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State Of Palestine
Ministry of Women's Affairs

Rapid Gender Assessment of the Situation of Women and Girls

Targeted Areas: Salfit, Bethlehem, Toubas and the
Jordan Valley, Ramallah and East Jerusalem.



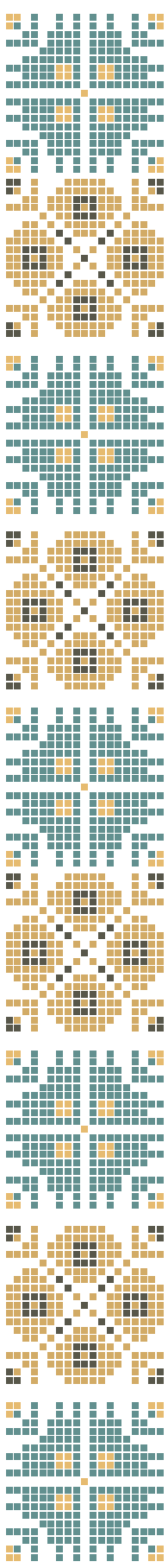
United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



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December 2024



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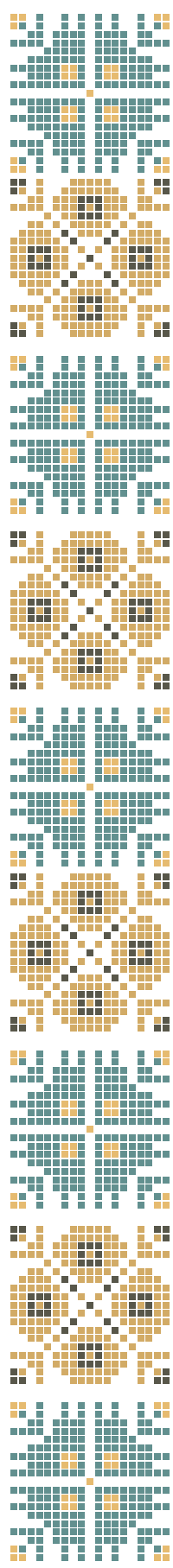
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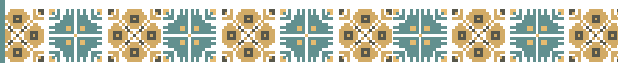
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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is internationally recognized as occupied Palestinian territory under international law. This complex political and socio-economic reality, stemming from Israel's occupation since 1967, significantly impacts the lives of Palestinians, particularly women and girls.

The ongoing conflict, characterized by hostilities and repeated Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, exacerbates the challenges faced by the Palestinian population. While recent diplomatic developments between Israel and some Arab states may offer potential shifts, the reality of occupation and its attendant hardships continue to dominate the situation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (Haddad, 2023).

The social and political landscape of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is marked by rapid change and intricate complexities. The interwoven nature of national and religious identities forms a central pillar of local communities. Within this context, deeply ingrained cultural and traditional norms, often mutually reinforcing, present significant obstacles to achieving gender equality and advancing women's social and economic opportunities (Kobryn & Duplaga, 2024).

1.2 Purpose of the Assessment

Recognizing the critical need for accurate and reliable data to inform effective planning and decision-making in Palestine, this rapid gender assessment was undertaken. This initiative specifically addresses the persistent gap in understanding the unique realities and challenges faced by women and girls across the social, economic, and political spheres.



Traditional assessments often incorporate women's issues within broader frameworks but crucially lack the necessary gender-disaggregated data. This results in a significant dearth of qualitative and quantitative information specific to the needs and experiences of women and girls.

This data gap poses a substantial barrier to developing comprehensive assessments that truly inform policies and services designed to meet the specific needs of women and girls. Moreover, it hinders the ability to accurately identify and address their vulnerabilities. Consequently, current policies often lack a nuanced gender analysis, failing to adequately consider the human rights of women and girls, their access to essential services, and their economic opportunities within villages, towns, and refugee camps (Edwards, 2021; Lukasik et al., 2022; Miklian & Holscher, 2022; Di et al., 2023).

This study aims to provide a comprehensive gender-based analysis that illuminates the current situation of women and girls in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. By identifying the primary challenges they encounter in their daily lives, this assessment seeks to lay the groundwork for developing opportunities that will foster the sustainable improvement of their conditions, aligning with the principles of development and social justice

1.3 Methodology

This project employed a comprehensive gender needs assessment within five target areas (Tubas and Jordan Valley, Salfit, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and East Jerusalem). The assessment integrated both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. A participatory approach was adopted to ensure inclusivity and gain in-depth insights that accurately reflect the needs of women and girls. This approach contributed to the development of actionable recommendations. The following outlines the steps undertaken to conduct the survey



Analysis <-- [Gather secondary data <-- Literature Review

\ /
 \ /

[Outputs] <-- [Integrate results]

1. Literature Review and Data Gap Analysis:

The assessment commenced with a comprehensive review of relevant local and international literature, including academic research, government reports, and statistical data, focusing about women and girls in Palestine. This review aimed at:

- Understand the current context: Analyze existing knowledge on the challenges and opportunities facing women and girls in the region.
- Identify knowledge gaps: Determine areas where data is limited or unavailable, hindering a comprehensive understanding of the situation.

Based on this analysis, a mixed-methods approach was adopted for data collection, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative tools to ensure a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the needs and priorities of women and girls.

2. Data Collection:

- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):** In-depth interviews were conducted with 25 key informants, including:
 - Local leaders (e.g., heads of local councils)
 - Influential community members

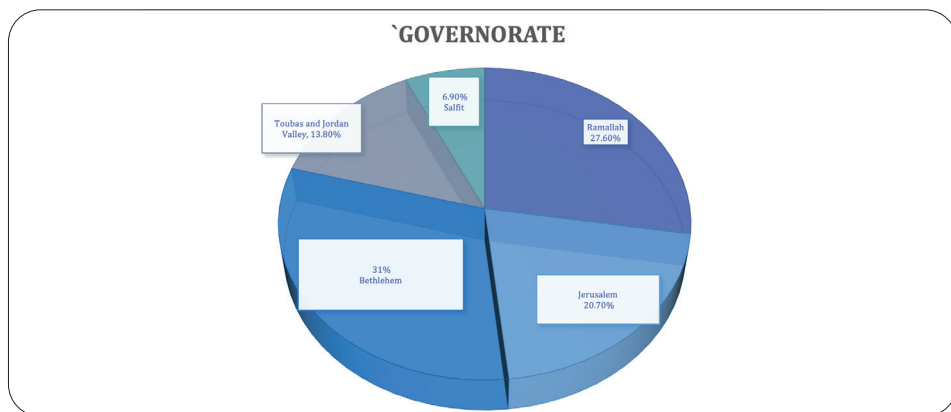


- Directors of local institutions and service providers
- Government officials
- Five interviews were conducted in each of the study areas to gather diverse perspectives and insights into the challenges and opportunities within each community.
- **Grassroots Surveys:** Surveys were administered to 30 grassroots associations using Google Forms. These associations were instructed to facilitate group discussions with women within their respective communities to:
 - Assess the specific needs and priorities of women and girls within each community.
 - Identify disparities and inequalities among different population segments.
 - This approach ensured that the voices and perspectives of women and girls were directly incorporated into the assessment.

Targeted Areas

Five governorates were targeted for this study: Salfit, Ramallah, Tubas and the Jordan Valley, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. (A table of general information for each governorate is attached.) The accompanying chart illustrates the proportional representation of each governorate within the study

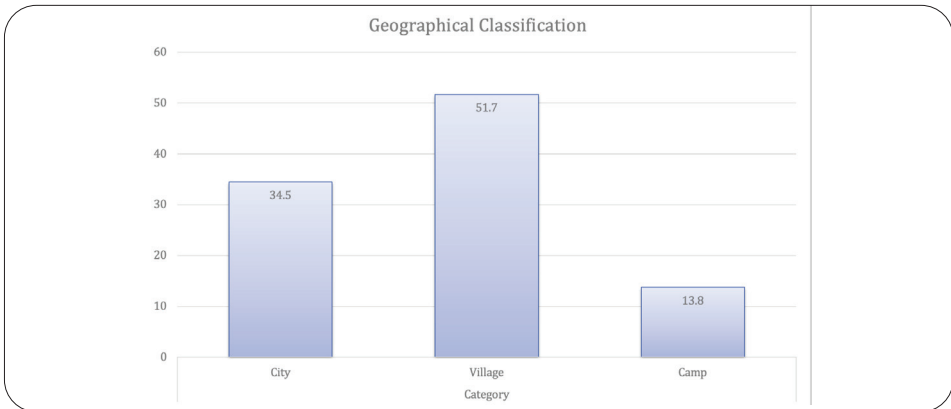
Chart (1): Proportion of Sample Representation from Each Governorate





Geographical distribution was considered in each governorate to include cities, camps, and villages. The distribution was as follows:

Chart (2): Proportion of Sample Representation Based on Classification of Settlement



Study Community Framework:

The study community encompassed 82 grassroots women’s associations formally registered with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and active within the research’s target areas. Based on data acquired from the Ministry, the distribution of these associations was as follows:

Geographical area	# of registered Women Org.
Salfit	6
Toubas and Jordan Valley	6
Bethlehem	15
Jerusalem	32
Ramallah and Al Bireh	23
Total	82



Sample:

Sampling Strategy:

To ensure a representative sample, a stratified random sampling method was employed. This approach aimed to include participants from all governorates and associations within the study community. A sample size of 30 out of 82 institutions (37%) was determined, deemed sufficient to represent the study population.

Data Collection:

Quantitative data was collected through surveys distributed to grassroots institutions and associations within the Tawasol network of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. To enhance participation and ensure representation of diverse perspectives, the survey was also circulated to other relevant grassroots organizations. Each participating association was encouraged to involve approximately 200 members (women and girls) to accurately reflect their realities and needs in the context of Israeli occupation.

Data Analysis:

- **Qualitative Data Analysis:** Qualitative data was analyzed thematically to identify key concerns related to gender vulnerability, including coping mechanisms and access to services.
- **Quantitative Data Analysis:** Statistical methods were utilized to analyze quantitative data, revealing trends and patterns specific to the needs of women and girls.

Integration with UN Women Gender Assessment:

To ensure alignment and avoid duplication, the findings of this rapid gender assessment (RGA) were integrated with the existing UN Women Gender Assessment. This involved:

- **Methodological Alignment:** Workshops were conducted to harmonize methodologies and ensure consistency between the two assessments.
- **Geographical Expansion:** The RGA expanded the geographical



scope of the targeted areas to complement the UN Women assessment.

- **Coordinated Reporting:** Findings were shared through coordinated reports to facilitate the development of actionable outcomes and avoid duplication of efforts.

Outputs:

- **Detailed Report:** A comprehensive report was produced, including disaggregated data tables, thematic summaries, and sector-specific recommendations.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Workshops were organized to present the findings to key stakeholders, validate the results, and gather feedback for strategic decision-making.

Study Limitations:

The rapid gender assessment of women's realities in Palestine faced significant challenges due to legal and geographical constraints.

Firstly, the distinct legal frameworks governing East Jerusalem and the West Bank, stemming from Israeli policies that restrict Palestinian rights, created significant legal hurdles. These disparities, particularly concerning property ownership, residency, and women's rights, hindered efforts to assess gender equality comprehensively.

Secondly, the volatile political and security situation, especially in the northern regions, severely restricted the research team's mobility. This limited direct access to target groups, necessitating the adoption of alternative data collection methods.

To mitigate these challenges, the research team primarily utilized electronic surveys via Google Forms and mobile phones. This approach enabled data collection from women across diverse Palestinian regions, including those with limited accessibility.

While these logistical challenges presented significant obstacles, the innovative use of technology enhanced the effectiveness and accuracy of the rapid assessment in reflecting the realities of women in Palestine.



2. The General Context of the Reality of Women and Girls in Palestine

Women and Girls in the West Bank and East Jerusalem: Facing Intersecting Challenges

Women and girls in the West Bank and East Jerusalem confront a multifaceted set of challenges stemming from the Israeli occupation, a challenging economic landscape, and deeply ingrained patriarchal norms. These intersecting factors contribute to systemic discrimination against women and girls, impacting their access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and protection from violence.

2.1 Economic Realities: A Gendered Perspective

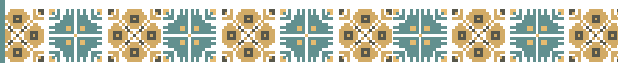
The economic realities for women and girls in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are shaped by a complex interplay of factors, including poverty, limited job opportunities, and a disproportionate concentration in the informal sector, often characterized by low wages and precarious working conditions. This economic structure inherently reflects and reinforces gender inequality, with significant repercussions across all age groups.

Poverty and Women in the West Bank:

Poverty disproportionately affects women in the West Bank. While the overall poverty rate in the West Bank is estimated at 14.1% (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2022), women, particularly those heading households, experience significantly higher poverty rates, reaching approximately 20%. This stark disparity highlights the widening gender poverty gap.

Limited Labor Force Participation:

Women in the West Bank face significant barriers to entering and participating in the labor market. Social and cultural norms that restrict women's mobility and economic independence contribute to a significantly lower labor force participation rate for women (18.9%) compared to men (60.6%) (International Labour Organization, 2021).



The Case of East Jerusalem:

The situation is even more challenging for women in East Jerusalem, where labor force participation rates are significantly lower, not exceeding 15.5%. This stark disparity is attributed to the compounded impact of Israeli occupation policies, which severely restrict women's mobility and access to employment opportunities, particularly in the informal sector.

Economic Challenges Facing Women in the West Bank

Women in the West Bank face significant economic challenges, including limited employment opportunities, low wages, and a lack of legal protection.

- **Prevalence in the Informal Sector:** A substantial portion of women in the West Bank are employed in the informal sector, characterized by precarious jobs, low wages, and a lack of social security benefits. This is particularly pronounced in East Jerusalem, where restrictions on formal employment limit women's options.
- **Exploitation in the Care Sector:** The caregiving sector, dominated by women, suffers from severe economic marginalization. Low wages, coupled with a lack of legal protection, leave caregivers vulnerable to exploitation. The deteriorating economic situation and limited access to skills training further exacerbate these challenges.
- **Educational Disparity in the Workforce:** Despite higher educational attainment in many fields, women's participation in the labor market remains significantly lower than men's. This disparity stems from societal expectations and limited opportunities in traditionally male-dominated sectors.
- **Persistent Wage Gap:** Women in the West Bank experience a significant wage gap compared to men, primarily due to gender discrimination in job distribution and hiring practices. This gap is further exacerbated by the concentration of women in lower-paying sectors.
- **High Unemployment Rates:** Women in the West Bank face higher unemployment rates than men, reflecting the challenges they encounter in securing stable employment, even with advanced education. This contributes to increased poverty and economic hardship.



1.1 Employment

A significant barrier to women's economic empowerment is limited access to meaningful, formal employment. These opportunities are crucial for economic security, social protection, and personal independence. Conversely, the informal sector often traps women, limiting their economic potential and life prospects. While formal and informal work offers varying levels of benefits, safety, and rights, the gender wage gap poses a substantial threat to women's economic well-being in certain regions. Equal pay for equal work is a fundamental labor right enshrined in non-discrimination laws (Banerjee and Wilkes).

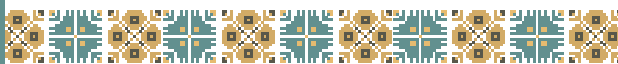
2.2 Education

Education is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of gender equality and women's empowerment in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. While significant progress has been made in recent decades, with girls' school enrollment rates increasing substantially since the 1980s, challenges persist.

- **Access:** While primary school enrollment for girls is high, reaching 93% in 2006, disparities exist in marginalized areas, particularly Area C and East Jerusalem.
- **Continuity:** High dropout rates among boys, driven by economic and social factors, partially explain higher female academic achievement. However, women and girls still face social and cultural barriers that hinder their educational pursuits.
- **Quality:** Disparities in educational quality and services remain a significant obstacle to achieving gender equality in education.

Regional Variations:

- **Positive Trends:** In some areas, such as Ramallah and Salbit, girls' secondary school enrollment rates are high, reaching approximately 90% in 2022 (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023).
- **Vocational Education:** Girls' participation in vocational education remains low in areas like Jericho and the Jordan Valley, primarily due to limited awareness of its importance and societal stereotypes about women's roles (UNICEF, 2023).



In the Salfit, Bethlehem, Toubas and Jordan Valley, Ramallah and East Jerusalem, a significant number of female university students gravitate towards humanities, social sciences, and education, exceeding 60% of enrollments (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023). This trend, influenced by societal and cultural norms, highlights the need to encourage greater diversity in academic pursuits for young women. While female enrollment in STEM fields has gradually increased, it remains significantly lower, constituting less than 10% of their overall choices (UNESCO, 2022).

Several factors contribute to this concentration. Traditional gender roles, reinforced by social upbringing, often steer girls towards perceived “feminine” fields. Furthermore, a lack of comprehensive support systems within schools and universities, including inadequate academic guidance and career counseling, hinders exploration of non-traditional fields. This disparity is further exacerbated by geographical inequalities, with female students in rural and marginalized areas exhibiting lower STEM enrollments compared to their urban counterparts. For instance, East Jerusalem demonstrates the lowest female enrollment in STEM fields at 5.6%, compared to 12% in areas like Ramallah and Al-Bireh (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2023).

The predominance of female students in fields with lower earning potential compared to technical and engineering sectors contributes to the existing gender gap in the labor market (Montenegro & Patrinos, 2023). To address this, fostering an inclusive and supportive educational environment that encourages girls to explore a wider range of academic disciplines is crucial. This will not only empower women economically and socially but also contribute to greater gender equity in both education and the workforce.

2.3 Healthcare

The Palestinian healthcare sector provides a reasonable level of basic services, yet significant disparities exist, particularly impacting women. Access to healthcare remains a major challenge for 30% of the population due to economic and geographic barriers, disproportionately affecting women in rural areas and refugee camps (Badran et al., 2024).



For example, a study by the Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association (2022) found that 45% of women in rural areas must travel more than 10 kilometers to reach the nearest health center. This highlights the significant geographical barriers women face in accessing essential healthcare services.

While 97% of Palestinian women receive prenatal care, the quality of this care varies significantly, especially in underserved areas. The maternal mortality rate in Palestine stands at 27 deaths per 100,000 live births (World Health Organization, 2023), reflecting challenges such as a shortage of trained medical personnel and inadequate health facilities.

The Israeli occupation exacerbates these issues, with military checkpoints hindering access to timely medical care during emergencies. Tragic cases, such as the loss of a baby due to delays at a checkpoint, underscore the devastating impact of the occupation on reproductive health.

Women in marginalized areas, such as the Jordan Valley and areas surrounding Israeli settlements, face severe limitations in accessing basic healthcare. These women are particularly vulnerable to the ongoing human rights violations stemming from the occupation. A study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2023) revealed that 35% of women with disabilities in Nablus and Salbit could not access reproductive health services due to inadequate facilities, highlighting the critical need for inclusive and accessible healthcare.

Mental health is a major concern for Palestinian women, especially those residing in refugee camps. Reports by the Right to Health Foundation (2023) indicate that 60% of women who have experienced displacement suffer from psychological disorders, significantly impacting their reproductive and physical health. These mental health challenges increase the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as premature births and miscarriages, emphasizing the crucial link between mental and physical well-being.



Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes gender equality and ensures equitable access to high-quality healthcare for all Palestinian women. This includes:

- Investing in infrastructure and human resources in underserved areas.
- Improving the quality of healthcare services, with a focus on maternal and reproductive health.
- Addressing the impact of the occupation on healthcare access, including mitigating the impact of checkpoints.
- Integrating mental health services into primary healthcare.
- Empowering women to make informed decisions about their health.

A rights-based approach to healthcare is crucial to ensure that all Palestinian women could live healthy and fulfilling lives

2.4 Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a grave human rights violation that plagues Palestinian society. Deeply ingrained cultural norms that prioritize “family honor” over women’s autonomy contribute significantly to this crisis. These norms, coupled with systemic discrimination and oppression, create an environment where women face a spectrum of violence, from subtle forms of psychological abuse to severe physical assault and even femicide.

This pervasive violence has devastating consequences for survivors, impacting their physical and mental health, economic stability, and overall well-being. A 2023 report by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics revealed that 37% of married women in the West Bank and East Jerusalem have experienced some form of domestic violence. This includes physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse, with varying degrees of severity across different regions. In East Jerusalem, the situation is further exacerbated by the Israeli occupation, with practices like forced evictions and arbitrary searches compounding the threats faced by women.



Beyond the home, GBV manifests in various forms, including:

Community-based violence: Any behavior perceived as “inappropriate” by the community, such as dating outside of marriage or wearing unconventional clothing, can lead to severe consequences for women, including social ostracization, family violence, and even honor killings.

School-based violence: A 2022 report by the Palestinian Ministry of Education found that approximately 20% of girls aged 13 to 17 in the West Bank experience verbal or physical harassment at school or while commuting. This significantly hinders their access to education, particularly in rural areas.

The Israeli occupation, with its restrictions on movement, limited access to resources, and ongoing conflict, further exacerbates the vulnerability of Palestinian women to GBV. This complex interplay of factors necessitates a multi-faceted approach to address this critical issue.

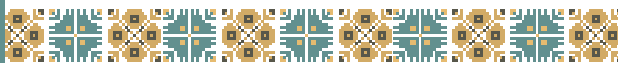
The Devastating Impact of Violence on Women’s Rights in Palestine

Violence against women and girls in Palestine has profound and far-reaching consequences, severely impacting their basic human rights.

Education: Gender-based violence is a primary driver of girls dropping out of school. In rural areas of the West Bank, dropout rates reach 12%, primarily due to early marriage, harassment, and domestic violence (UNICEF, 2023).

Health: Violence inflicts significant physical and psychological harm. A Palestinian Ministry of Health report (2023) found that 25% of women who experience violence require long-term medical and psychological care, with 18% suffering from conditions like depression and PTSD.

Economic Empowerment: Economic violence, such as controlling income or restricting employment, affects 30% of women in the West Bank (ILO, 2023). In East Jerusalem, Israeli policies further limit employment opportunities for Palestinian women, exacerbating this issue.



Obstacles to Addressing Violence:

Inadequate Support Services: Shelters like “Bayt Al-Aman” are overstretched, leaving many survivors without adequate protection and support. A Women’s Center for Legal and Social Counseling study (2023) found that over 50% of women seeking shelter support find the services insufficient, particularly in rural and marginalized areas.

Challenges in East Jerusalem: The Israeli occupation severely hinders effective protection and referral services. Limited coordination between Palestinian institutions and restrictions imposed by Israel create significant obstacles. Furthermore, the absence of a unified database on gender-based violence hampers the development of comprehensive strategies (OHCHR, 2023).

Legal Frameworks and Limitations:

West Bank: The legal framework is based on Jordanian laws, including the 1960 Penal Code, which criminalizes some forms of violence but lacks a comprehensive definition of gender-based violence. Loopholes, such as the now-repealed Article 308, which allowed offenders to evade punishment by marrying the victim, continue to impact attitudes and prosecutions.

East Jerusalem: Palestinian women are subject to Israeli law, which recognizes domestic violence. However, the Israeli occupation severely restricts access to justice for victims.

Furthermore, legal and protective services are insufficiently available, exacerbating the marginalization of women who are vulnerable to violence.

National Policies

The Palestinian Authority launched the National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women (2011-2019) in 2011, subsequently updated for the period 2020-2030. This strategy aims to address gender-based violence through improvements in the legal framework, the provision of protective services, and increased community awareness. However, the implementation of these strategies faces significant obstacles, including limited resources, insufficient coordination among relevant stakeholders, and the absence of a comprehensive legal framework.



4. Legal and Policy Framework for Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

The legal and political framework in the West Bank draws upon international human rights instruments and conventions. The government has ratified these agreements without reservations. International human rights standards and concepts have been integrated into national legislation, authority policies, and programs. The Palestinian Basic Law, adopted in 2003, along with numerous decrees, laws, strategies, plans, and national policies, including the Palestinian National Plan for Women and the National Strategy for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, recognizes the importance of realizing women's rights. (Justin et al., 2023) (Osler, 2023)

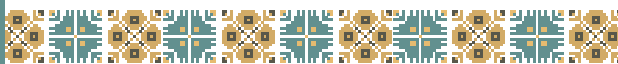
Despite Palestinian laws and decrees that aim to protect women and girls, significant gaps remain in achieving gender equality. While Palestinian norms aspire to align with international standards like CEDAW, challenges persist. These include:

- **Legislative and political gaps:** Existing laws do not fully meet international obligations, requiring urgent amendments to ensure compliance with CEDAW and other relevant agreements.
- **Weak implementation:** Effective enforcement of existing laws is hindered by discriminatory interpretations and weak enforcement mechanisms within the Palestinian legal system.
- **Societal barriers:** Traditional and informal practices contribute to the erosion of legal protections for women and girls, weakening the link between laws and their effective implementation.

**These gaps result in an inadequate level of equality for women and girls, falling short of international standards. While a legal framework for women's rights exists, it is insufficient to address the multifaceted challenges of gender inequality.

Moving forward, lawmakers and policymakers must prioritize:

- **Full alignment with CEDAW:** Ensuring all national laws and policies are fully consistent with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



- **Strengthening enforcement:** Enhancing the capacity and effectiveness of enforcement mechanisms to ensure the full implementation of women's rights laws.
- **Addressing societal barriers:** Challenging discriminatory norms and practices through public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and community engagement initiatives.

By addressing these critical areas, Palestinian authorities can create a more equitable and just society for women and girls.

True gender equality requires national laws and policies to fully align with international agreements and treaties safeguarding women and girls' rights. This necessitates rejecting any provisions that contradict these international standards, especially those that enable discrimination. However, effective enforcement mechanisms and comprehensive national frameworks remain crucial, despite the existence of these agreements. (Hatab & Abu Rab, 2023) (Natil, 2022) (Shahnaaz & Harsman) (Suwayleh) (Berrer et al., 2024) (Aran & Bromer, 2024)

4.1. International Human Rights Instruments

A plethora of international human rights instruments directly or indirectly impact women and girls' rights. These treaties not only define specific rights and obligations for member states but also provide a framework for creating a legal environment that supports women's empowerment and gender equality. This section briefly explores the evolution and codification of these key instruments. (Askin & Kueng, 2023) (Fajardo-Heward & Cuesta, 2024)

The significance of these human rights instruments lies in their:

- **Codification of state obligations:** Clearly defining rights and responsibilities for member states.
- **Adoption of non-binding recommendations:** Providing guidance and best practices for implementation.
- **Global monitoring and evaluation:** Facilitating accountability and continuous improvement.

These mechanisms empower governments to engage in demand-driven policymaking.



Furthermore,

Optional reporting processes: Allow state parties to report on their progress in implementing the treaties.

Treaty bodies: Provide independent oversight and monitoring.

Civil society engagement: Drives advocacy efforts and exerts pressure on governments to ratify and implement these instruments.

This collective effort strengthens the potential of international human rights instruments to advance gender equality at local and national levels. (Prabhakaran et al., 2022) (Al-Balah, 2022)

4.2. National Legislation and Policies

The Palestinian legal system has undergone significant evolution since the 1988 Declaration of Independence, particularly after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in 1994. This progress has seen the enactment of new laws aligned with international human rights standards, notably in the area of women's rights. While the Basic Law, Electoral Law, and the General Union of Women's Law incorporate provisions promoting gender equality, other legislation, such as family and penal codes, still reflect remnants of colonial and mandate-era laws. These require further reform to fully align with Palestine's international commitments. (Crouch, 2024; Wijaya et al., 2024)

Family law remains largely influenced by Jordanian and Egyptian legislation, with significant limitations imposed by Islamic Sharia. Despite substantial reforms, the criminal law continues to be shaped by a blend of laws inherited from European colonial powers, both civil and military, including amended Jordanian legislation. (Krotz, 2024) (Wijaya et al., 2024)

To address these limitations, various governmental institutions and NGOs have been established to champion women's rights. A key government entity is the Technical Committee for Women's Affairs, operating within the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which brings together professionals from diverse ministries to address all aspects of women's lives.



While the Palestinian Basic Law includes numerous references to women and girls, it lacks a dedicated chapter explicitly focusing on their needs. Existing references are often tied to specific stages of lawmaking and public policy formulation, primarily concerning family dynamics, particularly child-rearing, motherhood, and marital life.

Empowering women through job creation has been a crucial initial step, leading to significant social and economic changes and enhancing their overall social status. The effective implementation of the legal system and national policies is paramount for evaluating their effectiveness and identifying any gaps in legal protection and accountability for women and girls. (Ilomaki & Kantola, 2023)

5. Key Findings and Analysis

Data analysis across diverse sectors (economy, education, health, etc.) reveals a profound nexus between the impact of Israeli occupation and the pre-existing gender-based discrimination faced by Palestinian women and girls. The occupation exacerbates existing gender disparities, erecting significant barriers to women and girls' full enjoyment of their rights, access to resources, and their effective utilization.

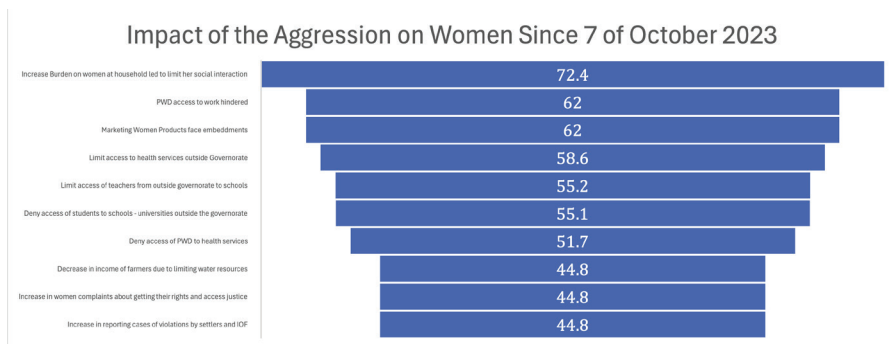
Rights are inherently interconnected; any violation or regression in one right negatively impacts the entire system of rights, depriving individuals, regardless of gender, of the full equality guaranteed by international law and standards.

The following chart illustrates the most prevalent forms of Israeli aggression in the West Bank since October 2023 and their significant impact on women, as documented by representatives of women's institutions across the governorates

The field study revealed that Israeli aggression had a severe impact on women with disabilities' economic participation. A significant majority (62.2%) reported substantial barriers to entering the labor market, while 62% faced challenges in marketing their products. Furthermore, 51.7% of women with disabilities reported that their businesses were closed or destroyed by the occupation.



First Field: The Economic Field



The data reveals a profound economic impact of Israeli aggression on women in the selected areas, with far-reaching consequences across various facets of their lives. A significant proportion of women (58.6%) experienced moderate to severe economic disruption, primarily due to job loss (65.5%). This directly impacted household income, as many women served as primary breadwinners.

Furthermore, 55.1% of women faced severe limitations in accessing their workplaces, leading to decreased productivity and income instability. Agricultural activities, crucial for many families, were severely disrupted, with 58.6% of women unable to access or work on their land, jeopardizing food security.

The blockade imposed by Israel exacerbated these challenges, with 58.6% of respondents struggling to access essential goods like food and medicine. The destruction of small businesses and restrictions on their operations forced 82.8% of women to shut down or abandon their ventures, resulting in substantial economic losses. Marketing challenges further limited income-generating opportunities, as 72.4% of women were unable to sell their products.

Women with disabilities faced compounded challenges, with 82.8% reporting increased barriers to employment. These included the closure of the Israeli labor market, limited funding, marketing difficulties, and a lack of experience and skills, highlighting the heightened vulnerability of marginalized groups.



Table No. (1): The Economic Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the selected areas according to Women’s Evaluation, November 2024.

The economic impact of the Israeli aggression on women in the Selected Areas	None	Very little	A little	Average	Much	Very Much	Total
Women losing their main source of family income	0.0%	10.3%	10.3%	27.6%	31.0%	20.7%	100.0%
Women losing their jobs	3.4%	6.9%	13.8%	37.9%	27.6%	10.3%	100.0%
Women unable to reach their workplaces	3.4%	6.9%	13.8%	20.7%	31.0%	24.1%	100.0%
Preventing women from accessing the land, cultivating it or picking its fruits, especially during the olive season.	3.4%	6.9%	20.7%	17.2%	41.4%	10.3%	100.0%
Traders are prohibited from bringing in household supplies, especially for women and children, such as food, medicine, etc.	10.3%	3.4%	17.2%	34.5%	24.1%	10.3%	100.0%
Women closing their projects or having them destroyed	3.4%	3.4%	6.9%	34.5%	48.3%	3.4%	100.0%
Preventing women from marketing their products	0.0%	3.4%	10.3%	24.1%	48.3%	13.8%	100.0%
Increasing the burden on people with disabilities to obtain or access work	0.0%	3.4%	6.9%	27.6%	55.2%	6.9%	100.0%

These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to support women’s economic empowerment. Such measures include:

- **Financial and Technical Assistance:** Providing access to credit, grants, and training programs specifically designed for women-owned businesses and agricultural ventures.
- **Improved Market Access:** Facilitating access to local, regional, and international markets through initiatives like trade fairs, e-commerce platforms, and value chain development programs.
- **Workplace Improvements:** Enhancing workplace safety, providing affordable childcare options, and promoting flexible work arrangements to support women’s participation in the workforce.



- Policy Reforms: Implementing and enforcing policies that address gender-based discrimination in the economic sphere, including equal pay, access to land and resources, and legal protection for women entrepreneurs.

These measures are crucial for alleviating the economic burdens faced by women, strengthening their economic resilience, and contributing to the overall development of their communities.

Addressing Women's Economic Needs:

The impact of the occupation has severely constrained the economic opportunities available to women in the targeted areas. Analysis of quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews revealed a stark economic reality characterized by:

- Structural Challenges: Limited access to resources, infrastructure, and technology.
- Political and Social Barriers: Discrimination in access to credit, land ownership, and employment opportunities.
- Gender-Based Discrimination: Persistent inequalities in wages, decision-making power, and access to markets.
- Based on these findings, the key economic needs identified for women in these areas are:
- [List specific needs identified, such as access to credit, skills training, market linkages, legal support, etc.]

Table No. (2): Women's Needs to Overcome the Economic Situation and Enhance Economic Resilience

Need Category	Details
Provide capital and raw materials	Women small-business owners They need to provide financial support and basic raw materials to establish or expand small projects
Enhance experience and skills	Women artisans and entrepreneurs Capacity building in food processing, handicrafts, and heritage projects to improve productivity and increase efficiency.
Product marketing	Productive women Facilitating women's access to local and international markets and providing electronic platforms for marketing.
Developing legislation and policies	Working women and business owners Updating laws to provide a stimulating and supportive legal environment for women's entrepreneurship.
Providing grants for establishing small projects	Women with entrepreneurial ideas Providing direct financial grants to start new women's projects or expand existing ones.
Land reclamation for agriculture	Rural women and landowners Providing support for agricultural land reclamation and increasing agricultural production.
Support for agricultural projects	Rural women Encourage sheep, beekeeping and poultry farming to provide sustainable income for women in rural areas.
Technology and product development opportunities	Women in urban and remote areas Providing opportunities to use technology to develop and market women's products online.
Productive group projects	Women working in collective projects Promote the establishment of cooperatives to increase efficiency and cooperation in production and marketing.
Strengthening the awareness aspect	All women Organizing campaigns to raise awareness of women's economic rights and providing appropriate training in project management.

Challenges Facing Women Entrepreneurs in Palestine:





Women entrepreneurs in Palestine face significant obstacles in establishing and growing their businesses. These challenges include:

1. Limited Access to Capital and Resources:

- a. High poverty and unemployment rates, particularly among women (around 40% unemployment), create a challenging economic environment.
- b. Lack of inclusive funding programs that consider gender-specific needs limits women's access to capital and raw materials.
- c. This financial barrier reinforces women's economic dependence on family or community.

2. Skills and Capacity Gaps:

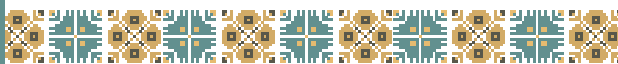
- a. Women often lack the necessary skills and experience in business management, food processing, and handicrafts due to limited access to quality education and training.
- b. Cultural and social constraints often confine women to traditional, low-profit sectors, hindering their economic growth potential.
- c. The lack of targeted training programs for women in these sectors further exacerbates this issue.

3. Marketing and Market Access Challenges:

- a. Access to markets is severely limited by the Israeli occupation, including restrictions on movement and trade.
- b. Weak marketing strategies and limited institutional support hinder women's ability to compete effectively in the market.
- c. The Palestinian economy's reliance on external markets and unstable trade conditions further complicates market access for women entrepreneurs.

4. Inadequate Legal and Policy Framework:

- a. Current legislation lacks positive discriminatory measures to empower women economically.
- b. The absence of policies supporting women's financing and providing labor market protection perpetuates gender discrimination.



- c. Critical legislation, such as laws ensuring property rights, facilitating access to loans, and protecting women workers, is either non-existent or inadequately enforced.

5. Limited Access to Alternative Financing:

- a. Women often lack the collateral required to secure traditional loans.
- b. Grants emerge as a crucial alternative financing mechanism to encourage women to enter the labor market and establish sustainable businesses, especially in the context of limited formal employment opportunities.

6. Land Reclamation: Supporting women's access to land through reclamation projects is essential. This would enable them to engage in sustainable agricultural practices and generate income.

7. Small-Scale Livestock Projects: While promising, initiatives like sheep, bee, and poultry farming require consistent financial and technical assistance. Addressing weaknesses in supply chains, infrastructure, and marketing is crucial for their success.

8. Technology Integration: Leveraging technology for online product development and marketing can expand market access for women. However, this necessitates improved digital infrastructure and comprehensive training programs to bridge the digital divide.

9. Collective Action: Fostering the growth of women's cooperatives can enhance resource sharing, mitigate risks, and increase their collective bargaining power. However, establishing a supportive legal and administrative framework for cooperatives is essential.

10. Addressing Social Barriers: Raising awareness about women's economic potential and challenging traditional gender roles are crucial. This requires targeted campaigns that build self-confidence and empower women to overcome social and cultural constraints.

These interventions are interconnected and require a multi-faceted approach that addresses the complex challenges faced by rural women in Palestine.



Second Field: The Educational Field

Israeli aggression severely disrupted access to education for women and girls in the selected areas. 65.5% of respondents reported a “high” or “moderate” impact on reaching schools and universities within the governorate, while 72.4% experienced similar difficulties accessing institutions outside.

Teachers also faced significant challenges, with 58.6% experiencing “moderate” or “severe” difficulties reaching schools within the governorate, and 62.1% facing the same for institutions outside.

These disruptions had profound consequences:

- **Limited Employment Opportunities:** 41.4% of female graduates reported severe difficulties finding employment, highlighting the denial of their fundamental right to work.
- **Restricted Access to Higher Education:** 41.4% of women faced significant obstacles in applying for scholarships and accessing other educational services.
- **Disrupted Secondary Education:** 37.9% of female students encountered moderate difficulties accessing General Secondary Education exams, jeopardizing their educational futures.
- **Increased Vulnerability for Individuals with Disabilities:** 55.2% of individuals with disabilities experienced “moderate” or “severe” disruptions to their education, exacerbating educational disparities and discrimination against vulnerable groups.

These findings underscore the devastating impact of Israeli aggression on the education sector, severely hindering women and girls’ right to education and perpetuating cycles of inequality.

Israeli aggression significantly impacts the educational process, primarily by:

Hindering teacher access: 55.2% of respondents reported teachers being unable to reach schools outside their governorate.

Limiting female student access: 55.1% of respondents reported female students being unable to access schools and universities outside their governorate.

These barriers, roadblocks, and closures severely restrict freedom of movement, significantly disrupting education. Additionally, 51.7% of graduates face obstacles in seeking job opportunities.

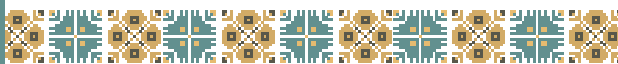


Table No. (3): The Impact of Israeli Aggression on Women in the Selected Areas from an Educational Perspective According to Women’s Evaluation, 2024.

The impact of the Israeli aggression on women in the selected areas from an educational perspective	None	Very Little	Little	Moderate	Severe	Very Severe	Total
Preventing female students from reaching their schools and universities within the governorate	3.4%	0.0%	20.7%	27.6%	37.9%	10.3%	100.0%
Preventing female students from reaching their schools and universities outside the governorate	3.4%	0.0%	13.8%	27.6%	44.8%	10.3%	100.0%
Preventing teachers from reaching their schools within the governorate	3.4%	0.0%	24.1%	31.0%	27.6%	13.8%	100.0%
Preventing teachers from reaching schools from outside the governorate	3.4%	0.0%	13.8%	27.6%	34.5%	20.7%	100.0%
Preventing female graduates from looking for job opportunities	6.9%	3.4%	6.9%	31.0%	41.4%	10.3%	100.0%
Preventing women from applying for scholarships or other educational services	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%	41.4%	37.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Obstructing female students from reaching the secondary school exams	6.9%	3.4%	24.1%	37.9%	20.7%	6.9%	100.0%
Lack of access to educational services for people with disabilities	3.4%	6.9%	17.2%	34.5%	20.7%	17.2%	100.0%

These findings underscore the systematic violation of women’s and girls’ right to education, a fundamental human right guaranteed by international law. This demands an urgent and robust response to safeguard this right and ensure educational justice within the context of occupation.



Addressing Women's Educational Challenges Amidst Israeli Aggression:

Data analysis reveals that women residing in the selected areas face significant obstacles in accessing quality education due to the severe consequences of Israeli aggression. Key priorities identified include:

Safe and Accessible Transportation:

- Prioritize early transportation to educational institutions.
- Improve road infrastructure and alleviate traffic congestion, particularly at checkpoints like Qalandiya.
- Prevent road closures that obstruct access to schools and universities.

Financial Support:

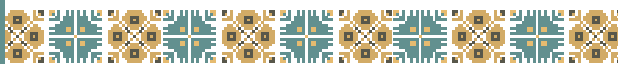
- Provide financial assistance to female students, especially those in remote areas, to cover transportation costs and housing expenses.
- Ensure access to affordable or free internet and electronic devices, particularly for students in remote areas, to facilitate distance learning.

Safe and Supportive Learning Environments:

- Improve school infrastructure to create safe and inclusive spaces free from violence and discrimination.
- Offer flexible educational programs that accommodate the diverse needs and circumstances of women.
- Reduce university fees and increase scholarships for students from low-income families.

Expanding Educational Opportunities in Remote Communities:

- Increase the number of classrooms and teachers to meet the growing educational demands in remote areas.
- Implement supportive programs, such as summer and winter camps that integrate education and recreation, to prevent school dropout.



Empowering Women and Girls:

- Align educational curricula with market demands and ensure the recognition of university degrees.
- Provide training programs for mothers to enhance their understanding of their daughters' right to education.
- Prioritize psychological, community, and financial support to encourage girls to complete their education and access suitable opportunities.

These findings necessitate immediate action to dismantle the systemic barriers to education faced by women and girls under occupation. By prioritizing these crucial steps, we can ensure that all women and girls could reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Table No. (4): Women's Needs to Overcome Educational Difficulties Resulting from the Israeli Aggression:

Needs	Details
Safe and accessible means of transportation	Providing early transportation, improving roads, alleviating traffic congestion, and removing barriers.
Financial support for female students	Covering transportation and accommodation costs for remote students.
Technology and distance education	Providing electronic devices and free or facilitated internet, and establishing student emergency centers.
Improving infrastructure	Develop schools, expand classrooms, and increase the number of teachers.
Flexible educational programs	Providing education that suits the needs of women, including non-traditional education.
Reducing university fees	Reduce costs and facilitate installments.
Intensifying educational grants	Providing financial assistance and grants to girls from low-income families.
Education that meets market needs	Design curricula that are in line with labor market requirements.



Supportive educational programs	Establishing summer and winter camps that combine education with entertainment to reduce school dropout.
Courses for mothers	Training mothers on girls' rights to education.
Psychological and community support	Providing moral and community support to girls to enhance their continuity in education.
Removing barriers and improving mobility	Opening gates, securing roads, and easing restrictions on movement.

The ongoing Israeli aggression significantly exacerbates the challenges faced by Palestinian women and girls in accessing their fundamental right to education. These obstacles not only disrupt their present learning but also have long-term consequences, severely limiting their future potential and hindering their ability to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

To achieve educational justice for Palestinian women, a multifaceted approach is imperative. This must address the complex interplay of structural, psychological, and economic barriers they encounter. Key priorities include:

Guaranteeing a safe and secure learning environment: This necessitates addressing the physical and psychological trauma caused by Israeli aggression.

Providing sustainable financial support: Scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial aid are crucial to mitigating the economic hardships that often impede access to education.

Developing relevant and responsive educational programs: These programs should align with the evolving needs of the Palestinian market and the demands of the 21st century, equipping women with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Empowering Palestinian women through equitable access to education at all levels is not merely a matter of human rights; it is a cornerstone for building a just, equitable, and sustainable society in Palestine.



Third Field: The Health Field

The Israeli aggression has severely impacted women's access to healthcare in the selected areas. Key findings include:

Restricted Access:

- Within Governorates: 41.4% of women reported moderate difficulty and 24.1% reported significant difficulty accessing healthcare services within their own governorates.
- Outside Governorates: A staggering 51.7% of women reported extreme difficulty in reaching healthcare services outside their governorates.

Disrupted Healthcare Services:

- Staff Shortages: 34.5% of healthcare centers reported a considerable impact due to restricted access to medical staff.
- Medication & Program Shortages: 34.5% of women reported a moderate impact and 24.1% indicated a significant impact on the availability of medications and women's healthcare programs.

Impact on Specific Groups:

- Pregnant Women: 37.9% faced significant difficulties accessing regular check-ups, and 27.6% experienced disruptions in accessing childbirth services at specialized hospitals.
- Women with Disabilities: 41.4% reported substantial difficulties accessing healthcare services.
- Psychological Impact: 31.0% of women reported a severe psychological crisis, highlighting a deepening mental health crisis among women due to the violence of the occupation.
- Financial Barriers: 27.6% of women reported that the ability to afford healthcare has become a significant barrier, further increasing the burden on families.

These findings demonstrate a significant increase in women's healthcare access and highlight the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and support for the affected communities



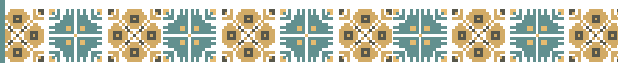
Table No. (5): The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the Selected Areas in Terms of Health According to Women’s Evaluation, November 2024.

Impact of the Israeli aggression on women in the selected areas in terms of health	None	Very little	A little	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
Hindering women’s access to health services within the governorate	6.9%	6.9%	20.7%	41.4%	24.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Hindering women’s access to health services outside the governorate	3.4%	6.9%	13.8%	17.2%	51.7%	6.9%	100.0%
Obstructing the access of health personnel to health centers	6.9%	13.8%	17.2%	13.8%	34.5%	13.8%	100.0%
Lack of women’s medications or other health programs	0.0%	10.3%	17.2%	34.5%	24.1%	13.8%	100.0%
Pregnant women do not have access to regular check-ups.	3.4%	13.8%	13.8%	27.6%	37.9%	3.4%	100.0%
Women not having access to a specialized hospital to give birth	3.4%	6.9%	17.2%	24.1%	27.6%	20.7%	100.0%
Lack of access for people with disabilities to their health services	3.4%	13.8%	13.8%	17.2%	41.4%	10.3%	100.0%
Increase in the psychological effects resulting from the violence of the occupation	0.0%	0.0%	13.8%	31.0%	24.1%	31.0%	100.0%
Inability to afford health care	0.0%	3.4%	10.3%	34.5%	27.6%	24.1%	100.0%

These results emphasize the urgent need for interventions to improve access to healthcare services and ensure the provision of comprehensive care that addresses the physical and psychological needs of women, especially in light of the ongoing systematic violence.

Women’s needs to address health challenges in Palestine:

The health needs of women in Palestine show multiple and complex challenges that require comprehensive and diverse solutions. These needs can be divided into three main areas: access to healthcare services, improving the quality of available services, and addressing the social and economic barriers that hinder women from enjoying their health rights.



Regarding access to healthcare services, women face significant challenges in obtaining permits to access hospitals in Jerusalem, limiting their ability to receive specialized care. Additionally, the lack of government-run health centers that are open throughout the week presents another barrier to regular healthcare services for women. In rural and remote areas, the shortage of health facilities and health awareness is an added challenge, with women needing mobile services and health education to raise awareness about their health rights.

In terms of improving the quality of services, there is an urgent demand for affordable medications, especially the high-cost medicines that place a heavy burden on families. Additionally, providing modern medical equipment and specialized services such as chronic disease treatment centers and women's health clinics is considered a critical need. Moreover, the healthcare challenges require the provision of emergency psychological and social support services and appropriate health insurance programs, with a focus on women in difficult social and economic conditions.

Socially and economically, women face challenges related to healthcare costs, such as high delivery fees in private hospitals and transportation expenses to access healthcare services. Additionally, traffic congestion and Israeli checkpoints further complicate mobility, highlighting the need for practical solutions such as 24-hour ambulance services in remote areas and the development of a more inclusive and equitable healthcare infrastructure.

In addition, there is a need to strengthen laws and policies that protect women's health rights, including addressing gender-based violence, which has a compounded impact on their health. Proposed solutions include first aid training, providing educational and awareness centers, and ensuring equal access to services for women both inside and outside the wall.



The table below shows the health needs expressed by women, which thus require focus to improve the health conditions for women in Palestine, especially in light of the challenges imposed by the political and social circumstances.

Table No. (6): Women’s Needs to meet Health Challenges in Palestine:

Description	Need
The need to facilitate access to hospitals in Jerusalem by granting special permits to women.	Ability to obtain permits to access Jerusalem hospitals
The need for government health centers to be available throughout the week or at least on working days.	Health centers opening throughout the week
Providing the necessary medicines at reasonable prices and monitoring the prices of examination fees and medicines in health centers.	Providing medicines and monitoring the prices of examination fees and medicines in the rest of the centers
The need to provide non-governmental health insurance programs that are suitable for women from different categories.	Providing appropriate non-governmental health insurance programs
Providing mobile or fixed health care services in rural and remote areas with health awareness for women.	Access to health care services in rural and remote areas
The need to strengthen policies that protect women’s rights to access health care, including gender-based violence.	Strengthening laws and policies that protect women’s rights to health care
Providing financial support to cover the costs of childbirth, especially in private hospitals.	Insuring women with free or reduced delivery fees in private hospitals
The need for the Ministry of Health to provide essential medicines to women at affordable prices.	Providing medicines by the Ministry of Health
Providing training courses for women in first aid to enable them to deal with health emergencies.	First aid courses
Providing ambulances operating around the clock in rural and remote areas.	Providing an ambulance operating in the village 24 hours a day
Providing the necessary emergency medicines in health centers to meet women’s needs.	Providing the necessary medicines in health centers
Increasing the working hours of health staff members in health centers to ensure continuous services.	Increasing the number of working days for health personnel
The need to provide safe means of transportation for women to reach hospitals safely and easily.	Enabling women to safely access hospitals
Establish medical clinics specializing in women’s health in remote areas to meet their health needs.	Providing specialized clinics for women’s health in remote and distant areas
Establish specialized medical centers to treat chronic diseases, such as cancer and kidney diseases.	Providing specialized centers in chronic diseases, especially cancer and kidney diseases



Provide health awareness programs directed at women about the importance of health care and their rights to obtain it.	Providing health awareness
The necessity of equipping health centers with the latest medical devices to ensure the provision of effective health services.	Providing healthcare services equipped with modern devices
Providing therapists for autistic children and ensuring payment of the necessary fees to cover the costs of the sessions.	Providing therapists for autistic children and paying session fees
The necessity of providing CT scans at reasonable prices to facilitate access to them.	The high cost of CT scans
Ensuring the provision of basic health services for all women, including primary care.	Providing basic primary healthcare for women
Providing psychological and social support services to women who have been exposed to psychological or social pressures.	Providing emergency psychological and social relief
Conducting periodic health checkups for women and providing special medications for chronic diseases with the support of psychologists.	Conducting periodic examinations for women and providing special medications for mobile clinics and psychologists
The need to develop and improve the level of services at Salfit Governmental Hospital to meet the needs of women.	Developing Salfit Governmental Hospital
Addressing the problem of traffic congestion and difficulty of movement due to Israeli checkpoints in the areas behind the wall.	Solving the problem of traffic congestion in areas behind the wall
Ensuring that women behind the wall receive the same health care services available to women inside the wall.	Equality between those living behind the wall and those living inside the wall in obtaining services

Fourth Field: Protection and Violence against Women

The pervasive violence against women and girls in Palestine is a complex and multifaceted issue. It arises from a confluence of factors: the Israeli occupation, deeply ingrained societal norms, and prevailing socio-economic conditions. This violence manifests at various levels – policy, societal, and familial.

The occupation directly fuels violence through repressive policies and military actions, including arbitrary arrests, physical and psychological abuse, and widespread home demolitions. These acts of violence create a climate of fear and insecurity, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, deeply ingrained societal norms, such as patriarchal traditions that restrict women’s rights and autonomy, contribute significantly to the problem. These norms perpetuate harmful gender roles, limiting women’s access to education, employment, and decision-making, and increasing their vulnerability to abuse.



The lack of adequate government support further exacerbates the situation. Insufficient resources, inadequate legal frameworks, and a lack of accessible services for survivors of violence leave women with limited avenues for protection and justice.

Data reveals that domestic violence is a particularly significant concern. A staggering 48.3% of women reported an increase in complaints of violence from family members, reflecting a state of heightened psychological and social tension exacerbated by the ongoing conflict and occupation. Alarming, 17.2% of women reported a “very severe” increase in domestic violence complaints, underscoring the widespread and severe nature of this issue.

Table No. (7): The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the Selected Areas in Terms of Violence according to Women’s Evaluation, November 2024.

Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the Selected Areas in Terms of Violence	None	Very little	A little	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
Increase in women’s complaints of violence by a family member	0.0%	13.8%	13.8%	48.3%	17.2%	6.9%	100.0%
Increase in women’s complaints of violence by someone outside the family	3.4%	13.8%	24.1%	34.5%	17.2%	6.9%	100.0%
Increase in women’s complaints of violence by occupation soldiers or settlers	0.0%	10.3%	24.1%	20.7%	27.6%	17.2%	100.0%
Increase in women’s complaints about government services	0.0%	13.8%	27.6%	24.1%	20.7%	13.8%	100.0%
Increase in women’s complaints about government services	3.4%	17.2%	27.6%	13.8%	17.2%	20.7%	100.0%
Increase in women’s complaints about obtaining judicial services such as alimony and access to courts, etc.	10.3%	13.8%	17.2%	13.8%	27.6%	17.2%	100.0%
Women’s inability to access protection from the competent authorities	6.9%	20.7%	17.2%	20.7%	20.7%	13.8%	100.0%
Women’s inability to access a safe house for protection	10.3%	20.7%	17.2%	31.0%	10.3%	10.3%	100.0%
A noticeable increase in violence against people with disabilities	13.8%	20.7%	13.8%	24.1%	17.2%	10.3%	100.0%

Violence Against Women in Palestinian Territories: A Multifaceted Crisis



This report highlights the alarming rise in violence against women in Palestinian territories, exacerbated by the ongoing Israeli occupation. Key findings include:

Escalating Violence:

- A significant increase in violence by both family members and individuals outside the family. This reflects the deteriorating security situation, with the occupation creating an environment conducive to violence.
- A substantial rise in violence perpetrated by Israeli soldiers and settlers, underscoring the severe impact of the occupation on women's safety.

Inadequate Support Systems:

- A significant number of women reported increased violence due to weak government services, particularly in healthcare and education. This lack of support leaves women vulnerable and exacerbates their suffering.
- Difficulty accessing support from charitable and private organizations due to movement restrictions and limited resources.

Barriers to Justice:

- Significant challenges in accessing judicial services, including courts, hindering women's ability to seek legal recourse and protection. This is compounded by the restrictions imposed by the occupation.

Limited Access to Protection:

- Difficulty reaching authorities for protection and accessing "safe houses," leaving women at risk of further harm.
- Vulnerability of Women with Disabilities:
- A significant increase in violence against women with disabilities, highlighting their heightened vulnerability within the context of the occupation.



Key Needs:

Based on these findings, women in the selected areas have identified critical needs to address this multifaceted crisis:

- **Enhanced Security:** Improved security measures to combat violence from all sources, including within families and from the Israeli occupation.
- **Strengthened Support Systems:** Increased access to quality healthcare, education, and social services, including mental health support.
- **Improved Access to Justice:** Improved access to legal aid, courts, and protection orders, with a focus on addressing the challenges posed by the occupation.
- **Increased Access to Safe Spaces:** Expansion of “safe houses” and other shelters for women at risk of violence, with improved accessibility and security.
- **Empowerment of Women with Disabilities:** Specific programs to address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women with disabilities.
- **Addressing Root Causes:** Addressing the root causes of violence, including poverty, unemployment, and the ongoing Israeli occupation.

Table No. (7): Women’s Basic Needs to Enhance Protection and Reduce Violence against them in the Context of the conditions in which they Live:

Need	Description
Raising awareness among women about the availability and location of services	Providing the necessary information about places and services available to protect women.
Psychological release and self-expression	Providing opportunities for women to express themselves and work to relieve psychological pressures.
Opening programs through centers and associations to raise awareness	Organizing awareness programs for the community and women about violence and the importance of protection.
Encouraging sports clubs and entertainment programs	Supporting sports and recreational programs for all age groups to alleviate life pressures.
Strengthening laws and legislation and implementing laws to combat violence	Developing and implementing legislation that criminalizes violence against women and providing legal mechanisms for assistance.
Searching for the cause of violence and treating it	Studying the root causes of violence and providing sustainable solutions to reduce it.
Providing police stations	Providing equipped police stations in places that need greater protection for women.



Forming committees by the municipal council to maintain security	Forming local committees to maintain security and ensure the protection of women.
Providing educational and recreational clubs for all groups	Supporting educational and recreational clubs that enhance the capabilities of women and children and develop their skills.
Workers' (female and male workers) inability to reach their workplaces	Finding solutions to the problem of access to workplaces as a tool to reduce stress and violence.
Women's awareness of the meaning of violence in all its forms reduces violence	Raising awareness among women about the concept of violence and how to deal with it properly.
Provides a source of income for women	Providing stable job opportunities for women to reduce their dependence on others and enhance their financial independence.
Creates job opportunities for husbands	Creating job opportunities for husbands to ease economic burdens and reduce pressures.
Awareness brochures	Disseminating awareness information about violence and women's rights periodically.
Home education	Raising awareness among mothers about their role in promoting proper upbringing of children through dialogue and respect.
The role of security services	Activating the role of security services in protecting women from violence and prosecuting aggressors.
Reduces economic burdens and the high cost of living	Providing economic support to women and groups affected by rising prices.
Double work between government institutions and civil society institutions	Enhancing cooperation between governmental and civil institutions to provide effective protection services.
Working on raising awareness among women intensively	Continuously increasing awareness campaigns for women about their rights and how to confront violence.
Finding solutions and penalties for the aggressor	Establishing strict legal procedures against aggressors and holding them accountable for the crimes they commit.
Awareness workshops and recreational trips	Organizing educational workshops and entertainment campaigns for women to alleviate the psychological effects of violence.
Increasing the confidence of abused women in institutions	Building trust between abused women and relevant institutions to ensure they receive appropriate support.
Repeated meetings for women on the mechanism for dealing with crises	Organizing regular meetings with women to discuss crises and provide practical and realistic solutions.

The table above reflects the most important needs that must be focused on to enhance the protection of women in Palestine and reduce violence against them in light of the difficult circumstances in which they live.



Fifth Field: Water, Sanitation and Energy

Israeli aggression severely impacts women's lives in these areas, particularly in accessing essential services like water, sanitation, and energy. Israeli policies and restrictions exacerbate daily burdens on women, who are primarily responsible for securing their families' basic needs.

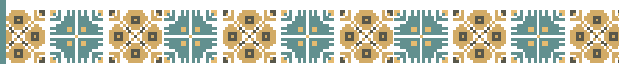
Key findings include:

Water Crisis:

- **Frequent Cuts:** 48.3% of women experience significant water cuts, forcing them to secure water under difficult conditions, often at increased costs.
- **Pollution:** 58.6% report increased water contamination, posing serious health risks, especially for women in rural areas with limited access to clean water.
- **Tanker Reliance:** 34.5% of families rely on private tankers, increasing costs and women's workload due to transportation and storage.

Energy Insecurity:

- **Frequent Outages:** 45.2% of women face frequent power cuts, disrupting daily life and hindering the use of essential appliances.
- **Access Barriers:** 45.5% of women encounter difficulties accessing electricity or water recharge services due to movement and trade restrictions.
- **Unsafe Sources:** 56.9% of women are forced to use unsafe water and energy sources, increasing health risks and disease spread.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** 48.3% of women with family members with disabilities face doubled burdens due to water and electricity cuts.
- **Wastewater Issues:** 34.5% of participants report difficulties in safely disposing of wastewater, deteriorating public health.
- **Settlement Impact:** 45.2% of women suffer from water contamination caused by wastewater discharge from Israeli settlements, increasing health risks.



Increased Burden on Women:

- 44.8% of women report an increased household workload due to water and electricity challenges.
- 58.6% of female farmers experience income decline due to water scarcity.
- Unaffordability: 44.8% of families cannot afford water costs, exacerbating economic hardship for women.

These challenges significantly impact women's health, well-being, and economic security, highlighting the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis in these areas

Table No. (8): The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the Selected Areas in Terms of Water, Sanitation, and Energy According to Women's Evaluation, November 2024.

Impact of the Israeli aggression on women in the selected areas in terms of water, sanitation, and energy	None	Very little	A little	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
Unusually frequent water cuts	0.0%	13.8%	17.2%	37.9%	13.8%	17.2%	100.0%
Increased complaints from women about water pollution	3.4%	17.2%	20.7%	24.1%	24.1%	10.3%	100.0%
Increased households filling water with private tanks	10.3%	10.3%	20.7%	20.7%	13.8%	24.1%	100.0%
Frequent power cuts	3.4%	17.2%	31.0%	27.6%	17.2%	3.4%	100.0%
Unusually weak power lines	3.4%	10.3%	31.0%	34.5%	20.7%	0.0%	100.0%
Women's access to electricity or water charging is hindered	13.8%	13.8%	27.6%	37.9%	6.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Women's use of water and energy from unsafe sources	10.3%	13.8%	24.1%	31.0%	13.8%	6.9%	100.0%
Double burdens on people with disabilities due to water and electricity cuts	3.4%	13.8%	20.7%	37.9%	13.8%	10.3%	100.0%
Hindering the safe disposal of sewage	0.0%	13.8%	24.1%	34.5%	6.9%	20.7%	100.0%
Pollution of your area with settlement sewage	10.3%	13.8%	31.0%	31.0%	3.4%	10.3%	100.0%
Increased burden of housework on women	0.0%	17.2%	17.2%	20.7%	24.1%	20.7%	100.0%
Decreased income for female farmers due to continuous water cuts	3.4%	13.8%	13.8%	24.1%	20.7%	24.1%	100.0%
Inability to afford water costs	0.0%	13.8%	17.2%	24.1%	17.2%	27.6%	100.0%



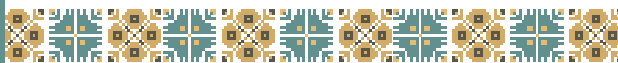
The Israeli aggression in this area significantly impacted women's lives, particularly in relation to water access. 44.8% of women reported a decline in income from agriculture due to continuous water shortages. This shortage also led to 44.8% of women being unable to afford water costs, increasing their domestic workload. Furthermore, 37.9% of households relied on water tankers for supply, adding to the burden on women.

The data unequivocally demonstrates the profound impact of Israeli aggression on the lives of women in the selected regions, particularly in the sectors of water, sanitation, and energy. Women bear the brunt of securing these critical services, significantly exacerbating the hardships they face daily. Urgent and sustained support is imperative to mitigate Women's Needs in the Water, Sanitation, and Energy Sector:

Women in the selected areas and surrounding Jerusalem face immense pressure due to economic and social conditions exacerbated by the Israeli occupation. This significantly impacts their daily lives, particularly regarding access to essential services like water, electricity, and sanitation.

Key Challenges:

- **Limited and Unreliable Water Supply:** Frequent water shortages, often caused by Israeli restrictions on water sources, severely impact women's daily lives. Securing water for basic needs like washing, cooking, and drinking becomes a constant struggle. Reliance on alternative sources like water tanks or purchasing water from private providers increases financial burdens.
- **High Cost of Water and Energy:** The high cost of water and electricity poses a significant economic burden on women who often manage household finances in the absence of sufficient employment opportunities. This financial strain limits their ability to meet basic needs and negatively impacts their quality of life.
- **Inadequate Sanitation:** Many areas lack proper sewage networks, forcing women to deal with cesspits that pose serious public health risks due to potential groundwater contamination. This increases their vulnerability to waterborne diseases and significantly increases their daily workload.



- **Limited Access to Safe Water:** Water shortages and the lack of effective water quality monitoring expose women and their families to the risk of consuming contaminated water. Israeli control over water distribution exacerbates this issue.
- **Poor Infrastructure:** Outdated and inadequate water and sewage infrastructure, coupled with frequent malfunctions in wastewater treatment plants due to lack of maintenance or Israeli attacks, severely hinders access to clean water and safe sanitation.

Recommendations:

- **Improve Access to Water and Electricity:** Increase the availability of a consistent and reliable water supply. Reduce the cost of water and electricity to alleviate the financial burden on women.
- **Enhance Sanitation:** Expand access to public sewage networks in all areas. Improve wastewater treatment plant maintenance and ensure their proper functioning.
- **Ensure Water Quality:** Implement effective water quality monitoring systems. Increase transparency in water distribution and pricing.
- **Create a Safe and Healthy Environment:** Prioritize interventions to improve access to water and electricity and ensure safe and healthy wastewater disposal.
- **Challenges Faced by Women in Accessing Water and Sanitation in the selected areas of the study:**

Limited Access to Spring Water:

- Israeli occupation severely restricts Palestinian access to vital spring water sources.
- This significantly impacts women, who often bear the primary responsibility for water collection.
- Urgent need for sustainable solutions to allow women in besieged areas to safely utilize local springs, especially where public water networks are absent.



Water Tank Reliance and Associated Challenges:

- o Frequent water outages necessitate reliance on water tanks, placing a significant burden on women.
- o High costs of acquiring and maintaining tanks, coupled with limited household incomes, exacerbate this challenge.

Sanitation Issues and Cooperative Solutions:

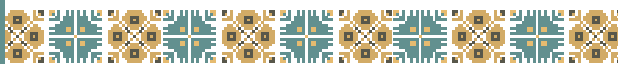
- Women are disproportionately affected by poor sanitation, including blocked sewage systems and groundwater contamination.
- Empowering women through community-based sanitation initiatives, such as collective drain cleaning, can improve hygiene and reduce health risks.
- Electricity Outages and Generator Dependence:
 - Frequent power cuts disrupt daily life for women, impacting food storage, lighting, and other essential tasks.
 - While generators provide a temporary solution, their high cost is a significant burden.
 - Exploring alternative, more affordable energy solutions, such as solar power, is crucial.

Soak Pit Contamination and Health Risks:

- Improperly located soak pits contaminate groundwater, posing serious health risks, particularly for women responsible for their maintenance.
- Urgent need for solutions to relocate and properly manage soak pits to protect public health.

High Electricity Costs and Alternative Solutions:

- High electricity costs, exacerbated by frequent outages, significantly impact women's livelihoods and well-being.
- Government and community support for alternative energy sources, such as solar power, is essential to alleviate this burden.



- **Water Restrictions in Jerusalem:**
- Israeli restrictions on water distribution in Jerusalem severely limit access for Palestinian residents, disproportionately affecting women.
- Increasing the water allocation for Palestinian residents is crucial to ensure their basic human right to water.
- **Water Conservation Awareness:**
- Raising awareness among women about water conservation practices is vital for sustainable water management within households.
- **Improving Electricity Infrastructure:**
- Frequent power outages severely disrupt daily life.
- Investing in a more robust electricity infrastructure, including underground lines and expanding access to renewable energy sources, is crucial to improve reliability and reduce disruptions for women.
- **Prioritizing Electricity Network Maintenance:**
- Regular maintenance of the electricity network, especially before winter, is essential to prevent outages and ensure a reliable power supply for women.

Table No. (9): Table of Women’s Needs in the Water, Sanitation and Energy Sector:

Need	Description
Provide a permanent water source	Providing a permanent and safe source of water to meet the needs of families.
Reducing water and energy costs	Reducing the financial costs of water and electricity to ease economic burdens.
Public sewerage network	Establishing a public sewerage network for proper sanitation.
Monitoring water prices and quality	Monitoring water prices and quality to ensure fair distribution and quality.



Improving infrastructure and maintaining treatment plants	Improving infrastructure and increasing access to renewable energy.
Utilizing spring water	Utilizing natural water resources in the region.
Providing families with water tanks	Providing water tanks that are appropriate for the number of family members.
Encouraging cooperative work in sanitation	Enhancing cooperative work among residents to maintain the cleanliness of sewage networks.
Providing electric motors	Providing backup power transformers in case of sudden power outages.
Moving septic tanks away from residential areas	Removing septic tanks to avoid environmental pollution.
Reducing electricity costs	Reducing the cost of electricity to facilitate access to it for all citizens.
Increasing the share of water for the Jerusalemite citizen	Increasing the share of water for Palestinians in Jerusalem.
Water consumption awareness leaflets	Raising awareness about rationalizing water consumption to conserve resources.
Improving the electricity infrastructure	Improving the electrical grid and connecting homes to underground electricity.
Appropriate sewage extensions	Providing sewage networks that accommodate the needs of the family.
Periodic maintenance of electricity before winter	The necessity of periodic maintenance of electrical networks to avoid breakdowns during the winter.
Teaching women water purification methods	Training women on methods of purifying water for safe use.
Raising awareness about water consumption	Raising awareness about the importance of rationalizing water and energy consumption.
Building wells to store water	Establishing wells to store water for times of need.
Occupation control over water cuts	Confronting Israeli restrictions on West Bank water.
Periodic inspection of water pollution	Conducting periodic tests for water pollution and ensuring its health.
Prevention of settlement waste	Reducing the impact of settlement waste on the environment and water.
Assisting citizens in establishing sewage wells	Supporting families to establish sewage wells in the areas



Sixth Field: Leadership and Political Participation

Palestinian women confront significant challenges in leadership roles, stemming from a complex interplay of social, cultural, economic factors, and the ongoing Israeli occupation. Despite these hurdles, they have demonstrated remarkable resilience and leadership in diverse spheres.

The occupation profoundly impacts women's leadership by:

- Restricting movement: Curfews, checkpoints, and closures severely limit women's mobility, hindering their ability to attend meetings, engage in political activities, and access educational and employment opportunities.
- Limiting access to resources: The occupation restricts access to education, employment, and resources, hindering women's economic empowerment and their ability to participate fully in public life.
- Creating a climate of fear and insecurity: The constant threat of violence and the trauma associated with the occupation can undermine women's confidence and deter them from engaging in public life.

Despite these challenges, Palestinian women are actively working to:

- Overcome societal barriers: Challenging traditional gender roles and advocating for women's rights within their communities.
- Build their capacity: Seeking education and training opportunities to enhance their leadership skills and knowledge.
- Engage in political activism: Participating in protests, demonstrations, and other forms of political action to advocate for their rights and the rights of their community.
- Raise awareness: Educating the public about women's rights and the importance of their participation in political and social life.

Interviews and quantitative data consistently demonstrate the profound impact of the occupation on Palestinian women's ability to exercise their leadership roles and participate effectively in political and social life.

Table No. (10): The Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the selected areas in terms of Leadership and Political and Community Participation according to Women's Evaluation, November 2024.

Impact of the Israeli aggression on women in the Selected Areas in terms of leadership and political and community participation	None	Very little	A little	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
Number of women killed and martyred	17.2%	6.9%	27.6%	41.4%	6.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Number of women injured and wounded	20.7%	3.4%	27.6%	34.5%	10.3%	3.4%	100.0%
Number of women arrested	13.8%	10.3%	17.2%	41.4%	13.8%	3.4%	100.0%
Setting up barriers and hindering people for long periods	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%	20.7%	27.6%	41.4%	100.0%
Repeated raids	0.0%	0.0%	13.8%	24.1%	24.1%	37.9%	100.0%
Permanently closing main roads and replacing them with alternative, distant roads	0.0%	3.4%	10.3%	27.6%	24.1%	34.5%	100.0%
Hindering the work of the institution from implementing its programs and providing services	0.0%	10.3%	10.3%	24.1%	34.5%	20.7%	100.0%
Restrictions from the occupation affected the ability of women's institutions to provide the necessary support to women to empower and train them in leadership, and to provide awareness programs for political and community participation	3.4%	3.4%	13.8%	20.7%	27.6%	31.0%	100.0%
Hindering women's meetings to consult on providing services to women	3.4%	6.9%	10.3%	20.7%	34.5%	24.1%	100.0%
The institution's inability to reach or communicate with funding agencies	0.0%	0.0%	17.2%	20.7%	34.5%	27.6%	100.0%
Inability to lead development programs	3.4%	10.3%	13.8%	13.8%	37.9%	20.7%	100.0%
Inability of women leaders to participate with government agencies or international institutions and organizations	0.0%	10.3%	10.3%	13.8%	41.4%	24.1%	100.0%
Limited job opportunities as a result of the siege and economic crisis, lead to a decrease in their ability to build their financial capabilities and independence, and thus a decline in their participation in economic and political life.	0.0%	10.3%	6.9%	13.8%	20.7%	48.3%	100.0%
Increased household burdens on women led to a decline in community participation	0.0%	6.9%	6.9%	13.8%	24.1%	48.3%	100.0%



The table above reveals a complex interplay between direct and indirect impacts of the Israeli occupation on women's leadership and decision-making within Palestinian society. These impacts are deeply intertwined with existing social, cultural, and patriarchal structures. Key findings include:

1. **Violence and Intimidation:** A significant 41.4% of respondents witnessed the killing or injury of women due to Israeli aggression. This highlights the pervasive nature of violence against women within the context of the occupation, severely impacting their safety and ability to participate in community life.
2. **Detention and Imprisonment:** 41.4% of women's organizations reported the detention of women by occupation forces. This directly undermines women's political and social activism, restricting their freedoms and disrupting their contributions.
3. **Mobility Restrictions:** 41.4% of participants highlighted the severe impact of military checkpoints on their daily lives and mobility. These restrictions limit women's access to essential services, employment opportunities, and social gatherings, hindering their active participation in community affairs.
4. **Obstacles to Women's Institutions:** 31% of women reported that the occupation hinders the work of women's institutions, significantly impacting their ability to train and empower women for leadership roles.
5. **Funding Restrictions:** 27.6% of women confirmed that the occupation restricts their access to funding sources, severely limiting the implementation of programs aimed at enhancing women's participation in public life.
6. **Economic Hardship:** 48.3% of women reported increased household burdens due to the occupation's economic impact. This exacerbates existing economic inequalities, limiting women's financial independence and their ability to participate fully in community and political life.
7. **Employment Challenges:** 48.3% of women reported a decline in job opportunities due to the deteriorating economic conditions. This further limits their financial independence and restricts their ability to contribute to the social and economic development of their communities.



-
- Israeli aggression significantly impacts Palestinian women's lives.
-
- **Mobility Restrictions:** 69% of women identified military checkpoints as a major form of aggression, causing severe delays and hindering daily movement.
-
- **Incursions:** 62% of women reported frequent incursions by Israeli forces as another significant form of aggression, disrupting daily life and creating a climate of fear.
-
- **Increased Household Burdens:** 72.1% of women reported that the increased burdens on households due to Israeli aggression, such as displacement and economic hardship, limited their ability to participate in community activities.
-
- **Economic Hardship:** 69% of women stated that limited job opportunities stemming from the blockade and economic crisis restricted their financial independence and hindered their participation in economic and political life.
-

These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by Palestinian women in achieving leadership positions. The occupation exacerbates existing gender inequalities, creating a hostile environment that hinders women's empowerment and their full participation in all aspects of society.

Based on this data, the Israeli occupation imposes multiple restrictions on women in the selected areas, directly affecting their ability to participate in political and leadership roles.

Women's needs to enhance their social and political participation:

Based on the lived reality, difficulties and challenges, women expressed a series of needs to enhance their societal and political participation, which are as follows:



Table No. (11) Women's Needs to Enhance their Societal and Political Participation:

Need	Description
Implementing the 30% quota	The necessity of applying a specific percentage for women in political positions to ensure their effective participation.
Raising awareness of the importance of political participation	Raising awareness among women of the importance of their role in decision-making and political participation in society.
Providing financial support to women, associations and centers without conditions	Providing fixed and direct financial support to women's institutions and associations that work to empower women without imposing harsh conditions.
Supporting women in starting projects	Encouraging women to establish their own projects and supporting associations and centers to implement income-generating projects that enhance economic independence.
Encouraging associations to obtain registration and necessary supplies	Supporting women's associations in obtaining the necessary legal licenses and working as official organizations to facilitate the process of providing services.
Providing the opportunity for women to play their role in society	Providing appropriate opportunities for women to participate in community and political activities and enhance their leadership roles.
Enhancing women's self-confidence in carrying out the tasks assigned to them	Training and support programs to build women's self-confidence and empower them to lead in the community.
Involving women in camp committees and providing supplies for needy families	Supporting women in camps to work within committees that provide services to needy families and improve their social conditions.
Forming community committees that provide support services	Establishing local committees that include women to provide community support and assistance in volunteer work and basic services.
Raising awareness and cooperating with international institutions	Enhancing cooperation with international institutions to provide support to women in the fields of education, health and development.
Men's participation in household chores	Encouraging equal participation between men and women in household responsibilities to ensure sufficient time for women to participate in society.
Holding awareness meetings that encourage women to participate	Organizing awareness meetings that encourage women to participate politically and socially and supporting participation by the family and the social environment.
Leave a good space for women to participate in choosing positions	Ensuring that jobs and leadership positions are available to women based on merit and competence without discrimination between genders.
Society and moral support and promoting equal opportunities	Supporting women morally and socially by promoting equal opportunities in society to expand their participation.
Implement activities on-site and not centrally	Implementing community and political activities in local areas to facilitate access to women in remote areas.



Women's Participation and Coping Strategies in Palestine

Challenges to Women's Participation:

Women in Palestine face significant obstacles to full participation in political and community life. Israeli occupation, with its constant violations (arrests, checkpoints, incursions), severely limits their mobility and opportunities. Cultural norms also hinder women's leadership, often requiring quotas, active community support, and sustained awareness campaigns to overcome these barriers.

Empowering Women:

Empowering women requires a multifaceted approach:

- **Financial Support:** Investing in women's leadership initiatives through financial aid is crucial.
- **Increased Awareness:** Raising awareness about the importance of women's political participation is essential.
- **Cultural Shift:** Fostering a culture that encourages and supports women's leadership within the community is paramount.
- **Collective Action:** A concerted effort from both local and international actors is needed to address these challenges effectively.

Women's Coping Strategies:

The ongoing occupation and its consequences (power outages, water shortages, economic hardship) force Palestinian women to develop remarkable coping strategies.

- **Education:** Many women are forced to withdraw their children from school due to security concerns and financial constraints. This disproportionately affects girls, highlighting the impact of the occupation on education.
- **Higher Education:** Female university students face significant challenges, with many forced to withdraw or postpone their studies due to economic and security pressures.
- **Economic Hardship:** Women often resort to loans and debt to cover education costs and necessities like water and electricity.



- Violence: Women rely on tribal support to address violence due to the lack of effective legal protection mechanisms.
- Resilience: Despite these hardships, women demonstrate remarkable resilience by adapting to the challenges and finding innovative solutions to maintain their roles within their families and communities.

Table No. (12): Coping Strategies (How Women adapted to the Current Reality) in the Selected Areas, November 2024.

Coping strategies/ how women have adapted to the current reality	None	Very little	A little	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
Some did not send their children to school	20.7%	24.1%	20.7%	27.6%	6.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Some preferred not to send girls to school	20.7%	20.7%	27.6%	20.7%	6.9%	3.4%	100.0%
Some university students withdrew from the class or academic year	0.0%	17.2%	31.0%	31.0%	3.4%	17.2%	100.0%
The number of female students who withdrew from a class or academic year is more than male students]	6.9%	24.1%	24.1%	24.1%	6.9%	13.8%	100.0%
They took out loans to pay for college	10.3%	13.8%	17.2%	27.6%	13.8%	17.2%	100.0%
They went into debt to pay for school or university fees	3.4%	10.3%	17.2%	34.5%	10.3%	24.1%	100.0%
They got medicines from pharmacies without consulting a doctor	6.9%	6.9%	20.7%	20.7%	24.1%	20.7%	100.0%
They went into debts to be able to receive treatment	3.4%	6.9%	24.1%	20.7%	20.7%	24.1%	100.0%
The purchase of motors increased to compensate for power outages	6.9%	10.3%	24.1%	31.0%	20.7%	6.9%	100.0%
Increased purchase of mineral water to compensate for water shortages or pollution	0.0%	10.3%	27.6%	24.1%	13.8%	24.1%	100.0%
They went to the tribes to solve problems of violence against them	17.2%	6.9%	31.0%	10.3%	6.9%	27.6%	100.0%
Meetings were held via the electronic platform	6.9%	17.2%	10.3%	24.1%	20.7%	20.7%	100.0%
The private sector's social responsibility towards women was enhanced	3.4%	27.6%	20.7%	24.1%	20.7%	3.4%	100.0%
Businessmen and influential people were contacted to help women	13.8%	17.2%	13.8%	17.2%	27.6%	10.3%	100.0%
The local authority was contacted to reduce or exempt women from water, electricity or waste bills	13.8%	24.1%	10.3%	13.8%	17.2%	20.7%	100.0%

Women's resilience in adapting to challenging circumstances is evident in their adopted strategies. However, these strategies



underscore the critical need for increased support from local communities, governments, and international organizations. This support is essential to ensure the sustainability of these strategies and empower women to further contribute to society.

Eighth Field: Women’s Satisfaction with the Quality of Services

Women’s satisfaction with services in the selected areas surrounding Jerusalem reflects the complex realities shaped by challenging political, social, and economic conditions. While a moderate to good level of satisfaction is observed in sectors like education and healthcare, with a significant portion reporting average satisfaction, significant challenges exist in other areas. Water, electricity, and public transportation services demonstrate lower satisfaction levels, primarily attributed to occupation-imposed restrictions and economic factors. Despite efforts by relief, development institutions, and international organizations, enhancing their effectiveness and expanding support for women in these areas remains crucial.

Table No. (13): Women’s Satisfaction with the Quality of Services Provided in the Selected Areas, November 2024.

Women’s satisfaction with the services provided	None	Very little	A little	Moderate	Severe	Very severe	Total
Quality of educational services	0.0%	3.4%	20.7%	62.1%	10.3%	3.4%	100.0%
Quality of health services	0.0%	3.4%	31.0%	58.6%	6.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Quality of public transportation and mobility services	0.0%	10.3%	34.5%	44.8%	10.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Quality of water, electricity and sanitation	0.0%	17.2%	34.5%	41.4%	6.9%	0.0%	100.0%
Quality of work of relief and development institutions	0.0%	17.2%	34.5%	48.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Quality of work of international and human rights organizations	0.0%	27.6%	48.3%	20.7%	3.4%	0.0%	100.0%

The table above reveals significant disparities in women’s satisfaction levels across various sectors, highlighting the uneven quality of services provided. Key findings from women’s perspectives include:

1. Education: While the majority (62.1%) expressed moderate satisfaction, a concerning 20.7% were dissatisfied with educational services. This indicates challenges stemming from limited access to



quality education, impacted by political instability and economic hardships.

2. **Healthcare:** 58.6% of women reported moderate satisfaction with healthcare services, but 31% were dissatisfied. This reflects the limitations of the healthcare system, particularly in rural areas and East Jerusalem, hindered by resource shortages and restricted access due to the occupation.
3. **Transportation:** 44.8% of women were moderately satisfied with public transportation, while 34.5% were dissatisfied. This is attributed to difficulties accessing safe and reliable transportation due to military checkpoints and closures, compounded by the economic constraints faced by many Palestinian families.
4. **Basic Services:** 41.4% of women expressed moderate satisfaction with water, electricity, and sanitation services, while 34.5% were significantly dissatisfied. This highlights the challenges in accessing clean water and reliable electricity, exacerbated by the occupation's restrictions on Palestinian access to essential resources.
5. **Relief and Development Institutions:** 48.3% of women were moderately satisfied with the work of relief and development institutions, while 34.5% were somewhat dissatisfied. This indicates a need to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of support provided by these institutions, particularly given the ongoing humanitarian crises.
6. **International and Human Rights Organizations:** Satisfaction levels were lower for international and human rights organizations, with 48.3% expressing limited satisfaction. This suggests that many women perceive these organizations as less effective in improving their daily lives
7. **Challenges and Gaps**

The organizations faced challenges in providing effective support due to political and economic restrictions. Reports also indicated insufficient engagement with women's issues. This analysis reflects the realities faced by women in the selected areas and Jerusalem, particularly within the context of Israeli occupation and ongoing economic and social challenges. While some satisfaction with services exists, urgent improvements are needed in service quality, fairness, and safety, with a particular focus on education, health, and basic services.



6. Conclusion and Recommendations

This evaluation, conducted in collaboration with partners and incorporating input from affected women and girls, identified the following key recommendations:

Strategies for Enhancing Palestinian Women's Participation and Achieving Gender Equality

To address the multifaceted challenges faced by Palestinian women, comprehensive strategies are crucial:

1. Education and Vocational Training

- Improve educational opportunities for girls at all levels.
- Expand access to vocational training programs, particularly in technology and engineering.
- Facilitate women's access to training programs that enhance their employability.

2. Supporting Laws and Government Policies

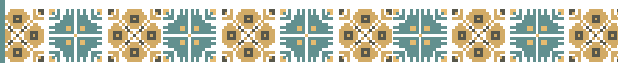
- Advocate for and implement policies that protect women's rights and enhance their participation in public and political life.
- Ensure the existence of laws that support women in the workplace (e.g., childcare laws, family leave policies).
- Promote equal opportunities and prevent discrimination.
- Encourage companies to accommodate women's needs (e.g., providing childcare facilities).

3. Supporting Women Affected by Conflict

- Provide psychological and social support to women who have experienced violence or displacement.
- Offer safe shelters, integrated healthcare, and psychological support services.
- Empower women to recover and actively participate in society.

4. Enhancing Palestinian Cultural Identity

- Develop educational and cultural programs that promote an understanding of Palestinian traditions and customs.
- Provide platforms for women to express their cultural identity (e.g., through arts, literature).



5. Collaboration with the International Community

- Strengthen collaboration with international organizations and supporting governments.
- Support development projects that promote women's rights.
- Facilitate collaborative programs with civil society organizations.

6. Raising Community Awareness

- Conduct awareness campaigns to challenge traditional gender roles.
- Encourage men to support women in leadership roles and active participation in public life.

7. Achieving Economic Empowerment

- Provide financial support through accessible loan programs and support for women-led businesses.
- Encourage female entrepreneurship and offer guidance and support.
- Ensure a legal environment that upholds property rights and fair labor practices.

8. Strengthening Women's Leadership

- Develop training programs to build women's leadership and decision-making skills.
- Provide platforms for women to engage effectively in political and social dialogues.
- Encourage political parties and civil institutions to support women's participation in political life.

9. Developing Protection Mechanisms Against Violence

- Enforce laws related to violence against women.
- Establish specialized courts to handle cases of sexual violence and forced displacement.
- Provide safe shelters and comprehensive support for women who have experienced violence.



10. Community Education and Awareness of Women's Rights

- Conduct awareness campaigns in schools, universities, media outlets, and local communities.
- Share success stories of women leaders to promote positive role models.

11. Improving Access to Justice

- Simplify legal procedures for women.
- Offer free or subsidized legal assistance.
- Support women in filing complaints against violations.
- Establish hotlines for legal consultations and provide volunteer lawyers.

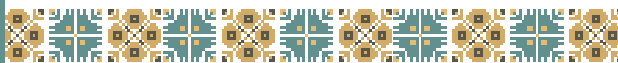
12. Developing Collaboration Between the Public and Private Sectors

- Encourage the private sector to adopt inclusive practices that support women in the workplace.
- Incentivize companies to implement policies that support women's advancement.

13. Addressing Women's Mental Health

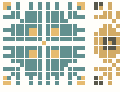
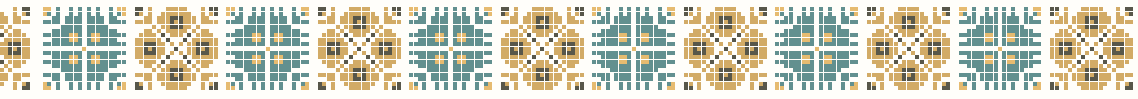
- Provide psychological counseling services for women affected by conflict.
- Integrate mental health support into humanitarian response programs.

By implementing these strategies, a more supportive and inclusive environment can be created for Palestinian women, contributing to their long-term social, economic, and political empowerment.



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