

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

Background of the mapping

In line with the UNCT efforts of coordination and cooperation, the Gender Based Violence Working Group (GBV-WG) was established in 2012 under the umbrella of the UN Gender Task Force. According to its mandate the GBV-WG works to boost coordination between UN agencies, with governmental and non-governmental organizations and to strengthen and support multi-sectorial approaches for prevention of and response to GBV. In order to kick off its activities in 2013, the GBV-WG has prioritized the need to map the activities in place to combat GBV, enumerating who is doing what and where. To ensure a uniform understanding among the members of the working group, and all the participants at the mapping exercise gender-based violence is defined according to the IASC Guidelines on Gender-based violence in Humanitarian settings (2005) as “an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females” (p.7). This definition includes both adults and children and all different forms in which GBV can occur: sexual violence including sexual exploitation/abuse and forced prostitution; physical violence; domestic violence; trafficking; forced/early marriage; harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, honour killings, widow inheritance; psychological and emotional abuse; economic abuse/denial of resources and others.

Objective: The objective of this mapping is to provide an overview of existing activities with regard to combating GBV. It focused on projects and programmes supported by United Nations agencies, and interventions carried out by international and national NGOs and governmental stakeholders. The results provide the basis to coordinate existing efforts, avoid overlap and duplication of support and strengthen collaboration and information sharing. The assessment of gaps and achievements will inform improved and strategic interventions in preventing and responding to gender based violence.

The mapping exercise includes the following two outputs:

1. A mapping matrix of current and planned projects and programs to prevent and respond to GBV carried out by UN agencies, national and international NGO and governmental bodies in Palestine, both West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza. The mapping matrix is intended to provide a snapshot of interventions on GBV ;
2. An analysis sheet commenting results, gaps and challenges.

Methodology: The mapping was conducted gathering information through a questionnaire about activities coverage, target beneficiaries, duration, location, alignment with the National Strategy to Combat violence against women (VAW) (see annex 1 for the tentative questionnaire) and with

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

reference to the National Child Protection Action Plan, where appropriate. The questionnaire (annex II) developed by the GBV SWG is based on global tools for assessments and mapping GBV interventions available at the global level and it is adapted to the local context. The exercise is not restricted to GBV WG members; all the UN agencies were contacted through the UN country team. UNFPA, as GBV WG chair, facilitated the process as regards collecting and consolidating information, in close coordination and cooperation with all GBV WG members. The resultant matrix is a table that summarizes interventions at glance together with a comment sheet that analyze other information not in the matrix.

In parallel the mapping exercise was conducted outside the UN system, using the same research tools, the questionnaire and some direct interview. Relevant national actors were reached through the established coalitions working on GBV. The national committee to combat VAW under the lead of MOWA reached relevant ministries and Al Muntada - the national NGOs forum to combat VAW, the civil society organizations. In Gaza national partners were contacted through the two main women’s organizations networks, Amal and WISAL coalitions. On the side of the international non-governmental organizations INGOs, the working group on gender working lead the process of collecting information from INGOs both in West Bank and Gaza disseminating it through AIDA- Association of international development agencies.

This mapping does not pretend to be exhaustive, reporting on all the single initiatives on the ground to address GBV, but instead it is designed to offer a map of what the principal actors are doing. Limitation of the study includes the number of actors involved; some other actors working on GBV might not be part of the coordination structures or might not have answered. Some information were incomplete and it required long time to get the information. The matrix can be considered a live document that partners can directly modify and update with new developments and achievements.

Actor	Questionnaire sent		Questionnaire received	Questionnaire received
	West Bank	Gaza	West Bank	Gaza
UNCT	19		11	8
INGO	N/A ⁱ		9	7
National partners: NGOs			11	14
National partner Ministries	11		11 ⁱⁱ	
Sub Total			42	29
Total			71	

i. INGO focal points for the mapping exercise advertised the mapping on the AIDA website and through the contact list so the number of questionnaire sent is not estimable.

ii. Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Council of Ministries, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Awqaf and religious Affairs-General directorate for Women's Action , Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Information, Dar al- Ifta' of Palestine, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior.

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

ANALYSIS OF INTERVENTIONS

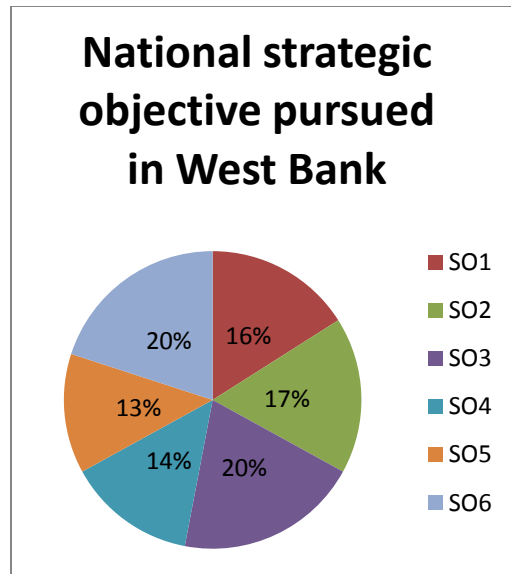
- The Main area of interventions is training/capacity development, that together with awareness make up for around 37% of interventions both in West Bank and Gaza. Prevention appears to be stronger than response at the level of services. 9% of respondents provide services in west bank and 7% in Gaza. Among the services provided the higher percentage covers the provision of psychosocial support for victims of GBV, and the weakest is the health response.

Main areas of interventions in West Bank	
Training capacity development	13%
Awareness raising	14%
Service delivery	9%
Health care	3%
Psychosocial support	8%
Legal aid	4%
Security/Protection	6%
Child protection/family support	6%
Advocacy	8%
Coordination	9%
Building response/referral system	7%
Economic empowerment and income generation	5%
Research/data collection	9%
Other	1%

Main areas of interventions in Gaza	
Training capacity development	14%
Awareness raising	12%
Service delivery	7%
Health care	4%
Psychosocial support	10%
Legal aid	7%
Security/Protection	4%
Child protection/family support	7%
Advocacy	11%
Coordination	8%
Building response/referral system	5%
Economic empowerment and income generation	4%
Research/data collection	7%
Other	1%

- Projects and programme are in line with national priorities since 93% of them contribute to some of the strategic objectives of the national strategy to combat violence against women 2011-2019. In Gaza 90% of projects are in line with the national strategy but 5% of respondents declaring that the strategy is not applicable in Gaza, pointing out a lack of clarity at the policy level. All the strategic objectives are addressed, with fewer actions towards improving the protection, jurisdiction, shari'a and defense systems and improving the health response (please see the pie chart below).

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper



Strategic objectives of the national strategy to combat VAW in Palestine	
SO1	Promote protection and empowerment mechanism for women subjected to violence resulting from the Israeli occupation
SO2	Promote a legal framework and institutional mechanisms to protect women from violence
SO3	Improve social protection and social support offered to women victims of violence
SO4	Improve health services in dealing with cases of VAW
SO5	Improve the protection, jurisdiction, shari'a and defence systems to protect women from violence based on a women's rights based approach
SO6	Promote the principle of violence prevention as a part of the strategic direction of institutions working on the protection of women's rights

- 71% in Gaza and 75% of interventions in West Bank contribute also to the strategic objectives of other national strategy or plan, especially the National social protection strategy, National child protection strategy and child protection action plan, National Justice Sector strategy.
- In West Bank 41% of activities cover all the geographical area as a whole, targeted interventions are concentrated in Nablus Bethlehem and Hebron, meanwhile the governorates less targeted are Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarm, Qalqiliya East Jerusalem and Jericho. For the geographical coverage in Gaza, 59% of interventions cover all strip, 14% North Gaza, 14% Gaza city and only 5% of activities respectively in Dir a Balah, Khan Yunis, Rafah.
- Results show that the areas covered are in urban, rural areas and refugee camps as well with similar percentages both in West Bank and Gaza.
- Implementation modalities and partnership in West Bank points out that 46% of projects are of direct implementation and 54% indirect and as favorite modality is the partnership with national NGOs and CBOs. In Gaza the percentage of indirect is higher, 71% with the same pattern of partnership with NGOs and CBOs
- For the targeted population a similar trend is registered in both WB and Gaza. 51% of interventions target women and 49% men. Among women the group receiving more support is female adults but looking at young people together, adolescent and youth are covered by 28%

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

of actions. 10% of projects target female Children and only 5% of projects have displaced people and 4% Bedouins as beneficiaries. Among men adults is the most targeted group. Few actors work with religious leaders (prevalently with men religious leaders).

- Targeted organizations are in West Bank ministries and NGOs and CBOs, on the contrary in Gaza due to the sensibility of the GBV issue with the de facto authority and the no contact policy for many international organizations few actors aim at work with the ministries and programmes look more at the civil society.

Main Challenges and constrains identified are:

- Need of a stronger coordination among national as well as international stakeholders ;
- Poor relations (working relations/watchdog/coordination) between government and civil society including government interventions into NGOs, lack of clarity in national strategies;
- Changing and instable political context and weak legal frameworks;
- Because of the complex and unpredictable political situation, including political division, there is need to strengthen/expand partnerships and improve community cohesion and rebuild social trust;
- Make more visible the impact of the occupation in exacerbating violence against women. Advocate for more funding in the humanitarian sector;
- Limited funding for combating GBV both in the humanitarian and development mechanisms means insufficient resources to take programmes to scale. In particular women's organizations' suffer from financial and resources limitations;
- There is no special attention for women with disabilities and GBV;
- Women and youth identified persisting obstacles to the full enjoyment of their rights in traditional cultural and social norms, male resistance, faults in the legislation and in the protection system, lack of economic empowerment. It's important to activate synergies with women economic empowerment programmes so that women rights-holders can be economically sustain their empowerment process;
- The political division between Gaza and West Bank, the division of MOWA and the not applicability of the referral system and other policies create confusion;
- It is very difficult to conduct direct monitoring of women's rights violations specifically as they relate to perceived matters of religion, morals, social contexts etc;
- A culture of silence around sexual abuse of children and adolescents means that most cases of sexual abuse against girls and boys go unreported;
- Enduring gender inequality affecting the Palestinian society on several levels comprising access to justice, employment, health care and political participation;

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

- Discriminatory norms, as well as discriminatory application of norms still characterizing the legal system in force in the oPt, whether concerning the criminal law, the personal status law, or the Sharia law administrating family affairs;
- Insufficient number of specialized women’s protection centers/shelters;
- Insufficient VAW sensitization /specialization of health sector professionals;
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation /accountability mechanisms among women’s protection actors;
- The West Bank and Gaza have different judicial systems, which hinders the pursuit of justice when it comes to criminalizing GBV;
- The Palestinian political split had specifically prevented the existence of one national agenda in combating VAW, though the problem exists in the West bank and Gaza. There is a general lack of political will in the oPt to make the necessary policy changes for combating VAW, as it is not considered a priority issue or a real risk to Palestinian social cohesion .
- Ensure quality and specialized services for psychosocial support to GBV survivors.

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

UN Agencies

ILO
OHCHR
UNDP
UNFPA
UNODC
UNRWA
UNESCO
UNICEF
UNWOMEN
WHO
WFP

INGOs

CARE
International Rescue Committee
Kvinna till Kvinna
Norwegian Church Aid
Norwegian People Aid
Premiere Urgence –Aide Medicale International
Save the Children
Solidaridad International
World Vision

Ministries

Council of Ministries
Dar al Ifta of Palestine
Ministry of Awqaf and religious affairs General directorate for women’s action
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Information
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Social Affairs
Ministry of Women’s Affairs

Results of the mapping of GBV interventions in Palestine: Analytical paper

NGOs

Al Dyouk Cooperative Society/ Jericho
Al Muntada
Aman Center for guidance, development and community health- Hebron
Center for Women's studies- Jerusalem
SAWA
WCLAC
TYO Tomorrow's youth organization
Palestinian Working Women Society for Development
PFPPA
MIFTAH
Women's Affairs Center- Nablus
Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection
Al Manal Association for the Development of Rural Women
Culture and Free Thought Association – BUREIJ Women Health Center
Charitable Mother Association for Development
Creative Women Forum
Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)
WAC Women's Affairs Center (WAC)
EMAAR Association for Development & Rehabilitation
Red Crescent Society For Gaza Strip – Jabalia Women Health Center
The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
WEFAQ Society for Woman and Child Care
El-Braem Development Society
Qarara Social Development Center
Family Development Association Beit Hanoon