

Our Members at a Glance

Interview with Rasha Abdel Latif*

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Rasha Abdel Latif is a Senior Program Officer at **Partners-Jordan (PJ)**. PJ is a Jordanian not for profit organization, committed to advance civil society, promoting mediation, conflict management and culture of change, and encouraging citizen participation in Jordan's social and political development.

Partners Jordan has been doing projects that fall under the social accountability (SAcc) umbrella, such as participative budgeting, open budget and anti-corruption best practices, since its creation. Since the SAcc concept is very recent in the Arab World, it is up until recently that PJ started to label its activities as "social accountability" activities.

Rasha and her colleagues work on encouraging and empowering citizens to be more involved in decision-making, especially at the local level. They have faced a few challenges doing so, though, the main one being that citizens who live in a situation of poverty do not see link between social accountability and the improvement of their living conditions, they do not see what is in it for them. This is also linked with the lack of trust they have towards the government. However, PJ think that SAcc is key to reduce poverty and that prosperity can be achieved through responsible participative citizenship. This is why most of their activities are focused on raising citizens' awareness on the importance of SAcc and on the fact that citizen participation is key to improve social services and therefore, improve their living conditions and reduce poverty.

PJ is a Global Partner of the GPSA and Rasha has been an active member of the Knowledge Platform since its launch. She believes that the webinars are very useful tools to exchange knowledge and she has been sharing the newsletters and webinars to the networks PJ is part of, hoping to transmit the knowledge which is flowing through the platform to her partners.

* This interview was done by Marine Perron, Coordinator of the GPSA Knowledge Platform and investigator in the Knowledge Management Area at Fundar, Centre for Analysis and Research.