

FINAL REPORT

PALESTINE-West Bank : Country Gender Profile

April 2007

JICA Alumni Association/West Bank

The information presented here was gathered from on-site sources. Therefore, JICA is not responsible for its accuracy.

Table of Contents
PALESTINE-WEST BANK

List of Abbreviations.....	ii
Concepts and Definitions.....	iv
1. Basic Profile	Annex Chart
1-1 Socio-Economic Profile	
1-2 Health Profile	
1-3 Education Profile	
2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender	
2-1 General Situation of Women in Palestine	1
2-2 Government Policy on Gender	9
2-3 National Machinery	12
3. Current Situation of Women by Sector	
3-1 Education.....	15
3-2 Health	20
3-3 Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	23
3-4 Economic Activities	28
3-5 Political Participation.....	33
4. Gender Projects.....	44
5. Gender Information Sources	
5-1 List of International Organizations / NGOs related to Gender	45
5-2 List of Reports and References related to Gender.....	46
6. References.....	48
7. Definitions.....	50

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CLR	Capital Labour Ratio
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DOP	Declaration of Principals
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
GNI	Gross National Income
GNDI	Gross National Disposable Income (Note: World Development Indicator 2001 replaced GNP with GNI in line with the 1993 SNA)
GNP	Gross National Product
GS	Gaza Strip
HB	Haemoglobin.
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
LVC	local village council
MAS	Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOPIC	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
MOWA	Ministry Of Women Affairs
MSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NIS	New Israeli Shekel
ND	Nutrition Department/MOH
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PMA	Palestinian Monetary Authority
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
PHDR	Palestine Human Development Report 2004 (issued by Birzeit University with support from UNDP & with association with ministry of planning)
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organization
PHE	Public Health Expenditures
PHC	Public Health Care
P T	Palestinian territory means West Bank and Gaza Strip (includes East Jerusalem, unless otherwise indicated)
PA	Palestinian Authority
TFR	Total Fertility Rate.

TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
UNRWA	United Nations Relief Works Agency
UNSCO	United Nations Special Coordinator Office
VAT	Value Added Tax
W B	West Bank (includes East Jerusalem, unless otherwise indicated)

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The value of all goods and services produced during a year.

Gross National Income (GNI): The total income generated by residents. It is equal to GDP after adding

Income of national residents earned abroad and subtracting income of foreigners earned in the local economy.

Gross National Disposable Income: This variable measures income available to non-residents for expenditure on consumption products (products are goods and services which may be locally produced or imported) or savings

Manpower: All individuals in the WB GS who are 15 years and older.

Employment: All those included in manpower and working in a paying job or as self-employed or as an unpaid family member.

Unemployed: All those included in manpower, not employed and looking for work.

Labour Force: The sum of the employed and the unemployed.

Consumer Price Index: An index used to measure changes occurring in the price level representing prices of consumer goods and services. It is used to track changes in standards of living.

Dependency Rate: Calculated as the number of people 14 years and under plus the number of people 65 years and above divided by the number of people whose age is between 15 and 64 years. Value Added: Calculated for profit making firms as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption. For non-profit making firms, the value added is the sum of worker compensations plus depreciation plus net production taxes.

Productivity: The average share of a worker of total value added, calculated as the total value added divided by the number of workers engaged (paid plus unpaid).

Gross Fixed Capital Formation: The value of additional assets minus the value of assets that were disposed of.

Net Investment: Gross fixed capital formation minus capital depreciation.

Capital Depreciation: What can be produced, which depreciates during the year calculated at current replacement value? The value of fixed assets is distributed by their productive life according to a specified formula.

Capital Intensity: Average capital per worker, calculated as the average book value of fixed assets divided by the number of workers.

Average Wages: worker compensations divided by the number of paid workers

Poverty Gap Index: Gives the Percentage by which the average income of the poor is below the Poverty Line.

Poverty Severity Index: Gives the Mean of the Squared Consumption Deficit.

Full time job: Any job that is usually 35 hours or more per week is considered full-time. In some occupations, usual weekly schedules of less than 35 hours per week are considered to be full time. For these cases, the option "less than 35 hours are full time" is provided.

Part time job: A job in which a person works less than 35 hours, unless the number of usual working hours is less than 35. In addition, a job is part time job if the hours worked by a person were less than usual working hours in such job.

2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on Gender

2-1 General Situation of Women in Palestine-West Bank

General Situation of Women in Palestine-West Bank

The Palestinian society was not identified as an independent political and social entity until recently. Until 1967 both the West Bank and Gaza Strip were respectively isolated under the Jordanian and the Egyptian administration. Signing the Declaration of Principles (DOP) between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Israeli government has led to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[General Situation]

Several demographic, geographic and topographic diversities mark both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These diversities can be summarized as follows:

The area of the West Bank is much larger (5651 km²) than that of Gaza Strip (365 km²). The population density in the West Bank is around 431 people/ 1 km², while the population density in Gaza Strip is around 3937 people/1km². The population of Palestinian in the camps population of the total population in the West Bank is 5.25%. In addition, 65.5% of the West Bank population live in agricultural areas (rural areas) (2,435,500)* million people in the West Bank, they are distributed over 11 cities. According to the results of the census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2005, females constitute 49.34% of the West Bank and Gaza Strip population. 18.2% of females are under 4 years of age, 42.977% of females are (15-49) years of age and 9.48% are over 50 years. The West Bank and Gaza Strip economy is described as being service-oriented. In the first half of 2003, agriculture contributed to 9.3 % of the GDP, 15.3% for industry, 2.7% for construction and 72.7% for services. A major character of the West Bank and Gaza Strip economy is its high dependence on Israel. In normal conditions (when there is no closure imposed on the PNA controlled areas), almost one third of the West Bank and Gaza Strip labour force was work in Israel and around 90% of trade is with Israel. As a result of the unusual political and economic situation caused by the occupation, several factors have negatively affected women's development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip:

- **Dual responsibilities of women due to occupational arrest:** The circumstances of occupation have enforced severe deterioration on the social and economic situation. This added more burdens on the mother and the family in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where husbands and sons were either imprisoned or forced to leave to generate income. The occupation has imposed severe economic complications such as less labour opportunities. and a fragile national economy, highly dependent on Israel, this led to the weakening of the family and its income, time and efforts in legal issues and visiting prisons. Added to that are the serious psychological effects that negatively affect the quality and quantity of production

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, đ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR
x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ

from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ✖: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

- **Low percentage of women in technical and vocational fields:** Women represent a considerably low percentage in university programs such as science, however, females represent 100% of housekeeping, women's enrolments in highly specialized professions would necessarily provide them with higher income source and positively affects their participation in the decision-making process.
- **Illiteracy:** Despite the gradual and continuous increase of literacy levels in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over age of (15-24) 2003 is 98.7%. the according to PHDR illiteracy rate is 8.1 % due to early marriage and sever economic conditions, is the major cause of this high percentage despite the existence of compulsory basic education laws. The legal measures of this law are neither implemented nor monitored. Most of women school dropouts get married at a young age. This leads to unhealthy mothers, consequently raising the percentages of abortions and child under-growth. Both school and non-school factors determine the rates of young school drop outs. School factors include: education cycle, grade level, class size, supervising authority, school infrastructure and the hidden curriculum. The hidden curriculum is defined as the unconscious ways in which educational structures in the classroom reflect the wider gender assumptions existing in the society. The hidden curriculum in the West Bank and Gaza Strip culture tends to limit women education and labour force participation to her reproductive role. This indeed imposes a problem that needs to be considered in terms of gender and women development.
- **Wage Discrimination:** because of the strike in the west bank there no detailed explaining amount of wage for male and female. But tentatively information about pay differentials between men and women explain there are no big different of wage between male and female.
- **Deprivation from legislative as well as legal rights of ownership and inheritance:** The legislative and legal rights of ownership and inheritance are preserved in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for both genders. Yet, when it comes to practice, the social and economic constrains impose large limitations on their actual implementation for females. This leads to totally dependent women and does indeed deprive them from acquiring policy and decision making positions in both public and private spheres. There are no laws or regulations that specifically restrict women from ownership and inheritance.
- **The wide gap between theory and practice in women's involvement in development:** The decision-making bodies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are male dominant. A vast majority of male leaders in both governmental and non-governmental institutions domination the importance of women's involvement in development, yet and when it comes to actual implementation women are excluded from planning, implementing and sharing the outcomes of

development. On the state decision making levels women represent 6% of the Palestinian legislative Council (PLC), 8% in Palestine National Council, 4% as ministers.

- **Lack of childcare services:** A majority of governmental and non-governmental institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip lack child care services, or provide poor services. The reproductive role assigned to women societies in addition to the lack of adequate childcare services does indeed impose a burden on working mothers. This usually leads to less efficiency, production and participation of working mothers in the development process.

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, δ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR
x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, □: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

The employment policies are non-supportive of motherhood. This could be reflected by the fact that much greater number of never-married women is in the labour force (as compared to the low number of never-married men).

- **High fertility rates:** The Total Fertility Rate TFR for the West Bank and Gaza Strip excluding East Jerusalem, is 4.19% in 2004, Sizable regional variations were found between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the TFR for the West Bank at 5.61 and the TFR for Gaza Strip at 7.44 Gaza Strip thus has one of the highest fertility rates in the world. The West Bank and Gaza Strip demographic picture deviates from the classical model of demographic transition used to explain population changes. Specific cultural institutions and practices in society can explain this deviation, due to the value of large families. High insecure conditions may also favour a burst of natality as an investment in social security and the survival of the younger generation. In addition, the sentiment of the West Bank and Gaza Strip towards increasing the population number as a mean of resistance to the occupation.
- **Marriage and divorce in 1997, the average single age at marriage in WB & GS was 25.4 years for men and 21.5 years for women** the census of 1997 highlighted a link between the level of education and age at first marriage. The average age at first marriage for individuals who had completed tertiary education was found to be 27 years for men and 24 years for women, compared to the national averages of 23 years and 18 years, respectively. These comparatively low national averages, particularly with regard to the age of women, underscore the early marriage phenomenon that is prevalent in WB & GS. Of the total married female population in WB & GS, half of them were aged 18 years or younger. In terms of total women, 29 per cent were married before they turned 18, of which 4 per cent were aged 15 years or younger. By stark contrast, a modest 1 per cent of men in the under-18 age group were married.
- **Females aged 15 and above use of computers** * 30.4% of females aged 15 and above use computers; this includes 32.3% in the West Bank and 27.0% in Gaza Strip. It has been noticed that enrolling in education increases the females' opportunities of computer use. Results show that 74.9% of females of the aforementioned age group who are currently enrolled in education use computers; on the other hand, 18.3% of females of the same age group who are not enrolled in education use computers. Joining the workforce increases the chances of females' use of computers. According to results, 74.6% of females in formal education or in training courses use computers. Results also reveal that 52.1% of working females use computers compared with 14.7% of those categorized as being outside the labour force. More education among females eases the process of using a computer, according to findings. 71.5% of females in the age group of 15 and above with a first

university degree and higher do use computers whereas 52.5% of females with a high school certificate or a diploma use computers. Alternatively, 0.8% of females who have not Completed any educational stages use computers.

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, ǿ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR
x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ▣: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

However, homes, educational establishments, and workplaces are the main locations for females use of computers. 51.3% of employed females stated that they use computers at work and 36.3% of them stated that they use computers at home. 50.4% of females who are currently enrolled in education stated that they mainly use computers (and for the first time) at their educational establishment and 45.3% of them stated that they use computers at home. Moreover, 4.6% of 15+ females who access the internet do so for e-commerce purposes and shopping whereas 36.6% of them access the internet for educational purposes. 63.3% of females (of the same age group) who access the internet access it for an average of less than 7 hours a week.

Conditions of Women in Palestine ³ Women living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank face substantial social discrimination and inequality. The Palestinian struggle against Israel has fostered an active and strong women's movement that was an integral part of the national struggle. During the intifada, many women directly participated in protests and resistance to the Israeli government. Since the 1993 Oslo Accords, this movement has begun to expand to deal with discrimination, violence, and other issues that affect the lives of Palestinian women. But these groups have been limited by a lack of resources and by cultural resistance to social change. Various surveys tend to show that there is high support for women's political rights and a similar level of support for women's economic rights – but in areas which concern changes in property relations between men and women or in the re-distribution of power within the family or marriage there is a radical drop in support for an expansion of women's rights. Highest support is scored for women's political rights (in terms of voting rights and holding political office) and there is also a relatively high acceptance of women's political and leadership abilities. Palestinian women are playing a larger role in the economy, comprising 35% of total domestic job growth in 1999. Women tend to be primarily employed in the agricultural, services, and public services sectors of the economy. Renewed conflict with Israel has had a devastating effect on the Palestinian economy, sharply reducing the GDP since the conflict broke out and, by default, delaying progress in addressing issues of discrimination against women in employment. Women have participated less in street protests and fighting in the Al-Aqsa intifada than during the previous intifada. Some have observed that women have been more removed from the violence because clashes take place at Israeli checkpoints at the borders of communities. Women and women's groups have been active in providing support and assistance to those injured in the fighting.

A final challenge facing the PNA is the high level of population growth. The total fertility rate (births per woman) is 7.0 in Gaza and 5.6 in the West Bank, well above the regional average of 3.5. Studies indicate that there is public interest in family planning, but the PNA continues to provide conflicting statements on the issue. The health and education ministries support family planning, and national contraceptive use is at 42%. At the same time, the PNA has

seen population growth as a strategy to put pressure on Israel in land negotiations. This, combined with Islamic support for large families, has contributed to rapid population growth, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, đ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR
x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ▣: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

Law of Personal Status ³

The personal status of Muslim women in the Gaza Strip and West Bank is dictated by Islamic law that serves as the basis for disputes over marriage, divorce, inheritance, child custody, and most other areas affecting women's lives. The rise of Hamas and other Islamist groups have brought increasing demands for a return to "traditional" interpretations of Islam and the personal status of women. Although these debates have been sidetracked by the renewed tensions with Israel, Palestinian society remains divided on the issue. Gender-based violence is common in the nation, particularly as related to preserving family honor. Women's groups report difficulty combating violence due to the social stigma against publicly discussing the issue.

Gender Reforms ³

In the 1996 elections in Palestine, women comprised 42% of voters, but their representation in government remains limited. Women fill only five of the 88 seats on the National Legislative Council (PLC). One minister in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is a woman. Some have suggested that the high levels of female illiteracy (25%) contributed too many women allowing male relatives to decide how their votes should be cast.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The PA hasn't ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women till now, but the convention's committee has actively supported projects aimed at improving the status of Palestinian women.

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, ǒ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR
x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ▣: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

2-2 Government Policy on Gender

Government Policy on Gender

The PNA does indeed apply equity between men and women in the labour force. The PNA gives a great consideration to women in the rural areas providing vocational training programs as well as financial support for economic activities of women.

Women's National of Action in Palestine

The Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs was established in November 2003 according to governmental decision to represent women nationally (official and non-official). This body through Gender Unit will apply the national plane regarding women in seven fields, which are:

1- Education

- Curriculum (stereo type of women).
- Female dropping out from school.
- Female Technical and Vocational education.
- Female high education.
- Female literacy and adult education.
- Secondary level Compulsory education.

2- Employment and poverty

- Poor families with female breadwinner.
- Inequality of wages (male and female)
- Discrimination in labor market.
- Women in non-official sector.
- Limited women participation in labor force.
- High unemployment rate.

3- Participation in politics and decision-making

- Women's participation in reviewing the current policies in ministries and other governmental entities.
- Women in Legislation council.
- Women in municipal and rural councils.
- Women and political party.
- Society attitude towards women participation in political life.
- Women and decision making in home and families.
- Participation of women in federation and population unions.

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, đ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR

x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, **▣:** Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

4- Women and health

- Early marriage.
- Women awareness and reproductive health.
- High fertility rate.
- Anti and postnatal care.
- Health services.

5- Women and violence

- Killing due to shame acts.
- Family abuse.
- Sexual harassment at work and public places.
- Secure shelves for violence victims.

6- Democracy and human rights

- Women awareness for legal social and economical rights.
- Society attitude and trends for women rights.
- Agreements, conventions, and international agreements for women rights.

7- Laws, legislation, and policies

- Valid and proposed laws from social aspect.
- Alternatives for laws and policies regarding women issues.
- Legal and legislatives operations and related current policies.
- Plane of action to implement the laws and legislations clearly.

Note: the ministry of women affair decided to concentrate on three priorities in the three years action 2005-2007 that meted with the seven axes to implement the objective in limited time, these are:

1. Poverty of young female specially breadwinner.
2. Occupational and technical education and training for female youth.
3. Women neglect ion in politics and decision-making.

WID/GAD related laws and regulations

Laws and regulations	Date	Content
The Declaration of Independence that was adopted by the Palestinian National Council in 1988, which stipulates that there shall be "No discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion , colour, or gender"	---	---
The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women,	1979	----
United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China,	1995	---
UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that deals with the impact of war on women and women's contribution to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.	---	---

Source: Ministry of Women's Affairs

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, δ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ■: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

2-3 National Machinery

Ministry of Women's Affairs

Upon the participation of women representatives of the PA and local NGOs in Beijing, a committee of 14 members was established in 1996. This committee functioned through the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). A national action plan was formulated to meet the needs of Palestinian women. Now ministry of women's affairs concerns to all this activities.

Ministry of Women's Affairs

The Ministry of Women's Affairs' work is based on the following national documents and international conventions and agreements:

- The Declaration of Independence that was adopted by the Palestinian National Council in 1988, which stipulates that there shall be "No discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, color, or gender"
- The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979.
- United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995.
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that deals with the impact of war on women and women's contribution to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

Ministry Mission

Mission of the ministry is to empower Palestinian women and enhance their capacities and status so that they can exercise their human, political and citizenship rights and so that they participated and share in building and developing a democratic Palestinian state and an active civil society that are based on equality and human rights.

The general goal of the ministry

General goal is to increase gender sensitivity amongst decision makers and to ensure the government's commitment to gender issues and the advancement of women's status in Palestinian society and to guarantee their full political, economic social and citizenship rights.

The specific goals

Improve the government's political commitment to the integration of gender, democracy and human right into the policies, plans and programs of various ministries and relevant legislations and laws.

Utilize all lobbying and advocacy efforts so as to improve relevant policies and laws.

Establish a network with regional and international women's organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to exchange experiences in relation to the implementation of international agreements on women and human rights.

Areas of focus in the three years action plan (2005 -2007)

- Activate women's role in policy and decision making positions.
- Alleviate young women's poverty, especially among those who head their households.
- Promote Technical and Vocational Education and Training for young women.

The general goal of the three year plan (2005 -2007)

To ensure a legal and political framework that is sensitive to women's issues and that facilitates the empowerment of women, in general, and young women' in particular, so that they can reach policy and decision making positions

Sours: plan of MOWA

Ministry's relation with relevant institutions

Participate, coordinate, set priorities, work jointly in implementing profit, network, advocate, organize awareness raising and media campaigns and assist in capacity building. The gender unit initiated in all ministries according to ministry council decision dated 3/5/2005 with general goal: Establish universal vision and forming main concept to strengthen and enable the Palestinian women through gender concept, and consider social diversity and women needs in all polices and procedures adopted by the ministry. This unit coordinates the professional relation between the ministry of women affair and the gender units in the different ministries.

Ministers' council decides on 3/5/2005 to create gender units in the ministries.

Gender units

The tasks and responsibilities deal with the social aspects:

Active participation in implementation and development of general ministry polices and consider social and gender aspects in these polices. Follow and monitor the development of general budget of the ministry to suit the needs of Palestinian women priorities and to ensure consideration of social and gender aspects in designing, implementing, follow up, and evaluation.

Participation in planning, follow program evaluation, different ministry activities in relation with social, and gender issues to harmonize with national strategy for women Act to identify the social type problems in the sectors of the ministry who are working to improve the qualitative and quantitative indicators to help in follow up the integration of gender concept in the ministry's policy and program. The gender units' work to activate the developmental polices in different sectors in the ministry that it support all directorates in the ministry in developing polices taking women in consideration and suggest practical polices and programs for this purpose. It works to review and modify the valid programs and polices. The gender unit has to

make balance between the programs, policies, and evaluates the programs executed by the ministry from social view to know how much women is considered in these programs and determine the policies to be generalized.

Sours: ministers' council decision No. 12

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, đ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ■: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

3. Current Situation of Women by Sector

3-1 Education

Education

The chances of education for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have increased. This is clear from both the percentages of literacy and the statistics of enrollment among the Palestinian population, which reflects the value of education within the West Bank and Gaza Strip society. Palestinians under occupation have perceived education as a major means of social and economic flexibility. Regarding to Gender gaps in education and according to data below, we can say that there are no discernible gender gap in the enrolment rates of girls and boys at the basic education level. This gender gap is most acute in vocational education at the secondary level where girls form a modest 13 percent of total enrolment and tend to OPT for studies in the areas of nursing and commerce.

[Primary and secondary education]

The compulsory education in WB & GS is 6 years of primary and 16 years old of the secondary education.

[Ministry Of Education & higher Education Vision δ]

Realizing the importance of quality education and higher educational standards, the Ministry has expended great efforts on teacher training, providing teachers with the necessary skills needed to serve our youth, and prepare them for the modern age of information and technology. Four-hundred computer labs have been established in our schools for the students' use, some of the schools have also been connected to the Internet, and the Ministry has adopted a plan to train teachers in the field of Information Technology (IT) to improve their performance.

Additionally, the Ministry adopted a strategy for developing the educational infrastructure for vocational and technical education, the human and material resources, the curricula, and the legislation necessary for achieving these objectives. Our resources are limited, and the conditions are very difficult and harsh under military occupation, only with resolve and determination will we be successful, and achieve our future aspiration. Our accomplishments in education will make our people and our President, Yasser Arafat, proud in realizing what he has repeatedly stated about our educational system, that "your hard work and your sincere dedication shall, continue to pay-off because it is the essence of the Palestinian people." Our success will also make our national hero and poet Mahmoud Darwish pleased, for he has once said: "The future starts at the Ministry of Education, and the national project will not be complete without it."

The Israeli aggression, sieges and incursions had the worst effect on the educational process and on the human or physical, and psychological sides. Many students, teachers and employees faced arresting, humiliation and suffering by Israeli soldiers on military check points between cities and villages in the west bank. Aside from the fact that many of the students were martyred, others were injured, and suffered difficulties on their way to or in

schools, they were also subject to some psychological problems in which affected their school performance and future.

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, ǿ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR
x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ▣: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

[The objectives of the education policy of MOE&hE ð]

1. Identify and assess obstacles that prevent women from continuing their basic education.
2. Provide equal opportunities of education, training for women in education both as students and teachers in all levels of education.
3. Eliminate obstacles against coeducational education.
4. Decrease illiteracy rates reaching elimination levels.
5. Unify and develop educational curricula to incorporate and reflect concepts of equality, democracy, human rights, civil service, and vocational, technical and environmental awareness.
6. Prevent school dropout among women students.
7. Introduce new vocational, technical and scientific education opportunities for women.
8. Increase percentage of decision-making participation and opportunities for women in the education sector.
9. Enforce the compulsory basic education policy in all areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with special emphasis on the rural areas and communities.

[Five Developmental Principles of MOE&hE ð]

1. Education as a human right: All children between the ages of 6 and 16 years old have the right to receive free basic education, regardless of social or economic status, gender, or religious belief.
2. Education as the basic component of citizenship: Together with the family and the community, the school shall be a main catalyst for developing the Palestinian citizen's character, moral values and social responsibilities.
3. Education as a tool for social and economic development: Education must meet the political, social and economic challenges of Palestinian society.
4. Education as the basis for social and moral values, and democracy: Education shall be the cornerstone for building a Palestinian society with strong commitment to ethics, principles, and openness to the global culture.
5. Education as a continuous, renewable, participatory process: Education is a life-long activity, in and out of school, fuelled by classroom learning, social relations and communications, community activities, and the mass media.
The Ministry, therefore, adopted the approach of working cooperatively and collectively with official and non-official institutions in formulating and implementing the Plan.

[Implementation of the comprehensive Five-Year-Plan of MOE&hE ð]

To translate the Plan into action, procedures and standards were prepared to insure proper implementation in achieving the five elements of the Plan:

ONE: The program's main objectives in developing and achieving quality education are the production, assessment, evaluation, and enrichment of school textbooks and instruction manuals for the Palestinian Curriculum as well as teacher and supervisor training. This program will cost \$35.7 million.

TWO: This program aims to provide the opportunity for all children and adults of all ages to receive proper education, from kindergarten to secondary school, by recruiting new teachers, adding new classrooms, textbooks, increasing the level of enrollment in the secondary stage, and decreasing the dropout rate. The expected cost of the program is approximately \$1319.7 million for the five-year period of the Plan.

THREE: The development of a vocational and technical training program that focuses on meeting the basic needs of the local market, and providing the skilled and proficient workforce

that can contribute positively to the national economy. The plan also offers extended learning within the framework of formal education through the introduction of technical training, as well as providing schools with the necessary equipment and resources. The overall cost of the program is estimated to be around \$72.1 million in 2000-2004.

FOUR: Developing new programs for general education, pre-school care, informal education, adult education, and special education, that is available for the general population. By providing schooling for kindergarten-age children the program offers support for parents and improves the quality of education in the long-run. \$9.1 million will be allocated for the program.

FIVE: Restructuring the financial and administrative systems to ensure efficient use of available resources. The program will include the school-map project, as well as reinforce concepts of strategic planning and organizational administration. It focuses on developing and reviewing policies, and rules and regulations; updating of position responsibilities and job descriptions; and developing relations between schools and the local community. The estimated cost for the life of this program is about \$109.2 million.

Situation of Education ² While gender equality and gender integration have been taken more seriously by the Ministry of Education than in other ministries, resulting in comparatively smaller gender gaps than in other sectors, these gains in the educational level of women have not translated into improvements for women in the labour force and the public life. The education sector faces a major challenge in moving gender equality issues from quantitative to qualitative levels if it is to contribute to effecting real changes in gender roles and responsibilities.

Gender gaps in education ² the overall literacy rates for men and women are estimated at 96.3 per cent and 87.4 per cent, respectively. There is no discernible gender gap in the enrolment rates of girls and boys at the basic education level, at 91.7 per cent and 90.9 per cent, respectively. Gender gaps appear in the older classes. In the 15-17 age bracket, 58.3 per cent of girls are enrolled in education compared to 51.0 per cent of boys; and 28.1 per cent of girls and 26.2 per cent of boys aged 18 years and over are enrolled in higher education. This gender gap is most acute in vocational education at the secondary level where girls form a modest 13 per cent of total enrolment and tend to OPT for studies in the areas of nursing and commerce. One of the main short-term priorities of MOWA is to increase the participation of young women in non-traditional technical and vocational training and education, including computer maintenance. This training will improve the job opportunities of women and enable them to access jobs that are better remunerated. Currently, at the Baccalaureate level, young women form 49.4 per cent of total enrolment in community colleges and 48.9 per cent of total enrolment in the eight universities of WB & GS; and at the Masters level, this percentage of total enrolment drops modestly to 35.2 per cent. While these rates are encouraging, gender differences by region and fields of specialization are less encouraging. Given the policy of streaming students into academic and vocational or

industrial tracks, educational opportunities have been severely limited, particularly for girls who have largely been encouraged to choose arts courses, thereby limiting their opportunity in the labour force. Similarly, gender gaps in the dropout rates tend to increase with the Level of education, starting with parity for boys and girls at some 2.4 per cent in the primary cycle, and rising to 8 Percent for girls and 6.1 per cent for boys at the secondary level this gender disparity arises out of the different motives for leaving education. While boys typically drop out of school to seek work and provide an income for the household during financial difficulties, girls usually withdraw from education to enter early marriage.

3-2 Health

Health

The West bank and Gaza Strip health care system is a mixture of public, non-governmental, UNRWA and private (profit and not-for-profit) service delivery, with a developing governmental health insurance system. However, there are many physicians who are working in more than one setting, including public and private clinic or NGOs. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for a significant portion of both primary health care and secondary and some tertiary care. UNRWA plays an important role in health services, providing free of charge primary health care and purchasing secondary and tertiary services to many of registered refugees.

Total Fertility Rate, Fertility of Palestinian women is high comparing to the fertility rates of women in neighbouring Arab countries, and very high comparing to the European Union. TFR was calculated to be 4.19 according to the data on number of women and live births in the year 2004. Environmental problems contribute both to health problems in the family, particularly children, and to the burden of women in the home. These problems include, the degradation and inadequacy of groundwater in the Gaza Strip, and the lack of piped sewage systems in rural areas of the West Bank.

[Health Finance]

National Health Expenditures: In a study conducted by the PCBS, the estimation of public health expenditures (PHE) per capita in 2003 was 138.4 US\$. The PHE formed about 13.0% of the GDP, while the Percent of Palestinian National Authority budget allocated for health was 7% in 2003. The percentage of the external donations allocated for the health sector constituted 5% of the total donations.

MOH Expenditures: Excluding the expenditures for treatment abroad, the total expenditures of the MOH in 2004 was about 134,222,222 US\$, while the postulated budget by the MOF was estimated with 114,222,223 US\$, the MOH expenditure per capita was 41.32 US\$. The deficit in medications and medical supplies reported was 444,444 US\$ (1.7% of the postulated). It is of importance to indicate that, salaries formed 59.8% out of MOH total expenditures.

Primary Health Care (PHC) Over the past years, the Palestinian health care system has developed side by side along with the development of Palestinian society in general. The total number of PHC centres in Palestine was 619; the MOH are responsible for 63.2%. Average of persons per centre was 6,038. The ratio of visits per person was 1.08. In addition, to 1,265,539 visits were reported to specialized clinics in 2003.

Mental Health Due to the current situation and the Israeli violence, large number of children suffers from psychological trauma. There was a noticeable increase in the visits of patients to mental health clinics by 20.3%. This was shown in epilepsy, schizophrenia, mental retardation, nocturnal enuresis, and affective disorder cases. In addition, there was an increase in neurosis cases among population with a percentage of 11.9%.

The State of Nutrition: West Bank and Gaza Strip The objective of the State of Nutrition

report is to provide a consensus document about the state of nutrition in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT). The available information on nutrition has been put together by the Ministry of Health (MOH) Nutrition Departments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Though the Nutrition Departments are physically separate, they have worked together to agree the text and the conclusions reached. This joint activity is the first opportunity the ND has had to engage in work of this type and represents an important first step to increasing their capacity in nutrition co-ordination. The findings of the report will be used to feed into a workshop that will develop a national plan of implementation for nutrition to be held in March 2005

Oral and dental health MOH owns and operates 41 dental clinics. The number of visits to dental clinics was 163,259 with an increasing percentage of 32% in comparison with 2002.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) , The TFR in Palestine by region was 5.5 in the Gaza Strip and 3.7 in the West Bank. In general, the annual average TFR was 4.1 in the last five years. TFR rate has been decreased over the past 5 years from 4.34 in the year 2000 to 4.19 in 2004. This indicates the great efforts which are done in the domain of family planning and reproductive health. In 2004 PCBS published in demographic health survey, that TFR in Palestine was 5.6 (5.2 in WB and 6.6 in G S)

Anemia among women During a study conducted in the UNRWA in the year 2004, the prevalence rate of anemia among pregnant women was 34.6% and 48.9% among nursing mothers visited the UNRWA - PHC centres for antenatal services in Gaza. During home visits program which is conducted by Women's Health and Development Directorate in the MOH, Haemoglobin (HB) has been examined for 1,107 visited mothers after delivery in Shifa hospital in Gaza especially those at high-risk pregnancy or who has complication/s during delivery. The results indicated that 72.7% of women were anemic. Out of the total number, 0.5% was diagnosed 8 gm/dl, 14.1% 8-10 gm/dl and 58.1% 10-11 gm/dl. In West Bank, among 3,368 women with high risk pregnancy, 3.7% were diagnosed 9 gm/dl, 39.4% diagnosed 9-11 gm/dl and 56.9% diagnosed 11gm/dl. Ferrous sulphate and folic acid as a tonic is distributed for pregnant women and children under 3 in the MOH and UNRWA as free of charge.

Breast-feeding According to the data obtained from DHS, 95.6% of children were breastfed (95.7 in WB, 95.6 in GS) with mean duration of breastfeeding 9.9 months, 25.4% of children aged 0-6 months were exclusively breastfed (23.5% in GS and 26.8 in WB), 38.1% were mixed fed (41.7% in GS and 26.5% in WB), 2.9% exclusively received milk other than breast milk (2.4% in the GS and 3.4% in the WB), and 9.8% of children weaned during the first three months (10.3% in WB, 9.2% in GS) . The data obtained during home visits program indicated that 83.5% of infants have had exclusive breast-feeding for different periods. About 14.9% of infants have been receiving mixed feeding and 1.6% with artificial feeding.

Gaps in health ² More than 98 per cent of Palestinian women are aware of contraceptive methods. According to a survey undertaken by PCBS, 47.9 per cent of women use some form

of contraceptive, including 13.5 per cent who use traditional methods and 34.4 per cent who use modern methods. In addition, while 96.5 per cent of women received antenatal care, a significantly low 33.6 per cent of women received postnatal care. Moreover, 60 per cent of deliveries were performed by doctors and 37 per cent by nurses and midwives. In 1995, approximately 40-50 per cent of women interviewed in a survey on mental health reported psychological distress, particularly depression, somatization. disorders and obsessive-compulsive behaviour. In 1992, 55 per cent of cancer cases among Palestinian women were related to the reproductive system. There is no real reliable data for AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. While women have a higher rate of disability due to congenital, genetic and birth disorders, men have a higher overall disability rate at 2,302 per 100,000 compared to 1,802 per 100,000. Moreover, men tend to suffer more disabilities through injuries caused by accidents and the conflict. However, it has been suggested that the gender gap in disabled females deserves investigation to see whether premature death due to neglect could be a factor. In 1996, there were only two certified gynaecologists operating in the Gaza Strip despite the stated preference for female doctors by women in gynaecological care.

[Family planning] Because of the religious restriction, the family planning does not show much progress, Married women have enough knowledge of birth control but the contraceptive avoided till now, Women worry about the side effects of using the Pill and IUD, They involve in the maternal health and care of before and after birth through clinics

3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

Agriculture is an important sector of the Palestinian economy, since it plays a key role from its participation in the GDP and external trade. Agriculture and farmers faced many problems during the years of wall and occupation. This was due to the deficiency of planning, policies and services related to agriculture. The actual work in the agriculture started with the establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in 1994. Agriculture contributes about 9.3% of GDP in 2003 according to Palestinian human development report (PHDR) and around 11.9 % of men and 29.9 % of women of the total employment.

[Agricultural Policy and Gender]

On the long run strategy of the agriculture development in Palestine 1997-2010

mentioned: The plan acts to rehabilitate the rural society using comprehensive rural development process to develop the Palestinian rural areas, here they concentrate on the gender concept to promote them to participate in the production process and decision making in the rural society. This issue enforces the high level decision makers in the agriculture to adopt the comprehensive rural development process as one of the strategic goals in the agriculture development depends on the human.

Source: Ministry Of Agriculture

[Ownership of farming land and agrarian reform] Prevailing laws governing inheritance stipulate that men and women have the equal right to inherit, but in practice many women come under pressure from male relatives to give up their inheritance in order to keep property within the family and not allow it to be transferred to the women's husband and his family.

Source: gender-based violence in Palestine, moftah. 2006)

In a similar manner, while women are legally entitled to own land, they are often pressured to give up their share of inheritance to male family members or to keep the land ownership in the name of a male family member. Data shows that 97% of the agriculture holder in GS are male & 3% are female.

Source: PCBS, 2005. farm structure survey 2004/2005

[Rural life and gender] Data shows that 92.1% of the permanent agricultural employments in GS are male & 7.9 are female

Women resemble the second higher number in agricultural activity in spite of unpaid work they perform, that most of the farms owned to the family, they bear the different hard work in the farm without any consideration to their needs or opinion or their home responsibilities.

These works are not calculated in the economic evaluation. The matter of neglecting women participation in agriculture demonstrated in free work and their absence from agriculture cooperation societies and agricultural colleagues. Free work for female and not giving them

their wages affects the whole agricultural activity and reduce the general indicator of agricultural wages and make it the lowest wages in the economical activities.

Source: PCBS, 2005.farm structure survey 2004/2005

[Forestry] The forest area in Gaza resemble only 1.5% of GS in 2004, also the area in the west bank 3.7% of WB in 2004

[Fisheries] This sector is almost for men, the participation of women is almost non-existent Before the Aqsa Intifada the women were working in the fish cleaning exported to Israel or for local use in restaurants and hotels, but after the year 2000 and complete closure of the PT their work were very limited, more ever Fishermen in Gaza have limited access to the Mediterranean sea &where there is access the coastal waters suffer from over fishing.

[Extension Activities and Training for Women] Agriculture continues to play an important role in the economies of the majority of developing and third world countries despite the negative consequences of the rapid and large transformations occurring in the world economy nowadays as a result of aggressive globalization.

The agricultural sectors in these countries are subjected to huge pressures invoked by globalization such as the dumping of food and agricultural products from the US and Europe in their markets. The dictated obligations to introduce structural adjustments cut support to vital sectors such as agriculture and favour new sectors that can only survive with external inputs. The imposition of privatization policy forms another obstacle that these countries face in their confrontation with unified global capital and gender blind globalization. Consequently, these policies lead to the deformation of the agricultural structure and destruction of traditional farming methods and crops, which are replaced by export crops and systems requiring high-technology tools and huge capital investments. Societies in developing countries will not escape the impact of these policies. Nevertheless, the agricultural sectors in developing countries are anchored in their capacity of steadfastness against the aforementioned pressures for the sake of ensuring the minimal required food production to prevent mass starvation and total devastation. They enjoy a high presence in the national consciousness and developmental awareness of the people of these countries. Furthermore, the agricultural sectors are rich repositories of the collective proficiency and know-how of the native people of these countries. The Palestinian agricultural sector demonstrates the following comparative advantages that give it a prominence in the Palestinian de facto situation under the Israeli occupation.

1) Maintaining and reproducing of the Palestinian steadfastness and existence: The various statistical data indicated that this sector plays a very crucial role in ensuring job opportunities and employments. The agriculture's contribution to employment has risen from

12.7% in 1995 up to 16% in 2004. In addition, agriculture has guaranteed work for more than 39% of those who work in informal sectors. In 2004 more than 17% of Palestinian families relied on subsistence farming to survive.

2) Ensuring food security: The agricultural sector still plays a central role in achieving food security for Palestinian families as quite a good number of families depend on this sector in answering their needs by means of family and domestic projects. It is worth noting that despite of the slight drop by 2% in the size of farmed lands between the years 2002-2003, the Palestinians managed to maintain a relatively steady average of cultivated lands with field crops, vegetables and fruits besides raising animals such as cows, goats and sheep. These indicators reveal the flexibility and sustainability of the agricultural sector in the provision of the basic food needs for the majority of the Palestinians away from the control of the Israeli economy mechanisms. Thus, the Palestinian agriculture contributes greatly to the enhancement of the economic independence and future disengagement between the Palestinian and Israeli economies.

3) Playing a vital role in the success of other economic sectors: Agriculture in Palestine is considered a source of sustainability of many Palestinian industries such as food, fodders, leather, shoes, soap, furniture, cosmetics and tourist industry. Agricultural produce constitute essential inputs to all of the aforementioned industries which indicate that this sector is a central productive focal point in the Palestinian economy.

4) Reducing unemployment: As was earlier mentioned, the Palestinian agricultural sector is known for its elasticity and ability to generate jobs, which can help ease the harsh economic situation and alleviate pockets of poverty among the population. The Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) data for 2004 indicated that unemployment percentage reached 24.5% in rural areas whereas it reached 25.5% and 32.7% in cities and refugee camps respectively.

5) Utilizing agricultural machinery: The Palestinian agricultural sector contains quite a big number of machines and equipment despite of the deformation that occurred in its structure and the erosion of its resources.

6) Maintaining agricultural know-how and proficiency: Palestinians have quite good knowledge of agricultural practices and technologies. Rural areas reflect cultural, social and agricultural accumulated awareness. These facts enable the agricultural sector to absorb the external pressures and challenges faced by the Palestinian people.

7) A climate that promotes diverse crops: In Palestine, quite a big number of crop varieties are produced nearly around the year. Some of these varieties have a competitive advantage such as dates, which is grown in limited amounts throughout the world.

8) An international reputation for high-quality natural and organically produce: The trend of the Palestinian farmers and consumers is against the genetically improved and chemically proliferated crops. This can enhance the marketing opportunities for the

Palestinian agricultural produce in the world market in addition to placing it in the forefront of the Palestinian economic sectors.

9) A tradition of great economic strength: Historically, Palestinian agriculture comprised the lion's share of the economy. During the seventies its contribution reached nearly 50% of GDP. However, there was a huge decline in 2004 when it dipped to 10.8% of the GDP, which was the average percentage of agriculture during the past four years. It is worth noting that the systematic policies of the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at the destruction of Palestinian agriculture, in addition to the lack of budgetary support from the Palestinian Authority were the root causes of this deterioration in the agricultural sector.

10) Deep connections to all of Palestinian society: The Palestinian agricultural sector is central to 88% of Palestine's cities, towns and villages. Nearly 60% of Palestinians live in the rural areas. Moreover, this sector introduces the strongest foundation for developing the status and role of the Palestinian women as statistics indicated that almost 90% of the women in informal economy work in agriculture. And rural women form 30% of the Palestinian women power.

11) Local agricultural production can be globalization-proof: The Palestinian agricultural sector escapes the harsh consequences of globalization compared with the other Palestinian sectors most notably the commercial and public sectors which rely on foreign grants and loans and therefore are subjected to the external obligations and prerequisites.

Conclusion: The above-mentioned facts and figures indicate that the Palestinian agricultural system is the safety valve for guaranteeing the long lasting Palestinian sovereignty and will. Therefore, the Palestinian Authority, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, the non-governmental organizations working in rural and agricultural development and the private sector are called to make intensive efforts to improve this sector and encourage local and foreign investors to invest in agricultural infrastructures and projects.

Source: Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC)

Agricultural Employment in 2003

The labour force survey published by the PCBS shows the relative distribution of workers in the agricultural sector in 2003. About 11.1% of males and 30.9% of females were employed in the sector in the West Bank as opposed to 13.8% of males and 43.1% of females in Gaza Strip. The rates of daily wages in agriculture in 2003 were higher than in 2002, up by 4.7% in the West Bank and by 15.3% in the Gaza Strip.

About half of the employed youth aged (10-14) year's work in agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing

Data showed that 47.6% of population aged (10-14) years are working in agriculture, hunting

forestry and fishing, 23.5% are working in trade, restaurants and hotels sectors.

The results showed a decrease in the percentage of employment for those who are working in Agriculture sector in the West Bank (17.1% in the 4th quarter 2005 to 15.1% in the 1st quarter 2006) the change rate 17.3%. While the percentage decreased in Gaza Strip of those who are working in Construction from 9.8% in 4th quarter 2005 to 8.1% in 1st quarter 2006 (the change rate 17.3%).

The volume of water production (wells and springs) in the West Bank in 2003 topped 116 million cubic meters (some 52% from springs), a 23% increase over 2002 the volume of water available for household use in the West Bank was about 62 million cubic meters. Of this amount, 58% was purchased from the Israeli water company (Mekerot). In contrast, the volume of water available for agriculture in the West Bank amounted to 84.5 million cubic meters. Of these, 4.5 million cubic meters were imported. The percentage of water loss remained high (40%). The per capita share of water in 2003 was about 49 liters daily, a drop of some 5.8% in comparison with 2002.

In the Gaza Strip, the volume of water production in 2003 amounted to some 150 million cubic meters. Of these, 40% was good for household and industrial uses. The remaining water was used for agricultural purposes. From the Israeli water carrier, Mekerot, some 3.25 million cubic meters were purchased. After deducting percentage of loss (38%), the per capita share of water in the Gaza Strip was 90 liters daily.

3-4 Economic Activities

Economic Activities

There is no doubt that the present economic situation and indicators in the Palestinian territories are the joint, interconnected responsibility of all parties that impact the development process and manage the course of Palestinian's daily life (albeit to varying degrees). The economic situation may be discussed in terms of three factors: The internal factor, The Israeli factor, and the international aid factor. Israeli actions in the Palestinian territories, especially since the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Intifada, have caused extensive disruption to the Palestinian economic infrastructure. These measures not only doomed Palestinian attempts to rehabilitate their economy and correct the structural deficiencies plaguing it from the time of Israeli occupation, but also reduced public and private production levels, investment in the Palestinian territories and created distortions in the Palestinian labour market. This new economic reality is plagued by numerous gaps and imbalances, which can be summarized.

Background about Palestinian Economy

The Palestinian economy is unique in the sense that political economy issues play a much more critical role in gauging economic performance. Since the start of the second Intifada in September 2000, the Palestinian economy has experienced severe structural shocks and adjustments. Unemployment currently stands at 40% of the labour force, almost one half of the population lives below the poverty line of \$2 a day, and investment is virtually non-existent. There are at least four explanations for this poor economic performance: closures, withholding of tax revenues, labour flow reductions to Israel, and dependency. The most detrimental effect of closures, both within the Palestinian Territories and with the rest of the world, is that it increases transaction costs – the cost of doing business. A basic requirement in a market type economy is capital and labour mobility within a country, let alone with the rest of the world. It has been estimated that transaction costs in the Palestinian economy are about 30% higher than in the rest of the world. This has led to severe market imperfections and losses in competitiveness. A second explanation is that under the Revenue Clearance System in place under the Oslo agreement between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the government of Israel, the latter is required to transfer to the PA all import duties on products destined to the Palestinian Territories. This source of much needed income has been repeatedly withheld by Israel and has caused severe budget deficits since almost half of the PA revenue is derived from this source of income. To a large extent, this widening budget deficit has been repeatedly financed by donor countries. The third explanation is the reduction in Palestinian labour flows to Israel. Prior to September 2000, almost 150,000 Palestinian workers commuted daily to their jobs in Israel generating an annual wage income of about \$800 million. Today, only about 15,000 workers are allowed to cross into Israel under strict security checks and procedures, further discouraging workers. This dramatic shortfall in wage income has been partially supplemented by foreign aid. Finally, the traditional dependency of

Palestinian trade on the Israeli economy has distorted prices and reduced competitiveness. Almost 90% of our exports are destined to Israel, and 70% of our imports are from Israel. This generated annual export. Revenues of about \$600 million prior to September 2000 Today this figure is drastically reduced and we are very often forced to import primarily from Israel, through intermediaries, at highly uncompetitive prices. Yet under all these constraints, the Palestinian economy has shown a remarkable degree of resilience. Palestinian Authority institutions are still able to function efficiently and deliver basic services, albeit with the much appreciated assistance of donor countries. The private sector has also adapted to the changing needs of consumers as consumption and expenditure patterns have changed. One of the primary mechanisms through which we have coped under these difficult constraints is through inter-household family transfers and other creative coping strategies. These coping strategies and learning experience under occupation can surely be regarded as a fundamental cornerstone in the establishment of a viable Palestinian State in the near future.

In Terms of Three Main Gaps (Source PHDR)

- **The financial resources gap** The PNA suffers most heavily from this gap as a result of a substantial decline in its financial resources during the past three years. Financial revenue was lost in three areas: a decline in tax revenue accruing from economic activities in the Palestinian region; a decline in returns from customs duties due to a decrease in trade with Israel; and the Israeli seizure of a large portion of tax and duties revenues as a punitive measure against the Palestinians.
- **The continuing Palestinian trade deficit gap** This gap is particularly significant vis-à-vis Israel. The data show that this deficit reached approximately \$2,081 million during 2003. And despite the trade deficit's decline immediately prior to the outbreak of the intifada, what is disturbing is that the decline was the result of a complete reversal in imports and exports at an almost equal rate. This volatility demonstrates the sensitivity of Palestinian exports to external factors.
- **The employment gap** Israeli siege and closure have cut off more than 125,000 Palestinian workers from jobs inside the Green Line, causing the unemployment rate in the Palestinian territories to rise to more than 40 percent during 2002. This rate fell to approximately 25 percent in 2003.

The Decrease in Domestic Product and Rise in Prices Accompanying the aforementioned gaps are new economic statistics, which may be summed up as follows: GDP during 2003 was approximately \$4,143.3 million, 10.3 percent less than in 2000. Moreover, GDP per capita declined by approximately 24.4 percent during the same period. Economic indicators for Palestinian productive sectors showed a reversal in general. For the majority of these sectors, the contribution to domestic product declined. Moreover, their employment capacity declined, and these sectors also suffered direct material losses. The general consumer price index has risen steeply in recent years. Prices have increased more than 37.7 percent as compared to the year 1996. Steadily rising prices have affected the living standards of many Palestinian families. Compounding the problem, unemployment levels in the Palestinian territories have also increased during the present period, even as the disposable income of most Palestinian families has declined. Among these families, 72.3 percent depend on earned income to cover expenses. These factors have led to the spread of poverty among Palestinians; the data show that 67.7 percent of Palestinian families (62.6 percent in the West Bank and 77.5 percent in the Gaza Strip) were living under the poverty line (as defined by income) in 2003. The median poverty line for families composed of six members was approximately 1,800 NIS in 2003, or about \$395 per month.

Gaps in labour and economy While in other regions there is an awareness that investments in female employment has a profound and positive impact on the economic and human development of society, this link is still largely misunderstood by policymakers in WB & GS, who perceive the issue of female employment in terms of rights rather than as an essential component to sound economic planning.

(a) Unemployment: there are major structural obstacles to women's entry into the formal labour force, whose participation in the labour force was a mere 14.6 per cent during the last quarter of 2004. This is a significant increase from the 10.4 per cent at the beginning of the intifada in 2001. Moreover, while data indicate that more women are willing to work than the labour market can absorb, women typically spend four times as long as their male counterparts in search of work. In the fourth quarter of 2004, female unemployment rate was approximately 19.7 per cent of the female labour force, compared to the unemployment rate of 27 per cent for their male counterparts. This disparity is equally a measure of the limited size of the female labour force.

(b) Employment by sector An estimated 30.8 per cent of working women are employed in the education sector, which ranks as the most female-dominated area among the formal sectors in WB & GS. However, women in this sector are concentrated at the lower levels of education and are generally confined to the lower occupational rungs. In addition to prevalent gender-based wage disparities that favour male staff, teachers generally earn less than workers in other professions with lower qualification and skill requirements. While women make up a large part of the agricultural labour force and represent 29.9 per cent of working women, the majority work as unpaid family labour. Despite their legal rights to inherit land, few women actually claim these rights. In addition, women continue to have little access to

agricultural training or extension, agricultural cooperatives and marketing schemes. A total of 5 per cent of working women are employed in the public sector compared to 12 per cent of men. This disparity is predominantly due to the fact that the biggest growth area of the PNA has been in the security services and police, which have created more employment opportunities for men. Approximately 8.1 per cent of female workers are employed in the processing and manufacturing industry. A further 6.9 per cent work in the health sector, 6.8 per cent in managerial positions and 6.4 per cent in small trade businesses.

(c) Employment in the non-formal sector: An estimated 66 per cent of women are working in the non-formal sector. They are often involved in unpaid family work and business, or develop income generating business within their own homes. While this work is not accounted for within the employment statistics, it is an important source of income for households. Much of this work falls within traditional women's work, including sewing, embroidery and making food preserves. Even in this non-formal sector where women typically already possess the necessary skills and know-how, it is important to offer them training aimed at improving these skills and developing innovative ones. There are a number of NGOs that were established in 1990s to serve the needs of these women and to offer them the required training and skills.

(d) Employment status: In 2001, the salaries of women in WB & GS were typically 80.8 per cent of those of their male counterparts. While the percentage of working women in the West Bank who are classified as unpaid labourers has dropped modestly from 30.5 per cent in 1996 to 27.8 per cent in 2002, there has been a significant increase in the Gaza Strip from 5.0 per cent in 1996 to 34.5 per cent in 2002. At the same time, the percentage of working men who are classified as unpaid labour has remained fairly constant in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip over this same period

Initiatives and opportunities While the structural context of policies and programmes aimed at creating jobs for women is restricted, major opportunities do exist in the current situation. Foremost among these are a comparatively open and positive attitude at a societal level with regard to women working outside the home; and a basic desire by women to find work opportunities. Consequently, there is a vital need to establish job creation schemes for women, particularly in the target group of new graduates of community colleges and universities. Within that context, such large-scale job creation projects as the Gaza Industrial Estate (GIE) need to be analysed and incorporated into training and job placement programmes for women. While a number of credit and training programmes exist for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), women tend to represent a small proportion of borrowers and are typically offered smaller loans. There is therefore a need to redress this imbalance and promote female entrepreneurs in the local environment, thereby encouraging married women with children and lower education to generate income and contribute to the national economy. Such participation has paradoxically been facilitated by the downturn in the

standards of living since many conservative families and spouses have been compelled to accept the notion of working women.

(Source: social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005)

Gaps in poverty Gender gaps and poverty are linked in a cyclical fashion whereby gender inequities contribute to poverty and poverty contributes to gender inequities. Consequently, there is an urgent need to adopt policies that take a gender rights-based approach to alleviating poverty and specifically address poor women. This is particularly essential given that women tend to have limited access to resources and assets, which makes them more financially disadvantaged than men. Moreover, while households headed by women constituted 11 per cent of total Palestinian households in 2000, 29.8 per cent of these households are living in poverty. Of these households, 72 per cent are widows, 11 per cent are married but their husbands either live abroad or have other families, and 7 per cent are divorced or separated. In addition, 77.5 per cent of poor households have eight or more members. Indeed, the highest incidence of poverty was found in those households with more than eight members, at 24 per cent; and the lowest incidence in those households containing fewer than eight members, at 7 per cent.

(Source: social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005)

[Women workers in public and private sector] (Source PHDR)

Sector	Employment				Total	%
	Male	%	Female	%		
Government				29%		
Private						
Own Account (Self-employed)						
Unpaid Family Worker	400	0.3	225.200	66.5		47.8
Total						

3-5 Political Participation

Political Participation

In 1995, following an attack on Bet Lid, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made his goals more specific: "This path must lead to separation, though not according to the borders prior to 1967. We want to reach a separation between us and them. " The construction of the Israeli Apartheid Wall began on the 16th of June, 2002. This barrier, which will eventually extend over approximately 790 km, In September 28th 2000, The Israeli prime minister (Mr. SHARON) paid provocative visit to (Al-Aqsa mosque) that causes the current uprising. The Israeli intensifies its aggression against Palestinians and their authority. It imposed a comprehensive siege and banned movement between cities and towns of Palestine. More than **1,920** Palestinian and **four hundred** Israeli were killed, and more than **50,000** Palestinian were injured.

Gender gaps in political participation ²

Civil society in WB & GS evolved in a pluralistic and progressive direction as the population sought democratic alternatives to counter the repressive regime of the occupation. This repression, particularly during the first intifada, encouraged Palestinian society to seek democratic alternatives and a participatory model of government that differed from the largely centralist and bureaucratic models that are prevalent in the Arab region. Within that context, the Palestinian women's movement played a key role in promoting programmes of gender equality and public empowerment by focusing on skills, leadership and democracy through campaigns and workshops throughout WB & GS. While these new forms of participation and representation benefited both individuals and the capacity of the women's movement, these efforts were severely hampered by problems of centralism and nepotism. The PNA established the Ministry of Women's Affairs in November 2003 to address the existing gender gap in all spheres of Palestinian society. Within that framework, one of the primary mandates of the Ministry is to amend existing laws and regulations, and to introduce new legislations that enhance the position of Palestinian women in legal, economic and social areas. Given the ability to air and promote 22 women's issues within the cabinet, the establishment of the Ministry is a positive step towards increasing women's participation in the political decision-making process. The major gender gaps in the area of political participation include the following:

- (a) Gender inequality in the political arena was rife before the accession of the PNA. By the end of 1996, women comprised a modest 7.5 per cent of the 744 members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the representative body of the PLO. Within the PLO itself, only 3 of the 100 members of the Central Council are women, and there are no women among the 16 members of the Executive Committee;
- (b) Similarly, the participation of women in the leadership of political parties is extremely limited and amounts to the following: 11.6 per cent of the Central Committee of the Popular

Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and two women in the Political Bureau of that party; 19 per cent of the Central Committee of Fida, the Palestinian Democratic Union; 19.5 per cent of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; 5 per cent of the Revolutionary Committee and 5 per cent of the Central Committee of Fatah, which is by far the largest and most influential of the political factions and is the main political party in power. After the Oslo Accords, 22 new members were added to the Revolutionary Council of Fatah, only one of whom was a woman;

(c) While three women played important roles during the Madrid Peace Conference and Subsequent public negotiations in Washington D.C., women have been largely excluded from the crucial peace process negotiations that were held in Oslo 1993 and their outcomes;

(d) During the elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council held in January 1996, only 28 of the 672 candidates for the Legislative Council were women, five of whom were elected, and two became ministers at different periods. In addition, one woman candidate ran in the presidential elections and acquired 14 per cent of the popular vote. While there were attempts to nominate a woman for the 2005 presidential elections, the female candidate was unable to complete all of the required procedures in time owing to the short nomination period;

(e) Given the comparatively recent establishment of governmental institutions and the uneven and gradual process of formulating new policies, integrating gender issues into policy is very much at an initial stage. However, the basic law of WB & GS prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender and provides various women's rights including the right to vote, to participate in elections and to transfer citizenship to their offspring.

Initiatives and opportunities ²

Building a new State of Palestine offers the prospects for increasing public participation in the executive, legislative and judicial structures. Moreover, a fledgling nation provides a rare opportunity to promote and link democratic and gender agendas, thereby ensuring active citizenship through democratic, participatory and accountable governance. This vital link can be raised by various players, including women inside political parties, the Palestinian women's movement, NGOs and other unions and associations concerned with human rights and issues of socio-economic development.

However, the lessons of the transitional period under the Oslo Accords warn that moves to activate citizenship naturally involves empowering women in political parties and requires developing clear agendas that reconcile the participation and rights of women with the basic developmental and economic needs of Palestinian society.

The presence of women in municipal or local councils will enable women to link local community needs with gender issues. The Palestinian women's movement, which lobbied for a quota of 30 per cent in municipal or local councils, was only able to negotiate a 20 per cent quota, which amounts to two women per municipality or council.

The Palestinian women's movement

(Source: social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005)

The Palestinian women's movement drew up the Women's Charter in 1993, which essentially delineated gender equivalence and provided a secular vision of women's rights in terms of justice, democracy, equality and development. Within that context, the charter adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and called for the following: (a) full protection of equal rights in the areas of education, work, ownership of property and political participation, including the decision-making process; (b) an end to discriminatory legislation against women; (c) legal protection against family Violence and restrictions on the freedom of movement of women; and (d) the right to transfer citizenship to a foreign husband and children. The Palestinian women's movement, which routinely suffers from the oppressive practices of the occupation, is currently facing organizational and structural crises that are affecting other Palestinian political parties and popular committees. These crises have contributed to the weakening of the movement's ability to influence the formal policies that bear on gender needs and strategic development. Women have played an influential role in presidential elections by participating in the discussions during the campaign period and through their high turnout at the polls. The Palestinian women's movement and civil society organizations played a crucial role in helping women enter into the political arena by lobbying the Legislative Council to introduce a quota law for women. When the quota law failed to pass the third reading, women's groups organized a delegation that met with opponents to the proposed law and negotiated a compromise that allowed for the eventual passing of the law. The quota law for local elections had a direct and noticeable impact on women's participation in the political process and encouraged women to run for seats in local councils. Moreover, the law spurred people to vote for women candidates given that they were guaranteed at least two seats in each council. In fact, some female candidates obtained a higher number of votes than some of their male opponents and did not, therefore, need to rely on the quota law to become part of the council. In addition, women's organizations played an important role in training and preparing women for the local elections. Within that context, they held training workshops on a number of issues, including the mechanics of nominating candidates to the council, conducting a successful political campaign, and other procedures and processes associated with the roles of council members. Lobbying efforts are currently focused on introducing a quota law in the Legislative Council.

From the Directorate of Gender Planning and Development to the Ministry of Women's Affairs ²

In order to respond to the need for gender equality at a national level, the Directorate of Gender Planning and Development (DGPD) was established in 1996 within the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The two principal objectives of this Directorate were to train women employed in ministries, and to establish women's departments in the various ministries of the PNA. However, the Directorate did not have the mandate to introduce new laws or amend existing ones in order to render them more gender sensitive. Moreover, it could not change the basis of existing inequality. Consequently, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) was established in November 2003 to remedy this issue. While the creation of the Ministry dedicated to women's affairs has been welcomed by many in the Palestinian women's movement, there has been some concern that the relegation of gender issues to a separate ministry could isolate and further marginalize women. However, being aware of such fears, MOWA has taken steps to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed into all governmental institutions. The Ministry focuses on such legal aspects as introducing and amending laws, and allows other relevant ministries and NGOs to implement projects and programmes. Such a division of responsibilities is intended to ensure that MOWA is not the sole body responsible for gender issues. In addition, MOWA ensures that gender is mainstreamed into the policies and programmes of other ministries through gender focal points.

Israel's Apartheid Wall

In 1995, following an attack on Bet Lid, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made his goals more specific: "This path must lead to separation, though not according to the borders prior to 1967. We want to reach a separation between us and them." The construction of the Israeli Apartheid Wall began on the 16th of June, 2002. This barrier, which will eventually extend over approximately 790 km, consists of a series of 25 foot high concrete walls, trenches, barbed wire "buffer zones", electrified fencing with numerous watch towers, electronic sensors, thermal imaging video cameras, unmanned aerial vehicles, sniper towers and roads for patrol vehicles. When it is completed, nearly all of the West Bank population will be affected by the Wall through loss of land, imprisonment in ghettos or isolation in areas de facto annexed to Israel. In addition, Olmert's "convergence plan" aims to create "facts on the ground" imposing unilateral actions and avoiding a viable Palestinian State. The Apartheid Wall is part of the Israeli Prime Minister's policy, as it will redraw Israel's permanent "demographic border" and annex into Israel the major settlement blocs while leaving Palestinians sealed in separated and small cantons. The Wall's path will ensure the theft of as much land with as few Palestinians as possible. Israel maintains that the Wall is a temporary structure needed to

physically separate the West Bank from Israel and thus prevent Palestinian suicide attacks on Israeli citizens. Although, on April 30, 2006 the Israeli Cabinet approved several changes to the Wall route, roughly 80% of the revised route still lies on occupied Palestinian territory. Therefore the wall's location (in some places extending up to 20 km inside Palestinian territory) and projected length (currently 790 km despite a border with Israel of less than 200km) suggest it is actually an additional effort to confiscate Palestinian land, facilitate further expansion of illegal settlements, and unilaterally redraw geopolitical borders while encouraging an exodus of Palestinians by denying them the ability to earn a living from their land, reach their schools or work places, access adequate water resources and access essential health care facilities.

Moving the Border

Insufficient attention has been paid to the Wall by many in the international community, primarily because it is assumed it follows the Green Line – the internationally recognized border that existed between Israel and the West Bank until the war of 1967. In fact the wall does not coincide with the Green Line but cuts deep into the West Bank – in some areas it is located as far as twenty kilometres from the Green Line. Olmert like Sharon before him, is using the project to unilaterally redraw the political boundary between Israel and the West Bank, further diminishing the land of Palestine and rendering any future Palestinian state non-viable, and thus a peaceful two-state solution impossible. The construction of the Apartheid Wall started nearly four years ago, and till now, 42% of it has been completed: 336 km are fully operational; 102 km are in construction; 67 km are at the paperwork level; and 285 km are still pending court decisions. By the end of 2006, further 100 km will be completed. The Wall's construction is estimated to cost NIS 10 billion (about NIS 11 million per kilometre), twice the original cost.

Implications for Health and Education

The Wall significantly impairs access of Palestinians in isolated villages to hospitals, particularly in Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, and East Jerusalem. For example, access to primary health-care services and UNRWA-contracted hospitals in occupied East Jerusalem decreased 18 % in 2005 and is likely to deteriorate further with the ongoing wall construction http://www.palestinemonitor.org/nueva_web/facts_sheets/wall.htm - fn36. The barrier is preventing the access of 10,000 chronically ill Palestinians to hospitals, and that it can also affect more than 100,000 pregnant Palestinian women who are denied access to healthcare http://www.palestinemonitor.org/nueva_web/facts_sheets/wall.htm - fn37. 71 primary health clinics will be isolated from the rest of the West Bank between the Wall and the Green Line or in areas ghettoized by depth barriers. These clinics are essential providers of primary health care but are not fully equipped to serve the surrounding communities. For example, they do

not have delivery rooms or specialized doctors. For more information on the Wall's impact on health care, please see: Health and Segregation: The impact of the Israeli Separation Wall on access to health care services (issued by The Health, Development, Information and Policy Institute) at <http://www.palestinemonitor.org/report/> The constricted movement and isolation caused by the wall has also affected the educational system in the West Bank. For example, The Apartheid Wall that cuts through Beit Hanina runs only 150 meters in front of the Lutheran World Federation, where, currently 180 students between 16-18 years are registered to gain skills such as auto mechanics, carpentry, electronics and telecommunications. 120 students don't hold the needed "Jerusalem ID", so they are not able to cross the Wall and reach the training centre. Moreover, 22 of the 30 employees of the centre face the same problem. According to a recent report released by the Ministry of Education, 2,898 students from the governorates of Jenin, Tulkarem and Qalqilya, were not able to continue their education as a direct result of the Apartheid Wall.

Water in Palestine

West Bank Water Usage

- Of the water available from West Bank aquifers, Israel uses 73%, West Bank Palestinians use 17%, and illegal Jewish settlers use 10%.
- While 9.3% of Palestine's GDP is agricultural, 90% of them must rely on rain-fed farming methods. Israel's agriculture is only 3% of their GDP, but Israel irrigates more than 50% of "its land"
- Three million West Bank Palestinians use only 250 million cubic meters per year (83 cubic meters per Palestinian per year) while six million Israelis enjoy the use of 1,954 million cubic meters (333 cubic meters per Israeli per year), which means that each Israeli consumes as much water as four Palestinians. Israeli settlers are allocated 1,450 cubic meters of water per person per year.
- Israel consumes the vast majority of the water from the Jordan River despite only 3% of the river falling within its pre-1967 borders. Israel now diverts one quarter of its total water consumption through its National Water Carrier from the Jordan River, whereas Palestinians have no access to it whatsoever due to Israeli closures.

International Law

- Under international law it is illegal for Israel to expropriate the water of the Occupied Palestinian Territories for use by its own citizens, and doubly illegal to expropriate it for use by illegal Israeli settlers.
 - Also under international law, Israel owes Palestinians reparations for past and continuing use of water resources. This should include interest due to loss of earnings from farming.
-

Water and the Wall

- Many of the most important underground wellsprings in the West Bank are located just to the east of the Green Line dividing Israel from Palestine. Israel has built the Wall not only to annex land but also to annex many of these wells in order to divert water to Israel and illegal West Bank settlements.
- The Wall is not only an Apartheid Wall, but also a water wall. Some of the largest Israeli settlements (such as Ariel and Qedumin) are built over the Western mountain aquifer, directly in the middle of the northern West Bank agricultural districts, and this is exactly where the wall cuts deepest into Palestinian territory to surround and annex this vital water source.
- The building of the Wall has caused the village of Falameya in Qalqiliya district to lose its main source of water. In Jayyous, a village near Falameya, all of its seven water wells have been annexed or destroyed by the Apartheid Wall.
- In the West Bank, around 50 groundwater wells and over 200 cisterns have been destroyed or isolated from their owners by the Wall. This water was used for domestic and agricultural needs by over 122,000 people. To build the Wall, 25 wells and cisterns and 35,000 meters of water pipes have also been destroyed.
- In 2003, the losses incurred by Palestinian farmers due to the Wall diverting water resources has been 2,200 tons of olive oil, 50,000 tons of fruit, and 100,000 tons of vegetables.
- The Wall is obstructing many water run-off flows in the Qalqiliya region that normally divert water to prevent flooding. During heavy rains in February 2005, Israeli soldiers refused to open drainage pipes in Qalqiliya, which led to heavy flood damage to crops and homes there. The Wall also caused severe flooding in Zububa and other villages.

Under the conditions brought about by the siege imposed by Israeli occupation forces, civilians in the occupied territories are suffering from lack of access to necessary resources for the maintenance of their daily needs and basic health. We have reached a state of emergency in the water sector in the Occupied Territories. We must call for an immediate end to the siege upon the water sector.

Israeli Actions

- Israel does not allow new wells to be drilled by Palestinians and has confiscated many wells for Israeli use. Israel sets quotas on how much water can be drawn by Palestinians from existing wells.
- When supplies of water are low in the summer months, the Israeli water company Mekorot closes the valves which supply Palestinian towns and villages so as not to affect Israeli supplies. This means that illegal Israeli settlers can have their swimming pools topped up and lawns watered while Palestinians living next to them, on whose land the settlements are situated, do not have enough water for drinking and cooking. Israel often sells the water it steals from the West Bank back to the Palestinians at inflated prices.

- During the war of 1967, 140 Palestinian wells in the Jordan Valley were destroyed to divert water through Israel's National Water Carrier. Palestinians were allowed to dig only 13 wells between 1967 and 1996, less than the number of wells which dried up during the same period due to Israel's refusal to deepen or rehabilitate existing wells.
- The Gaza strip relies predominately on wells that are being increasingly infiltrated by salty sea water because Israel is over-pumping the groundwater. UN scientists estimate that Gaza will have no drinkable water within fifteen years.

Settlers

- In Madama village 50km north of Jerusalem settlers from Yizhar settlement have repeatedly vandalized the villager's only source of water. They have poured concrete into it, vandalized the connecting pipes and even dropped disposable diapers and other hazardous waste into the springs. Three villagers have been attacked by settlers while trying to repair the water source.
- Constant settler attacks on the community of Yanoun, Nablus governorate, located next to the Itamar settlement, peaked in October 2002 when masked settlers charged into the village with dogs and caused significant damage to the water network, several roof tanks, and the local spring, which is considered to be the main source of water for the community. The main line supplying water to the community from the main spring, as well as the pump, reservoir, fittings and valves were all damaged by settlers. Residents of the community were forced to buy water from tankers from the neighbouring community. Tanker access was very difficult due to Israeli closures and checkpoints as well as settler threats and terror which included shootings, beatings, and harassment.

Stop the Apartheid Wall !!!

"Stop the Apartheid Wall" is one of the latest publications of Jerusalem Center for Women, which reflects the results of a year Long program that the JCW held. The program aimed to increase awareness of Palestinian women on human rights, violence against women, democracy and the importance of women's political participation. At the final stage the participants had chosen to discuss "the impact of the Apartheid Wall" on human, economic and social life of people. A part of a campaign, they've discussed this subject with students, aging between 15-17, from different schools in Biddo and Abu-Deis, and distributed the above mentioned booklet. The booklet views the story of the Apartheid Wall since the early thoughts of its establishment that had been suggested by Spear Nahhas (the Finance Minister after June -1967 War), until it was finally adopted by Binyameen Ben-El'e'zar (the Defence Minister at Ariel Sharon's government in 2002). It also shows the refusal of many Israeli citizens to this project; settlers and leftists for different reasons. The main issue that the booklet is concerned with is the negative effects of the Apartheid Wall on Women specifically, being the most ones

that would be badly affected. There are many obstacles women will face among which moving from one place to another, i.e. not being able to reach schools, work or even hospitals to give birth, which results in both health and psychological sufferings. For sure, this may in one way or another, be a main cause of early marriage of girls; the issue that most women organizations work on controlling and terminating. Besides women will be isolated from cultural and social proper life. The wall will prevent them from participating in the political and public life of their community. Through several chapters, the booklet provides information of the Israeli expansionist plans that divide the Palestinian territories into several isolated ghettos, and how such a plan that spreads over wide Palestinian areas is confiscating these lands, destroying the Palestinians economy and political structures and making their life intolerable. It also shows how Palestinians would be deprived from their Natural Resources rights, mainly from the most essential ones; water and land. Also, it sums up the number of directly confiscated lands that are used to build the wall on. At last the booklet views how this unreasonable Apartheid Wall is violating International Law; whether it's the Geneva Convention and its protocols or the United Nations General's Assembly resolutions and other conventions

Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Detention

Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in 1967, over 650,000 Palestinians have been detained by Israel. This forms approximately 20% of the total Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). As the majority of those detained are male, the number of Palestinians detained forms approximately 40% of the total male Palestinian population in the OPT. The arrest and detention of Palestinians living within the OPT is governed by a wide-ranging set of military regulations that govern every aspect of Palestinian civilian life. There are approximately 1,500 military regulations governing the West Bank and over 1,400 governing the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military commander of the region issues military orders, and the issuance of new orders often remains unknown and only become apparent when they are implemented, as the military commander may issue new military regulations at any moment. Palestinians are tried within Israeli military courts located within Israeli military centers in the OPT. These military tribunals are presided over by a panel of three judges appointed by the military, two of whom often do not have any legal training or background. These tribunals rarely fall within the required international standards of fair trial.

Prisons and detention camps

Israeli prisons and military detention camps are primarily located within the 1948 borders of Israel. Palestinians from the OPT can be held in Israel in:

- 5 interrogation centers;
 - 7 detention/holding centers;
-

- 3 military detention camps;
- 9 prisons

The location of prisons within Israel and the transfer of detainees to locations within the occupying power's territory are illegal under international law and constitute a war crime. The Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly states that "Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein". There are only two military detention centers and one military detention camp located within the OPT. As a result of an arbitrary permit system which governs Palestinians movement within the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and to and from the 1948 borders of Israel, family visits to detainees are often not possible, extremely infrequent, or impossible. Since the beginning of the current Intifada in September 2000, family visits have been prevented as virtually no permits have been issued to families from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Under Israeli military regulations, a Palestinian can be detained for up to 12 days without the Israeli military informing the detainee of the reason for his/her arrest and without being brought before a judge. Between April and June 2002, this period of time was increased to 18 days by Israeli Military Order 1500. Following or during the 12 days of detention, a detainee is sent to an interrogation center, charged with an offense, given an administrative detention order, or released.

Interrogation and torture

A Palestinian detainee can be interrogated for a total period of 180 days, during which he/she can also be denied lawyer visits for a period of 90 days. During the interrogation period, a detainee is often subjected to some form of torture ranging in extremity, whether physical or psychological. The use of practices that constitute torture during interrogation has been legalized within the Israeli judicial system and permitted in individual cases in which the GSS deems a detainee a threat to state security or a 'ticking bomb'. In some instances, detainees have died while in custody as a result of torture. Confessions extracted through torture are admissible in Israeli court.

Administrative detention

Administrative detention, which is arrest without charge or trial, has been used as a form of collective punishment by the Israeli military against Palestinians, and is illegal in this form under international law. During the period of March 2002 to October 2002, Israeli occupying forces arrested over 15,000 Palestinians during mass arrest campaigns, rounding up males in cities and villages between the ages of 15 to 45. In October 2002, there were over 1,050 Palestinians in administrative detention. Administrative detention is indefinitely renewable under military regulations. A detainee may be given an administrative detention order for a period of between 1 – 6 months, after which the order may be renewed. Administrative

detention is based on secret evidence brought forward during military tribunals, to which neither the detainee nor his/her lawyer have access to. One of the longest Palestinian administrative detainees remained in custody for over 8 years, without ever being charged.

Children

Under military regulations in force in the OPT, a child over the age of 16 is considered an adult, contrary to the defined age of a child as under 18 in the Convention of the Rights of the Child, to which Israel is a signatory. In practice, Palestinian children may be charged and sentenced in military courts beginning at the age of 12.

- Between the ages of 12-14, children can be sentenced for offences for a period of up to six months – meaning that a child accused of throwing a stone can be sent to prison for six months;
- After the age of 14, Palestinian children are tried as adults, in violation of international law;
- There are no juvenile courts and children are often held and serve their sentences in cells with criminal prisoners and are often not separated from adults, also in violation of international law.

Prison conditions

Prison conditions in Israeli military detention camps are inhumane. Detainees are held in overcrowded prison tents that are often threadbare and do not provide for adequate shelter against extreme weather. Prisoners are not provided adequate food rations, neither in quantity nor quality, nor provided with clean clothes or adequate cleaning supplies. Many of the detainees currently being held in military detention camps were injured during their arrests and have not been provided the necessary medical attention, like those who suffer from chronic illnesses.

source **AL-ddameer** Palestinian NGO

4. On-going Gender Projects

Project / Program	Implementing Organization	Donor Organization	Duration	Budget	Relative to Women
Women / General					
GENDER INTERVENTION	Institution of women's studies at Birzeit university	Birzeit university	---	---	Institution of women's studies
Education					
Islamic Family Law and the Transition to Palestinian Statehood	Institution of women's studies at Birzeit university	Birzeit university	---	---	Institution of women's studies

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, đ) MOE&hE, ²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ꝑ: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

5 Gender Information Sources

5-1 List of Organizations/individuals related to Gender

Name of Organization	Contact Person (Area of specialization)	Results (Project Content Year Related Organizations, Experience in Social & Gender Analysis	Reports / Writers (Published Year etc.)	Contact Address Tele/Fax/E. Mail
Organization/individual who prepared the Profile				
Ministry of Health JICA Alumni Member	Najwa Manaa'		October 2006	Nablus, Palestine Tel: 09-2345603,5 Fax: 02-2402744
JICA Alumni board Member	Mohammed Thekri		October 2006	Ramallah, Palestine Mobile: 0599 734025 Home phone: 022374420
Government Organization				
Ministry of Health	Dr. Omar Al-Nasser	Public Relation Dept.		Tel: 09-2336464 Fax: 092384777
	Dir.-Gen. Wijdan Siam	Women's Health		Tel: 02-2408054 Fax: 02-2408045
Ministry of Education and Higher Education	Dir.-Gen. Basri Saleh	International & Public Relations		Tel: 02-2983254 Mobile: 0599-778320 Fax: 02-2983299 basrimoe@palnet.com

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, δ) MOE&hE,
²) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, ³) UNDP / POGAR x: indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, □: Services include wholesale, retail trade, transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

5—2 List of reports and references related Gender

Title	Publisher	Year	Where to get
Education and Training			
Palestinian human development report	MOP, UNDP&Birzeit Un.	2004	MOP
Human Development Indicators, West Bank & Gaza Strip	MOP, UNDP&Birzeit Un.	2004	MOP
Expansion & Annexation Wall and its impact on The Educational Process	MOE&hE	2004	MOE&hE
Statistics About General Education in Palestine 2005-2006	MOE&hE	2005-2006	MOE&hE
Health and Medicine			
Demographic and Health Survey	PCBS	2004	PCBS
Health Indicators Report	MOH	2004	MOH
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries			
Economic Activities			
Economic Report	MAS	2004	MAS
Report on the Palestinian Economy	Office of the United Nations Special coordinator	2001	By internet
Statistics on the Palestinian economy	PCBS	2000	PCBS
Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions	PCBS	Aug. 2005	PCBS
Social/Gender Analysis			
Domestic Violence Survey	PCBS	Feb. 2006	PCBS
Demographic and Social Consequences of the Separation Barrier on the West Bank	PCBS	April 2006	PCBS
The State of Cultural Institutions Survey	PCBS	Jan. 2006	PCBS
Social & economic situation of Palestinian women	Social & economic commission for western ASIA/United Nations	2004	UN website
Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions	PCBS	2006	PCBS
Report on Gender Palestine	UNDP/POGAR		UNDP/POGAR
Others			
Labor Force Survey	PCBS	2006	PCBS
Women Empowerment In ICT Sector Survey	PCBS	2005	PCBS

References: *) PCBS, **) MOH, ***) MOF, ****) MAS, *****) PHDR, *****) MOWA, đ) MOE&hE,
2) social economic situation of Palestinian women report by UN 2005, 3) UNDP / POGAR x: indicates
data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the
standard definition, or refer to only part of a country, ▣: Services include wholesale, retail trade,
transport, financial intermediation, other services, public administration, and defense.

References & interviewed persons

Title	Author	Year	Publisher
Education and Training			
Tania Kasis	Women's studies program/Birzeit University	2006	
Mjdowleen Jebreil	Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (PCBS)	2006	
Statistics Report	---	2006	Ministry of education and higher education
Expansion & Annexation Wall and its impact on The Educational Process			Ministry of education and higher education
Health and Medicine			
Health Indicators report	MOH	2004	Ministry of Health
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries			
Economic Activities			
Statistic Report	MOF	2004, 2005, 2006	Ministry of finance
Palestinian Economy	MAS	2004	Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute
Social/Gender Analysis			
Labor Force Survey	PCBS	2006	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Women Empowerment In ICT Sector Survey	PCBS	2005	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Demographic and Social Consequences of the Separation Barrier on the West Bank	PCBS	2004	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Women and Men in Palestine	PCBS	2006	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN	---	2004	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA
Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions	PCBS	2005	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Survey on the Perception of Palestinian Population Towards the Socioeconomic Conditions	PCBS	2006	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Domestic Violence Survey	PCBS	2005	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Others			

Human Development Indicators, West Bank & Gaza Strip	MOP/UNDP, Birzeit Uni.	2004	Ministry of Planning MOP
Palestine Human Development Report	MOP/UNDP, Birzeit Uni.	2004	Ministry of Planning MOP
Introduction to the Report and the Environment Constraining Development and Independence	MOP/UNDP, Birzeit Uni.	2004	Ministry of Planning MOP

7. Definitions

Gender Analytical concept to clarify the social role of men and women and interrelation between them Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender implying the role of men and women and their interrelationship is likely to change according to social notion and sense of values.

Informal sector Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labour indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

WID (Women in Development) Concept of development incorporating women's participation into development processes, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

Reproductive health/rights Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction To be able to live safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom to decide whether, when and how many children to deliver

National machinery Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

Empowerment To empower individuals or groups in political, economical and social sense

Affirmative action Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the difference, in the case that discriminated groups are placed in extremely unequal conditions to other groups, due to the discrimination accumulated in the past

Access and control Access is to be able to use resources and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. Control is a right to decide how to manage resources and services or to own them.

Reproductive activity Activity to "reproduce for the next generation" including to give a birth and raise the children, and to sustain the daily life, for instance, washing and cooking

<Indicators>

Inflation rate Instead, GDP deflator is used.

Gini index Aggregate numerical measures of income inequality ranging from 0 to 100. A Gini index of zero represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

Percentage of Women's Income There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

Total fertility rate Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life.

Under-one mortality rate Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth.

Under-five mortality rate Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after the birth.

Maternal mortality rate Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery because of pregnancy.

Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel, or trained traditional midwives.

Percentage of infants with low birth weight The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams.

Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for under- infants having diarrhea.

Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school age against the people at the school age.