

# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between**

**MUNICIPALITY OF GAZA (MOG)**

**and**

**CIVIL SOCIETY ASSOCIATIONS OF:  
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT PROJECT – GAZA COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM (WEP-GCMHP)  
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS CENTER (WAC),  
UNION OF HEALTH WORK COMMITTEES (UHC),  
ATFALUNA SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN (ASDC),**

**in cooperation with**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEES OF:  
EAST NASSER, WEST NASSER, SHEIKH RADWAN AND AWDA DISTRICT.**

**for the implementation of the project**

**GAZA COMMUNITY CENTER  
UNIT OF WOMEN'S ISSUES AND GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

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## **Preamble**

The Municipality of Gaza seeks to improve the living standards of its citizens through achieving a comprehensive development of services along with economical, social and cultural aspects. In cooperation with citizens, the Municipality also endeavors to improve the status of the city, to provide a clean and beautiful environment, to uphold the cultural values, and to constantly follow the scientific development in various fields.

The municipality is driven in its work by the firm belief of the importance of building a continual relationship with our citizens and partners of public, private, local and international associations and working in a transparent, respectable manner and an efficient and sufficiently democratic way.

Consistent with this vision and goals, Gaza city agreed with Gaza European twinned cities (mainly Barcelona, Dunkerque, Torino) in 2003 to concentrate their efforts to develop a specific area of Gaza city in a comprehensive and sustainable way. It includes the rehabilitation of infrastructure, capacity building for personnel, improving the living situation and conditions for the targeted local community in various fields through economic, cultural, health and social interventions. In order to ensure efficient and sustainable development, proposed interventions should be implemented in close cooperation with the local community and the civil societies and NGOs working actively in these fields. The project is considered as a pilot one that could extend and be applied in other areas in the future.

The cooperation with the local civil society associations (in Gaza city) aims at, on one hand, benefiting from their experiences and competencies in the proposed development sectors, and on the other hand, enhancing networking and partnership in providing services to the local community between the Municipality as local authority and the civil society associations. This experience could be expanded to include all development fields and reaching the whole city as a methodology of work in the future.

In this framework, both Gaza and Torino municipalities are currently working together in a common project for establishing the “Unit of Women’s Issues and Gender Perspective” funded by the Municipality of Torino and to be a part of the future Gaza Community Center. This project represents the first step towards realizing the pilot project of achieving sustainable urban development of the targeted area in the framework of Eurogaza network and the EuroGaza Decentralized Cooperation Project.

The Unit of Women’s Issues and Gender Perspective aims at improving the women’s situation within the targeted area through active participation and close cooperation with the local community represented by the neighbourhood committees of the targeted area as well as the civil society associations working in this field represented by Women’s Empowerment Project (WEP-GCMHP), Women’s Affairs Center (WAC), Union of Health Working Committees (UHWC) and Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children (ASDC).

The selected associations have long experience and credibility in working at the local and grassroots level particularly in the fields of reproductive health, gender and family issues, violence against women and children, women’s empowerment, tools for deaf children rehabilitation, handicrafts products management and marketing. In brief, this intervention includes social service, particularly for women and gender issues, based on interaction and networking of local actors, i.e. Municipality, NGOs and neighbourhood committees. The Project will be implemented as well in participation of Almaterra Association and Cicsene as member of the "Cittadella delle Civiltà Committee" from Torino.

**Based on the above mentioned facts, the below signatories agree on cooperation and coordination through the following understanding items:**

1. The above mentioned preamble is a part of the hereunder signed MOU.
2. The targeted area includes neighbourhoods of East Nasser, West Nasser, Sheikh Radwan and Awda district. The temporary residence of the proposed Unit of “Women’s Issues and Gender Perspective” will be within the targeted area or wherever available at the nearest point of the targeted area.
3. The hereunder signed MOU is in force for one year starting from the day of signing.
4. The financial and administrative management of the Unit lies on the responsibility of MOG, which will open a separate bank account for the benefit of the project. All procurement and disbursement procedures will follow the laws and regulations applied by the MOG
5. A Technical Consultancy Committee (TCC) will be established for the project, consisting of 9 members and headed by the project coordinator (the Municipality’s representative). Each participating body will be represented at the TCC by a member nominated by them, which include representatives of MOG, civil society associations of: WEP, WAC, UHWC, ASDC, and neighbourhood committees of: East Nasser, West Nasser, Sheikh Radwan and Awda district. The representation of the local community at the TCC as the final beneficiaries of the project will ensure a continuous and effective relation and link of the local community with the proposed Unit and that their needs, requirements and interests are considered.
6. The TCC will guarantee the continuous coordination and cooperation among all project partners whether throughout the implementation process or during the evaluation stage of the project activities and results. It will enhance the participation of each partner with their own experiences and competencies into the Unit’s activities and programmes.
7. The TCC will meet regularly on a monthly basis (once every month at least) upon a call from the project coordinator, who will prepare the meeting agenda after consultation with all partners.
8. Recommendations for the project’s plans, programmes and activities will be raised by the established TCC to the Municipal Council of Gaza City for approval.
9. Other civil societies are welcome to join after a recommendation made by the TCC and approval of the MOG.
10. The MOG will contribute to the project through the costs related to the management of the project as well as through the assignment of Mrs. Amal Haj Ahmed, head of

the environmental awareness section at MOG as a Project Coordinator (PC) on a part time basis in addition to the assignment of Mrs. Iman Shehada, social worker at the awareness section living in East Nasser neighbourhood as a Coordinator Assistant. The assigned project coordinator will represent MOG at the TCC.

11. Civil society associations will contribute to the project through providing consultancy services and giving the opportunity to the local community of the targeted area to participate in their programmes according to each association's vision, goals and objectives. This participation will be coordinated with the PC and in cooperation with the representatives of the neighbourhoods at the TCC.
12. The Project Coordinator is the contact point for all partners and has the tasks of a) Financial, administrative and fieldwork follow-up of the project, b) Coordinate and call for the periodical meeting of the TCC and c) Provide a monthly report for the project progress to all participating partners.
13. The TCC should work together to prepare a survey or focus groups on needs assessment of the targeted area in relation to women's issues and gender perspective. The role of each partner during the execution of the survey will be identified and recommended by the TCC. The results of the survey will bring about and suggest a specific intervention to be discussed and recommended by all parties.

Signed in Gaza city on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**For the Municipality of Gaza**

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**Dr. Maged Awni Abu-Ramadan**  
**Mayor of Gaza**

**For the Civil Society Associations of:**

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**Women's Empowerment Project**  
**Gaza Community Mental Health program**

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**Women's Affairs Center**

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**Union of Health Work Committees**

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**Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children**