



Ministry of Women's Affairs - State of Palestine

The Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

For the implementation of United Nations Security
Council Resolution 1325 and Subsequent Resolutions

2020 - 2024

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The Representative Office of Norway
to the Palestinian Authority



Ministry of Women's Affairs - State of Palestine

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Introduction



I am pleased and honored to introduce Palestine second generation National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which was adopted on the 31 October 2000. Palestinian women and girls have played a prominent role, along with their male counterparts, in leading and shaping the national struggle. They have always been a unifying force in uniting all the Palestinian people around a common identity and national vision against the Israeli occupation and its colonizing policies. Israel, the occupying power, has imposed severe challenges and obstacles to annul the two-state solution, in contradiction to the provisions of the International law and UN resolutions. This would not obstruct Palestinians, including Palestinian women, from seeking permanent and just peace, and building the independent and sovereign State of Palestine, on the borders of the 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, where people can live in peace and security.

Palestinian women and girls, just like all women around the world, do look up optimistically to the future, trusting in their capacities and ambitions. We feel it is our duty to protect their interests and fulfill their aspirations in attaining their liberation and independence. We must support them with all possible means in their involvement in national and local peacebuilding, which fosters their integration within all sectors and in all decision-making levels including in the security establishment. We aspire to see them assume a bigger role in transforming reconstruction efforts and achieving political harmony, predominantly in light of the systematic discriminatory practices and measures put in place by Israel against our Palestinian people, including women and girls. These include settlers' violence; willful killings, excessive use of force; arbitrary arrests; the confiscation and annexation of lands; settlement activities and expansion; the coercive displacement of Palestinians; the demolition of houses which harm families and Palestinian communities; the Judaization of Jerusalem; the separation of the West Bank from the Gaza Strip through the continuation of an illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip since 2000; and the denial of Palestinians basic and inalienable rights, particularly the right of return, the right to self-determination and independence and the right to live in peace and security.

The State of Palestine seeks to take stock of international resolutions, in particular UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security to support, protect and empower Palestinian women. In 2012, the Council of Ministers issued a decision to establish a National Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325. The State of Palestine had also developed in June 2016 an actionable framework (National Strategic Framework), in line with the decision issued by the Council of Ministers, that aims to improve the role of Palestinian women in building the society, promote their rights, increase their participation in international peace processes and local peacebuilding, integrate them in all decision making levels including in the security sector, and empower them to ensure that they can contribute to national recovery and reconstruction efforts. This was an important step in developing the direction for promoting the human rights of Palestinians, preserving the gains of the human rights movement in Palestine; particularly those that are women-focused and gender responsive, and set the State's priorities on the basis of these rights.

The National Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 has taken several steps in recent years, most notably the adoption of the first National Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325, which was the result of a national effort held in full partnership between the Ministry of Women's Affairs - as chair of the Higher National Committee overseeing the Implementation of the Resolution - and all other partners. The plan led to the preparation and publication of several studies on the status of women under occupation, the enactment of Palestinian legislations with the goal of strengthening the role of women in Jerusalem, Hebron and the Jordan Valley, and the delivery of the first Voluntary Report to the Security Council on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the State of Palestine.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all the efforts that have been exerted towards the development of the second-generation National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. I would also like to recognize the role of the Higher National Committee for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and of all partners and supporting organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, in particular the National Civil Society Coalition on UNSCR 1325 led by the General Union of Palestinian Women, for their participation in developing the plan under the supervision of the Ministry of Women's Affairs team. We hereby renew our commitment and that of the National Committee to continue to work in a complementary and conducive manner with all the stakeholders to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Palestine.



Terminology in the National Context

For the purposes of this Plan, the following terms and expressions shall have the following meanings:

- **Protection and prevention:** Protecting Palestinian women from the impact of Israeli occupation and enhancing their sense of human security through efforts to strengthen their protection from the Israeli occupation, its practices and policies that lead to the spread of violence. In addition, this term shall refer to improving the safety of girls and women, enhancing their physical and mental health, their economic security, and their lives in general. All this can only be accomplished if needed measures are taken to protect their rights and strengthen their resilience in the face of the occupation.
- **Participation:** Underlining the fundamental role of Palestinian women and girls at the local, regional and international level, while ensuring their rights to participate in decision-making in accordance with the legal obligations enshrined, for example, by international human rights instruments and by International Humanitarian Law (IHL). These obligations also refer to the protection of civilians under occupation, strengthening women's participation in all decision-making positions, reinforcing the partnerships with local women's organizations, and supporting women in reaching senior positions in the United Nations organizations and agencies.
- **Relief and Recovery:** Including a gender perspective in relief, humanitarian action and early recovery efforts, and providing Palestinian women and girls with a protective environment that helps them to rapidly access humanitarian aid and lead and participate in the recovery and reconstruction efforts. This term does not mean, in any way, willingness to adapt to the protracted humanitarian crisis, but rather refers to the urgent interventions that aim at ensuring the safety of Palestinian women and their access to necessary and gender-responsive services.
- **Accountability:** Providing opportunities and spaces to hold Israel accountable for its incessant violations of the rights of Palestinian women, particularly those most affected by the occupation policies and practices, and ending the policy of impunity, including via reparation and compensation for women victims.





Chapter One: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and an Analysis of the Palestinian Context





Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Case of Palestine

On 31 October 2000, the Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The resolution urged the Security Council, Secretary-General, Member States, and all other parties to take necessary measures on issues related to women's participation in decision-making processes, peace processes, mainstreaming gender in training and peacekeeping, and ensuring women's protection. It also stipulated that gender should be mainstreamed in all UN reporting frameworks and programme implementation mechanisms. The adoption of the resolution is considered a milestone for the advancement of women's rights on issues of security and peace. It was the first official legal document issued by the Security Council that requires parties to conflicts to respect women's rights and support their participation in peace negotiations and reconstruction. This resolution, through its four pillars of prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery, has become an essential tool to catalyze global efforts to engage with the multiple challenges women face in situations of conflict. Member States, UN organizations, and civil society at the global, regional and national level have established partnerships to promote this agenda and have fostered awareness around a normative framework through which it may be implemented. This is one of its most significant achievements. At the same time, over the last twenty years, UNSCR 1325 has been interpreted in different ways across the world, taking into account different contexts and expectations.

The 'Women, Peace and Security Agenda' established through UNSCR 1325 (2000) and nine subsequent resolutions,¹ places an obligation upon the UN and states to ensure that the needs and priorities of women and girls affected by conflict are met, and that peace negotiations are conducted in a full, effective and sustainable manner.

A review of the Resolution in 2015 (fifteen years after its adoption), as well as two other UN-led reviews on peacekeeping and peacebuilding,² found that, on a global scale, the provisions on supporting the welfare and personal and political security of women and girls are not properly enforced in complex humanitarian situations. Significant shortcomings were also found in the protection of human rights and ensuring basic survival needs. Further to this, the aforementioned revisions determined that the approach to conflict and

peacebuilding should be more people-centred and better respond to the living reality of conflict-affected populations.

Specifically, it is necessary to refrain from treating populations affected by conflict, including women and girls, as a homogenous group; rather, the many different identities that women and girls may have should be acknowledged. These include sex, age, ethnicity, disability, social status, religious affiliation, refugee status, geographic location (urban/rural) and economic status. All this should be considered on top of their varying capacities in order to offer solutions to the multi-faceted challenges they are facing.

Policies and initiatives on peace and security should avoid a 'one size fits all' approach.³ Instead, policies and programmes should be designed in ways that recognize different personal factors, such as disability and social status, and different manifestations of discrimination or marginalization that women or girls may have been subjected to. Neglecting these differences could impact the ability of women and girls to play central roles in peace and security and usually impede their access to resources and decision-making power.

Twenty years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325, discussions are still ongoing in Palestine around the resolution and its relevance to the Palestinian context. It is debated whether the resolution properly addresses the situation of women under occupation, as it does not clearly incorporate occupation as one of the situations of armed conflict. This debate resurfaces every year, around the time of the anniversary of the adoption of the resolution.

Since UNSCR 1325 is addressed to all States, States should apply their own localized approaches that reflect the local realities and their implications with relation to the situation of women on the ground. This is exactly what Palestinian women have done: they adopted an approach to the resolution whereby the situation of women is characterized and addressed in light of the impact of Israeli occupation. This came about through a positive interpretation of the text of UNSCR 1325 and research on what the resolution offers as an international resolution that can be used to shed light on violations perpetrated by the occupation. On the other hand, it can also be used to shed light



on the suffering of women, and the impact of Israeli policies on women's lives – both as individuals and collectively. This is in addition to the possibility of using international instruments to advocate for and gain access to international justice.

The acceptance and support of the United Nations organizations, especially those that focus on women's rights, of the Palestinian feminist reading of the resolution and the development of relevant plans and interventions, prove that UNSCR 1325 is applicable to the situation of women living under occupation. Specific attention to the situation of women under occupation is also given by recommendation no. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 2013), which covers the application of the Convention to conflict prevention, international and non-international armed conflicts, situations of foreign occupation, as well as other forms of occupation and the post-conflict phase. Furthermore, UNSCR 1325 is often linked with other United Nations General Assembly or Security Council resolutions addressing Palestine, including resolutions 181, 194, 242, 338 and 2334.

This is further reinforced in significant statements delivered by the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) and by international organizations on the Israeli occupation and settlements. In addition to that, documents published by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) stress the impact of the occupation in holding back women's development and their access to resources. Reports issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women consider the occupation violence responsible for the spike in rates of social and domestic violence. All this clearly demonstrates that the international community acknowledges that the Palestinian situation and the situation of women under occupation are covered by UNSCR 1325.

We cannot ignore the situation of internal division in Palestine. As a case of internal conflict, it reflects on the absence of, and threat to, community peace and community safety, with repercussions on the lives of Palestinian women. This encouraged women leaders to use the resolution as a tool to support women's participation in the reconciliation process and its committees, and mainstreaming women's perspectives in this process and its outcomes.





Summary of Security Council Resolutions Subsequent to Resolution 1325



Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008)

It is the first Security Council resolution to recognize conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of warfare. The prevention of sexual violence is regarded as an essential element in global peacekeeping and security processes. The resolution also points out that sexual violence in conflict situations constitutes a war crime and calls on parties of the armed conflict to immediately take proper measures to protect civilians from sexual violence, such as training their armed forces and imposing appropriate military sanctions. Resolution 1820 has also established a mechanism for periodic reports on its implementation to be prepared by the Secretary-General and submitted to the Security Council.



Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009)

This resolution emphasizes the importance of ending impunity as a key factor in ending conflicts and to prevent future instances of conflict. Resolution 1888 is a complementary resolution to Security Council Resolution 1820: it endorses tools for the implementation of Resolution 1820, such as requesting leaders to sensitize communities on sexual violence, building judicial response expertise and establishing reporting mechanisms. The resolution mandates peacekeeping missions to protect women and children from sexual violence during armed conflict, and requests that the Secretary-General appoints a Special Representative on sexual violence in armed conflict (who has become later on “The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict-SRSG-SVC”).



Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009)

In order to follow progress on the implementation of Resolution 1325, the Security Council approved Resolution 1889 to request the Secretary-General to provide a set of indicators to be used at the international level to follow up on the implementation of Resolution 1325, to serve as the basis for reporting from relevant UN agencies, international and regional organizations, and Member States. This resolution specifically addresses the exclusion of women from early recovery and peacebuilding processes and the lack of adequate planning and funding for their needs. It appeals for developing a strategy that shall promote the preparation of women in decision-making positions and conflict resolution.



Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010)

Resolution 1960 creates a system of accountability for the implementation of Resolutions 1820 and 1888 on conflict-related sexual violence. It calls for systematic control and reporting arrangements that should increase the efficiency of the monitoring process on sexual violence. The resolution stresses on the provision of detailed information on those accused of crimes of sexual violence during armed conflicts. Accordingly, the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict can include “lists of shame” in her annual report, which means indicating the names of persons and armed groups suspected of committing conflict-related sexual violence. The resolution also reiterates that the Security Council can take necessary action and place sanctions against groups or states so as to put an end to the continuance of this type of crimes.



Security Council Resolution 2106 (2013)

Resolution 2106 affirms the importance of gender equality as well as political, social and economic empowerment of women in efforts to prevent sexual violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations. This resolution was adopted to complement Resolution 1960.



Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013)

Resolution 2122 stresses the importance of accountability in the implementation of Resolution 1325, as well as the importance of engaging women in all the stages of conflict, from prevention to solving and recovering. The resolution calls on all states to comply with their obligations in ending impunity and

effectively investigating those responsible for the war crimes, genocides, crimes against humanity or other flagrant violations of the International Humanitarian Law. Within this resolution, it was also decided to conduct a high-level review (in 2015) to assess progress at global, regional and national levels in the implementation of Resolution 1325.

Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015)

Resolution 2242 establishes the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as a basic component in efforts to address the challenges of the current global context, including violent extremism, climate change, and the unprecedented numbers of displaced persons and refugees. It demonstrates a connection between women's participation on the one hand, and sustainable peace and security on the other. It provides a new tool to all actors to facilitate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as it addresses a number of technical issues, including the commitment to incorporating gender analysis and taking into account the impacts of violent extremism. It also stresses the need to endorse wider consultations with women's organizations, including those affected by this violence. The resolution encourages setting up new goals to secure the involvement of greater numbers of women peacekeepers, and senior women leaders at all the levels of decision-making. In contrast to previous decisions that focus on the need to train women on the participation in peace processes, this resolution points to the need to train mediators on the impact of peace operations in a full and effective manner, thus recognizing the connection between women's participation in peace agreements and the sustainability of peace.

Security Council Resolution 2467 (2019)

Through Resolution 2467, the Security Council calls on all parties involved in armed conflicts for “a complete and immediate cessation” of all acts of sexual violence, and requests to establish and implement “time-bound commitments” to combat sexual violence. The resolution also expresses the Security Council's deep concern about the “slow progress” in addressing and eliminating conflict-related sexual violence around the world. Resolution 2467 places conflict-related sexual violence on the WPS agenda. It also stresses the need to exerting all efforts to ensure the prevalence of justice and accountability; calls for the support and protection of feminist civil society organizations; and calls for paying special attention to cases of children born of rape.⁴

Security Council Resolution 2493 (2019)

Resolution 2493 is the tenth in the series of important resolutions on WPS starting with resolution 1325. This resolution calls for the full implementation of all previous resolutions on WPS and calls on the United Nations to develop context-specific approaches to women's participation in all UN-supported peace processes. It urges Member States to ensure and provide timely support for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women at all stages of peace processes, including mechanisms set for the implementation and monitoring of peace agreements. The resolution also calls for the appointment of “gender and/or women protection advisors”⁵ to guarantee women's “full and effective participation and protection” in various fields, such as election preparations, disarmament, judicial reforms and the post-conflict broader reconstruction processes.⁶

Source: “Women, Peace, and Security: Guidelines for National Implementation”, UN Women and “Women, Peace and Security”, UN Peacekeeping Operations.





Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) is one of several UN conventions on human rights. The convention outlines what constitutes discrimination against women and places responsibility on governments through its various articles. This has taken shape as a national programme of work to eliminate discrimination against women. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women represents a body of independent experts that monitor the implementation of the convention.⁷

It is possible to apply UNSCR 1325 to expand the scope of CEDAW's application, by clarifying the relevance of women's human rights standards even in States experiencing conflict that are not parties to CEDAW, or in relation to non-State actors, organizations, independent armed groups and militias, which hold direct responsibility for abuses of women's rights.

The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women approved General Recommendation no. 30 (2010) on the situation of women in the context of conflict prevention and in situations of conflict and post-conflict.

The committee clarifies that “protecting women's human rights at all times, advancing substantive gender equality before, during and after conflict and ensuring that women's diverse experiences are fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peacemaking and reconstruction processes are important objectives of the Convention. The Committee reiterates that States parties' obligations continue to apply during conflict or states of emergency without discrimination between citizens and non-citizens within their territory or effective control, even if not situated within the territory of the State party”.

The committee also points out that as all areas of concern addressed in the resolutions on Women, Peace and Security “find expression in the substantive provisions of the Convention, thus their implementation must be premised on a model of substantive equality and cover all rights enshrined in the Convention”. It also recommends that strategies and national action plans, to implement UNSCR 1325 (2000) and its subsequent resolutions, should be in alignment with CEDAW, and that sufficient funds should be allocated for their implementation.

In line with the Convention, States are required to submit reports on progress achieved in relation to its implementation. Hence, it is necessary to stress the need to incorporate reporting on fulfilling Women, Peace and Security commitments at the national level in reports submitted to the mechanisms that oversee the application of the human rights agreements, such as CEDAW.





Context Analysis



Photo: Ministry of Women's Affairs/Palestine

Occupation and violence are prominent features that characterize the political, social, and economic situation of Palestinians, including Palestinian women in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip.¹⁰ There are 5.1 million Palestinians (2.59 million men and 2.51 million women)¹¹ living under Israeli occupation and in geographical and political fragmentation. One in every four Palestinians is a refugee, with 1.2 million living in refugee camps.¹² The Palestinian society has a youthful composition since, as of mid-2020, 38% of its total population is aged 0-14 (36% of whom live in the West Bank and 41% in the Gaza Strip)¹³. In addition, more than 112,000 people live in areas under threat from Israeli annexation.¹⁴ Palestinians are routinely subjected to settlement expansion; confiscation of land and natural resources; displacement and the destruction of homes and ways of life; restrictions on movement and harassment at checkpoints; settler violence; separation from other Palestinians due to the separation wall; and territorial fragmentation.¹⁵

In Gaza, Palestinian political division, recurring hostilities, and the blockade which has been ongoing

for more than a decade, have compounded the suffering of the population and subjected Gaza to an extended humanitarian crisis and permanent dependency on humanitarian aid.

According to a joint analysis report by the United Nations Country Team in Palestine:¹⁶ “All Palestinians are vulnerable on account of the occupation”, with some being at more risk than others. At the same time, Palestinians are also faced with institutional, political, economic, social, cultural drivers and layers of vulnerability and fragility, that prevent them from practicing their human rights to their full potential. These layers of vulnerability and fragility are compounded for women because of the Israeli occupation, which severely impacts the physical and mental wellbeing of women in Palestine¹⁷ and violates international humanitarian law and human rights law. In addition, women in Palestine also live in a patriarchal society with traditional gender roles.¹⁸ This continues to impede the advancement of progress towards achieving gender equality, participation, and the representation of women in positions of power



and decision-making processes, which can lead to contributing to better governance and sustainable development. Over the last decade, the State of Palestine (SoP) has taken major steps towards gender equality and women's empowerment. However, the report published by the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH)¹⁹ clearly depicts significant challenges in need of solutions. These are mainly linked to the effects of the occupation on Palestinian women – a topic that remains central in the areas of protection and accountability.

The lives of Palestinian women are not only governed by the occupation, which violates and strips women of their human rights and of their freedoms. Women also face the consequences of occupation while continuing the struggle for more gender equal power relations and roles within their own society that is governed by traditional societal norms and gender dynamics.²⁰ It is therefore possible to argue that all women face discrimination, while recognizing that women do not constitute a homogenous group, and that their experiences are shaped in a large part through their diverse roles and identities. These include, but are not limited to, their social and economic status, religion, age, refugee status or other.²¹ Women typically bear the brunt of the effects of conflicts, where gender-based violence and gender inequality tend to be exacerbated. Ongoing discrimination and asymmetrical power relations lead to women being disproportionately affected by crises. Further, the status of women and their specific needs are neglected or insufficiently targeted during the stage of post-conflict recovery planning. To a large extent, women's needs are not met, because their participation in decision-making is marginalized at all levels. Even though women are disproportionately impacted by conflict and are very capable of proposing strong solutions, women's engagement in peace negotiations, justice for violations of women's rights, meeting women's concerns, priorities and needs in post-conflict planning, economic, and social recovery remains limited.

It would be futile to separate the struggle for women's rights from the struggle for Palestinians rights and the struggle for statehood. Although women's contribution to the national struggle is widely recognized and women are granted the legal right to vote and stand for election as candidates, women's representation is still minimal in decision-making bodies and processes at different levels of public life, including peace negotiations and internal reconciliation talks.²² Therefore, women's political participation and access to decision-making positions remains fragile in Palestine.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), there are significant gender disparities

in favour of men²³ in the public sphere (such as: registered lawyers, ambassadors, judges, employees of the Public Prosecution Service, engineers, university student councils, and the civil service and public services sectors). The number of women in leadership and decision-making positions stands at just 11.7%, and women represent just 12% of executive directors and 16% of members of parliament.²⁴ Women have been largely excluded from official dialogue efforts to end Palestinian political division. Their voices and concerns have not been listened to, nor have women been included in the various reconciliation talks that have been held, and the agreements that have been under discussion since 2005.

A simple analysis of the number of male and female representatives - which does not necessarily refer to meaningful representation - demonstrates that a very small number of women participated in the official meetings held between political parties in Cairo in 2011. Not a single woman participated in the talks that led to the signing of the reconciliation agreements between the leadership of the political movements, Fatah and Hamas, in October 2017. As a result, there was zero representation of women in the technical committees that were established afterwards in order to flesh out the details of the reconciliation arrangements that will directly impact their lives and society.²⁵

There are many reasons for the absence of women from these processes. Numerous political, geographic, and social factors hinder Palestinian women's ability to engage in political activities. Harmful gender stereotypes that restrict the role of women in society is a central feature in Palestine. This impedes women's access to resources, decision-making positions, and knowledge. The results of a survey on men and gender equality - Middle East and North Africa: Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine²⁶ - revealed that 59% of men and 41% of women respondents in Palestine agreed or strongly agreed that "women should leave politics to men". In addition, the ongoing occupation significantly impacts women's active participation in transitional justice and peace processes. Access challenges due to the blockade enforced on the Gaza Strip have limited the ability of activists from Gaza to form a united voice with their counterparts in the West Bank.

Since November 2007, activists in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have resorted to different, often costly, means in order to maintain connection and organize. These include holding conferences via video conference or attending meetings outside the country - if they are granted permission to leave through obtaining permits from Israel. Such logistical challenges have weakened the capacity of activists to participate in a meaningful way and represent Palestinian women in the national dialogue. In fact, a study undertaken in 2015 found that 72.9% of respondents agreed that checkpoints and





Photo: Ministry of Women's Affairs/Palestine

separation policies imposed by the occupation have significantly reduced interaction between members of the feminist movement in Palestine.²⁷

Women and girls in Palestine continue to be subjected to different forms of gender-based violence (such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, early marriage and femicide) in both the public and private spheres. There is no doubt that the occupation's practices of confiscating land, forced displacement, home demolitions, siege, invasions, and repeated attacks on the Gaza Strip - which have led to the killing and injury of civilians - as well as the legacy of these practices leading to extreme poverty and increase in the unemployment rates among the youth, have led to a spike in gender-based violence and family violence. This is on top of the current discriminatory laws that obstruct survivors' ability to access gender responsive services and seek justice. According to a survey conducted by PCBS in November 2019,²⁸ 29% of women in Palestine have been subjected to at least one form of violence by their husbands. Among these, 57% reported experiencing psychological violence, 36.2% experienced economic violence (such as being prevented from working, having control over their belongings or inheritance taken away without their permission, or demanding to know how money was spent); 27.6% experienced social violence; 18% experienced physical violence, and 9% experienced sexual violence.²⁹

The COVID-19 pandemic has exasperated protection concerns, as violence against women and children in the family has increased during the emergency period because of "increased psychological and economic pressures".³⁰ In fact, restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have left numerous victims of family violence locked up at home with their abusers at a

time when contact with those outside of the family is severely restricted.³¹ Likewise, access to support services provided to people at risk of violence, and survivors of gender-based violence was impaired. Due to suspension of interventions and paralysis of the judicial system, reduced access to primary healthcare centres, and shelters, large gaps in response have emerged. This has particularly impacted women with disabilities who are subjected to gender-based violence.

The Palestinian economy faced triple reinforcing crises in 2020: i) resurgent COVID-19 outbreak, ii) a severe economic slowdown, and iii) another political standoff between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Government of Israel (Gol), disrupting clearance revenues. According to the World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook,³² by end of October 2020, GDP registered a contraction of 4.9% compared to the previous quarter or a contraction of 3.4% compared to the same quarter of the previous year. All components of the GDP declined with public consumption, capital investments, and exports falling by most. By June, prices were 2% lower than in the same month of 2019 reflecting weak demand by consumers, and shekel appreciation had a deflationary effect on the prices of imported goods.

The PA's fiscal stress heightened in the first half of 2020 due to COVID-19 outbreak and the decision to halt coordination with Gol which resulted in the latest suspension of clearance revenue receipts. As expected, the public health measures negatively impacted local revenue collection. On the expenditure side, the PA managed to reduce its overall expenditure in the first half of 2020, despite increasing medical and social spending to deal with the outbreak. The first half financing need (deficit after grants) amounted

to US\$354 million, forcing the PA to increase local borrowing and accumulate more arrears to the private sector. Growth in consumer prices had been modest prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, where prices generally moved in the 1-2% range. However, since April, growth in prices has turned negative and by June, prices were 2% lower than in the same month of 2019, reflecting weak demand by consumers.

The Israeli Shekel, which is the main currency in circulation in the Palestinian territory, has continued its appreciation; this had a deflationary effect on the prices of imported goods. In addition, the prices of food products (most of which are produced domestically or in Israel) remained stable. The unemployment rate rose to 26.6% in the second quarter as COVID-19 struck, up from 24% at the end of 2019. In Gaza, 49% of those in the labour force were unemployed in the second quarter of 2020, while the West Bank recorded an unemployment rate of 15% during the same time. Labour force participation rate fell to just 39% in the second quarter, down from 43% in the previous quarter. With the onset of COVID-19 outbreak, some 121 thousand people have lost their jobs in the second quarter alone.

Of this, some 96 thousand people have lost a job in the Palestinian territory, especially in sectors that have been affected by social distancing measures, such as tourism, restaurants and construction. Some 25 thousand Palestinian workers that regularly cross to Israel for work lost their job in the second quarter of 2020. Around 22% of Palestinians lived below the US\$5.5 2011 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) a day poverty line in 2016/17. In the West Bank, poverty status is sensitive to even small shocks in household expenditures, while in Gaza any change in social assistance flows can significantly affect the population's wellbeing. As a consequence, projections based on GDP per capita growth indicate that the poverty rate is constantly increasing since 2016, being

at 24% in 2018 and 27.5% in 2020, an increase of 5.6 percentage points in the last four years. This amounts to approximately 1.4 million people living in poverty in 2020.

From an economic perspective, rising rates of unemployment affect both women and men, however women are subject to the consequences of these rates far more than men.³³ High fertility rates and unemployment among educated women and decreased participation in the labour market are among the features that characterize the status of women in the Palestinian society. Surveys by the PCBS reveal that 22% of women in the age group (20-24) had children before the age of 18. The rate is higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank, at 25.1% and 19.6% respectively.³⁴

Rates of participation in the workforce in Palestine are among the lowest rates globally, standing at 21%.³⁵ The rate of unemployment among females in Gaza is higher than any other group, at 68%. This compares to 26% among females in the West Bank. The youth also face the highest rates of unemployment (42% in the age bracket 20-24, 36% in the age bracket 25-29, and 26% in the age bracket 30-34).

Youth in Gaza face higher rates of unemployment than their counterparts in the West Bank (69% in Gaza and 26% in the West Bank in the age group 20-24; 60% in Gaza and 19% in the West Bank in the age group 25-29).³⁶ Unemployed female university graduates are also confronted with individual challenges and threats. Even though female graduates of secondary and higher educational institutions outnumber male graduates, they experience mixed results when it comes to employment opportunities. Increasing rates of unemployment among women have pushed women into accepting marriage and giving up on their career prospects, increasingly taking on domestic responsibilities.³⁸

The Higher National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325



Photo: Ministry of Women's Affairs/Palestine

The State of Palestine aspires to make progress in the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Palestine, with the aim of improving the life of Palestinian women and girls, strengthening their resilience, ensuring their protection from conflict related violence and domestic violence, and promoting their participation at all levels of decision-making and peacebuilding. To this end, the Palestinian Cabinet issued a decision in 2012 for the establishment of a Higher National Committee (HNC) to implement UNSCR 1325, followed in 2015 by a National Strategic Framework to guide and inform the implementation of the resolution.

The HNC for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 is chaired by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) and its members include: Office of the President, the Cabinet secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development, Commission of Detainees' Affairs, Commission on the Wall and Settlements, Ministry of Information, the Public Authority for Radio and Television, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, General Union of Palestinian Women, Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), Al Haq, The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Ministry of Women's Affairs staff team, Palestinian Working Women's Association, and the head of the Advisory Committee on Gender in the security sector. Several organizations from the Gaza Strip were also added as experts.

The HNC for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is the designated responsible body for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in coordination with members of the committee. The significance of the committee lies in the fact that its membership includes different governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in the State of Palestine (2017-2019) is considered by governmental and non-governmental organizations as an important achievement. It outlined the most important interventions and programmes on women, peace and security, also set in alignment with the National Strategic Framework for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which was approved by the Cabinet in 2015. The NAP also encourages allocation of resources and mobilization of local, regional, and international support for NAP implementation.

The first NAP aimed to protect Palestinian women and girls from violence and Israeli occupation policies; to seek accountability through developing mechanisms to protect women and girls, and to guarantee the participation of women, without discrimination, in all areas and stages of decision-making at the local and national level. It also aimed to increase the participation of women in conflict prevention at all stages and to include their perspectives in peace agreements and Palestinian political dialogue.



This summary is to reflect the vision of the HNC in its development of the second-generation NAP. It highlights the strategic focus, results, and interventions; also developed in alignment with the strategic framework approved by the Palestinian Cabinet in 2015.

Reasons for developing the second NAP for the implementation of UNSCR 1325:

1. The plan was developed in light of political and economic developments. It is also developed in accordance with the Palestinian Cabinet decision, which stipulated the development of national strategies for the next three years (2021-2023) and requested the development of the second UNSCR 1325 NAP for the years 2020-2024.
2. The results and recommendations from monitoring and evaluating the UNSCR 1325 NAP (2017-2019) provided evidence for the need to develop the second NAP. This second

NAP will provide an opportunity to build on the achievements and lessons learned generated from the implementation of the first NAP, particularly having specific interventions and measurable indicators.

3. The new NAP will provide space to respond to new priorities, such as the need to include interventions that focus on supporting the resilience of women and girls in the Jordan valley and other areas affected or are at risk of Israeli annexation. New priorities also include focusing on supporting women's leadership in the security sector and internal Palestinian dialogue.
4. Additionally, recent guidance from the Cabinet provides evidence for the need to revise national plans following the outbreak of COVID-19, in order to include interventions that strengthen women's resilience and participation in recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

The methodology was based on leveraging the comparative advantage of all WPS actors and taking stock of their partnership and expertise during the development of the second NAP (2020-2024). A team from MoWA was formed, alongside experts and advisors who undertook a comprehensive planning exercise and review of available literature to guide the different phases of developing the NAP. Consultation sessions and workshops were held with members of the HNC for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, including governmental bodies and civil society actors (including coalitions) specifically organizations that work on implementing the WPS agenda.

Steps to develop the second NAP:

One: Reviewing local, regional and global literature on UNSCR 1325

During this stage, a desk review took place of local, regional and international literature that is focused on implementing the WPS agenda, namely knowledge sources that shed light on best practices in developing national action plans on UNSCR 1325. Likewise, a review of monitoring and evaluation reports of the first-generation NAP was undertaken. This was done with the aim of avoiding repetition and achieving better results through the development of the second NAP.

Two: Holding consultative sessions with the HNC on methodology and objectives

Several consultative sessions involving members of the HNC were held to discuss the methodology and agree on its objectives. Working groups were also formed, including members of the HNC from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Due to the spread of COVID-19 in the West Bank, discussions were held virtually (through Zoom) for more than three months. Agreement was made among the HNC members to continue with the three core goals (or pillars) in the Strategic Framework and to add a fourth goal/pillar on relief and recovery. Whereas in the Gaza Strip, face-to-face meetings were held as Gaza did not witness COVID-19 incidence at the time.

In the West Bank:

Sub-committees of the '1325 HNC' (a subcommittee for each of the pillars of the NAP) were formed, noting that the members of the committees were identified based on their expertise and diverse technical backgrounds. The recommendations were reported to the HNC for comments and consideration.

In the Gaza Strip:

Separate meetings were held in the north, south and center of the Gaza Strip (Gaza City). The meetings gathered human rights experts and representatives of women's rights organizations. The experts from Gaza provided their comments and recommendations for the development of the new NAP, reflecting the perspective of addressing WPS challenges and priorities in Gaza as a conflict-affected area.

Three: Conducting a strategic review meeting with the offices and units of the Ministry of Women's Affairs

A strategic review meeting was held among heads of units in the Ministry of Women's Affairs to assess the Ministry's capacity, potential and achievements with regards to WPS planning and implementation. The meeting provided conducive space for undertaking a SWOT³⁹ analysis of the different Ministry's units and bodies in order to advise the development of the new NAP and the follow-up actions.

Four: Assessing the local Palestinian context and 'nationalizing' the terms

A situation analysis of the Palestinian context was developed building on the results of the literature review. The analysis characterizes the situation of Palestinian women living under occupation and how the Israeli occupation constantly violates their rights. The HNC had also invested an effort to localize/nationalize some of the terms to become clearer considering the Palestinian women's context.



Five: Developing the NAP Strategic Results Framework

Following the process of literature review, internal assessments, and consultation workshops, the Strategic Results Framework for the second NAP was developed including strategic pillars, outcomes, outputs, activities, and indicators. The Strategic Results Framework will be presented in detail in chapter two.

Target Groups:

Even though the National Strategic Framework on WPS included groups of women and girls that are targeted by WPS programming, the political, social, economic and health development over the past few years necessitated the inclusion of new groups of women and girls, without changing however the geographical areas as set out originally in the Framework.

Even though the key objective and general position of the State of Palestine is to ensure the wellbeing and protection of all Palestinian women and girls, the National Framework and the NAP will only apply in the occupied Palestinian territory (West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip).

However, there are many policies and activities that can positively and directly impact Palestinian women and girls in the diaspora and elsewhere.

The NAP targets the following groups of women:

1. Women and girls who are refugees or displaced within the occupied Palestinian territory.
2. Palestinian women and girls residing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
3. Jerusalemite women and girls living in East Jerusalem.
4. Women and girls negatively affected by the Wall.
5. Women and girls negatively affected by the Israeli blockade.
6. Women and girls negatively affected by the plan to annex territories, such as the Jordan Valley region.
7. Women and girls negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. Women working in settlements.

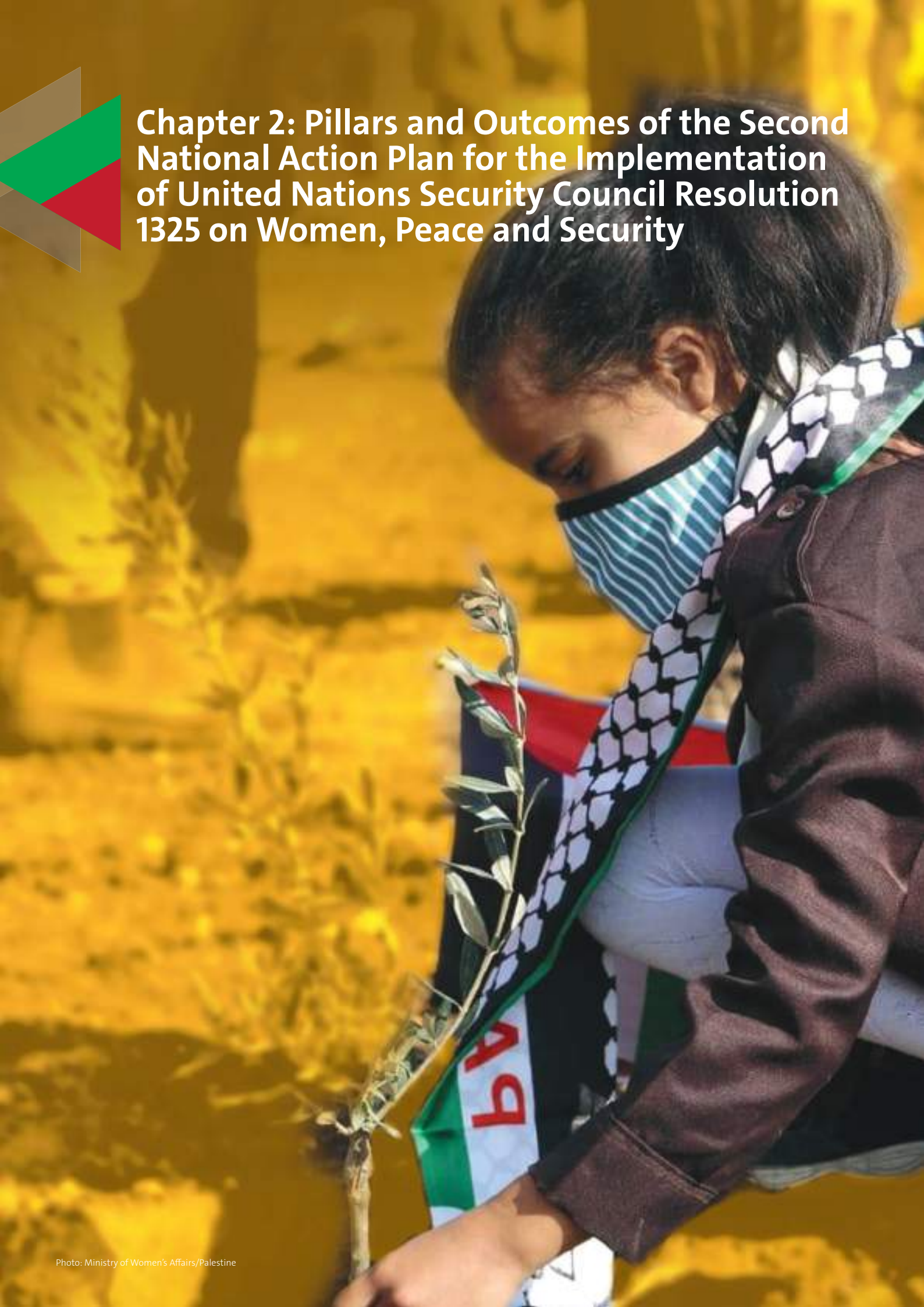
Actors Implementing the NAP:

The NAP will be implemented by members of the HNC for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325; members of the Feminist Civil Society Coalition for the Implementation of 1325 (led by the General Union of Palestinian Women); various ministries, national coalitions working on combatting violence against women and supporting women's political and social empowerment; Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), academic and research organizations, and civil society organizations in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza including feminist organizations, human rights organizations, and grassroots youth- and women-led organizations.





Chapter 2: Pillars and Outcomes of the Second National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security



First Strategic Pillar: Prevention and Protection

About the Pillar:

Under the NAP first pillar, the State of Palestine decided to focus on two main pillars of Resolution 1325: prevention and protection. The prevention component includes policies, programmes and interventions that support Palestinian women's participation in conflict prevention including in response to the impact of the occupation and all forms of gender-based and sexual violence on their lives. Through developing early warning systems, conducting gender-sensitive conflict analyses, and implementing community awareness programmes on gender-based and occupation related violence and available services, women can assume more agency in conflict prevention.

The protection component under this pillar includes engaging men and boys to promote concepts of positive masculinity and change negative social norms, gender stereotypes and behaviours. It also includes the provision of comprehensive and coordinated gender-based violence (GBV) services for women and girls affected by conflict including the provision of quality health and reproductive health services, psychosocial assistance, legal aid, sheltering for women survivors of violence, access to justice and security services, and livelihood support and access to income.

Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 1.1:

Palestinian women's and girls' participation in conflict prevention is promoted including in response to the impact of the occupation and all forms of gender-based and sexual violence on their lives.

Output 1.1.1:

Early warning system and conflict and gender-based violence prevention services are available to Palestinian women and girls.

Output 1.1.2:

Women participate in the development and implementation of early warning systems and services to mitigate the impact of occupation, conflict and gender-based violence on women and girls.

Outcome 1.2:

Women and girls have access to protection services against all forms of gender-based violence, especially those resulting from the occupation practices.

Output 1.2.1:

Availability of quality and gender-responsive social, psychosocial, health and legal protection services for women and girls subject to gender-based and sexual violence in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip.

Output 1.2.2:

Security and justice service providers have increased capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality, and gender-responsive services.

Output 1.2.3:

Women are aware of their rights to high quality GBV protection services.

Second Strategic Pillar: Accountability

About the Pillar:

The State of Palestine focuses under the second pillar on using independent international accountability mechanisms to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations of Palestinian women's and girls' rights, to request ending impunity, and ensuring justice for women victims and survivors. This pillar recommends using monitoring and documentation to highlight the gendered impact of occupation on Palestinian women's rights and to use human rights charter-based bodies (e.g. the human rights council; special procedures of the Human Rights Council; UN Special Rapporteurs; independent experts; and relevant working groups) and human rights treaty bodies⁴⁰ to highlight such impact. In addition, it aims at organizing international and regional lobbying and advocacy campaigns which include using all available mechanisms to call for the protection of women victims of conflict also supporting their access to justice and reparation as articulated in the International law.

Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 2.1:

Increased availability of periodic, high-quality data, information and statistics on the implementation of Resolution 1325.

Output 2.1.1:

Institutional capacities on monitoring and evaluation of Resolution 1325 implementation are strengthened.

Outcome 2.2:

International and regional support mobilized to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations of Palestinian women's rights.

Output 2.2.1:

The various UN agencies and bodies are more aware of the gendered impact of the occupation on Palestinian women.

Output 2.2.2:

UN Member States are more aware of the gendered impact of the occupation on Palestinian women.

Output 2.2.3:

Impact of the occupation on Palestinian women is highlighted through human rights charter-based bodies (e.g. the Human Rights Council; the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council; Special Rapporteurs; independent experts; and relevant working groups) and through the framework of the Human Rights Monitoring System at the United Nations (Human Rights Treaty Bodies).

Third Strategic Pillar: Participation

About the Pillar:

Through this pillar, the State of Palestine focuses on promoting Palestinian women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding processes. It focuses on strengthening the role of Palestinian women in local decision-making at all levels including legislative, executive, judicial as well as civil society. It also focuses on supporting Palestinian women's participation in peace negotiations (Track 1 and Track 2)⁴¹ once they are resumed, internal Palestinian reconciliation talks and dialogues (Track 1 and Track 2), and local peacebuilding. Under this pillar, some of the interventions focus on promoting Palestinian women's participation in elections and their leadership in gender-transforming the security sector/establishment. Some of the interventions also support Palestinian women's participation in human rights treaty bodies and in UN peacekeeping operations.

Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 3.1:

Palestinian women lead and participate in formal and informal peace and decision-making bodies and processes.

Output 3.1.1:

National capacities to develop the legal, policy and institutional framework to enhance women's leadership and participation in formal and informal peace and decision-making bodies and processes are strengthened.

Output 3.1.2:

A cadre of women's leaders capable to participate in political processes, peace negotiations (Track 1 and Track 2), Palestinian reconciliation process, national dialogue and local peacebuilding is formed.

Output 3.1.3:

Community awareness about the importance of women's participation in the decision-making process at all levels is increased.

Output 3.1.4:

Increased engagement of political parties for the support of women's political participation in Palestine.

Output 3.1.5:

Palestinian women's capacity to represent Palestine in the United Nations bodies and international missions related to peace and security is strengthened.

Outcome 3.2:

The security sector institutions mainstream gender and promote women's meaningful leadership and participation at all levels.

Output 3.2.1:

Security sector institutions capacity to reform/develop policies and procedures that are gender-sensitive and promote the leadership and participation of women is strengthened.

Output 3.2.2:

Gender units and security sector personnel's capacity on gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and women's leadership is strengthened.

Fourth Strategic Pillar: Relief and Recovery

About the Pillar:

Through this pillar, the National Action Plan focuses on mainstreaming gender in humanitarian planning and response and in relief and recovery efforts particularly addressing the needs of women and girls who suffer directly from the gendered impact of occupation, such as those suffering from displacement, house demolitions, forcible transfers, and military escalations. It also focuses on promoting the leadership of women and girls in relief and recovery efforts, especially in areas most affected by occupation such as the Gaza Strip, Area C, and the Jordan Valley. Some of the interventions aim to ensure that women can equally benefit from humanitarian assistance, particularly in light of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. They also focus on increasing humanitarian financing for women-led organizations to empower their role in humanitarian action, relief, and recovery efforts and ensure that those efforts address the specific needs of conflict-affected women and girls and promote their participation and leadership in relief and recovery.

Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome 4.1:

Emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery plans and architecture are gender-responsive and address the needs and priorities of women and men.

Output 4.1.1:

Increased availability of gender data and analysis to inform emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery efforts.

Output 4.1.2:

Women's capability to participate in national planning and crisis response (including the COVID-19 pandemic) is strengthened.

Output 4.1.3:

The capacity of national institutions engaged in emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery programming to develop and implement gender-responsive action are strengthened.

Outcome 4.2:

Women most affected by occupation and conflict are more resilient and have access to economic recovery and multi-sectoral services.

Output 4.2.1:

Women participate in emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery efforts.

Output 4.2.2:

Economic needs of women most affected by occupation and conflict are addressed.



Strategic Results Framework

First Pillar: Prevention and Protection

Outcome 1.1:

Palestinian women's and girls' participation in conflict prevention is promoted including in response to the impact of the occupation and all forms of gender-based and sexual violence on their lives.

Indicators:

Indicator 1.1.1:

Number of women benefiting from conflict prevention systems (designed in response to the impact of occupation, conflict and all types of violence).

Output 1.1.1:

Early warning system and conflict and gender-based violence prevention services are available to Palestinian women and girls.

Indicators:

Indicator 1.1.1.1:

Availability of a national early warning system.

Indicator 1.1.1.2:

Number of governmental and civil society organizations that contribute to feeding the national early warning system.

Activities

- Undertake gender-sensitive conflict analysis on the impact of occupation and conflict on Palestinian women and girls.
- Develop a strategy and tools that provide practical guidance on locally-owned women-led conflict prevention and resolution and raise the awareness of women and girls of these tools.
- Establish a gender-sensitive early warning system that increases women's capacities to monitor and respond to the impact of occupation and conflict on women's lives.
- Train service providers that work on conflict prevention and resolution on the Women, Peace and Security agenda
- Build the capacities of organizations working in the field of gender-based violence prevention, especially in areas most affected by the occupation.
- Develop awareness-raising programmes to change stereotypes and behaviors that encourage gender-based violence, while engaging men and boys in prevention efforts.

Output 1.1.2:

Women participate in the development and implementation of early warning systems and services to mitigate the impact of occupation, conflict and gender-based violence on women and girls.

Indicators:

Indicator 1.1.2.1:

Number of women-led organizations involved in the design and development of a national early warning system.

Indicator 1.1.2.2:

Number of women-led organizations benefiting from quality trainings on gender-based violence prevention, especially in areas most affected by the occupation.

Interventions

- Form women's early warning committees in areas most affected by the occupation.
- Build the institutional capacities of the women's early warning committees to enable them to operate effectively.
- Connect women's early warning committees with the national early warning system.
- Launch awareness campaigns in different areas that focus on women's role in the early warning committees/system.



Outcome 1.2:

Women and girls have access to protection services against all forms of gender-based violence, especially those resulting from the occupation practices.

Indicators:**Indicator 1.2.1:**

Percentage of women receiving protection services and expressing satisfaction with the level of services provided.

Indicator 1.2.2:

Number of localities impacted by the occupation that have effective protection services.

Output 1.2.1:

Availability of quality and gender-responsive social, psychosocial, health and legal protection services for women and girls subject to gender-based and sexual violence in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip.

Indicators:**Indicator 1.2.1.1:**

Number of formal and informal institutions participating in support networks that reach to marginalized groups, classified according to geographical distribution.

Indicator 1.2.1.2:

Percentage of formal and informal institutions participating in support networks that express their satisfaction over the performance of the support networks.

Indicator 1.2.1.3:

Number of shelters providing services to the most vulnerable women, including women with addiction problems, women with disabilities, women with chronic diseases, elderly women and women in conflict with the law.

Indicator 1.2.1.4:

Percentage of women most affected by violence receiving economic support services.

Interventions

- Form social, legal and health support networks to provide social, legal, psychosocial and health protection services to women and girls, while considering their geographical locations. In addition, ensure the delivery of comprehensive protection services to areas threatened by annexation and to marginalized groups, including women and girls with disabilities, and the elderly.
- Coordinate with the Ministry of Health to provide high-quality, sustainable primary and public health care services to women and girls victims of violations in Area C and areas threatened by annexation.
- Support shelters/safe spaces that provide comprehensive services in a safe and child-friendly environment to women who are most marginalized such as women with drug addiction problems, women with disabilities, women with chronic diseases, elderly women, women in conflict with the law, etc.
- Provide emergency livelihood support to women and girls most affected by the occupation; as in Area C, Gaza, and areas affected by the wall and Israeli annexation of land.

Output 1.2.2:

Security and justice service providers have increased capacity to deliver coordinated, high-quality, and gender-responsive services.

Indicators:**Indicator 1.2.2.1:**

Percentage of male and female workers in the security and formal justice sector who have received trainings on the concepts of Women, Peace and Security.

Indicator 1.2.2.2:

Number of institutions providing protection for victims of gender-based violence that operate in accordance with clear Standard Operating Procedures.



Interventions

- Offer capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes to service providers in the security and justice sectors on Women, Peace and Security concepts and their complementarity with issues such as women's protection from violence.
- Develop policies and procedures for justice service providers to guarantee that victims and survivors of violence - particularly of sexual violence - in areas most affected by the conflict receive quality services that respect the privacy and dignity of survivors, and integrate needs of women with disabilities.

Output 1.2.3:

Women are aware of their rights to have high quality GBV protection services.

Indicators:

Indicator 1.2.3.1:

Number of residential communities in the Jordan Valley and areas threatened by annexation that are reached out through awareness raising campaigns.

Interventions

- Raise awareness of women and the population at large of the existence of social, legal and health services within or near the communities in areas most affected by conflict.

▶ Second Pillar: Accountability

Outcome 2.1:

Increased availability of periodic, high-quality data, information and statistics on the implementation of Resolution 1325.

Indicators:

Indicator 2.1.1:

Number of annual and periodic reports that are being published on women, peace and security issues in Palestine.

Output 2.1.1:

Institutional capacities on monitoring and evaluation of Resolution 1325 implementation are strengthened.

Indicators:

Indicator 2.1.1.1:

A National Observatory that documents violations of the human rights of Palestinian women in the framework of Resolution 1325 is in place.

Indicator 2.1.1.2:

Availability of annual budget to support the work of the National Observatory.

Indicator 2.1.1.3:

Number of platforms established to disseminate periodic data around WPS in Palestine.

Activities

- Establish a unified national system to monitor and document all efforts invested towards the implementation of the second National Plan on Resolution 1325.
- Identify and provide logistical needs and financial resources to ensure regular data collection.
- Train working team of the National Observatory on the mechanisms of documentation and reporting.
- Collect information and prepare annual reports relevant to Resolution 1325 different pillars.
- Set up feedback mechanisms between data producers and end users to ensure data availability, quality, and effective use.
- Post information and data using different tools and platforms to facilitate access to data users.
- Prepare infographics and documentaries that highlight the situation of Palestinian women and girls under Israeli occupation.
- Conduct research on transitional justice mechanisms and procedures, and the extent to which they are applicable within the Palestinian context.

Outcome 2.2:

International and regional support mobilized to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations of Palestinian women's rights.

Indicators:**Indicator 2.2.1:**

Number of countries voting in favor of resolutions that support the Palestinian cause.

Output 2.2.1:

The various UN bodies and agencies are more aware of the gendered impact of occupation on Palestinian women.

Indicators:**Indicator 2.2.1.1:**

Number of oral and written interventions and reports on Israeli occupation's violations of Palestinian women and girls rights, introduced in front of relevant UN bodies.

Indicator 2.2.1.2:

Number of UN sessions, including special sessions, in which Palestinian women's context under occupation is highlighted and discussed.

Indicator 2.2.1.3:

Number of draft resolutions that have been submitted to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations of Palestinian women's and girls' rights.

Indicator 2.2.1.4:

Briefs, letters, and reports sent to missions regarding the status of Palestinian women under occupation.

Activities

- Provide oral and written interventions and submit reports on the occupation violations of the rights of Palestinian women and girls within the frameworks of the United Nations organs, such as the UN Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.
- Organize briefing sessions on the situation of Palestinian women and girls under Israeli occupation.
- Benefit from special sessions held within the frameworks of United Nations organs (including Arria Formula meetings) to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations of Palestinian women's and girls' rights.
- Submit draft resolutions to UN organs to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its violations against the rights of Palestinian women and girls.
- Present official reports and messages to call on UN organs to pressure the Israeli occupation to recognize and apply the International Law.
- Brief the missions of the State of Palestine on the situation of Palestinian women under Israeli occupation and the implications from a gender perspective.
- Organize lobbying and advocacy campaigns at the international level targeting:
 - The Commission on the Status of Women in the United Nations (CSW).
 - The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
 - Global organizations advocating for the Palestinian cause.
 - International networks for women's rights.
- Participate in the annual meeting around the anniversary of Resolution 1355 and WPS open debates.

Output 2.2.2:

UN Member States are more aware of the gendered impact of the occupation on Palestinian women.

Indicators:**Indicator 2.2.2.1:**

Number of lobbying and advocacy campaigns launched at the international and regional level.

Indicator 2.2.2.2:

Number of countries participating in the special sessions in which the situation of Palestinian women is highlighted.



Activities

- Inform states, their delegations, and other visiting delegations of the context of Palestinian women and girls under occupation, also requesting Israel to fulfill its obligations under International law.
- Participate in conferences organized by UN Member States and lobby on them to fulfill their duties under International Law.
- Call on UN Member States to fulfill their obligations to entities and specialized agencies dedicated to supporting the Palestinian cause, including UNRWA.
- Hold meetings between Palestinian and Arab communities (*jaliyat*) to discuss the situation of Palestinian women, thus provide them with the needed assistance and protection.
- Brief international and specialized parliamentary bodies on the situation of Palestinian women under the occupation.
- Hold an annual open day (high-level dialogue) on resolution 1325 to discuss the most significant accomplishments and challenges of women peacebuilders, and to mobilize international support to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its crimes and violations against the rights of Palestinian women and girls.
- Organize lobbying and advocacy campaigns at the regional and national levels targeting:
 - The Arab Women Organization (AWO).
 - The Arab Human Rights Committee.
 - The Arab Feminist Union (AFU).
 - Women's committees in national and Arab parliaments.

Output 2.2.3:

Impact of the occupation on Palestinian women is highlighted through human rights charter-based bodies (e.g. the Human Rights Council; the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council; Special Rapporteurs; independent experts; and relevant working groups) and through the framework of the Human Rights Monitoring System at the United Nations (Human Rights Treaty Bodies).

Indicators:

Indicator 2.2.3.1:

Number of official state reports on the gendered impact of occupation that are prepared and submitted annually.

Indicator 2.2.3.2:

Number of alternative reports prepared and submitted annually.

Activities

- Prepare periodic official state reports and shadow reports on human rights conventions outlining violations of the Israeli occupation against Palestinian women and girls.
- Prepare alternative reports to address the periodic reports submitted by Israel, and submit them to the human rights treaty bodies, or conduct a comprehensive periodic review and present to the Human Rights Council to highlight the Israeli occupation's violations of the rights of Palestinian women and girls.
- Provide oral and/or written interventions during discussions of these reports between Israel and human rights treaty bodies.
- Activate accountability mechanisms that are in line with the human rights conventions to which the State of Palestine has acceded or ratified.
- Submit written and oral statements, reports, briefs and complaints to these UN bodies regarding the violations of the Israeli occupation against Palestinian women and girls.
- Participate in the Human Rights Council's sessions on all relevant items, including the item on women and children and the seventh item (i.e. Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories), and submit written and oral reports and statements, and call for holding exceptional sessions when necessary.
- Organize side-events during sessions of the Human Rights Council or human rights treaty bodies.



Third Pillar: Participation

Outcome 3.1:

Palestinian women lead and participate in formal and informal peace and decision-making bodies and processes.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.1.1:

Number of women participating in peace negotiations and Palestinian political dialogue efforts.

Indicator 3.1.2:

Number of women active in the fields of local peacebuilding, conflict resolution and Palestinian political dialogue.

Indicator 3.1.3:

Number of high-level national dialogues which involve women.

Output 3.1.1:

National capacities to develop the legal, policy and institutional framework to enhance women's leadership and participation in formal and informal peace and decision-making bodies and processes are strengthened.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.1.1.1:

Number of interventions undertaken to support the revision of the current election law from a gender perspective.

Activities

- Conduct a gender analysis of women's participation in peace negotiations and the Palestinian political dialogue, to assess the most important obstacles that impeded achieving the desired progress.
- Prepare policy papers and statistical analyses on women's participation in decision-making roles and the impact of such participation on women, peace and security efforts.
- Develop institutional capacities, especially for the actors in the field of women's political and civil participation, in addition to providing them with the necessary financing and technical support.
- Conduct revisions of the local and legislative electoral law also to include measures to increase the participation of most marginalized women impacted by the occupation and conflict.

Output 3.1.2:

A cadre of women leaders capable to participate in political processes, peace negotiations (Track 1 and Track 2), Palestinian reconciliation process, national dialogue and local peacebuilding is formed.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.1.2.1:

Existence of a cadre of women leaders who have the capacity to participate in and lead political processes.

Activities

- Build the capacities of young women on concepts of leadership, decision-making, participation in the negotiations processes, the Palestinian political dialogue, and local conflict resolution and peacebuilding.
- Form cadres of women leaders who represent all political parties and establish dialogue among them with regards to their engagement in negotiations, national dialogue, reconciliation, and international mediation.
- Build the capacities of women community leaders on, local peacebuilding, negotiations, mediation, leadership and conflict resolution.

Output 3.1.3:

Community awareness about the importance of women's participation in the decision-making processes at all levels is increased.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.1.3.1:

Number of national campaigns implemented to raise the public awareness of women's political participation.



Activities

- Establish networks of women within the different governorates/districts to promote the participation of women in decision-making processes at the local level and through local peacebuilding.
- Raise women's awareness of the importance of women's participation in the electoral processes of the Legislative Council and the local councils.
- Carry out mobilization, advocacy and accountability campaigns to increase women's representation in public service and at executive, legislative and judicial decision-making levels.

Output 3.1.4:

Increased engagement of political parties for the support of women's political participation in Palestine.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.1.4.1:

Number of political parties conducting a review of their bylaws from a gender perspective.

Activities

- Conduct multi-party dialogues with political parties, Palestinian political leaders, and concerned bodies to agree on practical steps to be followed regarding the involvement of women in peace negotiations processes and the Palestinian political dialogue (Track 1, Track 1.5 and Track 2).
- Organize dialogues between the Palestinian political leadership and women civil society leaders, who represent diverse political affiliations, to foster joint action to increase women's participation in the negotiations and reconciliation efforts.
- Organize annual meetings and lobbying campaigns in each governorate among grassroots/community-based organizations, political parties and local councils to promote women's participation in conflict resolution and local peacebuilding.
- Support advocacy and lobbying campaigns led by political parties and women's political leaders to implement the quota for women's political representation. And also utilize the quota to support women's representation in political parties and in political dialogue efforts.

Output 3.1.5:

Palestinian women's capacity to represent Palestine in the United Nations bodies and international missions related to peace and security is strengthened.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.1.5.1:

Percentage of women representation in Palestinian diplomatic missions.

Activities

- Build the capacities of women to participate in key UN bodies (e.g. the UN human rights monitoring system).
- Carry out mobilization and advocacy campaigns to encourage Member States to vote in favour of Palestinian women assuming decision-making positions in international and UN bodies and missions.
- Address the UN Secretary-General and advocate with his office and team to appoint Palestinian women as special envoys and goodwill ambassadors.
- Ensure that the Palestine Mission to the United Nations and its assigned staff operating in the different diplomatic missions have adequate knowledge of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Outcome 3.2:

The security sector institutions mainstream gender and promote women's meaningful leadership and participation at all levels.

Indicators:

Indicator 3.2.1:

Percentage of citizens expressing trust in the security sector, by sex and age.

Indicator 3.2.2:

Percentage of women assuming high-ranking positions in the security sector out of the total personnel.



Output 3.2.1:

Security sector institutions capacity to reform/develop policies and procedures that are gender sensitive and promote the leadership and participation of women is strengthened.

Indicators:**Indicator 3.2.1.1:**

Number of current policies and procedures for the Palestinian security sector that were reviewed from a gender perspective.

Indicator 3.2.1.2:

Number of proposed policies and procedures relevant to the Palestinian security sector that promote gender equality and women's participation in the security sector.

Activities

- Support the security sector institutions to undertake a gender audit of the security sector human resources.
- Develop, based on the findings of the audit, an action plan to promote gender mainstreaming in the security sector human resources policies (introduce gender-sensitive procedures and HR recommendations).
- Train the security sector personnel and gender units on the audit findings, and, based on the results of the audit, develop a plan to implement it.
- Provide analyses and reviews of the security sector's legal and policy frameworks and procedures (especially the service law).
- Deliver training sessions for senior security sector staff (including women and men) on UNSCR 1325, its subsequent resolutions and the findings of the gender audit.
- Support the creation of space and dialogue between gender units and decision-makers within the security establishment to present the progress achieved and encounter existing challenges.

Output 3.2.2:

Gender units and security sector personnel's capacity on gender equality, gender mainstreaming and women's leadership is strengthened.

Indicators:**Indicator 3.2.2.1:**

Percentage of women engaged in the security sector (classified by age, rank, and security body) who participate in specific trainings that aim at building their leadership capabilities.

Indicator 3.2.2.2:

Number of gender units which report increased capacity to influence policy change.

Activities

- Support key initiatives led by the Gender Consultative Committee (GCC) and gender units on leadership, human rights, women, peace and security, communication etc.
- Provide trainings, mentoring and counseling to women working in the security sector on gender, peace and security, leadership and decision-making skills. Design tailored training courses for women in technical colleges (Al-Istiqlal University).
- Provide specialized trainings for women in middle-level positions in the security sector to support their career advancement and their engagement in decision-making.
- Create space for dialogue and knowledge exchange between women working in the security sector in Palestine and mentors/women leaders in the security establishment abroad.



Fourth Pillar: Relief and Recovery

Outcome 4.1:

Emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery plans and architecture are gender-responsive and address the needs and priorities of women and men.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.1.1:

Number of government emergency and recovery plans that integrate gender.

Indicator 4.1.2:

Percentage of women participating in developing and updating emergency and recovery plans.

Output 4.1.1:

Increased availability of gender data and analysis to inform emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery efforts.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.1.1.1:

Gender analysis of the needs and priorities of women, men, boys and girls in humanitarian action developed annually.

Activities

- Undertake research on the gendered impacts of successive humanitarian crises, emergencies and epidemics.
- Develop systems for the collection of sex and age disaggregated data to be used to inform national response plan and relief and recovery plans.
- Review from a gender perspective the structure and system of the different national emergency committees (higher and governorates level committees), including those that focus on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Output 4.1.2:

Women's capability to participate in national planning and crisis response (including the COVID-19 pandemic) is strengthened.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.1.2.1:

Number of women who participate in trainings focused on national response to crises.

Indicator 4.1.2.2:

Number of interventions that seek to promote women's participation in relief and crisis response.

Activities

- Build the capacity of women (especially young women) on leadership skills, gender-responsive humanitarian action, and women's role in the national response to crises and emergencies.
- Build the capacity of women working in relevant ministries and in municipal and local councils on leadership skills, gender-responsive humanitarian action, and women's role in the national response to crises and emergencies.

Output 4.1.3:

The capacities of national institutions engaged in emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery programming to develop and implement gender-responsive action are strengthened.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.1.3.1:

Number of government-led sectors that have gender-sensitive response plans.

Interventions

- Develop gender-responsive emergency plans, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Lobby and advocate with concerned ministries to promote the leadership role and participation of women, working in the various governmental structures and those that benefit from relief and humanitarian action, in setting priorities for humanitarian, emergency and recovery plans.
- Form/support advocacy and lobby groups at grassroots and national levels to support women's leadership role in relief and early recovery.



Outcome 4.2:

Women most affected by occupation and conflict are more resilient and have access to economic recovery and multi-sectoral services.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.2.1:

Percentage of women affected by the occupation and conflict who are receiving economic and social support services.

Output 4.2.1:

Women participate in emergency/humanitarian response and early recovery efforts.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.2.1.1:

Number of innovative relief initiatives led by young women that are launched in the most vulnerable communities.

Indicator 4.2.1.2:

Number of women's organizations receiving humanitarian funding to provide emergency and humanitarian services to women.

Interventions

- Support and fund innovative relief and recovery initiatives led by young women in different communities to support women most affected by the occupation's practices (women at risk of displacement, house demolitions, women with disabilities, women victims and survivors of violence).
- Support and finance women's organizations, especially grassroots and women's groups, in providing multisectoral services to women in communities most affected by conflict (such as Area C and Gaza), including reproductive health services, water and shelter services, food security services, and education, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Build women's capacities in affected communities as "front liners/early responders" to emergencies and humanitarian crises, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Strengthen the capacity of women leaders on gender in humanitarian action and support their participation in regional and international dialogues on women's leadership in humanitarian action, relief and recovery, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Output 4.2.1:

Economic needs of women most affected by occupation and conflict are addressed.

Indicators:

Indicator 4.2.1.1:

Number of women affected by the occupation who receive economic assistance, including temporary work opportunities or vocational training.

Indicator 4.2.1.2:

Number of credit programmes that target women who are most vulnerable.

Activities

- Provide temporary job opportunities (cash for work) to support women most affected by the consequences of humanitarian crisis and conflict, especially those affected by forced displacement, home demolitions, and recurrent incursions/escalations.
- Provide loans and grants to support women small business owners rendered most vulnerable by the humanitarian crisis.
- Provide humanitarian assistance for rural women to support women-led agricultural and livestock cooperatives especially in areas in the West Bank which are most affected by Israeli settlement activities and land annexations as well as in the access restricted area in the Gaza Strip.
- Provide paid internships, vocational training opportunities and temporary employment for women in non-conventional economic sectors as outlined in the recovery plans (e.g. engineering and ICT sectors).





Next Steps



Photo: Ministry of Women's Affairs/Palestine

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, as the Chair of the Higher National Committee, will collaborate with members of the Higher National Committee on UNSCR 1325 and key WPS actors especially the UNSCR 1325 civil society coalition (led by the General Union of Palestinian Women) to undertake a NAP costing exercise. Costing and budgeting templates for the NAP are critical instruments that enable NAP actors to track whether their NAPs are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time Bound) and to generate and reinforce engagement of various local stakeholders in the NAP drafting process. Without identifying the cost and dedicating the resources needed, activities in the NAP will not be implemented, and the NAP will remain just a plan.

The costing exercise will be done through carrying out a number of consultation meetings with all actors involved including member states/donors. It will

also require bringing on board a gender-responsive budgeting expert/NAP costing expert to ensure that the resource allocation is gender-responsive and realistic.

The NAP costing process provides an opportunity for government officials, civil society, local authorities and community leaders, UN entities, donors and other WPS stakeholders to work together to examine the resources that are available, including what their respective organizations and institutions can contribute. Thus, it is also an exercise in generating financial commitments nationally. Therefore, following the comprehensive costing exercise, MoWA will partner with international partners in establishing a NAP pooled funding mechanism. This mechanism allows multiple donors to come together and leverage their individual contributions towards the holistic implementation of the four priorities of the NAP.



Annex A - Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 5: Gender equality

- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.B Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.C Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.A Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Source:⁴² **General Assembly Resolution: “Transforming our World: Sustainable Development Plan 2030”, 1/70/Res/A, 25 September 2015.**

Annex B - Beijing Platform for Action and Violence Against Women During Conflict

The Beijing Platform for Action includes many references to the relationship between women's rights and conflict, peace and security, especially in the following paragraphs:

18. Local, national, regional and global peace is attainable and is inextricably linked with the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels.

114. Other acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy.

134. Although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peace-keeping and defence and foreign affairs mechanisms, they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions. If women are to play an equal part in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making.

145. (d) Reaffirm that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and under certain circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Other international mechanisms indirectly related to the status of women during conflict. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

The task of this committee is to oversee the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The committee is composed of 23 independent experts on women's rights from different member states that are parties to the convention. Every four years, States parties to the Convention must submit reports to the Committee detailing their compliance with the provisions of the Convention. The Committee (Treaty Body) reviews these reports and may also consider allegations of violations, investigate serious or systematic violations of women's rights, as well as make public comments explaining the various articles of the Convention. In addition, the Committee has the right, in accordance with a protocol attached to the Convention, to consider individual complaints against states that have ratified the Protocol, and also to make general recommendations on such complaints.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties. It also monitors implementation of two Optional Protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. An additional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been adopted regarding reporting, but this has not yet entered into force.

The Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, decided in March 1994, to appoint a Special Rapporteur, an independent expert, on violence against women - including its causes and consequences. The rapporteur shall recommend solutions to end such violence.

Working Group of the Human Rights Council on discrimination against women

In 2010, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution to establish a working group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice to promote the abolition of laws that discriminate against women and/or have a discriminatory effect on women. The Working Group focuses on identifying good practices related to the abolition of discrimination against women in law, establishing a dialogue with States and other actors on laws that have a discriminatory effect on women, and preparing studies on related practices that are considered discriminatory for women in relation to implementation or impact.

Official website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:
<http://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.asp>

Endnotes

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TRACK 2 PROCESSES: These are civil society-level discussions, usually involving critical engagement with government policy and formal security frameworks. The work at this level commonly involves organised protesting, government lobbying, and policy submission writing. These activities are sometimes referred to as parallel peace processes. While actors in this stream may not have access to official peace negotiations, they can be politically influential. Civil society groups, non-government organisations, religious networks, academics and businesses tend to engage in Track 2 processes.
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The Representative Office of Norway
to the Palestinian Authority



Photo: Ministry of Women's Affairs/Palestine