAC	Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY¹

The HR/IHL sector in oPt continued in 2015 to face the challenges posed by: the Israeli occupation and its negative impact on Palestinian social fabric; the Gaza-West Bank division; and, the defragmentation and near paralysis of many Palestinian institutions. The past two years has featured dramatic changes in the environment in which partner CSOs operate, most notably resulting from the effects of the 2014 Gaza conflict, and the escalating and excessive use of force against Palestinians; especially, since late 2015.

Partner CSOs have also been challenged, through legislative measures by Palestinian and Israeli duty bearers, effectively limiting the already limited space available for them. On the one hand, Israeli human rights CSOs have come under increased pressure, including both on their ability to receive foreign government funding as well as from governmental and non-governmental bodies seeking to discredit their work in the eyes of the Israeli public. On the other hand, Palestinian CSOs have also been subjected to government measures that have resulted in limiting their freedom to receiving foreign funding.

Despite this backdrop, the oPt's accession to nearly two dozen human rights treaties, including the two major international covenants on human rights and the Rome Treaty has opened new positive avenues for partner CSOs to seek redress in international fora.

The Secretariat has noticed an increase in partners attention to actions, which would bear fruit on the mid and long term; namely at the level of policy development. As this report details, CSOs have intensified their engagement with duty bearers on policy dialogue compared to Secretariat figures of 2014. In numbers, partner CSOs have improved policies in 54 instances, and have been able to influence duty bearer behaviour and policy recommendation in nearly 78 cases.

In addition to employing strategies such as documentation, education, and counselling, partners have begun (or increased) their engagement at the international level. For examples, certain partners have engaged more with the office of the ICC Prosecutor, and provided more material on serious violations of rights, which fall under the ICC jurisdiction. CSOs have also started in 2015 to focus more on working with the Palestinian government and have increased their reporting on human rights treaty bodies, including during the national consultation processes.

In spite of the increased focus on international arena, Partner CSOs have continued to provide much needed services to the public, in a diverse set of themes and topics, including rule of law and fair trial, gender equality and gender based violence, the rights of the disabled, children rights, the right to freedom of movement, the right to property and protection from settler attacks, socio-economic rights including worker rights, amongst others.

The Secretariat continued in 2015 to develop its systems and introducing new procedures and work process to improve its effectiveness, efficiency, flexibility, and management of resources. In 2015, the Secretariat have managed 70 grants to 59 CSOs.² A total of 114 payments were made to CSOs, with a value of \$4,539,854. As detailed in section 2.2 of this report, the Secretariat has launched project funding cycle # 2 in response to priorities the Secretariat and the donors identified. Special focus was given to the situation in Jerusalem, area (C) and Gaza.

The fund management function of the Secretariat came closely aligned with the other two functions, namely capacity development and policy dialogue. In 2015, Capacity Development activities, remained flexible to

¹ This report is prepared by the Human Rights and International Law Secretariat solely for the purposes of reporting on progress of its work in 2015 and should in no way be construed as representing the positions of its partners or supporting donors.

² 19 projects from project funding cycle # 1 (2014), 18 project funding cycle # 2 (2015), and 9 emergency funding, and 24 core funded partners

existing and emerging needs. Close engagement and cooperation with partner CSOs continued in 2015. Formal partners meetings were conducted side by side with regular field visits, in Ramallah, Gaza and Jerusalem aiming at providing on the job Capacity Development (CD) for partner CSOs. Overall, partner CSOs showed high degree of satisfaction with the different CB activities (93% satisfaction). The Secretariat organised and supported 42 capacity building events focused on ToT, IHL, HRBA, peer to peer activities and internship. The total number of participants in these events were 723, of which 433 were females, representing 60% of the participants in the capacity building events organised by the Secretariat in 2015.

The Secretariat carried out a number of dialogue activities and provided floor for discussion between the partner CSOs and donors and other stakeholders on important topics. These topics included but not limited to:

- The dialogue around the cycle 2 of project funding has positively affected the donors decision to focus the cycle 2 of project funding on the HR situation in East Jerusalem;
- CSO – CSO dialogue that the Secretariat catalysed around the need for partner CSOs to cooperate on producing the single report on the 2014 Gaza conflict has strengthened the voice of CSOs through joint, synthesised credible data to the UN Commission of Inquiry concerning the 2014 Gaza conflict.
- CSO-CSO-Donor dialogue on the implications and joint action towards limiting the effects of military order 1745.
- CSO – Donor dialogue around shrinking funding for the HR and IHL Sector has been successfully facilitated by the Secretariat. Donors' attention for the need to address this looming problem has been increase.

The Secretariat has also succeeded in the Project funding cycle # 2 to enhance CSO partnerships and in all 18 project grants that were approved. By emphasizing that join application or clear cooperation between partners will be preferred to application by a single CSO when reviewing application has catalysed CSO cooperation and search for synergies and complementarity among CSOs. This approached has create relationships and modes of collaboration which has the potential of sustaining beyond the end of these projects.

The Secretariat used different means of communications to enhance its services as hub of knowledge. The Secretariat website featured a significant increase in the number of visits in 2015 (52612 visits) compared with (32408 in 2014), in addition to 17789 instances of document downloads in 2015 compared to 2014 figures (5210).

CSOs have come to appreciate the quality of service the Secretariat provides, and see in it an acceptable vehicle for delivering support to the Sector; especially, following the reforms in Secretariat fund management system introduced in 2015.

1 ACHIEVEMENTS

1.1 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IHL/HR SECTOR

In this section the overall performance of the Secretariat partners is presented, using the Secretariat's Overall Objective (see textbox, right) as a guide.

The Secretariat's Overall Objective is:

"to contribute to the realization of adherence to HR/IHL in the oPt, and influence the behaviour of the relevant duty bearers to that end, through civil society organizations supported by a consortium of donors"

In 2015, the Secretariat partners have secured improvement in policies to promote further respect to HR for the Palestinians in the West Bank and those under the Israeli authorities, in 54 instances, compared to 53 during 2014. Partners have also increased attention in PA plans for HR/IHL issues in 25 topics during 2015 compared with 20 topics during 2014. As for the extent of adherence by duty bearers to international human rights standards (violations as determined by partner interventions and programmes), partners have documented 18541 violations during 2015 compared with 7174 violations during 2014. The vast majority of these violations were committed by the Israeli authorities. This increase is clearly related to documentation of violations in the aftermath of the 2014 Gaza conflict and as a result of increase violations of HR and IHL in the second half of 2015, especially in occupied Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank.

Partner CSOs continued to work closely with certain duty bearers, the donors, as well as stakeholders to promote HR. Partners reported that they have managed to put forward 78 policy recommendations that have been endorsed by duty bearers during 2015. Many of these were developed in dialogue with the PA and the Israeli authorities compared to 86 recommendations during 2014.

With regard to the use of media to advance HR, Secretariat partners have in 2015, supported (directly or indirectly) the training of about 167³ CSO media staff, compared to 238 in 2014.

Raising HR/IHL issues via media or investigative reports is an indication of the progress and advancement in the country in the HR field. During 2015, partner CSOs recorded more than 6 thousand media products on human rights, compared to 4600 in 2014.

1.1.1 Policy Changes to Promote HRIHL Among Duty Bearers

2015 has witnessed several positive and negative political developments that have coincided with deterioration in the human rights situation in the oPt. In Israel, a newly-elected government has exerted increased pressure on NGOs working from Israel, particularly HR organizations. Different methods to limit their role in defending HRs in the oPt were used by the current Israeli government. This work has resulted in the Knesset passage in first reading of what is commonly known as the 'NGO Bill'. If it were to be in force, this bill would add additional tax on foreign grants/remittances to NGOs in Israel, and would consequently negatively affect the financial situation of human rights NGOs.

The Israeli parliament has, on 30 July 2015, adopted the force feeding law.⁴ This law is intended to combat hunger strikes conducted by Palestinian prisoners in recent years. Palestinian political prisoners use hunger strikes to shed light on human rights violations in prisons and detention centres. Force feeding is a serious violation of several HR principles including fair trial and medical ethics.

³ This number includes the number of instances media staff have been trained, not the number of media persons trained, so media staff may have been trained on more than one occasion.

⁴ <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.668670>.

At the Palestinian internal level, the PNA has enacted by the end of 2015 a new law by decree regulating the functions of the High Council of Media. The law by decree not only poses limitations to human rights but it also violates the Palestinian Basic Law pertaining to safeguarding the right to free speech.

Further, as a result of the pressure and demands, particularly by CSOs in the oPt, the Palestinian Authority has ratified on April 1, 2015 the convention of the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court (ICC). The HR sector in the oPt has hailed this ratification and deemed it as a major step towards protecting and promoting HR and IHL for Palestinians.

Finally, partners have reported that shortage of funding is faced in 2015, and that varieties of steps have been taken to overcome this challenge in order to secure long term sustainability and stability for the human rights sector. This shortage of funding, which has affected the work of some Secretariat partners, by cancelling/calling off activities and postpone hiring new staff, will likely continue and increase in 2016.

Despite these difficulties partners have managed to respond and act proactively towards improving respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. Partners have reported that in 2015 they succeeded to influence or change 54 different policies contributing to increased adherence to and respect for human rights in the oPt and draw the attention of the PNA about 25 HR/IHL issues in its plans, in addition to producing 78 policy recommendation papers that were used in dialogues with the PNA and Israeli authorities. The following are major areas in which policy change has been documented and reported:

1.1.1.1 UN Independent Commission

In July 2015 Secretariat partners have worked towards influencing the UNHRC to adopt the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry Report on the 2014 Gaza conflict. Partners have provided information and facilitation to the commission during its work. On the other hand, PCHR, al-Haq, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights have succeeded to deliver submission to the ICC on alleged Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity during the recent conflict. The four organisations submitted communication to the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC, in November 2015, pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute. The communication contains detailed witness accounts of killings, destruction of property, torture and attacks on civilians. This is the first time in Palestinian history that Israel's actions in the oPt are put on the agenda of the ICC. It is worth noting that the Secretariat has encouraged partner CSOs to jointly document human rights violations during the conflict, and to coordinate their advocacy at the international level for increased efficiency and stronger message and impact. The documentation for this report has been carried out using resources the Secretariat provided through emergency grants to 9 partner CSOs, approved during the 2014 conflict. This report is of vital importance, given the fact that the Israeli authorities have refused to cooperate with the UN Col, and at the same time the report is based on information and evidence collected directly from the field, which would be of great value for any relevant proceedings.

1.1.1.2 Combating Settlements Expansion and Regaining Access to Land

CSO partners have achieved notable success in protecting more Palestinian land rights though allowing land owners the right to challenge decisions taken by what is known as the Blue Line Team⁵. A petition⁶ to the HCJ managed to reinstate this right, and has managed during the court process to attain a clear commitment by officials of the Israeli occupation army's "Civil Administration" to allow appeals to be submitted to the head of the "Civil Administration" against decisions of the Blue Line Team.

Partners also worked to halt the attempt to pass the so called "land regulation bill" (also called "outpost bill") that was to be discussed by the Israeli Ministerial Legislation Committee. This bill if passed was supposed to give the power to Israeli officials to confiscate lands in Area C by force with little compensation to landlords

⁵ The Blue Line Team is responsible for checking that the boundaries of "state land" are correct, usually these boundaries are drawn on official maps as a blue line. The blue line team is involved in the expansion of the boundaries of settlements

⁶ Submitted by partner CSOs in cooperation with the village councils of three villages.

and without objections to land confiscation, which in turn would allow the construction of more settlements and outposts on Palestinian privately owned land.

The two policy changes mentioned above may not fully protect against confiscation of Palestinian land for the construction of illegal settlements, but will contribute to limiting arbitrary confiscation, and provide better guarantees against violations of land rights.

1.1.1.3 Combating Force Feeding

Advocacy efforts by PHRI and other partners have resulted in stopping the application of the Force Feeding Law, which was passed on 30 July 2015. Partners have reported that they conducted various types of advocacy and lobbying events to stop the application of this law. PHRI has managed to mobilise the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) to refuse conducting the force feeding of prisoners, which turned the law inoperable. The IMA has clearly stated that it is absolutely forbidden for an Israeli doctor to administer a feeding tube down a mentally competent patient's throat who refuses the treatment. Force-feeding prisoners in this manner has been prohibited since 1975 by the World Medical Association.

1.1.1.4 Women Participation and Equality

PWWSD together with other women organizations has succeeded to pressure the Palestinian Central Council that represents 13 political parties in the oPt to adopt a resolution that raised the quota of women's political participation in the council to 30% instead of 20%. It is a step in the right direction to ensure more equitable women's participation in political life in the oPt. This was also a result of joining various international treaties that allowed the Palestinian Central Council to adopt a resolution that stressed the need to take the necessary steps to implement the many international conventions Palestine has joined, such as CEDAW. As a result of the work of WCLAC, Palestinian banks and the Palestinian Monetary Authority allowed children to open bank accounts under the oversight of either parent. Consequently, the monetary authority issued an official circular to banks to establish procedures to implement the said decision.

1.1.1.5 Better Conditions at Detention Centres

In Israel, PCATI succeed to influence changes in the policy of interrogation for Palestinian women at Israel security apparatus through a petition submitted to High Court of Justice (HCJ). As a result, Palestinian female detainees have now the right to be interrogated by an Arabic-speaking female interrogator. This right was also added to the booklet given to detainees before interrogations. This was one of the results of ongoing lawsuit submitted to the HCJ on behalf of six Palestinian women who were detained and interrogated by the Israeli security forces, after their complaints of torture had not been investigated for over 21 months. Partners use legal action strategically to set judicial precedents, as a form of change in duty bearers' behaviour.

On the other hand partner CSOs contributed to developing policies within the PA institutions to combat child labour -- examples include: development and drafting of national guideline on combating child labour with MOSA, MOE, MOI, MOL, MOJ, ILO, and the development and endorsement of a code of conduct on the protection of children victims of child labour and economic exploitation. In addition, partner CSOs through coalitions and individual case contributions, engaged in the drafting of the new juvenile justice and protection law.

Addameer has achieved an important success in setting judicial precedent by allowing family members to attend the first investigation session of child detainees. Since July 2014, Israeli authorities have banned Palestinian family members in Jerusalem from attending the first investigation session with their child detainees. This is not only a violation of HR and IHL but also the Israeli criminal law. Attending interrogation sessions has proven essential for guaranteeing fair trial for children, and has contributed to preventing child abuse at detention centres.

1.1.1.6 Shadow Reporting

Partner CSOs have effectively engaged in preparation of the CEDAW draft report in cooperation with Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Partner CSOs provided their collective input to MOFA, in all aspects of the report, and much of the contribution of partner CSOs has found its way to the official report, which will be sent to the UN Secretary General end of June 2016 or thereabouts. In addition

as a result of joint CSOs efforts, a working group to develop the CEDAW's civil society's shadow report was created, and partner CSOs WCLAC, PWWSD are members of this working group. Moreover Al-Haq has provided input and remarks on official draft reports under the ICCPR, United Nations Convention against Torture, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

These efforts demonstrate how CSOs were proactively working in protecting HR and IHL, and their work will directly and indirectly influence the behaviour of duty bearers, because input to reports, as well as engagement in developing policy recommendations are important strategies to affect the behaviour of duty bearers. Additional policy changes and examples of behavioural changes of duty bearers are highlighted, in the course of the presentation of partner achievements, in Section 1.1.2 below.

1.1.2 IHL/HR Coalitions and Partnerships

Year 2015 witnessed significant coalition formation and networking which strengthened the work of human right sector CSOs in defining human rights. The engagement with the associations, coalitions and networks amongst HRIHL CSOs is not an objective in itself, but rather an indication of cooperation among the actors in this sector to achieve the targeted goals. In project funding cycle # 2 partnerships were encouraged to partner with others in order to support better provision of services to the communities they serve.

Overall, partner CSOs have been remarkably active in networking in 2015. CSO partners continued or increased engagement with networks, as more than 70% of partner CSOs have engaged during 2015 with new associations in comparison with 67% during 2014. The below are some examples:

The ad hoc coalition of Al Haq, Al Mezan, Addameer and PCHR, discussed above, was formed for the purpose of unifying efforts of documentation of human rights violations during the 2014 Gaza conflict.

In Gaza, WAC joined several coalitions and networking including a coalition to end discrimination against women with 25 CBOs and CSOs; Amal coalition to end violence against women with 12 women CSOs; a coalition of protecting women during political crisis with 15 CSOs supported by funding from the Secretariat to the Center for Women Legal Research and Consulting CWLRC; and finally the civil coalition for monitoring reconstruction of Gaza.

Badil established two networks and coalitions that took up the cause of Palestinian refugee rights. The first one is Global Palestinian Refugee Network (GPRN), including 8 independent Palestinian human rights CSOs from Israel, the oPt and around the globe, committed to providing a strategic rights-based framework of collective struggle for the realization of the rights of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons. The second network is Refugee and Displacement Working Group (RDWG), comprising 7 Palestinian CSOs to defend the rights of Palestinian refugees and IDPs within the peace process. Moreover, Badil joined the EU Coordination Committee on Palestine, and the International Committee of Voluntary Agencies.

The most important output that would have a long term impact of Muwatin Project, is the establishment of the Civil Coalition for Monitoring of Legislation. The Coalition has the potential of creating new dynamics for civil society engagement in law making, and creating certain checks and balances that will partially fill the gap left by the absence of the PLC. The Coalition includes the Palestinian Bar Association, the Independent Commission for Human Rights ICHR, the Palestinian NGOs Network PNGO, General Union of Persons with Disabilities, Union of Independent Syndicates, Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, Al-Haq, Jerusalem Legal Aid Center, and Muwatin, the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy. To ensure sustainability of the Coalition, Muwatin agreed with the ICHR that the latter would host the coalition and provide it with the logistical support.

1.1.3 Other Outcomes of Partners Activities to Promote IHL/HR

In addition to the achievements highlighted above, major achievements of partner CSOs during 2015 have fallen in the following categories:

1. Rule of Law and Fair Trial

2. Torture and Ill-treatment
3. Socio-economic Rights
4. Violence Against Women and Children
5. Excessive Use of Force
6. The Right to Movement
7. Freedom of Expression
8. Property Rights

2 SECRETARIAT PERFORMANCE

Secretariat performance is measured against its Program Objective, as embodied in the Results Framework. The Secretariat's Program Objective is stated as follows: "A HR/IHL Secretariat is institutionalised and considered a key player and resourceful partner in the promotion of HR and IHL issues".

This chapter of the annual report is structured along the lines of the Results Framework; the work of the Secretariat is addressed below in three sections, each responding to one of the three objectives of the Secretariat. The fourth section addressed the views of partners as to the performance of the Secretariat.

2.1 FUND MANAGEMENT

As stated in the Results Framework, the Secretariat has been designed to be "an effective fund for the promotion of HR and IHL issues in oPt, which is transparent, reduces corruption and duplication".

The Secretariat strived from the start of its operation in 2013 to build and upgrade an effective fund management system that ensured accessibility, transparency, fairness amongst applicants, and countering corruption and duplication. The Secretariat continued throughout 2015 managing 70 grant contracts with a total of 59 CSOs. This number includes: 24 core funding grants, 18 project funding grants from cycle # 2 (2015), 19 project funding grants from cycle # 1 (2014), and 9 emergency funding actions that have started in 2014 and were closed out in 2015.

Despite being a management challenge, the growing number of partners was an opportunity to diversify interventions, and address more rights in localities not adequately targeted through the programmes of the Secretariat's core grantees. Figure # 2 (right) shows the cumulative commitments of the Secretariat to all partners, core and project, by thematic focus. Thematic focus of core funded CSOs combined (figure # 3, below) can be consulted for comparison.

In the sections below, more information is provided on how the core and project funding parts of the Secretariat's work complemented each other, and how funding progressed naturally in response to the ongoing discussions with CSOs and donors regarding priorities and gaps.

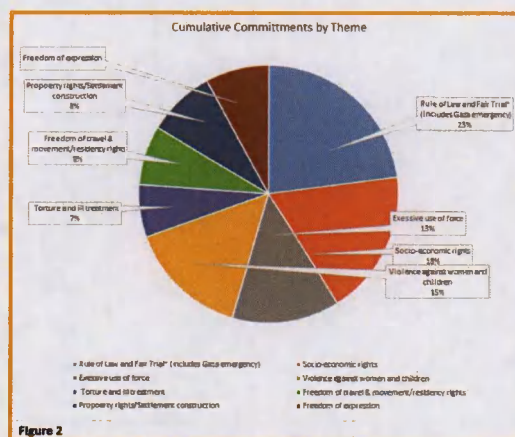


Figure 2

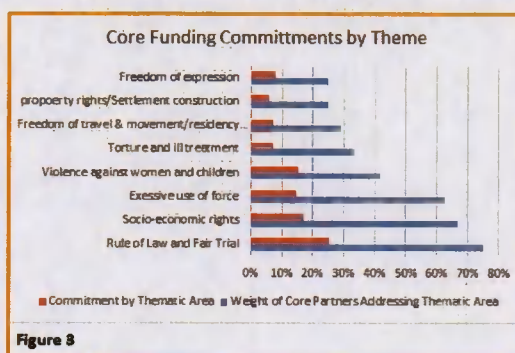


Figure 3

2.1.1. Core Funding

HR/IHL Secretariat commitment towards the core funding CSOs budgets of 2015⁷. During 2015, the Secretariat has received annual audit reports for the year 2014 from all 24 core funded partner CSOs, and has subsequently transferred the remaining contribution for 2014 budget to all core grantees. The 24 audit reports were reviewed and approved by the Secretariat, before the remaining payments for the year 2014 were made. PriceWaterHouseCoopers conducted a review of these 24 audit reports, upon agreed procedures, and a report by the audit firm was submitted to the donors. The results were satisfactory, and showed that virtually all partners have good financial standing.

Thematic and Geographic Focus:

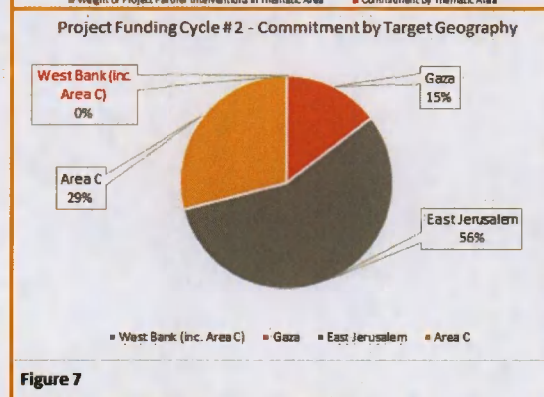
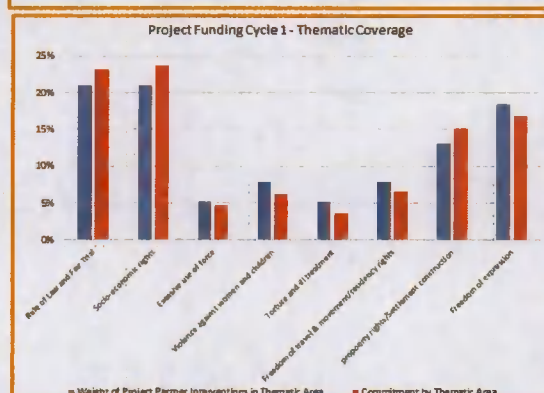
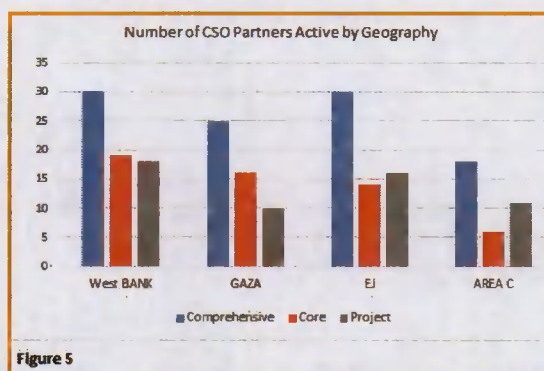
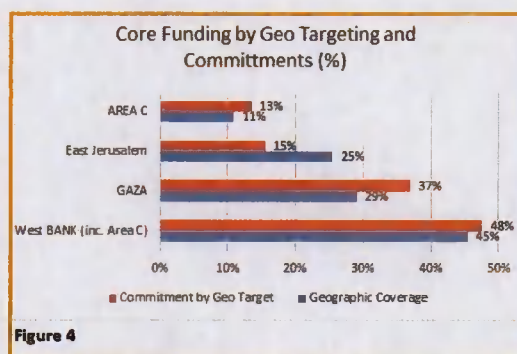
According CSOs' budget and annual plans for 2015, figure # 3 (above) shows the Secretariat's contribution to core funded partners budgets per thematic area. As clear from the figure, property rights (including settlement construction), freedom of expression, freedom of travel, and torture and ill-treatment were underserved in the programs of partner COSs.

With respect to the geographic coverage of partner CSO interventions in 2015, the Secretariat, based on the M&E data available, has aggregated CSO interventions from Secretariat contributions per geography. Figure # 4 (right) shows that 85% of the work of all partners is in the West Bank (including Area C) and Gaza, while 15% is in East Jerusalem. This supports the decision to increase focus on East Jerusalem in the second project funding cycle.

By analysing the locations of the CSOs, figure # 5 (below) shows the aggregate number of CSOs in each geography and grant type.

2.1.2. Project Funding

The Secretariat has managed a portfolio of project funding grants in 2015, combining 19 grants carried from the first project funding cycle (2014), and 18 from the second project funding cycle (2015).

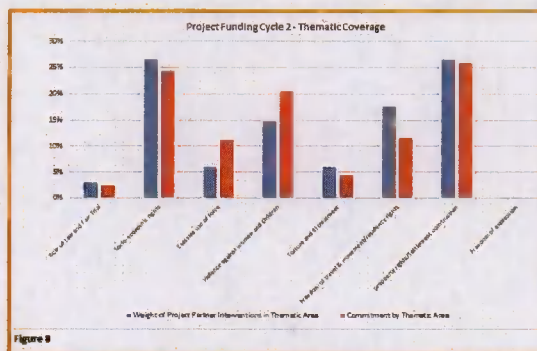


⁷ See financial report for figures.

To develop the concept and focus of the second project cycle funding, the Secretariat engaged the donors and partner CSOs and other civil society activist around the need to take affirmative action in Jerusalem in the form of a special project funding cycle with special focus on East Jerusalem. This discussion started with a gap analysis that the Secretariat conducted to determine the level of focus on East Jerusalem, compared to the growing needs for protection. The analysis showed that there are growing HR and IHL violations in Jerusalem on the one hand, and shrinking funding sources, and deteriorating capacities of Palestinian CSOs in light of constraints and structural limitations poised by the Israeli authorities. In response, the Secretariat released the second call of project funding proposals in the first half of 2015, with special emphasis on the situation in occupied East Jerusalem. Project funding was meant to provide CSOs with resources to implement activities, which respond to the changing priorities in the oPt.

Analysis of core funding partner programs suggested the need to put additional emphasis on the thematic areas of: torture, freedom of expression, freedom of movement and property rights and settlement construction.

As Figure # 7 (right) shows, over 55% of the grants were in support of East Jerusalem priorities, and nearly one third addressed Area C priorities, with none to the rest of the West Bank.



With regard to the themes addressed through second project funding cycle, figure # 8 (below) shows how thematic areas not adequately addressed previously have in the second grant funding cycle been addressed, most notably the areas of property rights and settlement construction, freedom of travel and residency rights, and violence against women and children.

The above demonstrates how the three grant cycles have been used purposefully to address country priorities, in terms of themes and geographic focus, and how gap to achieve desired results in project funding cycle # 1 did not prevent the Secretariat, with donor support, from moving substantially towards said target in the second cycle of project funding.

2.1.3. Developments in Fund Management

During 2015, the Secretariat was subject of number audits and a study on the effectiveness of core funding. In addition to the above, the Secretariat has received feedback from CSOs and donors regarding the modalities, timelines and tools it employed in the management of funds. Consequently, the Secretariat has reviewed the FMM, and with the approval of the donor Steering Committee, has released an updated version of the FMM in April 2015. The revisions included: allowing project funding through a single step (CSOs submit full applications, without need to first submit concept papers); core grantees report only annually and aligned with their own annual reporting; and, the 20% ceiling for core funding has been removed from the FMM, so that funding is provided needs-based.

The Secretariat has thus responded to the request of the CSOs and recommendations of the said study in a timely manner. As the Secretariat's FMM has been revised as mentioned above, the Secretariat and donors have also discussed ways to ensure the Secretariat remains engaged with CSOs and able to assess gaps, problem areas and opportunities, and respond to CSO, sector and country priorities. To do so, the Secretariat has compensated for the lack of a semi-annual report through increased emphasis and more frequent and better documented visits to and meetings with partner CSOs.⁸

This flexibility and change was highly appreciated and endorsement by CSOs. The Secretariat team has made the transition to the new modality successfully, with the limited human resources available to it.

⁸ Secretariat staff collect feedback on CSO satisfaction not only through surveys, but also qualitatively during visits to collect M&E data.

2.2. CAPACITY BUILDING

The Secretariat has been tasked, per its Results Framework, to contribute to **“strengthened CSO in the HR/IHL sector through institutional development, effective participation in democratic processes and improved performance.”**

In 2015, the Secretariat identified a broad strategy for Capacity Development (CD), remained flexible to emerging needs and liaised with partners on needs-based training opportunities. All through 2015, the Secretariat team continued the close engagement with partner CSOs. Four partner meetings were conducted side by side with regular field visits, in Ramallah, Gaza and Jerusalem aiming at providing on the job CD for partner CSOs. The Secretariat continued to gauge feedback from CSOs on the performance of the Secretariat’s capacity development activities, current priorities, emerging new needs, and direction of the Secretariat and CSO partners should take to improve CSOs capacities. The feedback was used to modify and enhance delivery of Secretariat services.

Overall, partner CSOs showed excellent degree of satisfaction with the different CB activities (93% approval). The Secretariat organised and supported 42 capacity building events focused on ToT, IHL, HRBA, peer to peer activities and internship. The total number of participants in these events was 723, of which 433 were females, representing 60% of the participants in the capacity building events organised by the Secretariat in 2015.

The Secretariat uses five interrelated and complimentary strategies to advance its capacity building program. These are:

2.2.1 Individual Capacity Building Activities Using Budget Support to Partners

The Secretariat has been following up on the progression of partner CSO’s implementation of their individual CD plans. Partner CSOs carried out a diverse set of CD activities identified based on the findings of the capacity assessment per organisation⁹. Their own needs were reflected in their annual plans, which the Secretariat supports, and from other sources in order to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of the CSOs.

During 2015, partner CSOs conducted several CD interventions. Topics addressed included, gender policy, strategic planning, external evaluation, M&E, fundraising strategy, good governance, MIS, legal capacity development, IHL, media for staff, coalition building and partnership, procurement regulations, HRBA, and international advocacy tools. In addition, partner CSOs implemented 176 peer activities in 2015, in which 178 CSOs participated.

M&E data collected for 2015, indicates that CSOs report lower completion rates on planned CD interventions relative to completion rates for planned activities overall. This suggests that CSOs have not given CD activities top priority, perhaps due to fund limitations and pressures resulting from the changing priorities and needs in the country especially in the second half of 2015.

2.2.2 Developing Partner Capacities in Applying HRBA in Programming and Organizational Management

Increasing the partners’ capacity in applying HRBA was a key theme that CSOs¹⁰ and the Secretariat have identified as the focus of CD interventions delivered by the Secretariat in 2015. HR CSOs usually consider HRBA as intrinsic to their work, but application of this approach in every day work is easier said than done. Therefore, partner CSOs considered practical application of HRBA as a path to organisational change. In response, the Secretariat developed a unique tool assessing HRBA in both programming and in internal management of the

⁹ POCAT for core partners, and during the tendering process for project funded partners.

CSO (including staff development), spanned across 16 standards. The standards were visually put into a traffic light system for an easy overview of strengths and relative weaknesses. See the figure 9 (next page).

Since this was an individual assessment of CSOs, the latter's capacities varied at the individual level, as well as between core program partners and project partners. In general, core funding partners demonstrated a high level of understanding and better application of HRBA. Most partners used participatory methodologies in their programming, and relatively strong levels of empowering type-of-activities of their constituencies, advocacy against duty bearers and data transparency. However, CSOs identified weaknesses that included: lack of systematic integration of HRBA principles in programming tools; limited capacity development targeting duty bearers and measures bringing rights holders and duty bearers together; limited structured participation of constituency in organisational management, particularly in organisational governance structures; and, limited internalisation of HRBA principles in organisational management tools. These relative weaknesses in partners' application of HRBA were the subject of the subsequent CD intervention of core and project partners. The approach was participatory and based essentially on the hands-on experiences of staff and partner organisation. Relatively stronger core partner performers were also used as resources to share good practice in relation to HRBA standards and for coaching partners. The adopted process approach to the HRBA intervention required partners to unveil their systems and processes and to nominate relevant staff members who are able to improve the organisations' performance in HRBA. The Secretariat had no influence on the nomination of trainees, and faced considerable challenges to ensuring these were relevant and adequate.

The degree of application of HRBA in programming and internal management as a consequence of participating in the intervention has varied amongst partners. This could be explained partly by partners' understanding of expectations of organisational performance having participated in the Secretariat intervention combined with the lack of control on staff selection and participation throughout the CB process.

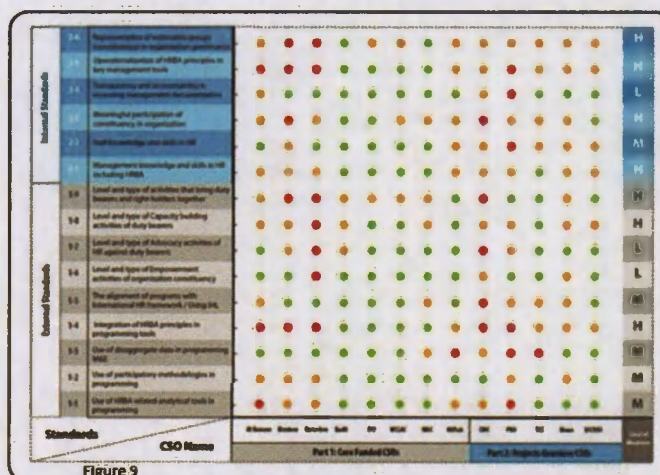


Figure 9

For Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, 16 action plans were received and discussed with partners for concretization of activities in the pursuit of HRBA. However, due to the political conditions in WB and Jerusalem, core grantees have shifted their priorities to respond to the emergency conditions encountered in the second half of 2015, which has delayed action on these plans, and hence no coaching activities were conducted before the end of 2015. Secretariat plans on this in early 2016 were cancelled, due to budget cuts, resulting from unexpected currency variance.

2.2.3 Training of Trainers (TOT) Program

One of the core components of the Secretariat capacity building plan is developing the capacity building of individuals with strong experiential background in HR & IHL, who are willing to provide capacity development for other partner CSOs on behalf of their organisations. The overall aim is to develop a network of qualified trainers to sustain and increase capacity d development interventions in the sector amongst Secretariat core and project partners.

Partner CSOs are amongst the strongest in terms of capacity in the HR and IHL sector. However, subject matter experts do not process the skills necessary to transfer knowledge and experiences within partner organisations and across to others, using adult CD techniques. Training techniques are still by large traditional.

Further, partner CSO continue to use external trainers to develop the capacities of their staff, while development of internal competences and capacities to deliver training is still lacking. On the job training has

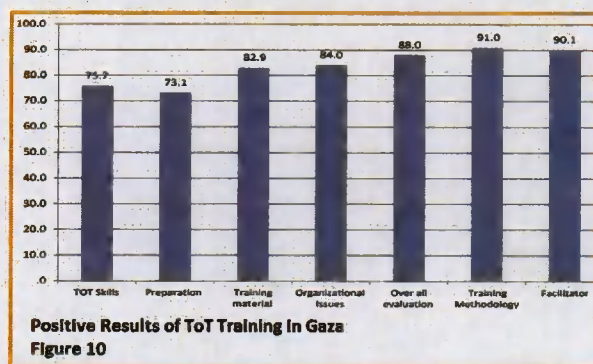
been identified by partners as an important, effective, and sustainable technique because it ensures need-based CD, and this has the potential of transforming training material into systems and structures.

To respond to this need, the Secretariat designed the ToT intervention considering the use of adult training facilitation techniques, providing new trainers with fundamental training skills and know-how for effective delivery.¹¹

Participants from Jerusalem, the rest of the West Bank and Gaza Strip went through a process driven needs assessment to better understand the needs of the participants' and hence better tailored the training programme accordingly. Participants have passed through the personality profiling. A tool that helped participants reflect on their personality preferences and the impact these have on their learning styles. All literature and practical experiences¹² were compiled in a training manual that serves as a foundation of knowledge on how to develop, deliver and manage training activities in an effective manner, and skills required for quality training. The training manual will later be published to maximise the benefit from the intervention, not only by the ToT participants, but to the HR sector at large.

Three ToT interventions were planned to be conducted in three locations, during 2015. During 2015, the ToT was only successfully delivered in Gaza Strip; the other two trainings were conducted in early 2016. Delay was upon the request of participants, as result of the volatile situation and confrontations in the West Bank starting October 2015. The training in the three locations were composed of and divided each into two phases. The first phase consisted of two rounds, 3 days each, where it assiduously identified the required needs, programme, and design (drafting training objectives, outputs and activities) of a training intervention, preparation of a training material and presentations, the diverse training methods and the optimal ways of using it, the efficient use of training tools, effective communication among the trainees, skills of display and presentation, the management of a training programme and ways to deal with arising problems during the training process, and finally the evaluation of training activities and events. Acquiring the aforementioned knowledge permitted the participants to work on their home assignment, in two weeks period, to prepare and design a training cycle. The second phase involves a reflection workshop, whereby the participants presented their graduation project, through executing and evaluating a training intervention. Participants appreciated this experimental phase, while they were coached, as it enabled them to experience and observe the entire process of performing as a trainer, receive practical and constructive feedback, from the facilitators and participants, and to specify the real impact of the training and finally the new skills and competencies developed.

Upon the completion of the ToT training in Gaza, the findings of the ToT evaluation affirmed the active participation of the trainers and overall satisfaction, and appreciation of the training. Participants found the training methodologies of high significance, and the acquired knowledge and gained skills were very useful in delivering training in the future. See figure 10 for positive results of the training.



2.2.4 Results Based Reporting (RBR)

Result Based Reporting is part of the capacity building plan of the Secretariat aimed at improving the level of results based reporting of partners, including in their annual planning, reporting and reflective learning processes. During the review, in 2015, of partners' annual reports received by the Secretariat, the team

¹¹ For various reasons, the number of nomination were reduced from 41, due to candidates' inability to commit and attend all phases of the training. Others apologized viewing the training scope so intense, or due to the inconveniency of the dates for implementing the intervention, whereas some others had to respond to urgent tasks and new responsibilities at their home organisations.

¹² On the training process, training needs assessment, training design and planning, competency-based training, skills of the trainer, presentation skills, implementing training activities, training challenges/problem solving, evaluating training activities, etc.

observed that the vast majority of partners reported on activities- rather than results. Thus, the Secretariat worked to address this common challenge through implementing an instrumental capacity development intervention intended to develop a results-based culture within the sector in which concepts and tools in ways of operationalizing the use of RBR are explained, as well as methods to improve the logic of results-based-management. The training included: elements of result-based planning, management and reporting, theory of change, use of results frameworks, and result-based reporting and M&E (indicators, M&E preparations and arrangements, data gathering/classification, etc.).

Due to its instrumental nature, the results based reporting intervention was planned to start in early January 2016, to be completed in early February 2016, as an opportunity to accommodate the needs of partner organizations through providing technical and practical support, in alignment with the development of their annual reports for 2015.

In anticipation, an assessment tool was prepared where partners' current reporting challenges, areas of weakness and strengths were identified. Analysis of data gathered demonstrated weaknesses in CSOs' lack of understanding and application of RBM systems as an approach to management, limited skills in using M&E data for result based reporting and skills to revise the reporting guidelines shifting away from activities to communicating important results, and limited skills in drafting results based annual reports. The Secretariat initiated the design of a needs based and demand driven capacity development intervention derived from the aforesaid weaknesses.

The programme was implemented in early 2016, and thus will be covered in the annual report for 2016. However, we can report that the training was a success. Effective results-based reporting not only demonstrates the effectiveness of the partners' intervention with respect to their beneficiaries and funders for continued support and resources, but also is very useful for policy dialogue and advancing advocacy.

2.2.5 IHL Training

Building the capacity of CSOs in IHL has been one of the main four areas in collective capacity building needs. The motive for this capacity building came from the fact the Gaza was subjected to 3 consecutive offensives by Israeli occupation where too many incidents of violations of IHL by the occupation were reported. CSOs felt the importance of gaining the capacity to monitor and report on IHL violations. In November 2015, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights and the Secretariat conducted a 2-day workshop on IHL.¹³ The training focused on issues such as the regulation of use of force; the responsibilities of medical personnel in armed conflict; the implementation of IHL by armed non-state actors; the increased use of drones, automated weapons and cyber-attacks, and the recent Arms Trade Treaty, amongst other topics.

The participants during the training succeeded in presenting reports consistent with IHL language about different expected scenarios. In small groups, participants identified the different IHL principles which applied and the specific violations which occurred.

According to the pre and post test conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the workshop, the evaluation revealed that 100% of the participants had their knowledge and skills increased in IHL, 96.2% of the participants believe that the overall goal of the workshop was achieved, 100% of the participants answered that they would use the knowledge and skills in their work. And finally 100% of the participants were satisfied about the training methods, trainers and training material and resources.

2.2.6 Internship Programme

The internship programme in its pilot phase was implemented in partnership with Birzeit University during the academic year 2014-2015, after it was designed through various meetings between BZU and the Secretariat,

¹³ 13 participants, 8 females and 5 males from 7 Secretariat partner CSOs have attended the training. One Core partner and 6 project partners, have benefited from this capacity building activity.

with the objective of providing partner CSOs with young legal professionals, who have been introduced to and become interested in working in the human rights field.

During the pilot phase in 2015, four female students acquired knowledge and skills on defending human rights. In addition, the interns have supported the work of hosting CSOs (DCI and MIFTAH) and produced research papers dealing with reproductive health, juvenile justice and children rights in Jerusalem.

Different challenges faced the implementation of this pilot phase: the new idea of this programme was not accepted by partner CSOs at the beginning, but the Secretariat managed to have partner CSOs on board after several meetings; only four students have applied for this phase, and thus the Secretariat and BZU accepted all applicants. On the other hand, the Secretariat's coordination with the law department at BZU was not smooth, until BZU decided to assign a coordinator for this programme starting with the second phase. The Secretariat had its own difficulties following up on the implementation of the first phase, due to staff turnover.

The participatory evaluation of the pilot phase has revealed that the programme should be enhanced and developed, based on the following key findings:

- Internship duration (40 hours) was not enough to fulfil the objectives;
- Number of both hosting CSOs and students should be increased;
- The programme should target third year students, instead of fourth year students. The former still have enough time in their school to be committed to the programme; and,
- More focus should be given to field work.

Those findings were integrated in the programme for its second phase. The second phase was launched in partnership with BZU in the West Bank, and Al-Azhar University in Gaza, in collaboration with 21 hosting CSOs. The Secretariat and participating universities hosted open house events at each university to launch the programme and to help students to choose which CSO they find more suitable for their internship. Moreover, these activities provided a floor of interaction between more than 350 students and 21 CSOs.

"This programme is unique since it is the first internship program that targets Palestinian students and human rights CSOs in Palestine, and it has helped us to interact with students' community."

A total of twelve students from Birzeit University and Al-Azhar University were selected to join the second phase of the internship, after two rounds of interviews. Those students are conducting their internship in six hosting CSOs in each of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

2.2.7 Peer-to-Peer Learning Activities

The Secretariat uses the peer-to-peer (P2P) capacity development strategy as an important tool to capitalise on the diverse and important capacities partner CSOs have to transfer knowledge to other CSOs. Further, the Secretariat believes that P2P allows for the efficient use of resources in the service of the sector. P2P is also used as forum for networking among CSOs, particularly that most of these activities use seminar approach to transfer knowledge.

Like in 2014, the implementation of joint learning activities in 2015 has played an important role in strengthening the partnership, coordination and teamwork between the Secretariat partners. Contacts among the partners involving exchange of technical consultations based on specialty of each partner have increased.

2.2.8 On the Job Support

CD was envisioned from the outset to include Secretariat staff providing mentorship and on the job coaching for CSO staff, on need basis. Secretariat staff members have a variety of needed expertise in HR and IHL, project cycle management, fund management, financial management, M&E and learning, as well as communication.

Capturing data on these activities may never be comprehensive, and even if attempted will be time consuming, due to the magnitude of activities as well as difficulty to aggregate them. These activities happen daily during interaction between the Secretariat staff and CSOs staff (whether staff of partners or those who

even lost their application) on best practice in financial management, fund management, programme cycle management, including M&E. For instance the financial manager engages on a daily basis with CSOs on financial related issues, and provides advice particularly for emerging CSO on financial systems and structures. The Fund Manager does the same with CSOs on compliance and accountability. CSO facilitators also engage with CSOs and advise on their programme design, building strategies, and at time even at the level of designing activities. The same goes for the human rights advisor and the Secretariat Manager with respect to policy related issues.

In addition to advice by mail, and phone call, on the job advice has been considered by partners as an effective, efficient, and sustainable CD strategy. During 2015, Secretariat staff have conducted 67 field visits focused on the progress of the activities, project design and management, risk management, internal audit function, procurement management, internalisation of HRBA in programming and management operations, M&E for knowledge management, financial management, planning, documentation and reporting, and result based reporting, engaged with the following engagements of partners. The Secretariat will, through a modification of data collection M&E system, ensure that it captures the most important information on this service.

2.3 FACILITATING POLICY DIALOGUE

According to its Results Framework, **“the Secretariat, makes meaningful contributions to policy development in the sector through evidence based measures and effective IMS against the monitoring of services, and participates actively in the policy dialogue with donors and other sector stakeholders.”**

By the beginning of 2015 the role of the Secretariat in policy dialogue was redefined, in discussion with CSOs and donors. The role of the Secretariat in policy dialogue was defined as a facilitator of dialogue on problem identification, voicing different views, and as needed, facilitate policy dialogue with duty bearers. This was the basis for the policy dialogue component of the Secretariat’s 2015 Annual Work Plan. Implementation, however, was not an easy task. Please see section [3.3](#) of this report on challenges facilitating policy dialogue by the Secretariat faced.

Despite the above challenges and obstacles, the Secretariat managed to conduct a number of policy activities in line with its approved work plan, and has managed to provide floor for discussion between the partner CSOs and donors and other stakeholders on important topics.

2.3.1. Policy Platforms and Events

Dialogue in 2014 and 2015 was linked to fund management. Based on dialogue involving Secretariat’s donors and partner CSOs, an assessment study was concluded in 2015 with the aim of identifying priorities for the second funding cycle. This study oriented the second funding cycle towards targeting East Jerusalem and focusing on specific themes that were not adequately addressed and served through the programmes of partner CSOs. The themes included: monitoring and reporting mechanism for children in armed conflicts, Palestinian socio-economic and psychosocial rights, and protection from violence including settler attacks on Palestinian civilians. Towards achieving this objective, the Secretariat conducted focus groups, workshops, and individual and collective meetings to discuss priorities with partner and non-partner CSOs and donors, in addition to literature review.

In addition, the Secretariat continued policy engagement around the work of partner CSOs related to the documentation of violations of human rights during the 2014 Gaza conflict. A dialogue meeting held on 22 January 2015 titled “CSOs and donors convene to discuss Gaza war documentation (and beyond)” gathered core partners of the Secretariat and diplomats (Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden) to present preliminary findings of the documentation report drafted by Al-Mezan, Al-Haq, Addameer, and PCHR. It is worth noting that the report was submitted to the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Gaza Conflict.

Additionally, the Secretariat has provided a floor for discussion of urgent and important topics for the sector. For example, on 28 April 2015, the Secretariat has invited partners, donors, and development stakeholders in the human rights sector for dialogue meeting on the Israeli Military order # 1745. The Secretariat has researched and prepared to organize dialogue around a host of other topics, including CSO staff and data

security, and the Israeli NGO bill, amongst others. However, due to a collective decision by the Steering Committee to re-focus the work of the Secretariat, policy dialogue issues were halted by the end of 2015.

2.3.2 The Engagement and Contribution of BZU

On this level, the Secretariat has strengthened its dialogue activities conducted with the Institute of Law (IoL) of BZU. Discussions involving the IoL in 2015 tackled human rights and legal issues with a view to enriching practitioners' knowledge, including on accessing international human rights instruments. During the reporting period, the Secretariat conducted two dialogue activities related to international human rights law and organs: the first addressed the ICC and its role in the Palestinian situation, and the second discussed the wisdom and modalities for resorting to the ICJ for a second advisory opinion in the context of the prolonged Israeli occupation. These events had gathered activists, academics and partner CSOs. In addition during the reporting period the Secretariat and different departments and centres at BZU, including the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies, joined forces to discuss HR sector developments, including Palestine's duty to harmonise national legislation with international conventions, national - international judicial complementarity (in the context of international criminal law and the work of the ICC), and the position/status of HR/IHL international conventions in the Palestinian legal system.

2.3.3 Website Traffic

The Secretariat website witnessed remarkable increase by visitors. In 2015 the Secretariat planned to enhance and to enrich its website towards being a hub of knowledge and a reliable website for the HR sector in the oPt and for researchers. The statics indicated a huge increase in the number of visits to the website, the data provided 52612 visits during 2015 compared to 32408 in 2014, in addition to 17789 instances of document downloads from the Secretariat's website (compared to 5210 in 2014). Moreover by the end of 2015 the Facebook page had 12834 likes, representing interested and returning users and visitors to the Secretariat's FB page.

2.4 PARTNER PERCEPTION OF SECRETARIAT PERFORMANCE

As part of the Secretariat plan to promote and assess communication with its partners and partner satisfaction with the Secretariat services, an online survey was designed and conducted in early 2016.

The survey clearly showed CSOs satisfaction of the **capacity building activities organised by the Secretariat or through partner organisations**. These activities were not only useful to develop partner CSO capacity, but also promoted partnerships, and showed improved understanding of partners expectations from the Secretariat's role. CSOs continue to see the Secretariat's role as a reliable, responsive partner, far beyond a mediator with the donors or a fund channelling mechanism.

"The Secretariat has created a culture of using IHL and IHRL standards as basis to assess the human rights situation in Palestine"

A message received by the Secretariat through the online perception survey conducted in early 2016.

The survey also showed that CSOs were satisfied with the events the Secretariat organised to address both thematic issues related to HR and IHL as well as organisational matters. CSOs, however, still ask for more, indicating CSOs find these events useful and important.

One of the main concerns of partner CSOs is the status of financial support from donors. The survey clearly shows this concern; partner CSOs believe that the current donor contribution is significant and reflects attention to the status of HRIHL in the oPt. More is certainly required, given the need to protect and promote HR against a situation where multiple duty bearers exercise governmental functions and commit violations, and especially given the fact that Israeli violations are on the increase, in type and volume.

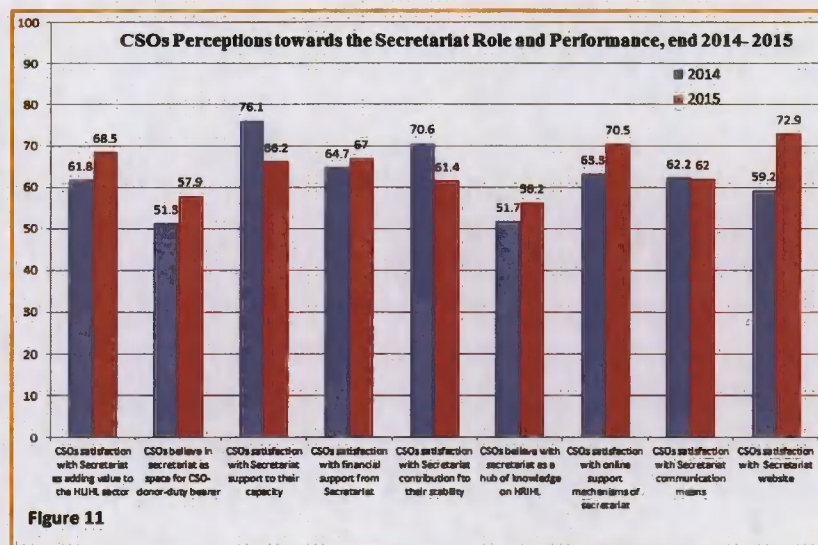


Figure 11 illustrates partner CSOs perceptions towards selected vital issues in the relation with the Secretariat existence and performance. As clear from the said figure, the overall satisfaction of the Secretariat performance increased in 6 of the 9 areas. The two areas where satisfaction has significantly decreased include the area of stability, which clearly is related to levels of funding, and capacity development, indicating need for additional Secretariat involvement in this area.

The following are selected comments from partner CSOs, received through the survey. These are provided "in participants own words":

1. "Secretariat contributed in the Policy dialogue is appreciated, but still not enough. There is need to conduct policy dialogue on more regular basis, possibly quarterly."
2. "Both the peer-to-peer learning programme and the percentage of support to be dedicated to capacity-building of the organizations' budgets have been good tools to help CSOs develop technical and institutional capacity. The Secretariat has been a valuable supporter of our work in this area."
3. "Core funding is essential for CSOs, but is decreasing throughout the donor world. Donors need to decide as to how far they are committed to the continued existence of HR CSOs in Palestine. With very weak political parties, unions, and other organised groups under the PA, CSOs are practically the only voice heard in the public sphere for democratization and human rights."
4. "The majority of CSOs remain in an unstable and precarious situation due to decline in support for Palestinian CSOs. This is a serious situation and donor countries need to take account of it as a matter of policy, and in relation to the future of CSOs in Palestine."
5. "The Secretariat implements many important and diverse activities and events, and hosts many experts in diverse fields. Regarding the important position the Secretariat holds, any activity it calls for is indisputably important. We were satisfied with the content and quality of the events organised and wish there were more activities."
6. "The capacity-building activities organised by the Secretariat or through partner organizations have helped develop capacities of some of our staff members. The grants provided have enabled us to transfer skills and capacities to our target groups and their representative bodies, thus increasing our ability to mobilise them with us to address human rights violations and participate in advocacy work. The internal awareness of HRIHL issues and approaches has strengthened considerably as a result of our partnership with the Secretariat. Particularly with regards to monitoring and evaluation, and HRBA, there is an appreciation of the value of applying this 'lens' to our programmes and projects."
7. "The Secretariat's website is informative and updated."

ANNEX 1: PARTNER PERFORMANCE, IN KEY THEMATIC AREAS

Rule of Law and Fair Trial

Muwatin highlighted major inconsistencies in the law making process in the oPt, which creates opportunities for narrow interests to drive law making, at the expense of other legitimate interests. Muwatin brought the result of their research for debate over the law making process. Through this effort, Muwatin developed the idea for the Civic Coalition for Monitoring of Legislation.¹⁴

The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and Legal Profession (Musawa) developed a comparative study highlighting the weaknesses and gaps in the draft text of the Palestinian constitution. The examination was conducted bearing in mind that Palestine has become party to major international human rights conventions. Reform proposals were communicated to and discussed with the highest echelons of the Palestinian government.

The Palestinian Bar Association has decided that training on IHRL and IHL is henceforth a prerequisite for lawyers who wish to practice the legal profession in Gaza. This came as result of a project the PBA with support from the Secretariat. The importance and effects of this decision will bear fruit on developing the HR and IHL sector as whole through better trained lawyers. This represented a major policy change at the PBA that regulates the legal profession in the oPt.

In response to documented violations of human rights, partner CSOs provided legal support and succeeded in ensuring redress in hundreds of cases. For example, Al Haq secured through legal action the release of 15 detainees held without due process. The importance of this work lies not in the number of case, but in setting legal precedents, and deterring detention centres from committing future HR violation while knowing that organisation like Al Haq and other are monitoring their work.

DCI for its part provided legal representation to nearly two hundred Palestinian child detainees before the Israeli courts (both military and civil), and monitored compliance by the Israeli military justice system with IHRIHL. DCI also conducted investigations into all Palestinian child fatalities during the 2014 Gaza conflict, and published its findings. DCI also investigated child fatalities in Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank in 2015, and conducted advocacy activities, including internationally and at the UN, to contribute to justice and accountability for grave violations committed against Palestinian children.

The joint submission to the ICC by 4 human rights organisations (Al-Haq, Al-Mezan, Addameer and PCHR) regarding the 2014 Gaza conflict was one of the highlights of the work done in 2015. This represented the culmination of the 2014 work in documenting and processing the information and producing the reports; collective work which saw the light in 2015.

Partner CSOs have invested considerably in networking and lobbying, in order to encourage the Palestinian government to implement international human rights treaties which Palestine has recently signed, so that these agreements bring meaningful change.

At the international level, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the oPt recognized the causal link between policies of the Israeli government and attacks by settlers on Palestinians, a link explicitly raised in a written statement submitted during the 30th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council by CSO partners. CSO partners have also advocated the Council of the European Union to take action following the repeated destruction by Israel of EU-provided equipment and housing to Bedouins in Area C.

¹⁴ The Coalition was launched in May 2016. See <http://tinyurl.com/HRIHL-Coalition1>, last visited 25 May 2016 (Arabic).

Torture and Ill-treatment

Partner CSOs continue to face an enormous challenge to stop or reduce torture in detention centres particularly in Israel. Partners continue to use different strategies to limit these practices against HR and IHL principles. For instance, PCATI has successfully used **court appeals** to improve access to justice for victims of torture and ill-treatment, and enhancing accountability where violations of their rights occurred. These appeals have been successful in prompting investigation of complaints and the establishment of gender and culture-sensitive measures for the interrogation of Palestinian female detainees. These are important safeguards for accountability of duty bearers.

A group of Secretariat partners worked jointly in the battle against the force feeding bill and its implementation that was mentioned in 1.1.1.3 in the report. CSOs jointly and individually made public releases¹⁵ and publications¹⁶ to reach out to wider audience to stop this bill. The achievements mentioned in 1.1.1.3 are steps taken to prevent application of the bill by doctors on moral and professional ethics grounds.

On 15 August, the Israeli Supreme Court suspended the administrative detention order against Palestinian hunger striker Mohammed Allan that was widely reported in standard and social media. The SCT issued this decision following a petition submitted by Adalah and the rapid deterioration of Allan's medical condition. The combination of media and legal action is a clear example of effective strategies to ensure accountability of duty bearers.

Furthermore, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel ACRI, through a project funded by the Secretariat, produced a position paper¹⁷, which contained policy recommendations one of which that a lawyer and a family member accompany children during interrogation. As mentioned in 1.1.1.5 in the report, Addameer used legal action in Jerusalem to push towards establishing this right in Jerusalem.

Socio-economic Rights

Partner CSOs continued in 2015 to use education and awareness, research, and advocacy – including legal to protect this right. Al-Haq initially published a special report focusing on the issue of natural gas for the purposes of the third annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

CSO partners have also researched and campaigned in cases not involving the occupation authorities, but the Palestinian government. JLAC and other partners have in 2015 put forward legal and environmental arguments for the cancellation of a plan for government approval for a private company, SANAD, to acquire land¹⁸ in the northern West Bank town of Anabta. The plan was abandoned after weeks of public and CSO advocacy, to protect the rights of land owners. This is an important precedent that opens opportunities for further action in this field.

MIFTAH supported the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to adopt participatory and citizen budgeting tools and mechanisms, to enhance budget transparency measures. MIFTAH supported MoSA to print and disseminate the citizen budget for 2016, which was published on MoSA, MIFTAH and AMAN coalition websites.

During 2015, 122 new case files were opened for Palestinian workers. 174 cases were closed in the same period, and a total sum of approximately NIS1,878,920 was gained in compensation for workers.

Protecting the rights of Palestinians to preserve and develop their educational system, and the right of East Jerusalem children to freely learn, express and be educated in accordance with their own culture, values and national identity were all clearly highlighted in the work of partner CSOs. The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ) developed a sustainable network of CSOs, under the title "Council of Palestinian

¹⁵ <http://www.addameer.org/news/international-day-support-victims-torture-israeli-occupation-continues-systematic-torture>

¹⁶ http://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/special_units_of_the_ips.pdf and PHR publication entitled "Divide & Conquer: Inequality in Health"; "No Safe Place: The Findings of a Fact-Finding Mission to Gaza" and "Denied".

¹⁷ <http://www.acri.org.il/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Arrested-Childhood0216-en.pdf>.

¹⁸ Using the legal process of 'adverse possession.'

Education in Jerusalem", with an IHL and human rights-based agenda for coordinated action against the de-Palestinisation of education in occupied East Jerusalem. The Council started to work on preventing censorship of Palestinian textbooks and forcing Israeli curriculum on Palestinian schools.

Parallel to the above, Teacher Creativity Center worked with the Ministry of Education's to include extracurricular human rights activism as a basic element of the learning process. This effort came as a result of recommendations of the textbook analysis that TCC conducted through working with 30 schools in 30 Areas C villages. To test the textbook, teachers of these schools were trained on running IHL/IHRL-oriented analysis on school curricula and on measuring the degree of its responsiveness to international IHL and IHRL treaties and conventions to which Palestine has become party.

Finally, partners worked on increasing the attention of duty bearers to violations of socio-economic rights, and bringing to halt illegal decisions that violated these rights. This included the allocation of lands to government employees in Gaza, and the confiscation of lands that provides 30% of the drinking water needs in Jericho. PCHR and JLAC succeeded in stopping government action before going to court.

Violence Against Women and Children

Many partner CSOs have highlighted in their reporting that women and children became more and more at excessive risk in light of the deteriorating economic and security situation in the oPt. The increase in scale of violations such as home demolitions, forced displacement and denial of family reunification has a particularly harmful impact on women. As violence escalated in Gaza during the third and fourth quarter of 2015, while the Strip remained under siege, CSOs continued to combat violence against women; empower them, as well as advocating for their rights with duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders. This work remains vital to protect women and girls. Despite such challenges CSO partners' succeeded in achieving important outcomes for women and girls that confirm their pivotal role for supporting women's rights and gender equality in the oPt.

The reporting period witnessed strong efforts by the Secretariat partners to combat **violence against women and children**. Miftah developed an advocacy strategy for the UNSCR 1325 National coalition including joint directions in implementation, to raise the voices of Palestinian women of their needs and priorities to enhance civic peace, and for women protection and to call for an end to the Israeli occupation and to hold the occupation accountable for the Human rights violations against women and girls. This coalition is important because it is the first coalition that includes a large number of CSOs working on women rights, using one unified agenda, that promote women peace and security and collectively work on interventions, avoiding overlap and duplication and enhancing Palestinian women political discourse. The UN Commission on the Status of Women approved during March 2015, a resolution calling on the international community to continue providing urgently needed assistance and services "to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families". This recognition of HR violations of women's rights materialised as result of continuous advocacy efforts by the National Coalition for Implementing UNSCR 1325 (including several HR/IHL secretariat partners).

Palestinian women suffer discrimination and a low level of protection from the judicial system that holds high discretionary powers over women in court.¹⁹ Therefore, provision of legal aid is a very important strategy for protecting women rights that the Secretariat partners use. In some cases, CSO partners constitute the only accessible service provider for women who are victims of violence and operate at the very front line of protection for women whose lives are at risk. For instance, the Women's Rights Unit (WRU) run by the

As a result of training on IHL and HR by WAC, one woman participant was inspired to prepare a research study addressing the psychological impact of the latest Israel offensive on children in the Gaza Strip from a human rights perspective. It is good example of roll out effect of training on participants.

¹⁹ Women's Studies Centre (WSC) stressed in its' annual report 2015 that national laws need to provide more effective protection for women and be in compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), endorsed by Palestine in 2014.

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) is the only available legal aid to marginalised women can afford at Beit Al Amen women's shelter. All these women are victims of violence.

Due to restrictions on freedom of movement in the West Bank and Gaza, **access to medical treatment** outside these areas was at times very difficult. Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHRI) represented public interest cases of women requesting to be granted access into Israel to receive critical medical treatment. PHRI reported that approximately 50% (113) of the cases (216) were allowed to entry Israel to receive medical care. These women would have not had the proper health care if it were not for the work of PHRI.

Partner CSOs continued to provide **capacity development** in international humanitarian law, human rights and women rights, as an important principle of HRBA. CSO partners conducted awareness and skills training on IHL/HR targeting marginalised societal groups, students, CBOs as well as duty bearers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.²⁰

The AMAN Programme specifically focused on the prevalence and consequences of **sexual violence** for women and the dangers of early child marriage targeting parents, female students, CBOs, and boys and girls in the community (WSC). Trained students were also engaged in building local capacity to prevent violence and support victims of violence, which is an important indicator of the roll out effect and change of participants' behaviour. Similarly, efforts to develop the capacity of both male and female Human Rights Defenders were undertaken by CSO partners' (PCHR), enabling them to handle cases of rights abuses and violence against women more effectively, and assist them in their demands for accountability and justice.

CSOs **networking and dialogue** around women's rights and gender equality²¹ continued in 2015. Partners working on women's rights were able to influence and shape both the national and international agenda on women's rights during 2015. For instance, the National Coalition on UNCHR1325 brought together many Palestinian CSOs supporting the Women Peace and Security agenda in in the oPt. The National Conference "Women's Call: One Country, One People, One Flag" gathered 900 Palestinian women calling for immediate fulfilment of national reconciliation and national unity through a full immediate implementation of the Cairo Agreement (MIFTAH). The outcome document from the Conference included 13 recommendations on how to enhance women's involvement to end political division and support reconciliation efforts. At the international level, networking through Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, the Euro-Mediterranean Feminist Initiative Network (PWWSD), and the EMHRN Working Group on Gender and Women's Rights as well as contributing to the publication of the 2014 EMHRN Report entitled "Palestinian Women's Rights in EU-Israel and EU-PA Relations" (Adalah). CSO partners partook in roundtable meetings with Gunwomen to discuss about the Gunwomen Strategy to combat violence against women (WSC).

Women Affairs Center has also formed Women CBOs network forum. WAC brought 14 CBOs to enhance dialogue on HRBA and IHL networking towards lobbying and advocacy for women's human rights and gender equality; ensure synergy/ coordination and complementarity of interventions among women CBOs; and disseminate and exchange knowledge and experience among women CBOs. In addition, WCLAC managed to activate the emergency shelter committee including partner CSO and public sector and developing emergency referral system procedures.

A male political journalist informed WAC two seminars for journalist that he attended have changed his professional writings and that he is now integrating gender issues and using gender lens in his writing. This is particularly important in light of the fact this journalist writes in a newspaper affiliated with Hamas that have de facto control of Gaza as duty bearer.

WAC and El- Yamama journalism network cooperated in conducting these seminars. Media is an important tool for affecting public opinion.

²⁰ Capacity development activities of CSOs have covered wide-ranging topics related to IHL/HR and Women's Rights. Examples of topics of capacity development include women leadership skills, reproductive and health rights – GBV, UNSCR 1325, economic, social and cultural rights, occupational safety and health rights, social security, women right to association, gender research methodology and data collection technique, gender sensitivity, women rights and gender sensitivity in media, etc.

²¹ Including documentation and dissemination of evidence of human rights abuses against women and violations of IHL in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and advocacy work to support, protect and empower women in the oPt.

Partner CSOs continued to enhance Palestinian children situation internally, DCI succeeded to amend protection policy at schools to limit violence by enhancing school environment and curriculum as well as amending complaints mechanisms. This was a fruit of continuous two-year advocacy campaign that targeted the Ministry of Education after this policy was originally issued in 2013.

In addition, DCI managed to establish the National Childhood Council through advocacy that targeted MOSA to implement Article 26 of the Decree by Law No. (19) of 2012 on the Amendment of the Palestinian Child Law No. (7) of 2004 that provides the establishment of this council. DCI has contributed to the formation of its structure and its bylaws.

1.1.2.5 Excessive Use of Force

The escalation in violence, which began in October 2015, has required intensive attention and resources. Most of the partners' efforts were focused on documentation for use in advocacy work. Yesh Din attended to 66 incidents, conducting intensive fieldwork, collecting testimonies and offering legal aid. Letters to Israeli law enforcement agencies were sent by the organisation alerting them to the extent of revenge attacks and stressing the need to brief all soldiers of their duty to protect the Palestinian population. Yesh Din's report "Standing Idly By" published in June 2015, addressed the phenomenon in which Israeli citizens attack Palestinians or their property while Israeli soldiers refrain from protecting victims, failing to detain the offenders, do not secure the site for a police investigation and do not give testimony about the incident to the police. The report is based on testimonies of former Israeli conscripts, collected by Breaking the Silence.

In addition to the work of partners at the ICC mentioned earlier in this report, B'Tselem published three comprehensive research reports on excessive use of violence. Particularly the first report mentioned below has caused the organisation heated unjustified criticism from the Israeli government and military as well as segments of the Israeli public. The first report is called "Black Flag", addresses the legal and moral implications of the policy of attacking residential buildings in the Gaza Strip, during the Gaza conflict in the summer of 2014. The second is "Presumed Guilty", on remand in custody by Israeli military courts in the West Bank; and the third "Backed by the System" addressed torture at the Shikma interrogation facility. These reports were distributed widely to policymakers, diplomats, journalists and academics.

On the PA side, following Palestine's accession to international treaties and conventions, it became due for the PA and the Palestinian CSOs to start applying their obligations towards respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling the enumerated rights. The United Nations Convention Against Torture UNCAT is one of the international conventions Palestine accessed to in April 2014. Hurriyat was able to train official sectors and PHROC representatives to prepare the shadow report for the treaty bodies, through roundtable meetings and informational sessions with over 100 participants.

The Right to Movement

During 2015, the Rafah Border Crossing with Egypt has been opened only 32 days which represented excessive unjustified denial of the rights of more than 30,000 Palestinians, wishing to exercise their right to freedom of movement. Erez crossing on the other hand continued to restrict the number of Palestinians who want to travel to the West bank and Jerusalem, or abroad, where the monthly average of crossings during 2015 remained at %10 compared to the monthly average before the 2007 closure of Gaza.²²

Restrictions on movement of good and access to Israeli markets continued during 2015, though the Israeli Government has decided on a quota that allows the exit of tomatoes and eggplants to the Israeli market, given the Jewish religious period of "shmita".

²² <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5657ff174.pdf>

In this respect, partner CSOs contributed to increasing the number of persons receiving permits to move between Gaza and the West Bank and Jerusalem using legal aid. About 428 out of the 506 individuals assisted by partner CSOs managed to exit Gaza to seek healthcare, education, work, and reunion with families. Further, GISHA successfully petitioned the Israeli defense ministry to release information about and inform the public on permit policies and procedures governing entry to and exit from Gaza, movement of goods as well as a variety of other topics.

AlMezan and PCHR contributed to increasing the quota for traders who can hold a permit at any given time from 3,000 to 5,000 and that 800 traders would be permitted to transit per day –excluding small business owners and civil society organizations. On several occasions, the Israeli government did not comply with announced policies; partner CSOs continue to monitor and provide legal support as needed.

PHR has secured a change in the Israeli policy on family unification: in cases where a Palestinian resides in the West Bank and is married to a spouse who resides in Israel, a procedure for the 'fast-tracking' of applications for permits has been created so that parents can be united at least at the time the wife is giving birth.

Freedom of Expression

Partner CSOs continue to advocate for enhanced freedom of expression in both WB and Gaza (examples include advocating for the right to organise, and the right of union pluralism for public and non-public unions. During 2015, the partner CSOs recorded more than 6 thousands of media products on HR through different types of standard and social media, including investigative and research type work.

WATC long accumulated experience, working with the youth within its program "The Young Leaders Program", worked during 2015 with 200 female and male young activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Youth were given the essentials on how to do Rapid Assessments for their communities. Participating youth decided on the design of the whole process and lead the work on the field, using media to speak out their needs and concerns. Youth were able to conduct initiatives related to their own communities using art, theatre and the media.

Property Rights

Under this theme the challenges/violations are on a wide scale. Examples of these violations are: continued annexation of Areas C land, seizure of land close to the settlements, and archaeological sites under the PA's mandate (examples of lands of Qaryout village appropriated by Shilo settlement); and excessive use of natural resources and protected green areas (including Wadi Kana, privately owned Palestinian land).

To assist residents of Area 'C' in Hebron governorate to define and implement strategies and promote unified and efficient defence mechanisms against Israeli violations of housing and land rights, the Land Research Center established Municipal Protection Committees comprising of 5 municipal information desks chaired by representatives of the 5 targeted communities that are currently supporting 39 home demolition/land confiscation cases.

During 2015, Partners CSOs advocated and provided legal support which resulted in 2015 in the issuance by the High Court of Israel of a decision to remove some illegal settlement structures, including in Modi'in Illit's emergency services complex near Ni'lin, in Beit El Dreinoff, near Dura al Qara, in Givat Ze'ev, near Al Jib and in Neve Erez, near Mikhmas. However, until the end of 2015, attempts of Palestinian land owners to get court action in support of regaining access to their land remain unsuccessful, and require additional efforts.

During 2015, Rabbis for Human Rights established a network and a legal aid and counselling unit for the benefit of villages in Bethlehem area, to protect their land, increasing land access to land, combating settler violence and filing compensation claims for damage to property and agricultural produce.

ANNEX 2 CHALLENGES/RISKS

Work in the oPt, especially during the last 2 years, involves challenges and risks uncommon in other areas. Working in the field of human rights, and more so with CSOs in a conflict situation, coupled with an environment where the space left for CSOs to operate is shrinking, carries additional risks. This, however, is what makes the work of partner CSOs (and by extension the Secretariat) timely and essential, in order to make meaningful contribution to increased respect for internationally-recognised human rights and IHL rules and principles in the oPt.

Mindful of the above, and based on the experience of the Secretariat and its managing partners, especially during the past two years since the Secretariat's implementation has begun, the following risks have been identified, and mitigation strategies employed.

3.1 CHANGING REALITIES AND CSO RESPONSES

In a rapidly changing environment, CSOs had, without prior notice, to respond to emergencies and unforeseen events, thus deviating from their regular interventions and plans. This 'reactive' mode often does not contribute to addressing long-term problems and effects more sustainable change, but are nonetheless expected of CSOs committed to delivering services which their target communities and beneficiaries acutely need and expect of them.

The Secretariat's CSO facilitators have been working closely with partner CSOs, monitoring changes in context and realities, and kept Secretariat management (and donors) apprised of resulting change in the overall environment and consequently plans of partner CSOs. This is done in close collaboration with partner CSOs. Issues identified have been discussed with respective CSOs, while issues of general nature have been brought to the attention of the donor consortium, and addressed in Secretariat-CSO partners' meetings or donor-CSO dialogue activities, as appropriate. For example, the Secretariat, in the light of developments in the country, and discussions with partner CSOs and donors alike, has developed responses, including through a Jerusalem-focused call for proposals, which in due course has resulted in the award of nearly 1.3 million grants for 18 CSOs, majority for activities responding directly and fully to the situation in Jerusalem. The need for greater attention by partner CSOs to the situation in Jerusalem, and discussions the Secretariat has initiated with CSOs and donors are examples of the types of challenges CSOs faced in 2015, and how the Secretariat has responded to these.

3.2 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS UNMET

The Secretariat has carried out capacity development interventions in 2015, and has developed an ambitious and needs based capacity development plan for 2016, which involved follow up of work begun or identified in 2015.

Many of the activities planned for 2016 were abandoned because of lack of budget. To deal with the risks of losing momentum gained and progress made, the Secretariat will monitor whether skills developed and processes started, such as in the areas of HRBA and results based reporting, are employed by CSOs in their programming, implementation and organizational management, and that Secretariat staff offer support and support where CSOs demand or need.

3.3 RELUCTANT ACCEPTANCE OF SECRETARIAT POLICY DIALOGUE ROLE

The Secretariat's policy dialogue function implementation was not an easy task from the beginning.

First, partners of the Secretariat did not interact with the virtual means of dialogue represented in an electronic non-moderated discussion/distribution group called *e-dialogue* in which heads of Secretariat partner CSOs were represented.

While the Secretariat has tried to draw the attention of partner CSOs to the importance of this means, partners were by and large not interested and the Secretariat eventually discontinued it.

Second, gathering CSOs from different geographical areas; especially, from Gaza and the West Bank around one table was an obstacle which the Secretariat had to deal with.

While the Secretariat has tried to secure the participation of partners in its events, this was often made difficult but restrictions on movement, particularly for Gaza partners.

Third, partners were sometimes sensitive about perceptions of interference or duplication in the organizing of policy dialogue.

In order to ensure the Secretariat's action was in sync with CSO expectations and needs, the Secretariat team has in 2015 started consulting with partner CSOs and donors extensively before conducting any policy dialogue event.

3.4 SHRINKING SPACE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK (AND CSOs)

Action by the Israeli (but also Palestinian) government, especially during the second half of 2015, has signalled that CSOs, especially those working for human rights, Palestinian and Israeli alike, face shrinking space for their action. Restrictions included action that is making it more difficult for CSOs to receive foreign funds, as well as campaigns from Israeli non-governmental groups and politicians against Israeli and Palestinian human rights CSOs and activists. The year 2016 may witness realization of additional restrictions.

The Secretariat closely monitored developments related to the above, and has been in discussion with CSOs, Palestinian and Israeli, and with CSO networks, including PHROC, regarding the possible and most appropriate responses to increased restrictions. The Secretariat has developed, in consultation with its partner CSOs and donors, specific proposals to address through its policy dialogue function the increasingly restrictive environment for CSO action. In doing so, the Secretariat tried to complement (not duplicate) actions by its partners, and thus when partner CSOs have requested that the Secretariat delay action, or showed readiness to act themselves on above issues, the Secretariat planned action was cancelled.

3.5 FUND LIMITATIONS (SECRETARIAT AND OTHER)

CSOs have been reporting increased pressures on their resources, especially due to the increased community needs for their services. CSOs are also reporting a number of their conventional funders are leaving the country or minimising their contributions, starting in 2015 and more so in 2016. Also, the Secretariat's study on core funding effectiveness was based on the assumption that core funding, to be effective, has to be more substantial than the Secretariat currently offers, which clearly has created expectations on the part of partner CSOs which may or may not materialise in 2016.

The Secretariat has conducted discussions with partner CSOs and donors, and planned a policy dialogue meeting in early 2016, involving CSOs and donors (the Secretariat's own and others who contribute to funding human rights sector CSOs), to discuss the situation and strategies for dealing with the declining donor contribution levels in the human rights field.

The Secretariat has also responded to specific situations where CSOs faced cash shortages in 2015, making arrangements to release 2016 funding early in several instances. The Secretariat response has helped partner CSOs avoid cash shortage situations towards the end of the fiscal year 2015.

3.6 DELAYED REPORTS

The Secretariat has faced a major challenge in 2015, represented in its inability to make payments to CSOs on time. This is a result of the cumulative effect of the following:

- a. Delay in receipt of CSO annual narrative and audited financial reports for 2014.

This has been subject of audit overview, by audit firm PWC. The Secretariat is taking action in 2016 to avoid a repetition, including through visits to partners, repeated reminders, and most importantly extension of the deadline for partner reports (through a revision of the FMM announced early in 2016).

- b. Delay in receipt of annual budgets and work plans for 2015.

The Secretariat is taking action in 2016 to avoid a repetition, including repeated reminders, in writing and via phone. These delays have also been discussed during visits to partner CSOs, and during partners' meetings and informal discussions. We already see encouraging signs in 2016, but delays remain.

3.7 STAFFING NEEDS

In response to the expected change in the methodology the Secretariat uses in the implementation of its programme, which requires increased presence with CSOs and in the field, and increased role for the Secretariat's facilitators in assessing core grantee needs and funding gaps, and offering coaching where needed, the pressure is increasing on the Secretariat's limited human resources.

The Secretariat, as a result of monitoring the situation and staffing needs, has brought its staffing needs for discussion with its donors, in order to ensure the Secretariat is adequately staffed and able to discharge its functions effectively.

3.8 ACCESS (WEST BANK TO GAZA AND ISRAEL, AND VISA-VERSA)

For the past year, Gaza team members have not received permits, and West Bank team members have only received permits occasionally, and none since June 2015. Access restrictions and the inability to get permits for staff to move between both offices in Gaza and Al-Bireh, and also our inability to access, on regular basis, partner CSOs, is a matter of concern and is slowing our work.

The Secretariat has brought the matter to the attention of the members of the donor consortium, and sought assistance with the issuance of permits for staff to travel between Gaza and the West Bank especially.

ANNEX 3: RESULTS FRAMEWORK, WITH PROGRESS MADE IN 2015

This annex provides 2015 numbers. 2014 numbers, for comparison, are available in the 2014 annual report.

Comparison, though not comprehensive, conducted by the Secretariat, shows significant improvement in performance in 2015, compared to the first year of the program's live, 2014. Improvement is documented in all aspects of the Secretariat performance, notably in capacity development, policy dialogue, and outreach and communication tools.

Overall Objective	Indicators	Progress	Comments
Contribute to the effective realisation of adherence to HR/IHL in the oPt, and influence the behaviour of the relevant duty bearers to that end, through civil society organisations supported by a consortium of donor countries.	Sector indicators – for identifying the context – indirect influence.	54	Examples highlighted by partners include: Palestine joining the ICC, De facto moratorium on the death penalty, Israeli police audio-video recording of interrogations of Palestinian detainees, bill criminalizing torture in Israel, drafting process of new juvenile justice and protection law, and changed the views of the municipality regarding Palestinians areas in East Jerusalem.
	1. Number of policies changed to promote further respect of HR/IHL for the Palestinians by West Bank, Gaza and Israeli authorities.		
	2. % of increase in attention in PA plans for HRIHL issues.	25	PA's decision to operationalize the Palestinian National Committee for IHL, the work of the Ministry of Women Affairs with civil society organizations to adopt gender audit in national planning, and Palestine's accession to the Rome Statute provide examples of Palestinian government action towards the pursuit of human rights and justice.. Additionally, the Annual Report of the Seventeenth government (June 2014-June 2015) included a set of plans and steps taken in support of rule of law and gender equality, including review of laws and other policies.
	3. Number/extent of adherence by PA to international human rights standards.	18541	Failure by governmental duty bearers, in Gaza and the West Bank, to adhere international human rights is measured by the number of complaints received by partners, though this is not necessarily accurate; some complaints may not be substantiated or credible, and not all victims submit complaints, and some complaints are received by organizations not partners of the Secretariat. Also, the number of complaints listed is not all PA-related, and it is not possible for the Secretariat to disaggregate numbers by authority against which complaint is lodged. However, what matters here is the type of Palestinian violations reported, which include: 192 journalists and media organizations specifically targeted by Palestinian authorities; over 708 complaints of arbitrary detention and violations of due process guarantees, and 462 allegations of torture or ill-treatment in Gaza between November 2014 and October 2015. Fuller picture is presented in the preceding Annex, # 1.
	4. Number/extent of using partner CSO policy recommendations as reference by donors and other sector stakeholders in dialogue with the PAs and Israeli authorities.	78	Of the notable examples in this respect is the Joint Submission by partner CSOs to the ICC on the 2014 Gaza conflict, which report was used by the UN Fact-finding Commission.

	5. Number of new associations, coalitions, networks amongst HR IHL CSOs.	71%	Clearly, CSOs are networking and acting jointly, more than in previous years. A good example is the 2014 Gaza conflict documentation, but also the work of numerous Palestinian human rights CSOs related to resolution 1325. More examples are given in the body of the report.
	6. Extent of adherence by Media to HR/IHL initiatives and outputs of the partner CSOs.	6321	CSOs are making human rights and IHL issues visible in media, including through press conferences, press statements, reports and studies, radio and TV spots, newspaper articles, radio talk shows, etc.

Programme Logic – outcomes	Outputs	Indicators Direct control indicators	Progress	Comments
Programme Objective A HR/IHL Secretariat is institutionalised and considered a key player and resourceful partner in the promotion of HR and IHL issues.	1. Secretariat established.	1. Partner CSO perception of the Secretariat as adding value/substance to the HR/IHL sector.	69%	This is a good level/degree of partner COS satisfaction, given the type of service the Secretariat provides.
	2. Secretariat operations manual.	2. An online support mechanism for CSOs is fully operational and used by CSOs.	71%	
		3. Diversity of communication and advocacy action tools used to access CSOs and duty bearers (decision makers).	12	12 means have been used to access the CSOs, including: Secretariat website, meetings, workshops, orientation sessions, videos, TV, radio and social media.
	3. Secretariat Strategy. 4. Secretariat website and portal. 5. Secretariat newsletter	<i>Direct influence indicators</i> 4. Traffic on website (visits to the website etc.)	52615	Excluding social media engagements.
		5. Number of material downloads by users	18105	
		6. Level of partner satisfaction of ease of access, "user-friendliness", and updated information on website.	73%	
	6. Community of practice. 7. IMS for knowledge management. 8. Communication Strategy.	7. Frequency of sessions and number of people joining Community of Practice sessions (facilitation, calling for participation).	NA	The Community of Practice has been disabled, in discussion with donors and due to lack of support by all involved.

Objective 1.	Outputs	Indicators	Progress	Comments
		Direct control indicators		
<p>An effective fund for the promotion of HR and IHL issues in oPt, which is transparent, reduces corruption and duplication.</p> <p>The outcome is:</p> <p>Funds made available for CSOs operations and projects in a transparent, and equitable manner and that counteracts corruption and duplication</p>	1. Institutionalised and transparent application and fund management procedures.	1. Number of CSOs contracted for core funding. % of contracted CSOs for core out of total applicants.		24 32%
	2. Grants database	2. Number of applications, number and type of projects (targeting women's rights, marginalized groups, geographical coverage, level of sustainability of projects)		
	<i>Thematic interventions by project funding:</i>			
	1. Rule of law and fair trial		12.5%	
	2. Socio-economic rights		23.6%	
	3. Excessive use of force		5.6%	
	4. Violence against women and children		11.1%	
	5. Torture and ill treatment		5.6%	
	6. Freedom of travel & movement/residency rights		12.5%	
	7. Property rights/settlement construction		19.4%	
	8. Freedom of expression		9.7%	
	<i>Thematic interventions by project funding for each area:</i>			
	1. Remaining West Bank (%)		25.0%	
	2. East Jerusalem		22.2%	
	3. Area C (%)		15.3%	
	4. Gaza Strip (%)		13.9%	
	5. Not stated (%)		23.6%	
	3. Efficient and reliable reporting system.	3. Number of complaints on Secretariat service.	67%	% Satisfaction with Secretariat response
	4. Programme oriented budgeting system.	4. Approved audit reports.	100%	
	5. Fund disbursement.	<i>Direct influence indicators</i> 5. Level of trainee satisfaction of orientation sessions.	93%	

	6. Funds M&E system.	6. Improved CSO results based reporting.	50%	This percentage is based on the assessment of the CSO facilitators, following review of CSO narrative reports covering 2015.
		7. % of achieved project activities by partner CSOs.	92%	
		8. % type of networks, level of activity.	100%	

Objective 2:	Outputs	Indicators	Progress	Comments
<p>Strengthened CSO in the HR/IHL sector through institutional development, internal efficiency, effective participation in democratic processes and improved performance.</p> <p>The outcome is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs based CSO capacity building opportunities, including HRBA, that strengthen core functions and programme management 	1. Capacity Assessment Study – sector specific.	Direct control indicators		
		1. Number of CSO representatives trained (% women).	32.3%	103 female joined CB activities, compared to 216 male CSO staff.
		2. Level of trainee satisfaction of training opportunities provided.	93%	
	2. CSO Capacity Needs Assessment – POCAT	Direct influence indicators	90.5%	This figure reflects the percentage of partner CSOs who showed attention to HRBA of the entire Secretariat partner CSO portfolio.
		3. Level of integration of HRBA and strengthened CSO operations (participation, accountability, transparency, and non-discrimination).		
	3. CSO capacity development package	4. Key functions of partner CSOs strengthened (advocacy, mobilization, fund raising, service delivery, program management, monitoring, etc.).	68.6%	This percentage reflects the perceived CSO capacity improvement in the field of HRIHL, including in the listed themes.
	4. CSO facilitation and accompaniment activities by Secretariat Staff.	5. Number of CSOs who review their strategies/work plans.	68%	
		6. % of sharing success stories.	100	112 stories of which 100% been shared.
		7. Number of peer arrangements amongst partner CSOs.	176	

Objective 3:	Outputs	Indicators	Progress	Comments
<p>The Secretariat makes meaningful contributions to policy development in the sector through evidence based measures and effective IMS against the monitoring of services, and participates actively in the policy dialogue with donors and other sector stakeholders.</p> <p>The outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised space for CSO-donor-duty bearer policy dialogue on key rights issues in the sector Facilitated networking amongst like-minded CSOs for key rights issues in policy dialogue and strengthens networks A hub of knowledge and current research on topics of IHL and HR 	1. Scoping Study.	Direct control indicators:	5	<p>Secretariat – initiated and organized policy dialogue events were limited, due to the focus of the Secretariat on giving CSOs the space for CSO action in this area. Same goes for the production of position papers on the relevant HRIHL issues.</p> <p>The number covers media activists in addition to CSO staff.</p> <p>Women rights is a cross cutting theme found in the work of almost all partner CSOs.</p> <p>The Community of Practice has been disabled, in discussion with donors and due to lack of support by all involved. Other elements of the Secretariat website are active, with good amount of traffic. 52615 visits to the website were recorded in 2015.</p>
	2. Secretariat portal.	1. Number of policy dialogue events organized by Secretariat.	0	
	3. Policy forum.	2. Number of position papers produced.	255	
	4. Partners' produced policy papers.	3. Number of trained media staff on HR/IHL by partner CSOs/Secretariat.	60%	
	5. Partners' advocacy actions.	4. Level of stakeholder satisfaction with platform events (CSOs, Duty bearers).	NA	
	6. Enhanced CSO networking.	5. Number of rights issues that target women and marginalized groups.	100%	
	7. Platforms for peer learning (including Community of Practice).	6. Increased interaction between partner CSOs and PA.	52615	
		7. Traffic on the website platform (comments on community of practice).		





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والقانون الدولي الإنساني
HUMAN RIGHTS & INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW SECRETARIAT



**OUR OVERALL
OBJECTIVE**

“...to contribute to the effective realisation of adherence to human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory and to influence the behaviour of the relevant duty bearers...”



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